



CALGARY: City of Animals

Edited by Jim Ellis

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conclusion

jim ellis

The humanities as a discipline (or disciplines) have been defined in various ways, but central to most formulations is the idea that the humanities foster a conversation about what it means to be human. Animal Studies, as these essays have shown, have the potential to shift the terms of that conversation in significant ways. The designation “non-human animals,” which several contributors use, shows one such fundamental change. If philosophers since Plato have used animals to help define what it means to be human, they have generally done this with the assumption that animals are fundamentally different from us: that there is a firm border between the animal world and the human world. This division is clearly reflected in the surprise that many people felt on first encountering the phrase “city of animals.” Animals (except for pets, of course) are supposed to live in nature. Cities are for people. Animals found in cities are interlopers or pests.

Increasingly, Animal Studies (among other disciplines) have been pushing us to consider how we humans are a part of the animal world and the natural world; this is an increasingly important question in the face of our changing climate. Other philosophers, responding to humanity’s domination of the globe, insist that there is no such thing as nature anymore: that everything, animals included, is a part of human culture. We live in the Anthropocene, a geological era of man-made climate change. Either way, we need to consider the ways in which we are a part of the animal world, and they are a part of ours, since we share the same fate.

This is one reason why the humanities are so important in our current moment. The conversation that took place at our Annual Community Seminar, and which is the origin of this volume, brought together a diverse group of citizens to discuss together how we might better understand our relation to the non-human animals with whom we share our city. This book continues that conversation and broadens it, by including new directions and new perspectives, which mutually inform each other. The essays by the seminar participants provide some scholarly directions for discussion; the statements by those who work for animal well-being help us to better understand the facts on the ground (and in the water, and in the air). The various contributions by artists are research in a different form: artists use different channels of exploration and communication to allow us to understand these issues in more visceral ways. Artists show us that animals don't just inhabit our city: they inhabit our imaginations, our bodies, our movements, and our souls. To be attentive to the welfare of animals is to be attentive to the welfare of our selves.

If you'd like to explore any of these ideas further, we have assembled some resources on the website of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/>), at the University of Calgary. There you will find a critical vocabulary, detailed suggestions for reading, and links to community organizations. You can also find videos of the talks from the Community Seminar, as well as video of some of the conversations that took place. We hope you will be inspired to carry on the conversation: let us know where it takes you.

notes

¹ *Our BiodiverCity: Calgary's 10-year Biodiversity Strategic Plan*, <http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Documents/Planning-and-Operations/BiodiverCity-strategic-plan.pdf>.

² *Totemism*, trans. Rodney Needham (Boston: Beacon Press, 1963), 89.

³ "Backyard Chicken Pilot Project Scratched by Calgary Council," *CBC News*, last modified April 27, 2015, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/backyard-chicken-pilot-project-scratched-by-calgary-council-1.3050684>.

⁴ Jason Markusoff, "No to Hen-Raisers: Council Votes Against a Backyard Chicken Coop Pilot Program" *Calgary Herald*, last modified April 27, 2015, <http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/no-to-hen-raisers-council-votes-against-a-backyard-coop-pilot-program>.

⁵ "Livestock in the city and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw," City of Calgary, <http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Animal-Services/Responsible-pet-ownership-bylaw-livestock.aspx>.

⁶ David Rider, "Toronto Committee Votes to Uphold Backyard Chicken Ban," *Toronto*

Star, last modified January 25, 2012, https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2012/01/25/toronto_committee_votes_to_up_hold_backyard_chicken_ban.html.

⁷ “Edmonton hatches expanded plans for backyard chickens” *CBC News*, last modified March 7, 2016, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-hatches-expanded-plans-for-backyard-chickens-1.3479115>.

⁸ “Urban Hens Pilot Evaluation,” Report CR_1621 to Community Services Committee, City of Edmonton, March 7, 2016, <http://sirepub.edmonton.ca/sirepub/cache/2/yh-pdlyc5vvdwkza0olml400b/52531702212017011451452.PDF>.

⁹ See the recently published edited collection *Animal Metropolis: Histories of Human-Animal Relations in Urban Canada*, eds. Joanna Dean, Darcy Ingram, and Christabelle Sethna (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2017).

¹⁰ Sean Kheraj, “Urban Environments and the Animal Nuisance: Domestic Livestock Regulation in Nineteenth-Century Canadian Cities,” *Urban History Review/Revue d'histoire urbaine* 44, no. 1-2 (Fall/Spring 2015/2016): 46.

¹¹ Sean Kheraj, “Living and Working with Domestic Animals in Nineteenth-Century Toronto,” in *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*, ed. L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank (Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2013), 129–30.

¹² *Annual Reports of the Chief of Police for Montreal* (Montreal: 1893), 22–23.

¹³ “Pigs Continue to Roam the Streets,” *Daily Free Press*, October 21, 1874, 3.

¹⁴ “Pigs ‘On the Loose’” *Toronto Mail*, October 21, 1872, 4.

¹⁵ Sean Kheraj, “Animals and Urban Environments: Managing Domestic Animals in Nineteenth-Century Winnipeg,” in *Eco-Cultural Networks and the British Empire: New Views on Environmental History*, eds. James Beattie, Edward Melillo, and Emily O’Gorman (London: Bloomsbury, 2015), 280–81.

¹⁶ “Detailed Statement of the Receipts and Expenditures on Account of the City of Toronto,” *Appendix to City of Toronto Council Minutes*, 1884.

¹⁷ “City Items,” *Montreal Daily Witness*, September 24, 1874, 3.

¹⁸ Kheraj, "Animals and Urban Environments," 276.

¹⁹ *Annual Reports of the Chief of Police for Montreal* (Montreal: 1889), 11.

²⁰ "Recorder's Court," *Montreal Herald*, July 7, 1865, 2.

²¹ Jennifer Bonnell, *Reclaiming the Don: An Environmental History of Toronto's Don River Valley* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014), 40–43.

²² City of Vancouver Archives, Bylaw no. 7, March 7, 1887.

²³ City of Vancouver Archives, City Council Minutes, MCR 1-1, 23 August 1886; Health Committee Minutes, MCR 2-43, 31 January 1887.

²⁴ *Census of Canada, 1901*, vol. 1 (Ottawa, 1903), 22.

²⁵ Colin S. Campbell, "The Stampede: Cowtown's Sacred Cow," in Chuck Reasons, ed., *Stampede City: Power and Politics in the West* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 1984), 103.

²⁶ "Old Spirit," *The Albertan*, July 13, 1923; Hugh A. Dempsey, *Calgary: Spirit of the West* (Calgary: Glenbow and Saskatoon: Fifth House, 1994), 1.

²⁷ Donna Livingstone, *Cowboy Spirit: Guy Weadick and the Calgary Stampede* (Vancouver: Greystone, 1996), 68.

²⁸ Guy Weadick to J. A. Shoemaker, July 25, 1912, Calgary Exhibition & Stampede correspondence, 1912–1953, Weadick Fonds, Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta (hereafter GA).

²⁹ Indian Agent (name illegible) to Guy Weadick, July 26, 1912, Weadick Fonds, GA.

³⁰ "List of Bucking Horses—1926 Stampede," "List of Stock Delivered to Clem Gardiner July 18, 1927," "List of Horses Purchases by Calgary Exhibition Co.," "Bucking Horse List 1927 Stampede," and "Bucking Horses 1927," series 7, Events Records 1927, M-2160-89, Stampede Fonds, GA.

³¹ Clem Gardiner to Guy Weadick, July 8, 1927, series 7, Events Records 1927, M-2160-89, Stampede Fonds, GA.

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³² “1927 Bucking Horses List Office Copy,” series 7, Events Records 1927, M-2160-89, Stampede Fonds, GA.

³³ “1929 Bucking Horses List,” series 7, Events Records 1927, M-2160-91(a), Stampede Fonds, GA.

³⁴ Donald G. Weatherell, “Making Tradition: The Calgary Stampede, 1912-1939,” in *Icon, Brand, Myth: The Calgary Stampede*, ed. Max Foran (Edmonton: Athabasca University Press, 2008), 26-28.

³⁵ Sampling from 1927-1930 horse lists, events records, and correspondence, series 5, M-2160-89 to 98, Stampede Fonds, GA.

³⁶ “List of Stock Delivered to Clem Gardiner July 18, 1927,” series 7, Events Records 1927, M-2160-89, Stampede Fonds, GA.

³⁷ Dick Cosgrove to Guy Weadick, May 24, 1930, series 7, General Correspondence A-H 1930, M-2160-98, Stampede Fonds, GA.

³⁸ Guy Weadick to Dick Cosgrove, May 30, 1930, series 7, General Correspondence A-H 1930, M-2160-98, Stampede Fonds, GA.

³⁹ “List of Bucking Horses Owned by Calgary Exhibition Assoc. June 27, 1930,” series 7, Events Records, 1930, M-2160-97, Stampede Fonds, GA.

⁴⁰ In 1930, Greasy Sal was still owned by Exhibition Co., delivered to manager Dick Cosgrove: “Horses Delivered to Dick Cosgrove,” series 7, Events Records, 1930, M-2160-97, Stampede Fonds; but not on Events Records for 1930 or 1931: “Bucking Horses Calgary Stampede 1930,” “Mr. Dillon’s Bucking Horse List 1930,” “Office Copy Bucking Horse List Stampede 1931,” series 7, Events Records 1931, M-2160-97 and M-2160-101, Stampede Fonds, GA.

⁴¹ Clay McShane and Joel A. Tarr, *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), 34.

⁴² Keith Thomas, *Man and the Natural World: Changing Attitudes in England, 1500-1800* (New York: Vintage, 1983), 17-50, 242-303.

⁴³ Peterson and Fisher detailed their journey in *Wild America* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1955).

⁴⁴ A robin that lacks some pigments, including melanin. As a result, its colour will appear muted.

⁴⁵ For more information, please visit the website of Aspire Food Group:
<http://www.aspirefg.com/about-us/>.

⁴⁶ *Animal Studies Journal* 5(1) (2016). Special issue: Insects.

⁴⁷ For more information, please visit: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/meet-schmeat-lab-grown-meat-hits-the-grill-this-month-1.1343013>.

⁴⁸ Scientific studies of evolutionary organic biology have recently found evidence for the “expensive tissue hypothesis”—the theory associating brain growth with expensive tissue meals such as meat (Tsuboi et al.).

⁴⁹ For more information, please visit: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/who-we-are>.

⁵⁰ For more information, visit the event’s blog: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/blog-posts/lunch-and-city>.

⁵¹ For more information, see: <https://www.soylent.com/>.

⁵² The full plan is available online at
<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Documents/Planning-and-Operations/BiodiverCity-strategic-plan.pdf>.

⁵³ See <http://www.lisabrawn.com/index.php/blog/item/helios>.

contributors

Shelley M. Alexander is a professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary. She has over twenty-five years' experience studying wild canid conservation, specifically wolves and coyotes. Shelley oversees the Canid Lab (www.ucalgary.ca/canid-lab), where her team practices Compassionate Conservation, using only non-invasive methods in wildlife research. Shelley is an established researcher in Animal Geography, Geospatial Analysis, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, and Road Ecology.

Lisa Brawn is a Calgary-based artist whose woodcuts have been exhibited in galleries across North America.

Kimberley Cooper has been dancing and making dance for most of her life. She is currently the Artistic Director of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, which was founded in 1984 with a mission to preserve, promote, and evolve jazz dance.

Jim Ellis is director of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, and a professor of English at the University of Calgary. He is the author of *Sexuality and Citizenship* (University of Toronto Press, 2003) and *Derek Jarman's Angelic Conversations* (Minnesota University Press, 2009), as well as other works on film, art, and literature.

Mohammad Sadeghi Esfahlani is a project manager for the Calgary Institute for the Humanities and a PhD Candidate in the Department of Communication, Media, and Film at the University of Calgary. His research interests include new social movements, social innovation, and energy systems transformation. His dissertation unravels the social dynamics of Germany's turn toward renewable energy sources ("Energiewende").

Paul Hardy is an internationally recognized fashion designer.

Andrea Hunt is the executive director at the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. Andrea brings an eclectic skill set to her role as executive director, having previously worked with child protective services, managing a software development and media company, and maintaining a successful independent music career.

Sean Kheraj is an associate professor of Canadian and environmental history at York University. He is the director and editor-in-chief of the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE), where he produces Nature's Past: Canadian Environmental History Podcast. He is also the author of *Inventing Stanley Park: An Environmental History*.

Melanie Kjorlien is the VP Access, Collections and Exhibitions, at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary.

Maureen Luchsinger is the Education Coordinator and **Laura Griffin** is the Educational Interpreter at the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). They have taught youth from pre-school to university in Calgary and the surrounding area. They are passionate about conservation education to inspire youth to make connections that develop a love of the natural environment.

Jenna McFarland is the Animal Care Operations Manager at the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. As a zoologist and veterinary technologist she brings to CWRS a range of expertise from animal health, to nutrition, behaviour, and enrichment.

Susan Nance is a historian of communication and live performance in the US. She is currently working on a new book, *Born to Buck: Rodeo, Animals and the Myths of the West*. She is associate professor at the University of Guelph in Ontario and the author of various works, including *Entertaining Elephants: Animal Agency and the Business of the American Circus* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013).

One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre was founded in Calgary in 1982. *Calgary, I Love You, but You're Killing Me* premiered at their 30th High Performance Rodeo in 2016, featuring music and lyrics by Blake Brooker and David Rhymer, with additional music, lyrics and text by Denise Clarke, Andy Curtis, Kris Demeanor, Karen Hines, Michelle Kennedy, Jonathan Lewis, Jamie Tognazzini and Dewi Wood. The production was staged by Denise Clarke and performed by Denise Clarke, Andy Curtis, Karen Hines and Jamie Tognazzini.

Angela Waldie teaches at Mount Royal University. She completed her PhD at the University of Calgary, where her research focused on species endangerment and extinction in literature. She is currently writing her first poetry collection, entitled *A Single Syllable of Wild*, which explores wildlife conservation practices in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks.

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How have our interactions with animals shaped Calgary?

What can we do to ensure that humans and animals in the city continue to co-exist, and even flourish together?

This wide-ranging book explores the ways that animals inhabit our city, our lives and our imaginations.

Essays from animal historians, wildlife specialists, artists and writers address key issues such as human-wildlife interactions, livestock in the city, and animal performers at the **Calgary Stampede**.

Contributions from some of Calgary's iconic arts institutions, including **One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre**, **Decidedly Jazz Danceworks**, and the **Glenbow Museum**, demonstrate how animals continue to be a source of inspiration and exploration for fashion, art, dance and theatre.

The full-colour volume is beautifully illustrated throughout with archival images, wildlife photography, documentary and production stills, and original artwork.

***Jim Ellis** is Professor of English and Director of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities at the University of Calgary. He has written widely on art, literature and film, and has served on the boards of Truck Gallery and Calgary Cinematheque.*



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