

Proclamation

In the midst of global crises, of security, health, and civil unrest, we find ourselves, again and again, shaped and reshaped by the world in which we belong. In the cycles and processes interwoven into a tapestry of new imaginaries, we find ourselves amongst a new order, and a new call to service. We are being asked to expand beyond scientific ration, as we know it, to include wisdoms of embodiment and fortitude. A fortitude which hails in a time of a great worldly shift, a shift back into the spaces of life, of heart, of love, of reverence, of a sacredness. We know once again the fragility of life. We embrace this opening with a plea for emancipation of life beyond humans. We embrace a vegan modality during this great transformative journey. Where the focus and the gaze fall upon nonhuman species. Species who share the Ancient Earth with us. Here we move away from hierarchical and binary paradigms, toward a oneness, equanimity, and union with life beyond the human race. We recognize delights, the authentic nature, and the agentic empowerment of nonhuman animals. We recognize them as souls...

This journal, the *Student Journal of Vegan Sociology*, is a space for all of this. It is a space holding together creative and vital students, so their voices can be heard, not after they have reached a pedigree of a certain ranking, but rather, now. Now, in a time of chaos, of dissolution of old ways, and the remaking of the new. We called on the next generation of scholars, activists, and empathetic beings to hold the torch and carry us forward. Our style, in doing so, is unorthodox, anarchist, and bold with goodness. We embrace kindness to all humans, and nonhumans alike. We ask animals to be written about as if they were of a human species, with respect, and tenderness. We ask that life is recognized with humility and regard. We have attempted herein to breach the academic mold of rigidity and discontent with ideas that do not align with our own ideology of the liberation of animals, and instead offered other venues for those discourses. Our journal, then, begins a conversation of what liberating nonhuman animals may mean, to those who care, openly and transparently, about other than human lives. The time for this discussion has long passed, and the only way forward is breaking free of what no longer serves us...us with the inclusion of them, "our" animals. I say "our" yet they are not ours at all, they are free.

I envisioned a space where the vibrant, passionate, and meaningful work of my students could be seen. A space, to co-create, reimagine and reshape a new era for our nonhuman kin. Corey Wrenn, Zoi Sutton, and I founded the journal in knowing a place for student voices, in illuminating the path of nonhuman animals, must be central to the way forward. My vision of the journal is student-centric. The intensely profound, creative potential and force of student work goes unnoticed. So then, in this space, let us allow these structures to soften, empower the voices and the hearts of the next generation of academics, and let us give them a space to find cohesion and coherence in unity. A solidarity in life, beyond humans.

A collective of editors, writers, and faculty have joined together to make this, our first issue of Vegan Sociology about nonhuman species. Rarely the focus of any Sociology

conversation, and often overlooked as even a part of society, nonhuman animals finally have a central place within our next generation of Sociology. We honor and celebrate this space, with a unification of the heart and mind in the discourse of us, and them, of nonhuman species. Yet, the honor, heart and softness, only feeds the intense fury of our logic and reason, as we stand strong in solidarity, as abolitionists, of the atrocities toward all of the nonhuman species of this world.

We have braved a new written understanding in our journal. While we attend to American Sociological Association citation conventions, as anachronism runs in our blood, we do stray. We stray, only for readability, and only because we listen to our own felt sense of the words, our words, our ideals, our hearts, and our spirits, in and on these pages. We embrace kindness to nonhumans, and humans, alike, as a choice to empower those of us, in this space of liberation. With that said, we intensify language, and we embellish in it. We write of animals, herein, as nonhumans, to acknowledge they are a species, as are we. We find personhood in nonhuman species, and in this recognizing him and her, as well as he and she, to allow for an encasement of individuality, as opposed to *it*, which is old and objectifying, and as opposed to *they*, which diminishes their individuality and authentic qualities. Instead, we write of them, the nonhumans, as a unification of their corporeality and spirit. And finally, we have intentionally and deliberately reoriented the spoken and written language to centralize around a raw reality. That is, we have offered *animals as food*, rather than *meat eating*, throughout, to disembodify the objectification within and around the Western cultured human language of consumption. We once again, bathe in the intensity of our reality.

Our writers are beautiful expressions of a Vegan Sociology, *of a hope* for anew, a Utopia, writes Ruth Griggs. *Of a hope* for a lived and embodied coexistence with nonhumans, a shared sentience, writes Cosette Patterson. *Of a hope*, for a sacredness once again, a sacred body, of a sacred woman, of a sacred cow, of sacred mothering, writes Natalia Ciecierska-Holmes. *Of a hope*, for an empowered feminist vegan ethic, who rise for themselves and for nonhuman animals, in a dismantling of the man-animal binary, writes Daniel A. Harrison. Students who stand in solidarity behind one profound professor, *of a hope*, to reimagine education for, and with, living and feeling nonhuman animals, writes Jake Sallaway-Costello and his student colleagues, Maisie Corbett, Abigail Larkin, Andrew Mellard, Lily Murray, and Katherine Sellens, and yes, they listen intently to their inner voice. And to all of us, who stand in the fire, who stand in the place of the other...*Of and for a hope*, on behalf of our nonhuman kin, on behalf of animal souls, writes Lynda M. Korimboccus.

My deepest and sincerest gratitude to our editorial collective. A global gathering of dedicated scholars for the emancipation of nonhuman species...from the United States of America, and Canada, to Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom, to Romania, and to Australia...we serve as a culturally diverse perspective of radical ways in which we embrace animals in a new society. I am immensely grateful for our distinguished, dignified, and empathetic faculty: Corey Wrenn, Zoei Sutton, Matthew Cole, Jessica Greenebaum, and Catherine Oliver. It fills me with gratitude to introduce our extraordinary collective of graduate students, who are wonderful, open and committed to a new path forward, for *our*

animal kin: Lynda M. Korimboccus, Sarah May Lindsay, Maria Martelli, Rachel Lamarche, Gillian Moise, Renelle McGlacken, Nicole Raleigh, Sarah Burton, Daria Healey, and Katherine Calvert. This lovely collective is as brave, courageous, and empowered, as they are kind, caring, and compassionate. The way forward is through the heart, this is how we best know the animals...may we honor this, as we set them, the animals, free...

To Lynda M. Korimboccus, Editor-in-Chief of our *Student Journal of Vegan Sociology*, in gratitude and honor of you, a great woman, who led a bunch of anarchists, abolitionists, rebels, and empowered scholarly women. Yet, you did it with Sarah May by your side. A beautiful duo of strength and commitment, love and spirit. I read your letter of commitment, Lynda, in the opening of our journal last year, and I knew it was you...an embodied wisdom, some may say. You are an extraordinary woman, of fortitude, strength, heart and soul. May you relish in the joy of our creation--may all of you, this beautiful collective of scholars, and may you all relish in the love we have for our nonhuman animals. As I read your acknowledgements in my final edits, I was brought to this... *This is life, Lynda, thank you for loving them, as we all do. This is purpose, and this my dear friend and colleague, is meaning; drink it, absorb it and bathe in it. For this now, will carry us forward...*

To our animals, we love you. We hold you in our hearts. We send to you both gratitude and love for being here with us. Thank you for shaping our lives, being a part of our journey, and awakening us to the call.

To our readership, a student focused, sociological journal with academic rigor, and a heart, calling for the liberation of animals. I present to you, our readership, the *Student Journal of Vegan Sociology*.

I end with hope, the holding of life as sacred, and an offering of a Sanskrit chant...

Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu

May all beings everywhere find freedom, peace and happiness, and may my thoughts, words, and actions, in each and every way, contribute to that freedom, peace, and happiness, of all beings everywhere...

In the Spirit of Animals,

Jennifer Rebecca Schauer, Ph.D.

Teacher, Writer, Activist, Scholar of Human Coexistence with Nonhuman Species, and Ancient Earth Mother