

CALL FOR PAPERS:

“Living with Animals,” including the subthemes, “Teaching with Animals” and “Living with Horses.” This conference has special relevance to the venue. Eastern Kentucky University, located in Richmond just south of Lexington, ‘The Horse Capital of the World’, began offering the first undergraduate degree in Animal Studies in 2010.

A three-day conference: March 21-23, 2013
Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Margo DeMello/Francine Dolins/Ken Shapiro/Kari Weil

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

Dr. Robert Mitchell and Julia Schlosser

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LIVING WITH ANIMALS: Many of us enjoy our lives with animals. We live with them in diverse ways: they are our friends, our enemies, our food, our materials, our helpmates, and our co-inhabitants of the planet. They invade our fields and mythologies, and we invade their habitats and lifeways. They are pervasive in our history, artworks, language and literature. News media contain innumerable references to animals every day: pets unintentionally euthanized, smart and even sexy bonobos, human-killing bears and chimp-saving humans, pigs who save their owners, tigers who maul people who are seeking oneness with them, and ridiculous cat activities swarm YouTube, Fox News, and more intellectual media such as the New York Times. Animals fascinate us. Yet the consequences of our collective actions do not always bode well for animals, whose lives and deaths depend on us. Many studies have concluded, without irony, that the myriad dangers posed to endangered species and the global environment would disappear immediately if human animals ceased to occupy space with nonhuman animals: Humans are truly the “elephant in the room” in any discussion of conservation.

During this conference, we propose to examine our interactions with animals, the ways we live with them and they live with us, the ways they live and die, and the ways that our decisions affect their lives and deaths, as well as practical solutions and philosophical/ethical issues surrounding our lives with animals. We will also examine the ways that literature, art, film, science, and popular culture represent human-animal relationships and the lives and deaths of animals, and the implications of these mediated visions. Dr. Ken Shapiro, cofounder of the Animals & Society Institute, and Dr. Francine Dolins, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, will be keynote speakers. Dr. Shapiro will present an overview of the Animal Studies field and its relationships to the animal protection movement. Dr. Dolins studies behavioral ecology and cognitive processes in non-human primates. Her research mainly investigates spatial cognition and navigational behavior, in addition to decision-making processing in spatial behavior. She has conducted fieldwork in Madagascar, Costa Rica and Peru.

TEACHING WITH ANIMALS: In 2005, the “Animals in History” conference held in Cologne, Germany, concluded with a vibrant discussion about the future of the academic discipline of Human/Animals studies. Many participants argued for the continued existence of Animal Studies as an interdisciplinary endeavor. Since that time, courses containing animal subject matter have proliferated across academia. The H-Animal Syllabus Exchange has been a popular on-line resource for faculty since 2006. In 2010, Eastern Kentucky University premiered the first interdisciplinary baccalaureate degree in Animal Studies; other universities have had Anthrozoology degrees, or specializations within Sociology or Psychology. Since the Animal Studies major appeared, ECU has also developed a “Humans, Horses & Health” minor. *Bark* magazine (Sept. 2012) featured an article on the inclusion of canine subject matter in a variety of curricula. What then are the current issues facing faculty teaching animal subject matter across the disciplines? Is an interdisciplinary approach practical and beneficial? What strategies have you used to convey animal-centric information to your students? How have you navigated the politics of academia to find a “home” for your Animal Studies course? Papers from a diversity of perspectives are sought which discuss experiences teaching animal subject matter, and we hope participants will bring discussion questions about teaching Animal Studies. Anthropologist Dr. Margo DeMello (author of *Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies*) will be the keynote speaker anchoring the Friday session devoted to teaching animal subject matter. Related activities will include breakout discussion sessions, a voluntary syllabus swap, and a larger discussion session debating the benefits and practicalities of an interdisciplinary approach to teaching animal subject matter. Dr. DeMello is the President and Executive Director of House Rabbit Society, an international rabbit advocacy organization, and the Program Director for Human-Animal Studies at Animals & Society Institute. Her latest book *Speaking for Animals: Animal Autobiographical Writing* will be out in fall, 2012.

LIVING WITH HORSES: The horse holds a unique place among domesticated animals. Whether as food source or beasts of burden; as objects of worship, sacrifice or study; as tools in science, therapy or agriculture; or as traveling, sporting or battle workers, horses have influenced human societies since the two species came together. Within these interfaces, horses are large, potentially dangerous beings with whom humans can and do develop deep and often reciprocal relationships. The Thursday session focuses on the following questions: How is it that humans and horses have lived together in the ways they have? What makes horses what they are? How do humans conceive of their uses and value across cultures, and how do these conceptions factor into their use and treatment? The session takes an inclusive, multidisciplinary animal studies approach, and seeks presentations from across the sciences, social sciences, humanities, arts, and applied fields. Potential topics include but are not limited to: equestrianism and equestrian sport; equine psychology, sociality and culture; human-horse bonding; perceptions and representations of horses in various human cultures and subcultures, past and present; changing paradigms of training and schooling; considerations of equine agency, rights and welfare; and the ethical implications of the human-horse relationship. The session chair, Dr. Gala Argent, teaches the course “Horse” for ECU’s Animal Studies major and Humans, Horses and Health minor. Our Thursday keynote speaker will be University Professor of Letters at Wesleyan University, Dr. Kari Weil (author of *Thinking Animals: Why Animal Studies Now*) whose current project is tentatively titled, ‘*The Most Beautiful Conquest of Man*’ (sic): *Horses, Gender and the Conquest of Animal Nature in Nineteenth-Century France*.

ABSTRACTS:

Please send 200-300 word abstracts and CV to Dr. Robert Mitchell, either by email: robert.mitchell@eku.edu; or mail (Department of Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY, 40475, USA) by December 15th, 2012. We are open to receiving late submissions, but we will begin making decisions by the end of December. Individual papers 20 minutes. Panels of up to 3 speakers are welcome. Selected speakers will be notified via email by January 7, 2013.

CONFERENCE WEBPAGE:

<http://psychology.eku.edu/insidelook/living-animals-conference-be-held-eku-march-21-23-2013>
You can also email Julia Schlosser with questions: julia.a.schlosser@gmail.com
After Dec. 10 the updated web page can be found at livingwithanimals.eku.edu

CONFERENCE LOCATION: Eastern Kentucky University is located in historic Richmond, Kentucky, including many areas of historic and scenic interest. Fort Boonesborough State Park, birthplace of Kentucky, is located 12 miles to the north, and Civil War and many other historical sites are nearby. The university is located just south of Kentucky's famed Bluegrass Region, internationally recognized for its horse culture. See <http://www.eku.edu/about> for more information.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Conference registration opens January 8, 2013. Please send payment (by check or credit card) to Dr. Robert Mitchell, either by email robert.mitchell@eku.edu or mail (Department of Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY, 40475, USA). Check webpage livingwithanimals.eku.edu for online registration options.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE: \$183 (includes Friday lunch and conference dinner, Saturday lunch).

MEALS: Registration costs include box lunch on Friday, deluxe vegan/ vegetarian conference dinner on Friday at off-campus restaurant and hot sit down buffet lunch on Saturday. Lunch on Thursday and dinner on Saturday (vegan, vegetarian or meat) can be purchased at Powell Dining Commons which is adjacent to the conference venues for approximately \$9.00 each. All meals provided will have vegan/vegetarian options.

TRANSPORTATION: If you fly into Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, we have arranged low cost shuttle service to and from the Blue Grass Airport for most flights for \$20.00 round trip (not included in Conference Registration Fee; to use this you must complete separate sign up sheet). Contact us to check for the possibility of low-cost shuttle service to and from Louisville and Northern Kentucky-Cincinnati Airports. (See airport information below.) Free shuttle service will be provided at selected times between the conference hotels and the conference venue in the mornings and evenings and to the conference dinner and some other activities.

TRIP TO BEREA, THURSDAY, MARCH 21: Join us on Thursday evening for a visit to scenic Berea, the artistic hub of Kentucky, 15 minutes away from Richmond. Shops will stay open late for us; we will eat at the Historic Boone Tavern, listen to an educational lecture and then drop in on a regional musician jam session. Cost (\$37) includes dinner and round trip transportation from EKU to Berea and back to the conference hotels. We leave EKU at 5:15 PM and return to hotels around 9:30 PM. <http://www.boonetavernhotel.com/>

TRIP TO THE KENTUCKY HORSE PARK, SUNDAY, MARCH 24: This 1,229-acre park is the only park in the world devoted to the human relationship with the horse, including the renowned International Museum of the Horse, and exceptional live equestrian displays. <http://kyhorsepark.com/>. Cost (\$15) includes Horse Park fees and shuttle from hotel to Horse Park and on to Airport. Shuttle will leave the hotels at 8:15 AM and drop off at Blue Grass Airport at approximately 1 PM. Contact Robert Mitchell at robert.mitchell@eku.edu for more information about this exciting excursion.

ACCOMODATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE: We have arranged a special rate of \$69.99 + tax per day, beginning 20 March and ending 23 March, at the Jameson Inn in Richmond. Please ask for the Animal Studies Conference rate. Call the Jameson at 859-623-0063, or email at Richmond.KY@Jamesoninns.com

Other accommodations are available nearby the Jameson and will be included in free shuttle loop. These are Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Hampton Inn, and Comfort Inn.

AIRPORTS FOR THE CONFERENCE:

1. *Lexington Blue Grass Airport (LEX) Distance: 37 miles from Richmond*

<http://www.bluegrassairport.com/airlines.html>

Airport Information: (859) 425-3100. Airlines: Blue Grass Airport is serviced by seven major airlines providing 13 non-stop destinations and offering over 86 flights daily.

2. *Louisville International Airport (SDF) Distance: 103 miles*

<http://www.flylouisville.com>

Phone: (502) 367-4636 (automated information line)

3. *Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) Distance: approx. 113 miles*

<http://www.cvgairport.com/>

Airport administration: (859) 767-3151

Shuttle/Limo Service (800) 990-8841; Taxi Service (859) 767-3260