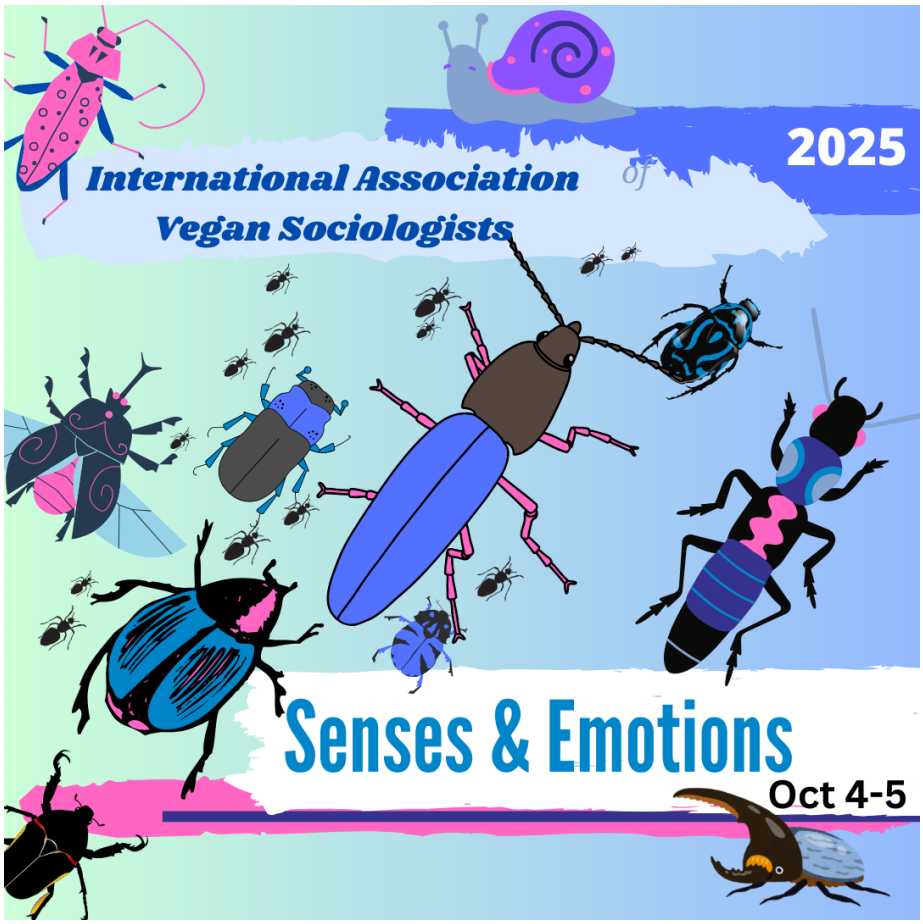

...what we feel is fully as important to the outcome of social affairs as what we think or do

Arlie Hochschild (1990, p.117)

Sociologists have long understood that the social world it not a solely rational place: it is messy, it is interactional and it is *felt*. Emotion management has a key role in supporting both work done *to* nonhuman animals (e.g. animal testing, f(h)arming, slaughter), and *for* nonhuman animals (e.g. activism, caretaking, critical animal research).

Increasing acknowledgement of the emotional and sensory experiences of nonhuman animals opens up exciting new avenues through which to better understand and challenge their exploitation. Here, methodological and theoretical innovation provides key resources for vegan sociologists to expand their toolkit.

In the 2025 meeting of the International Association of Vegan Sociologists we invite participants to consider how emotions and sensory experiences are integral to understanding and challenging nonhuman animal exploitation.

Saturday, October 4, 2025

			ACST (Adelaide)	BST (London)	EDT (Toronto)
Opening Remarks		**15 minutes**	**5:45pm**	**9:15am**	**4:15am**
Meet our 2025 Committee		**15 minutes**	**6:00pm**	**9:30am**	**4:30am**
Session 1: Doing Vegan Research		**40 mins**	**6:15pm**	**9:45am**	**4:45am**
Navigating emotions and sensory experiences in vegan sociological research with and for nonhuman animals	*Marlies Bockstal*	*New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies* *marlies.bockstal@pg.canterbury.ac.nz*			
Towards a Vegan Standpoint: The epistemological and methodological repercussions of The Animatrix	*Kate Stewart* *Matthew Melsa* *Lynda Korimboccus*	*The University of East Anglia* *The Open University* *The University of East Anglia* *kate.stewart@uea.ac.uk*			
Session 2: Affect & Activism I		**1 hour**	**6:55pm**	**10:25am**	**5:15am**
Sensory experiences and the body: The transformational potential of human-animal eye contact	*Ondine Sherman*	*University of Sydney* *ondine_sherman@hotmail.com*			
Bearing witness to trans-species trauma: Mobilising affect across the human–animal divide	*Cassie A. Pedersen*	*Federation University* *c.pedersen@federation.edu.au*			
Recipe Sharing as Activism in Australian Vegan Communities	*Marie-Elyse Smith*	*Griffith University* *marie-elyse.smith@griffithuni.edu.au*			
45 minute break					
Session 3: Exploited Animals		**1 hour**	**8:40pm**	**12:10pm**	**7:10am**
Representations of nonhuman animal emotions: 'happy' exploited animals, suicide food, attempts to build empathy	*Olatz Aranceta*	*UPF-Centre for Animal Ethics Animalia Ikasketa Kritikoak (AIK)* *olatz.aranceta@upf.edu*			
Grievable Lives? A Sociology of emotions lens on the South Australian Algal Bloom Crisis	*Zoei Sutton*	*Flinders University* *Zoei.sutton@flinders.edu.au*			
Misrepresenting Captive Nonhuman Animals as Happy: The Sad Case of Happy the Elephant.	*Jane McElligott*	*Purdue University Global* *jmcelligott@purdueglobal.edu*			
			9:40pm	**1:10pm**	**8:10am**
~Maria Martelli Creative Interlude (15 minute)~					
45 minute break					

Saturday, October 4, 2025 cont'd

			ACST (Adelaide)	BST (London)	EDT (Toronto)
Session 4: Vegan emotionality		**1 hour**	**10:40pm**	**2:10pm**	**9:10am**

Contesting the trope of an unemotional man: emotion and affect in men's veganism	*Kadri Aavik*	*Tallinn University kadria@tlu.ee*			
Key intersections between Non-human Animals and Plurisexual Individuals	*Alex Sainsbury*	*University of Kent Ajs219@kent.ac.uk*			
Toward a prefigurative emotional culture to challenging nonhuman animal exploitation.	*Alice Poma & Tommaso Gravante*	*IIS-UNAM Mexico & CEIICH-UNAM Mexico apoma@sociales.unam.mx & gravante@ceiich.unam.mx*			
Session 5: Sites of affect		***1.25 hour***	***11:40pm***	***3:10pm***	***10:10am***
Emotions, disruptions and re-organization: intersectional veganism in post-2019 Lebanon	*Dalia Zein*	*Tampere University dalia.zein@tuni.fi*			
Vegan Sociological Perspectives on Grief and Moral Injury in the Context of Grief Circles	*Łucja (Lucy) Lange*	*Institute of Sociology, University of Łódź, Poland lucja.lange@uni.lodz.pl*			
"Do Animals Feel Pain? Should I Go Vegan?": Large Language Models and Animal Issues	*Michael Briscoe*	*Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology, Colorado State University Pueblo michael.briscoe@csupueblo.edu*			
From Silence to Liberation: Healing the Wounded Activist	*Gillian M. Walters*	*California Institute of Integral Studies gwalters@mymail.ciis.edu*			
			1:00am*	***4:30pm***	***11:30am***
Day 1 Conference Close			**Next day*		

Sunday, October 5, 2025

			ACDT (Adelaide) **Note! Daylight savings time from 3am**	BST (London)	EDT (Toronto)
Session : Affective Social Imaginaries		***1 hour***	***6:00pm***	***8:30am***	***3:30am***
Vegan Witchcraft: Sensing, Grounding, Liberating	*Corey Wrenn*	*International Association of Vegan Sociologists corey.wrenn@gmail.com*			
Aldo Leopold, Val Plumwood and Beyond. A Modest Proposal for a Turbid Ecology	*Federica Timeto*	*Ca' Foscari University of Venice federica.timeto@unive.it*			
Relational Proximities and Epistemic Spaces: An Intersectional Ethnography of Himalayan More-Than-Human Cosmologies	*Rita Mancini*	*Ca' Foscari University of venice rita.mancini@unive.it*			
Panel: Emotions in Australian Human-Animal Relations (1hr)			***7:00pm***	***9:30am***	***4:30am***
1 hour break					
Session 7 Understanding human-"pest" relations		***1 hour***	***9:00pm***	***11:30am***	***6:30am***
Compounding knowledges: Attending to insects between sociology and the natural sciences	*Alex Hill*	*Flinders University Hill0743@flinders.edu.au*			
Caring for 'pests' in conservation: The importance of embracing emotion in the field of social work	*Emily Major*	*Independent Scholar emilyjmajor@gmail.com*			
Rats and Redemption: Species Symbolism and Social Order in Early Bermuda	*Sydney Newell*	*William & Mary smnewell@wm.edu*			
30 minute break					
Session 8: Affect & Activism II		***40 mins***	***10:30pm***	***1:00pm***	***8:00am***
"My Heart Was Exploding": Emotions, Bodies, and Radicality in Antispeciesist Sanctuaries. A Sociological Reading from Alma Libre	*Giorgia Pagliuca*	*University of Gastronomic Sciences and University of Turin g.pagliuca@studenti.unisg.it*			
Sensing beyond the sensible: Rethinking Human-Nonhuman Animal Relations Through (Extra)Ordinary Vegan Street Activism	*Niamh Nelson-Owens*	*University of Manchester 4anch.nelson-owens@manchester.ac.uk*			

Sunday, October 5, 2025 cont'd

	ACDT (Adelaide)	BST (London)	EDT (Toronto)

Session 9: Governed Affect		**40 minutes**	***11:30pm***	***2:00pm***	***9:00am***
Irrational feelings: emotional norms, governance, and the marginalization of psychiatrized human and non-human animals	*Federica Peluso* *Giulia Regoli*	*Università di Roma "La Sapienza"* *Independent Researcher* *federica.peluso@uniroma1.it* *giuliaregoli51@gmail.com*			
The Neoliberal Death of Feeling: Empathy, Hierarchy, and the Sociological Imperative for Vegan Ethics	*Peter Marina*	*University of Wisconsin–La Crosse* *pjmarina@gmail.com*			
			12:10am*	***2:40pm***	***9:40am***
~The Vegan and the Carnivore- An Interspecies Love Story (15 minutes) with Julia Archer					
45 minute break					
Session 10: Meat		***1 hour***	***1:10am***	***3:40pm***	***10:40am***
Emotional 'boundary labour': relations between humans and 'animals-as-food'	*Nora Katharina Faltmann*	*University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna* *nora.faltmann@boku.ac.at*			
Loved to Death: "Humane" Meat and the Logic of the Species Contract	*Vasile Stănescu*	*Mercer University* *stanescu_vt@mercer.edu*			
The meat-paradox: justifying meat consumption across development and cultural communities	*Federica Amici*	*Leipzig University* *amici@eva.mpg.de*			
Concluding Comments: IAVS Conference Organizing Committee		***5 minutes***	***2:10am***	***4:40pm***	***11:40am***
International Association of Vegan Sociologists: Annual Business Meeting		***1 hour***	***2:15am***	***4:45pm***	***11:45am***
IAVS 2025 Concludes			***3:15am***	***5:45pm***	***12:45pm***

General Instructions for Speakers

- *Please register for the conference via the Humanitix link. Access details will be sent distributed via the Humanitix participant list.*
- *The conference will be hosted on Zoom. The zoom link and password will emailed to presenters and attendees in the week before the conference.*
- *Login 10 minutes before the actual start of the webinar for a technology check*
- *The webinar will go 'live' 5 minutes in advance to allow attendees to login and test their sound*
- *The session host (Zoei, or Corey) will be opening the session and posting a welcome slide for the session.*
- *Zoei, or Corey will be moderating the individual sessions and introducing you as a presenter*
    - *After you present, the moderator will read questions from the audience in the chat for you to respond*
- *The presenter will be responsible for operating their slide presentation (if applicable)*
    - *Have your presentation open on your computer*
    - *Select 'Share Screen' in green in your toolbar of the screen (you will see once logged in)*
    - *Click on the presentation and 'Slide Show' in the document*
    - *Remember to 'Stop Screen Share' when you finish presenting*
    - *You may choose to have a final slide on your presentation 'Questions' for attendees to view while you respond to questions*
- *The attendees will only be able to view the 'active speaker' and whatever is shared*
    - *If you do not wish to be viewed 'live' while speaking, please upload a picture in your zoom profile*
- *Presentations are not recorded and will not be available after the conference so please feel free to arrange your own recording as IAVS do not have capacity to provide this.* ***If you do record your presentation and would like this included in the IAVS youtube channel please send a link to your recording file with this completed form to info@vegansociology.com***
- *Please feel free to stay and interact in the breaks! IAVS is a friendly conference and these informal times are a great opportunity to turn your video on, unmute and chat with your peers (It is also fine to disappear in the breaks if this isn't your thing).*

Event Organizers

Dr Zoei Sutton

Dr Zoei Sutton is a vegan sociologist living and working on unceded Kaurna land in Southern Australia. She focuses on centring nonhuman animals in research that concerns them in order to highlight the invisibilised power relations and interactions that maintain anthroparchy in everyday life. Recent projects include lived experiences of human-companion animal relations, multispecies rental housing and constructed killability of 'pest' animals. She is a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University, the co-founder of the International Association of Vegan Sociologists and current Chair of the Australasian Animal Studies Association.

Dr Corey Wrenn

Dr. Wrenn is Senior Lecturer of Sociology with the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements at the University of Kent. She served as council member with the American Sociological Association's Animals & Society section (2013-2016), was elected Chair in 2018, and co-founded the International Association of Vegan Sociologists in 2020. She serves as Book Review Editor to Society & Animals, is a member of The Vegan Society's Research Advisory Committee, and hosts Sociology & Animals Podcast. In July 2013, she founded the Vegan Feminist Network, an academic-activist project engaging intersectional social justice praxis. She is the author of A Rational Approach to Animal Rights: Extensions in Abolitionist Theory (Palgrave MacMillan 2016), Piecemeal Protest: Animal Rights in the Age of Nonprofits (University of Michigan Press 2019), and Animals in Irish Society (SUNY Press 2021).

International Association of Vegan Sociologists

The International Association of Vegan Sociologists is a scholar-activist collective putting sociological theory and practice in the service of animal liberation and veganism. It was founded in May 2020 by Corey Wrenn, Chair of the Animals & Society Section of the American Sociological Association and Zoei Sutton, Co-Convener of the Australian Sociological Association's Sociology and Animals Thematic Group.

This association was formed to provide a platform for sociologists of a Critical Animal Studies background who recognize veganism and anti-speciesism as an ethical imperative in the discipline.

Our aim is to increase the visibility and legitimacy of vegan sociology, provide opportunities for career development, and facilitate transnational networking.
We are completely volunteer-based.

Email: info@vegansociology.com
Twitter: @vegansociology
Facebook: @vegansociology
Web: vegansociology.com

2025 IAVS Committee

Alex Hill (Event Coordinator)

Alex is a qualitative sociologist and doctoral student in Sociology at Flinders University. Their research examines insect-human relations under anthroparchy and, in particular, the invisibility of 'creepy crawlies' in the social sciences. Alex is broadly interested in species, gender, and veganism, and holds an MRes in Sociology (thesis title: Soyboys Will Be Boys) at Macquarie University. They have the privilege of living on beautiful Dharug and Gundungurra land in the Blue Mountains of NSW, and can often be found cooking, worldbuilding, or watching cicadas

Marlies Bockstal (Blog Editor)

Marlies is a PhD student in Human-Animal Studies at the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury. She holds a Master of Science in Sociology from Ghent University, Belgium. Her research focuses on pedigree dog breeding in Aotearoa New Zealand, looking in particular at how pedigree dog breeders legitimise their breeding practices through a discourse of 'responsible breeding'. She is interested in critical pet studies, feminism, intersectionality and sensory ethnography.

Dr Stephen L. Muzatti (Newsletter Editor)

Dr Muzzatti's research lies in the intersection of cultural and ultra-realist criminologies with particular attention to crime, social harm, consumerism and human interaction with animals. He is interested in the intertwining social dynamics of neoliberalism, brutality and victimisation. His research sites include crime and media, human-animal relations (particularly, but not exclusively, domestic companion animals and urban wildlife), terrorism, state and corporate crime, narcissism, working-class spaces and identities, motorcycle culture, the Italian-Canadian community, advertising and the monetisation of violence.

Libby Hooper (Social Media Coordinator)

Libby is an undergraduate Sociology student at the University of Cambridge. Her current research qualitatively explores experiences of stigmatisation and empowerment amongst women in the animal rights movement. Her interests more broadly focus on speciesism, the (de)valuation of (non)human life, and necropolitics.

We are currently accepting expressions of interest for our 2026 Committee! See here for more information.

National Sociology Groups with Animal Themes

While these groups do not always subscribe to a vegan baseline as we do at IAVS below are groups available to join at a national level if you are interested in presenting (and visibilising) vegan sociology in your closest national sociology association.

TASA Sociology & Animals Thematic Group

TASA The Australian Sociological Association ••• Understanding our world, making a difference

The Australian Sociological Association's Sociology and Animals Thematic Group aims to contribute to the idea of nonhuman animals as critical members, and stakeholders in societies, who co-produce 'the social' along with humans and other nonhumans. With the rise of human-animal scholarship, sociologists are increasingly recognising the importance of including non-human animals in our academic endeavours, and the urgency of studying animals as actors, as well as subjects of marginalisation in societies. The aim of the Sociology and Animals Thematic Group is to create a supportive network of scholars working in human-animal studies, critical animal studies and/or other animal-related areas to facilitate the exchange of ideas, critical discussion and coordination of relevant academic events.
We welcome all scholars conducting sociological research about, for, and/or with nonhuman animals.

Email our conveners: zoei.sutton@adelaide.edu.au, alexander.hill@students.mq.edu.au , j.browne@griffith.edu.au
Twitter: @tasaanimals
Facebook: @tasaanimals
Web: www.tasa.org.au

CSA Animals in society research cluster

CSA Canadian Sociological Association / Société canadienne de sociologie

*We are the **Animals in Society** research cluster (RC) of the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)! As sociologists, we see value in scholarship that goes beyond an anthropocentric understanding of Canadian society, one that includes the non- or other-than-human and pays particular attention to "the question of the animal". The work of this RC is inclusive, anti-oppressive, and critical in nature. Working from an interdisciplinary perspective, we seek to expand current interpretations of societal structures and institutions, social norms, practices, policies, and relations that involve humans and other beings. The Animals in Society RC recognizes and respects that **we are all animals in a shared society.***

email our conveners: rstevenson@tru. ca or lindsays@mcmaster.ca
web: www.csa-scs.ca

ASA section on animals and society

ASA

The purpose of the American Sociological Association's Section on Animals and Society is to encourage and support the development of theory, research and teaching about the complex relationships that exist between humans and other animals. In the process, it is anticipated that the light we shed on these issues will increase the well-being of both humans, and other animals.

email our convener: corey.wrenN@gmail.com
Twitter: @Animals_Society
Facebook: @AnimalsAndSocietyASA
Web: www.asanet.org

BSA Animal/Human Studies Group

BSA BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The study of animal-human relations within the social sciences is an increasingly important, vibrant and burgeoning field. The formation of the BSA Animal/Human Studies Group in June 2006 is therefore an important step towards addressing what Bryant (1979) has called the 'zoological connection', whereby sociologists need to recognise that people co-exist and interact not only with humans but with non-human animals too. For example, animals are increasingly utilised and involved in biotechnology and genomics; animal experimentation; the production and slaughter of food animals; companion animal-human type relationships and the therapeutic use of animals. Moreover, additional animal-related issues that have attracted attention by researchers are: the potential links between animal abuse and domestic violence; the nature of animal-animal interaction; potential links between women, nature and animals; bestiality; human-wildlife interactions; and human responses to companion animal death/euthanasia. Sociologists have much to offer this emerging area of study and are well placed to engage with the multifaceted, ambiguous and challenging nature of the animal-human interface in everyday life.

email the convener: r.m.wilkie@abdn.ac.uk
Web: https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/animalhuman-studies-group-ahsg