

Proposal for a *Hypatia* Special Issue: *Animal Others*

Guest Editors: Lori Gruen and Kari Weil

Proposal submitted: May 2009

I. Narrative

The so-called “question of the animal” both extends and sets a limit case for debates over identity and difference that have been central to feminist scholarship. Both women and animals are constructed as Man’s other, against whom man defines and measures himself as superior. As other to man, women have been associated with nature (and the raw material from which man is said to emerge). Everything associated with nature, including non-human animals and women’s bodies, is seen as property or as resources to be used to further man’s ends and enrich the culture that “he” creates. This Othering is a precondition for oppression and subjection as it aids in denying members of certain groups considerability and agency. Women and animals are relegated to the background -- they are the used. But this association of non-human animals and women has been problematic for some feminists who fear that it reinstates both in the inferior categories of nature and biology that were supposed to have been transcended. This may be one reason that feminist work in animal studies as in animal ethics has been marginalized, even while feminist insights are borrowed and built upon. Our view is that feminist attention to non-human animals will help to rethink and redefine (or undefine) categories such as animal-woman-nature-body in ways that will benefit our knowledge of and attitudes towards the human and non-human worlds. To that end, we would like to edit a special issue of *Hypatia* that explores the promise and pitfalls of “feminist animal studies.” Such an issue will provide an opportunity to re-examine concerns that are central to both feminist theory and animal studies and promote avenues of thought that can move us beyond pernicious forms of othering that undergird much human and non-human suffering.

Attending to “the animal” is becoming more central in both analytic and continental philosophical traditions as well as in cultural studies, performance studies and other disciplines and interdisciplinary investigations. In recent years there have been a number of special issues of journals devoted to animals (e.g. *differences*, *Configurations*, *Social Text*, *Mosaic*, *Philosophy Now*, *Journal of Ethics*). Conferences devoted to the “animal” are occurring almost every month around the world. The proposed *Hypatia* special issue will be an important feminist contribution to the burgeoning field of animal studies and will showcase the best emerging feminist work that addresses a wide variety of issues and concerns. Possible topics might include:

- non-human animals and intimacy/affection/love/domestication
- gendered ethics and the politics of animal rights discourse and activism
- racial, gendered, and cultural conflicts about eating animal bodies/using animals
- animals and “nature”/ animals in “culture”
- violence against women and violence against animals
- material feminism and companion species
- technologies of seeing or the gaze of/on sex and species
- otherness, empathy, and care ethics
- the woman and the animal—pitfalls and strategies of essentialism.

We are in the beginning stages of planning a conference at Wesleyan to be held in early Spring 2011. We could thus make the deadline for submissions March 15, 2011 and schedule the special issue for 27.3 or later.

II. List of Feminist philosophers and theorists who could be potential contributors and/or reviewers for this special Issue:

[Redacted list of names]

Please note: the names of proposed contributors and reviewers have been redacted for reasons of confidentiality.

III. Draft of the Call for Papers:

We are soliciting papers for a special issue of *Hypatia* on Animal Others. Scholarship in "Animal Studies" has grown considerably over the last few years, yet the feminist insights that much of this work borrows from and builds on remains relatively unrecognized. This special issue of *Hypatia* will remedy this by showcasing the best emerging feminist work on non-human animals that helps us to rethink and redefine (or undefine) categories such as animal-woman-nature-body. The issue will provide the opportunity to re-examine concerns that are central to both feminist theory and animal studies and promote avenues of thought that can move us beyond pernicious forms of othering that undergird much human and non-human suffering.

We are interested in submissions from a wide range of feminist perspectives. Possible topics might include:

- non-human animals and intimacy/affection/love/domestication
- gendered ethics and the politics of animal rights discourse and activism
- racial, gendered, and cultural conflicts about eating animal bodies/using animals
- animals and "nature"/ animals in "culture"
- the significance of gender differences in the study and/or care of non-human animals
- violence against women and violence against animals
- material feminism and companion species
- technologies of seeing or the gaze of/on sex and species
- otherness, empathy, and care ethics
- the woman and the animal—pitfalls and strategies of essentialism.

Deadline for submission March 15, 2011.

Preliminary List of Places the CFP Would be Published:

Listservs:

SWIP
FEAST
FEMMS
H-Animal

There are a growing number of animal studies/post-humanist list serves and blogs that we will post to as well.

IV. Our qualifications for, and interest in, editing this special issue:

We have been collaborating on a number of projects that bring together our mutual interests in feminist scholarship and animal studies/animal ethics. Together we have extensive editorial experience and our different areas of expertise will allow us to solicit and select high quality contributions for this special issue.

Attached you will find our c.v.s but here are brief descriptions of our qualifications.

In addition to serving as co-editor of *Hypatia*, Lori is the co-editor of 3 books, one of which was a special issue of *Metaphilosophy*. She has published broadly on topics in animal ethics, including the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on the Moral Status of Non-Human Animals (<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-animal/>) and the illustrated book *Animal Liberation: A Graphic Guide* (with Peter Singer and artist David Hines). Her book *Ethics and Animals* (Cambridge University Press) will appear in [REDACTED]. She has lectured widely and has taught courses on animal ethics and animal minds at the University of Colorado, Stanford University, and Wesleyan University. She has documented the history of the first 100 chimpanzees in the US (<http://first100chimps.wesleyan.edu>) and is currently working on a book exploring human relations to captive chimpanzees. With Kari, she co-authored an essay on teaching women's studies and animal studies entitled "Teaching Difference: Sex, Gender, Species" in the forthcoming *Teaching the Animal* (Lantern Books). [REDACTED]

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Kari has published widely on literary representations of gender, feminist theory, and recently on theories and representations of animal otherness. Her course, "Animal Subjects" which she taught at the California College of the Arts, won the United States Humane Society's "Best Course Award" for 2006. She organized a series of panels on "The Animal in a Post-Human World" for the ACLA in 2006 and is currently writing a book entitled *Thinking Animals: An Introduction to Animal Studies* (Columbia UP) that will appear in 2011.