

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL  
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP  
SPRING 2008 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**ANIMAL STUDIES**

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**Crown Plaza Hotel St Louis Downtown  
Wednesday May 28- Sunday June 1, 2008**

This is the first of two workshops designed to help students prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the first workshop are 1) to map the research field with respect to contributing disciplines, methods, sources, and area knowledge; and 2) to help prepare fellows for their pre-dissertation summer research. (The goal of the second workshop will be to focus on the mechanics and methods of writing a dissertation proposal). The two goals stand in close relation to each other: through a sustained and structured discussion of student proposals and their component parts, we hope to contribute to the mapping of the research field itself.

During the last several decades animal studies has emerged as a newly central focus of scholarship in disciplines throughout the humanities and social sciences. As it has expanded the range of possible research topics in disciplines from art history, cultural studies, and philosophy to history, sociology, and anthropology, the animal turn in academic research has suggested significant new relationships between scholars and their subjects, and new understandings of the role of animals in the past and at present. Like many interdisciplinary research areas, animal studies brings divergent, complementary, and mutually enriching approaches to bear on a common thematic focus. In consequence, it allows us to challenge settled assumptions and relationships; that is, to re-raise the largest issues, both within the community of scholars and in the larger society to which they and their subjects belong.

Workshop participants exemplify these characteristics of the field in the diversity of their research interests. They are drawn from the disciplines of history, anthropology, history of science, literature, science studies, media studies, environmental ethics, geography, and biology. Their geographical foci include locations on most (although not quite all) of the continents. Many of them have supplemented their academic interests in animals with hands-on experience with animal institutions and issues. This mix of perspectives and expertises should guarantee lively and fruitful interactions.

**Workshop Readings and Resources**

Research Field resources will be placed on the relevant Workspace websites. Students will receive separate explanations and detailed instructions about the access and use of the DPDF digital platform. The field bibliography is intended only to suggest the breadth and variety of recent

scholarship in Animal Studies. In addition, the website will include pdfs of reading selections to be discussed at the workshop.

## **Workshop Assignments**

In advance of the workshop, you should write a 5-8 page research statement and post it on the DPDF Workspace as explained in the “First Assignment DPDF” document posted on the Animal Studies page. It will serve as the starting point for the focused discussions of participants’ research projects that will constitute the core of our sessions. Each of the discussions will be introduced by another of the participants.

### *WORKSHOP SCHEDULE*

*ARRIVAL, Wednesday, May 28*

**Wednesday Evening:** *Reception, 6-8 pm.*

#### **Session 1: Introduction and Purpose of Workshops**

(Thursday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

Plenary Session: Presentations by Program Director Peter Sahlins and the Research Directors

#### **Session 2: Mapping Fields, Asking Questions**

(Thursday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

*After brief introductions, the research directors will attempt to map out the current shape of research in animal studies, and to consider the implications of the disciplinary diversity that has been included under this rubric. We will ask what constitutes a good case study, how this might vary from discipline to discipline, and whether it is possible to establish shared language and scholarly conventions for this varied field.*

*In the final part of this session, we will begin the discussion of individual projects. Over the course of the workshop, about an hour will be allotted to the discussion of each project.*

*Project for discussion (with the name of the commentator in parenthesis):*

*Noah Cincinatti, “The White Man’s Other Burden: Zoos, Empire, and American Wildlife Conservation, 1889-1924” (Gupta)*

#### **Session 3: Discussion of Projects**

(Friday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

*Among the issues raised by these projects are the perception and categorization of individual species.*

*Projects for discussion:*

*Michael Wise, “Living Like a Wolf: Predation, Civilization, and Conquest on the Northern Plains, 1869-1924” (Riffel)*

*Karen Hibbard-Rode, "Identity and History of the Tesbekpuk Lake Caribou Herd: Perspectives from Oral History and Landscape Genetics" (Shackelford)*

*Analia Villagra, "Taxonomies of Nature: Categories for an Interspecies Environmentalism" (Govindrajan)*

#### **Session 4: Field Trip**

(Friday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

*Field trip to the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center.*

#### **Session 5: Continued Discussion of Projects**

(Saturday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

*Among the issues raised by these projects are conservation and resource management.*

*Projects for discussion:*

*Radhika Govindrajan, "Beautiful Beasts and Beastly Beauty: Human-Animal Relations in the Western Himalayas" (Shapiro)*

*Sharon Wilcox, "Encountering El Tigre: Jaguars and People in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands" (Ellis)*

*Anjali Clare Gupta, "The Elephant Question: An Ethnography of Environmental Imaginaries in Chobe Enclave Community Trust, Botswana" (Woods)*

#### **Session 6: Continued Discussion of Projects**

(Saturday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

*Among the issues raised by these projects are boundaries and borders between and among species and other kinds.*

*Projects for discussion:*

*Casey Riffel, "The Visual Rhetoric of Animality: Animating Animals from Eadweard Muybridge to Jim Trainor" (Villagra)*

*Aaron Shackelford, "I think I could turn and live awhile with the animals': The Writer's Struggle with Animals in America, 1850-1865" (Wise)*

*Ryan Shapiro, "Bodies at War: The Fight over Animals and Human Experimentation in Wartime America, 1916-1966" (Hibbard-Rode)*

#### **Session 7: Continued Discussion of Projects; Looking Forward**

(Sunday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)

*Among the issues raised by these projects are the status and treatment of livestock animals.*

*Projects for discussion:*

*Rebecca Woods, "Breeding Environments: Livestock and Location in the Modern Anglophone World" (Wilcox)*

*Colter Ellis, "Animals, Inequality, and the Environment" (Cincinnati)*

*After concluding our discussion of individual projects, we will discuss plans for the September workshop. We will also confirm communication strategies, deadlines, and assignments for the summer. We will think about individual research goals as well as collaborative goals with regard to understanding the possibilities offered by animal studies, and its (or their) relation to traditional scholarly fields.*

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL  
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP  
FALL 2008 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**ANIMAL STUDIES**

<https://workspace.ssrc.org/dpdf/>

Research Director: Janet Browne [jbrowne@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jbrowne@fas.harvard.edu)

Research Director: Harriet Ritvo [ritvo@mit.edu](mailto:ritvo@mit.edu)

**Hilton Milwaukee City Center  
Milwaukee, WI**

**Thursday, September 11 – Sunday, September 15**

This is the second of two annual DPDF workshops designed to help graduate student fellows prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the second workshop are 1) to help fellows synthesize their summer research; and 2) to draft proposals for dissertation funding. The fall workshop focuses on the mechanics and the philosophy of proposal writing. The workshop also aims to challenge fellows to reflect on their summer research in ways that link meaningfully to their research field. In this, the goals of the fall workshop are closely related to the project of mapping a research field that was started during the spring workshop in St Louis, MI. Since the research projects in our group are very diverse in terms of topic as well as home discipline, the relevant “research field” will vary from person to person. Producing an effective definition of it will be an important part of your work as you draft your proposal.

Fellows will come out of the second workshop with supportive networks, consisting of both mentors and cohorts of new scholars carrying out research in their fields, as well as intellectually mature dissertation proposals.

### **Workshop Assignments**

In preparation for the Milwaukee workshop you should:

#### **By September 1:**

Upload a draft dissertation proposal into your folder on the DPDF to be discussed during the workshop. Funding proposal conventions vary from discipline to discipline and from agency to agency; dissertation proposals conventions vary from department to department and from school to school. But they all have significant commonalities.

Examples of successful recent funding proposals from a range of social science disciplines have been posted on the main DPDF web page.

Here are a few general guidelines. Your draft should be approximately 20 double-spaced pages long, plus a bibliography and an abstract. It should define your basic research question, and then address issues of methodology, evidence, and argument. It should also include a proposed chapter outline and tentative conclusions.

## **By September 10:**

Read the draft proposals of the other workshop participants and be prepared to contribute to the group discussion of them. Discussion of each proposal will be scheduled for approximately one half hour. The author of the proposal will introduce discussion by briefly identifying the issues about which he or she feels the greatest need for feedback.

Prepare a 10-12 minute presentation about your summer research experience, with illustrations if possible and appropriate.

## ***WORKSHOP SCHEDULE***

***ARRIVAL, Wednesday, September 10th: Registration packets will be distributed at check in.***

**Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Session 1: Panel – The Dissertation Proposal: Strategies and Funding Sources**

(Thursday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Dissertation Funder Presentations

### **Sessions 2-7: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday**

These sessions will focus on student proposals, which have been (roughly) grouped in thematic / methodological clusters. Each proposal will be discussed by the group as a whole, and also in an individual conference with the research directors. Since the groupings have not changed significantly since our meeting in St. Louis, for the sake of variety we will discuss the proposals in the opposite order. The order of individual meetings will be decided when we meet. While the research directors are meeting with individuals, the other participants will divide into small groups to work on their proposal drafts.

### **Session 2:**

(Thursday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

(Illustrated) reports on summer research. Approximately 12 minutes apiece.

### **Session 3:**

(Friday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

Workshop discussion of proposals:

Ellis

Woods

Shapiro

Shackelford  
Riffel  
Gupta

**Session 4:**

(Friday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

Field trip to Milwaukee zoo (leaving hotel before 2:00)

**Session 5:**

(Saturday, 9 AM – 12:00 PM)

Workshop discussion of proposals

Wilcox  
Govindrajan  
Villagra  
Hibbard-Rode  
Wise  
Cincinnati

**Session 6:**

(Saturday, 2:00 PM – 5 PM)

Individual conferences with research directors; small groups work on proposal drafts.

**Session 7:**

(Sunday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)

Individual conferences with research directors; small groups work on proposal drafts.  
Roundup and farewell. Plans for future communication.