3rd AALTRA CONFERENCE (AUSTRALASIAN ANIMAL LAW TEACHERS' AND RESEARCHERS' ASSOCIATION)

Animal Law: What's Justice Got To Do With It?
26-27 November 2026, University of Technology Sydney



Photo of Cherokee, courtesy of Edgar's Mission

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

UTS acknowledges the Gadigal people, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands our university stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

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The 3rd AALTRA Conference

AALTRA commenced in 2020 and brings together animal law teachers and researchers from the Pacific-Asia region. One of AALTRA's aims is to advance the teaching, research, and scholarship of animal law to improve animal wellbeing through law and policy reform in the Australasia region. Past conferences explored "Animal Law in a Dis/Re-Connected World", and "The Rule of Law and Animals, International Law and Animals".

The 2026 Conference will focus on animal law and justice, evaluating the efficacy of law as a justice construct in achieving greater justice for animals. While the study of law includes knowledge gained from policy, legislation and cases, justice casts a broader net, evaluating the fairness and impartiality of the law, identifying fault lines and setting agendas for reform.

In his thought-provoking article, (Ronald Sackville, "Law and Justice: Do they Meet? Some Personal Reflections", (2014) 27 (3) *UNSW Law Journal*, 1142) the Honourable Ronald Sackville, AO KC probes the complex connections between law and justice, pinpointing discrepancies and synergies, singling out three areas of concern:

- Legal and political systems do not develop in a linear manner from recognition of unfairness to a position of ideal justice. Political pressures are ever-present so that "new laws are as capable of creating injustice as the old".
- Law and policy can be a mechanism that leads to injustice, particularly for the vulnerable.
- Law can also be a force for good, eradicating injustice, "especially through carefully designed legislative reforms supported by adequate mechanisms for their implementation."

Against this backdrop, suggested topic areas for the 2026 conference include, but are not limited to:

- What is meant by justice in the context of animal law (eg multi-species justice, wild law, capabilities)? Do notions of human justice (eg distributive justice, restorative justice) apply to animals? Should justice for humans (eg fair distribution of burdens and benefits in conservation practices) be part of justice in animal law?
- Is justice the opposite of injustice? If so, where do the injustices lie? Does the legal system disadvantage animals, have a bias against animals? If this injustice is eliminated does that lead to justice?
- Is lack of implementation of laws a form of injustice (eg regulatory capture, criminal prosecutions, penalties, lack of an office for animal welfare/wellbeing/justice).
- What are the synergies between animal welfare and justice, and can animal welfare form the basis of justice for animals. What are benefits of animal welfare beyond other proposals (eg capabilities)
- Does/should justice to animals take into account societal perspectives (Indigenous, feminist, queer) and would that lead to better justice for animals.
- What is the role of legal education/institutions in achieving justice for animals.

3rd AALTRA Conference Committee

Frankie Madeleine Bray, PhD candidate, University of Adelaide, AALTRA committee member frankie.bray@adelaide.edu.au	Dr Leo Bromberg, La Trobe University, AALTRA committee member l.bromberg@latrobe.edu.au	Christina Jackson, PhD candidate, Bond University, AALTRA committee member (student representative) christina_e_jackson@outlook.com
Associate Professor Jane Kotzmann, Deakin University, Vice-President AALTRA j.kotzmann@deakin.edu.au	Lisa Noonan, PhD Candidate, University of Auckland, AALTRA committee member lisa.noonan@auckland.ac.nz	Professor Christine Parker, Melbourne University, AALTRA committee member christine.parker@unimelb.edu.au
Associate Professor Sophie Riley, University of Technology Sydney, President of AALTRA Sophie.riley@uts.edu.au	Aleesha Simoncini, Centre Manager, Centre for Law as Protection, Deakin University, AALTRA committee member aleesha.simoncini@deakin.edu.au	Associate Professor Dinesh Wadiwel, University of Sydney, AALTRA committee member dinesh.wadiwel@sydney.edu.au
Dr Steven White, Griffith University, AALTRA committee member steven.white@griffith.edu.au	Professor Amanda Sarah Whitfort, Hong Kong University, Secretary AALTRA whitfort@hku.hk	

Welcome to Country

Welcome to Country arranged with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and conducted by Michael West.

https://metrolalc.org.au/#

From their website:

“Metro’s Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Unit is primarily responsible for the conservation and land management of Aboriginal sites & relics within our boundaries.

Over 4500 sites of cultural significance are registered within Metro’s boundaries, with most of these sites located in northern boundaries of MLALC.

There are many more unregistered sites of cultural significance within our boundaries. It is Metro’s role to protect, care and manage the sites not only for the benefit of our members, but for all Australians to appreciate for generations to come.”

Always was, always will be.

Venue: UTS Faculty of Law, Building 2

UTS Faculty of Law

Building 2
Broadway 2007



CB2.04.190 Collaborative Pod

The Catering for the Conference will be vegan with gluten-free and halal as required.

Interactive Map of UTS Campus
https://www.uts.edu.au/events/open-day/find-your-way-around-campus

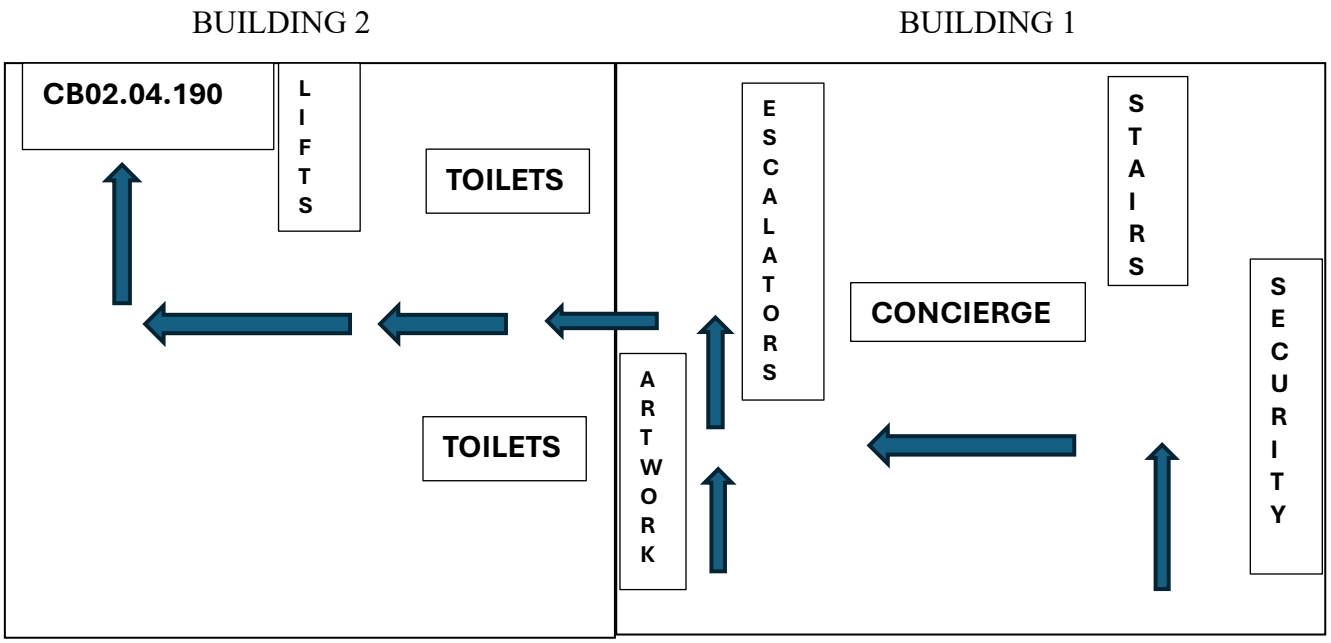


LOCATING THE CONFERENCE ROOM

CB02.04.190

The room is in building 2, level 4, room 190. Although the room number indicates the room is on level 4, it is on the ground floor (there are three floors below) entrance from Building One along Broadway.

The following diagramme is not to scale. UTS student volunteers will assist.



GROUND FLOOR ENTRY VIA BUILDING ONE

BROADWAY

Updated: 20/03/2024

UTS Facilities Hire

Car Park Options

Facilities Hire
Property Unit
University of Technology Sydney

Phone: 02 9514 4684 / 4011
Email: facilities.hire@uts.edu.au

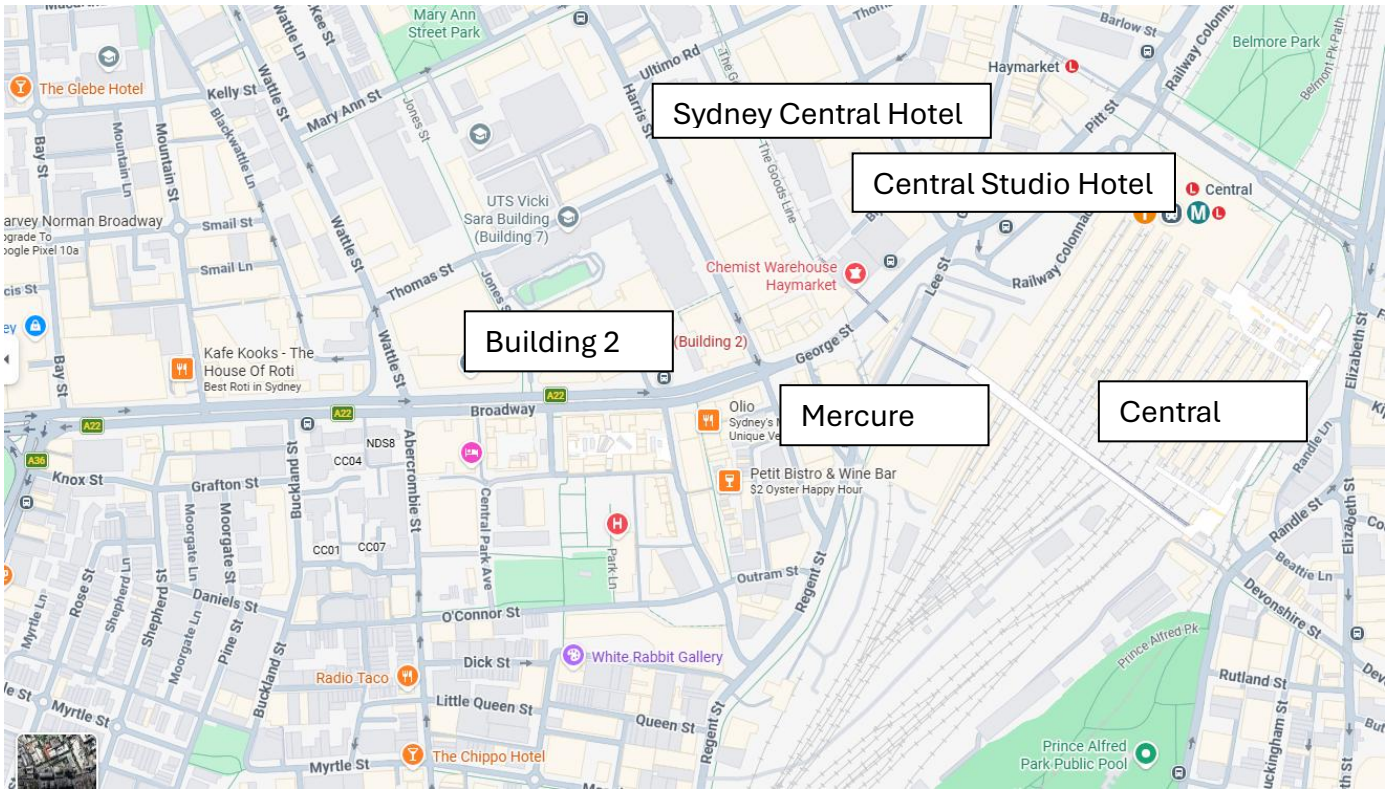
INTERPARK			
Address:	UTS Building 10 Thomas Street Ultimo NSW 2007	Hours:	Monday – Friday (6.30am – 10pm) Sat (8am – 5:30pm) Sun Closed Public Holidays Closed
Website:	UTS Parking | Central Station Car Parking Ultimo (interpark.com.au)		
Phone:	02 9514 4714		

SYDNEY CENTRAL HOTEL (WILSON PARKING)			
Address:	169-179 Thomas Street Sydney NSW 2000	Hours:	24hrs / 7days
Website:	Sydney Central Hotel Car Park (wilsonparking.com.au)		
Phone:	1800 Parking		

BROADWAY SHOPPING CENTRE			
Address:	Bay Street Broadway NSW 2007	Hours:	Monday – Sunday: 6am - Midnight
Email:	Parking | Broadway Sydney		
Phone:	02 9211 5635		

MARKET CITY (WILSON PARKING)			
Address:	2 Quay Street Haymarket NSW 2000	Hours:	24hrs / 7days
Email:	Parking in Chinatown | Market City | Accessible via Quay Street		
Phone:	1800 PARKING		

Train stations - UTS City Campus is across the road from Central station, the hub of all train lines in Sydney, as well as Railway Square, a major bus interchange. For more information see https://transportnsw.info/



- Mercure hotel https://www.mercuresydney.com.au/.
- Central Studio Hotel https://www.naumihotels.com/central-studio-hotel-sydney.
- Sydney Central Hotel https://www.discoverasr.com/en/others/australia/sydney-central-hotel.

For something more swish in the CBD - catch the light rail (tram) to Haymarket and walk to UTS – Committee Members have stayed in these and can recommend - but everyone is different, so please use your own judgement:

- Fullerton Hotel – expensive but lovely. Built in the old Post Office building. Great breakfast and lovely staff. Does not have pay TV, but you can use hotel Wi-Fi to stream from your phone https://www.fullertonhotels.com/fullerton-hotel-sydney.
- Marriott Hotel Sydney. Close to Circular Quay https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/sydmc-sydney-harbour-marriott-hotel-at-circular-quay/overview/. Great location and lovely staff
- Intercontinental Sydney. Close to Circular Quay. Great breakfast and lovely staff https://www.sydney.intercontinental.com/.
- Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park. Stayed Once. Good location. https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/sydsi-sheraton-grand-sydney-hyde-park/overview/.
- Hilton Sydney. Good location, great breakfast and staff very friendly, but on one occasion hot water did not work (boiler broke down) https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/sydhitw-hilton-sydney/.

Also, the Four Seasons (once). Staff were wonderful and the location is great being near Circular Quay and The Rocks. Some of the rooms have great harbour views. But rooms are small and it is expensive for what you get https://www.fourseasons.com/sydney/.

There are also hotels in Darling Harbour which are within a 15 minutes' walk to the venue, as well as hostel accommodation. Trip advisor https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/HotelsNear-g255060-d265771-Central_Railway_Station-Sydney_New_South_Wales.html

Sydney Inner City Map

Sydney is the capital of New South Wales and is best known for its harbourfront Opera House, with its distinctive sail-like design. Darling Harbour and Circular Quay are hubs of waterside life, with the towering, arched Harbour Bridge and the Royal Botanic Gardens nearby. Visit Sydney Tower's 268m glass viewing platform and the Skywalk offering 360-degree views of the city, harbour and suburbs.

For vegan food https://www.itravelforveganfood.com/articles/best-vegan-restaurants-sydney (Sophie Loves the Little Turtle https://littleturtlerestaurant.com/)

How to get to Sydney CBD from the airport https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/airport-travel/getting-to-from-sydney-airport

https://www.tripindicator.com/sydney-tourist-attractions-map.html



UTS Emergency Procedures

Emergencies

In an emergency, **dial 6** from any internal phone, or **1800 249 559** from mobile phones, for Security.

Emergency contacts

Ambulance 0,000 (from internal phones) 000 (from mobile phones)

Accident and Incident Reporting safetyandwellbeing@uts.edu.au

Assault UTS: Security - dial 6 from internal phones or free call 1800 249 559

If you need to call security for non-emergency matters at all on the day, please call 02 9514 1192.

What to do in an Evacuation

- Listen for the evacuation alarm to sound. It consists of two tones:
- Stand-by-and-prepare-to-evacuate tone – a ***Beep...Beep...Beep...*** sound
- Evacuate tone – a ***Whoop...Whoop...Whoop...*** sound accompanied by a voice message advising evacuation of the building.
- Do not attempt to combat a fire – leave it to professionally trained personnel.
- Staff members, please take students or visitors with you during an evacuation of the building.
- Assist any person with a disability.
- Take only your immediate belongings – do not waste time!
- Evacuate the building via the fire stairs or signed exits. Do not use lifts.
- Follow directions from security officers or fire wardens.
- Move quickly but do not run.
- Do not return to the building until the 'all clear' is given – normally be advised by the security officer on duty on the advice of the emergency services personnel in attendance.
- Break glass alarms are located in all buildings on campus. Find out more about alarms on campus and when they should be activated (opens UTS intranet link).
- Evacuation will be by means of the nearest safe EXIT door to the outside of the building. Push the door/turn the door handle to enter the Fire Stairs. a) When evacuating the building people must not stop to retrieve dropped articles. b) When evacuating the building in the case of a fire, people must close all doors behind them as they leave.

Building 2 Specifics

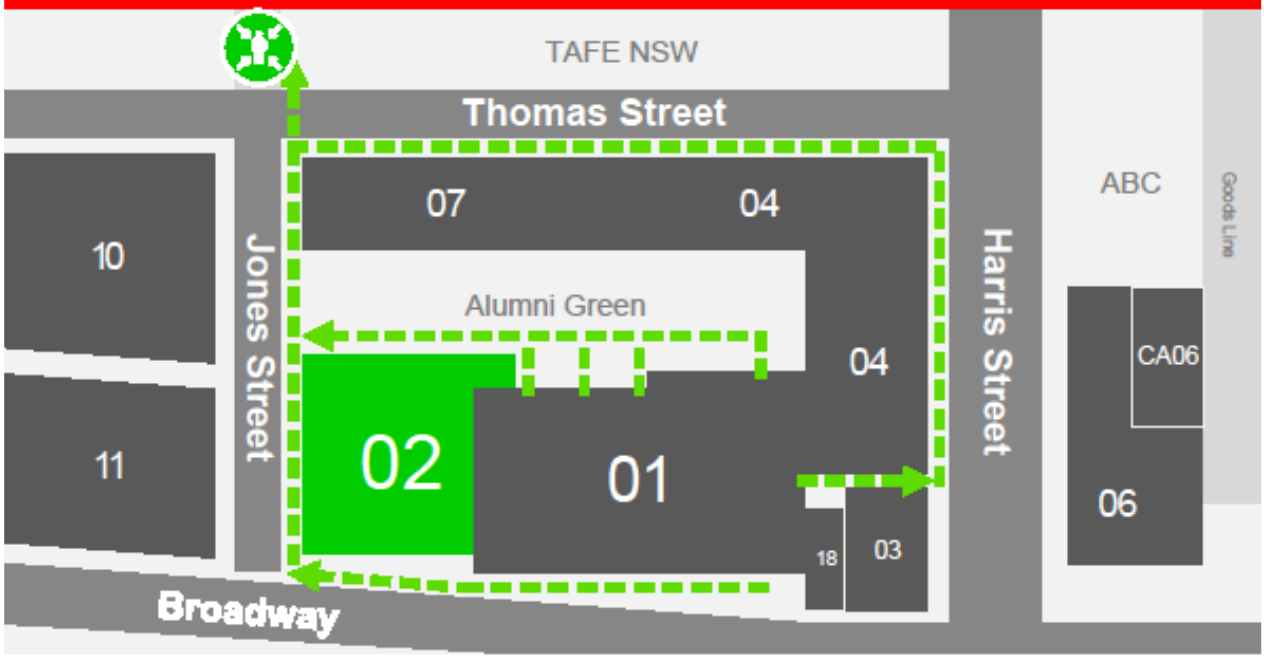
- **Fire Curtains:** Building 2 features active fire curtains at the escalators, Double Helix Staircase, outside the Hive Superlab, and in the Library. If one begins to lower in your path, do not pass under it; turn back and find an alternative fire exit.
- **Assembly Points:** Once evacuated, ensure you stand well clear of the building exits. Common assembly points for the Broadway precinct include the Alumni Green or adjacent safe zones depending on Warden instructions

UTS

BLDG 02

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

ADDRESS: 61 BROADWAY, ULTIMO, NSW 2007
CROSS STREET: HARRIS STREET AND BROADWAY



WHEN YOU HEAR THE ALERT SIGNAL

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...

- Shut down or secure machinery and computers
- Prepare to Evacuate
- Check if anyone around you needs assistance
- If danger is present, evacuate immediately

WHEN YOU HEAR THE EVACUATION SIGNAL

WHOOP... WHOOP... WHOOP...

- Evacuate immediately
- A public announcement may tell you to:
  "EVACUATED AS DIRECTED"
- Leave the building via the nearest fire exit
- Do not use lifts
- Follow the directions of Emergency Services, Wardens and Security Staff
- Provide assistance to others where required
- Proceed to the assembly area
- Do not return to the building until told it is safe to do so by UTS Security Staff

IN AN EMERGENCY – DIAL '6'
OR 1800 249 559
> Emergency 000
> Emergency TTY 106

WHEN INSTRUCTED TO SHELTER IN PLACE

- Listen for instructions
- Secure your immediate environment by locking doors if safe to do so
- Keep others away from public areas such as foyers and hallways
- Silence Mobile Phones, and turn off Machinery and Audio-Visual equipment if possible.
- Close all windows, blinds and curtains
- Move away from the doors and windows, remain quiet and stay there until told otherwise by Police or UTS Security
- Provide assistance to others where required
- Follow the directions of Emergency Services, Wardens and Security Staff

Security Enquiries 02 9514 1192

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO TAMPER WITH OR REMOVE THIS SIGN
If removing under authorisation, contact (02) 9514 1192 prior and quote: CB0200RG-ALL02_00
Date Printed: 18/07/2019

Campus lockdown due to a dangerous person

A lockdown of the campus will be instructed when there is a dangerous person on site, such as an armed individual, and it is not safe to evacuate.

Lockdowns involve the systematic locking of all doors electronically. During a lockdown, you won't be able to use your swipe card to open doors. You will be notified that a lockdown is happening by a PA announcement, in person, or via UTS social media or a text message.

It's essential that you follow these instructions during a lockdown for your own safety:

- close and secure doors by any means
- close blinds and cover windows
- silence all devices, including phones
- if you must communicate, do so via text message
- turn off all lights
- stay alert, keep quiet and stay out of sight
- wardens- if safe to do so assist with locking doors, closing blinds and moving people to areas of safety
- follow instructions from UTS Security or emergency services.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES
https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/emergency-services

In case of fire, medical or police emergency, dial Triple Zero (000).

REMEMBER:

You can dial ext. 6 or dial 1800 249 559 to:

• report an emergency

• request emergency assistance

• access emergency services (Police, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance and SES).

You can use this line to notify us of an emergency in progress or if you need help. If it is not an emergency – or you just have a general enquiry – our security officers will gladly take your call through our general enquiries number of 02 9514 1192. Both numbers are answered 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

Wi-Fi Information

1. In your device's Wi-Fi settings, connect to 'UTS-Guest' and wait for the captive portal to appear.
2. Scroll down to "Attending a Conference or event? "Click here".
3. Click on the hyperlink and input access code **Animal2026!**

For MAC/PC (not mobile devices), if the captive portal does not open instantly, please try loading any website in a browser to prompt the captive portal.
Or navigate to https://nac.itd.uts.edu.au/Sponsor.php

Programme

Thursday 26 November

Time	Item
10.00 am	Registration (lunch from 11.30 am)
12.30 pm	Welcome to the Conference -A/Prof Sophie Riley; Welcome to Country - Michael West (Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council)
1.00 pm	**Keynote** -Professor Danielle Celemajer, University of Sydney
1.50 pm	**Panel: Updates on Australian, NZ and Chinese Animal Law -Dr Jed Goodfellow (Australia); A/Prof Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere (NZ); Prof Amanda Whitfort (Hong Kong/China). Facilitator: A/Prof Sophie Riley**
2.45 pm	Afternoon tea
3.00 pm	**Session 1 -Theme 1: Animals in the Courtroom (5 papers + Q&A). Chair: Christina Jackson**
4.15 pm	**Session 2 -Theme 3: Legal Status, Personhood & Interpretation (3 papers + Q&A). Chair: A/Prof Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere**
4.55 pm	AGM (AALTRA members only)
5.30 pm	Nick James, Brian Sherman Animal Law Clinic at Bond University
5.35 pm	Award of Prizes -RSPCA Australia Sybil Emslie Scholarship; Voiceless Brian Sherman Prize; AALTRA Research Prize

Session 1 – Theme 1: Animals in the Courtroom (3.00-4.15)

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Ashleigh Best (Victorian Bar)	Do courts admit animals?
2	Kathryn Jurd (UNSW)	Bridging the Welfare and Enforcement Gaps: Judicial Responses to Animal Cruelty in NSW
3	Cassandra Gonis (Deakin)	The Limitations of Tribunal Decisions in Victoria's Greyhound Racing Industry
4	Alexandra Whittaker (Adelaide)	Artificial Intelligence, Evidence and Justice: Can Decision-makers Trust AI in Animal Law?
5	Liz Hicks (Melbourne)	Gagging by Other Means: Private Law as the New Ag Gag

Session 2 – Theme 3: Legal Status, Personhood & Interpretation (4.15-4.55)

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Sophie Riley (UTS)	From Objects to Subjects: Animals and Moral Valence of the Law
2	Krisshnaa Kannan (Monash)	The Forgotten Sentient: Animal 'Propertyhood' and International Legal Jurisprudence
3	Tero Kivinen (Helsinki)	The Rhetorical Case for Animal Rights

Friday 27 November

Time	Item
8.00am	Early Morning Tea and Coffee
9.00 am	Welcome, Prof Shaunnagh Dorsett, Associate Dean Research, UTS
9.10 am	Aleesha Simoncini, Why Do We Care About Justice for Animals – Edgar's Mission
9.30 am	**Session 3 -Theme 2: Enforcement, Regulation & Protection Failures (4 papers + Q&A). Chair: A/Prof Jane Kotzmann**
10.30 am	Morning tea
10.45 am	**Session 4 -Theme 5: Food Systems, Farmed Animals & Emerging Technologies (3 papers+ Q&A). Chair: Dr Leo Bomberg**
11.30am	Break
11.35 pm	**Session 5 -Theme 4: International Perspectives (2 papers) and Theme 6 Educating for Animal Justice – Pedagogy & the Discipline ((1 paper) Q & A Chair: Dr Steven White**
12.20 pm	**Session 6 -Theme 7: Relational & Restorative Approaches (2 papers + Q&A). Chair: Professor Christine Parker**
12.50 pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Farewell and Close

Session 3 – Theme 2: Enforcement, Regulation & Protection Failures (9.30-10.30 am)

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Alicia Bennett (Griffith)	Dignity, Protection, and Mutuality: Reframing Companion Animals within Victim-Centred Justice
2	Alexandra McEwan (CQU)	Australia's Animal Protection Framework: Activating Bourdieu's 'Field' Method
3	Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere (Auckland)	The Flagrant Injustice of Regulatory Capture of Animal Welfare Policy in New Zealand
4	Amanda Whitfort (Hong Kong)	'Selling Tragedy': Exploring Animal Rescue Practices in Hong Kong and their Implications for Law and Policy

Session 4 -Theme 5: Food Systems, Farmed Animals & Emerging Technologies (10.45–11.30 am)

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Jane Kotzmann (Deakin)	True Cost Accounting and Dairy Production
2	Aleesha Simoncini (Deakin)	The Road to a Kinder Future through Rewilding Former Dairy Land
3	Christine Parker & Hope Johnson (Melbourne / QUT)	'Creating Entirely New, Deliberately Different Meats': Cell-Cultivated Meat and the Limits of Regulation

Session 5 -Theme 4: International Perspectives and Theme 6: Educating for Animal Justice – Pedagogy & the Discipline ((11.35–12.20 pm)

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Rachel Killean (Sydney)	Multispecies Transitional Justice and the Colombian Example
2	Altamush Saeed (Pakistan)	Animals, Disaster Law and the Food System: A Multispecies Justice Analysis from Pakistan

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Christina Jackson (Bond)	Educating for Animal Justice

Session 6 – Theme 7: Relational & Restorative Approaches - Justice Beyond the Courtroom (12.20-12.50)

#	Presenter	Paper
1	Felicity Tepper & Lev Bromberg (ANU / La Trobe)	Repairing More-than-Human Relations: Animal Law and Environmental Restorative Justice
2	Kate Seear (Deakin)	On dogs, loopholes and doing drug law otherwise

Keynote Speaker – Danielle Celemajer

(Biography taken from https://profiles.sydney.edu.au/danielle.celermajer)



AALTRA is pleased, and honoured, to announce that Professor Danielle Celemajer is the keynote speaker for the 2026 conference.

Danielle is a Professor of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Sydney, Deputy Director of the Sydney Environment Institute and lead of the Multispecies Justice project. Her research focus today is on Multispecies Justice, or how the concepts, practices and institutionalisation of justice need to be transformed to take into account ecological realities and the ethical standing of all Earth beings.

Professor Celemajer was a longtime human rights activist, serving as the head of Indigenous policy at the Australian Human Rights Commission. She also worked in grass roots democratization and human rights movements in Central America. As a human right scholar, her books include: *Sins of the Nation and the Ritual of Apology* and *The Prevention of Torture: An Ecological Approach* (both with Cambridge University Press 2008 and 2018); with Richard Sherwin, *A Cultural History of Law in the Modern Age* (Bloomsbury 2019); with Alex Lefebvre, *the Subject of Human Rights* (Stanford University Press 2020; and with Moira Gatens and Millicent Churcher, *Institutional Transformations: Imagination, Embodiment, and Affect* (Routledge 2021).

In recent years, and very much in light of the ecological and animal crisis, Professor Celemajer has turned her attention to injustices and violence against the more than human. Through the experience of living through the black summer bushfires with a multispecies community, she began writing about a new crime of our age, Omnicide. *Summertime* (Penguin Random House, 2021) was written in recognition of the critical urgency of conveying the complex conceptual recognition of the multispecies harms of the climate catastrophe in ways that can provoke affect and hence action. Summertime was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards for non-fiction.

In the field of multispecies justice, Professor Celemajer's recent publications include *Institutionalising Multispecies Justice* (Cambridge University Press, 2025), written with other members of the Multispecies Justice Collective and *Multispecies Climate Justice, Disasters and Responsibility* (Edward Elgar, 2026), written with Professor Rosemary Lyster and A/Professor Phillipa McCormack,

Selected publications

Books

Lyster, Rosemary, Celermajer, Danielle, McCormack, Phillipa, Multispecies Climate Justice, Disasters and Responsibility, Edward Elgar, 2026

Celermajer, Danielle, Burke, Anthony, Fishel, Stefanie, Fitzhenry, Erin, Rogers, Nicole, Schlosberg, David and Winter, Christine, Institutionalising Multispecies Justice, Cambridge University Press, 2024

Celermajer, Danielle, Summertime, Penguin Random House, 2021

Articles

Sturman, Anna, Danielle Celermajer, Freya MacDonald, and Blanche Verlie. "Prefiguring multispecies justice: how communities are challenging and transfiguring care, labour, and belonging in the midst of climate catastrophe." Environmental Politics (2025): 1-20.

Celermajer, Danielle, David Schlosberg, Lauren Rickards, Makere Stewart-Harawira, Mathias Thaler, Petra Tschakert, Blanche Verlie, and Christine Winter. "Multispecies justice: theories, challenges, and a research agenda for environmental politics." Environmental Politics 30, no. 1-2 (2021): 119-140.

Celermajer, Danielle, Sria Chatterjee, Alasdair Cochrane, Stefanie Fishel, Astrida Neimanis, Anne O'brien, Susan Reid, Krithika Srinivasan, David Schlosberg, and Anik Waldow. "Justice through a multispecies lens." Contemporary Political Theory 19, no. 3 (2020): 475-512.

Prizes

RSPCA Australia Sybil Emslie Animal Law Scholarship

This Scholarship celebrates the life-long dedication and advocacy that Sybil Emslie provided to the care and protection of animals in Australia. It aims to support the work of animal law undergraduate, Masters and PhD students and practising lawyers through the provision of a $2,500 cash grant.

The scholarship is administered by RSPCA Australia with funds contributed by Sybil Emslie's family and other donors. It will be awarded to a law student or lawyer who has a strong academic record and a commitment to the practice of animal law through active and substantial engagement with animal law and animal protection organisations and initiatives.

Brian Sherman Animal Law Prize

The Voiceless Brian Sherman Animal Law Prize is one of the many ways we are honouring the memory and legacy of Voiceless Co-Founder, the late Brian Sherman AM (1943-2022) and his lifetime dedication to animal law and protection. The biennial prize of $2,500 recognises the work of innovative legal advocates committed to the growth of animal law in Australia and reforming the law to promote animal rights. Reflecting Brian's spirit, recipients must demonstrate innovative, entrepreneurial spirit and out-of-the-box thinking in animal law.

AALTRA Animal Law Prize

AALTRA will award The AALTRA Animal Law Prize for the most outstanding contribution to the field of animal law by an Australasian scholar/student (whether by residence or birth) or whose work has a focus on the Australasian jurisdiction.

The purposes of the prize are to

- To celebrate and promote animal law research and the scholarly community of animal law in line with the objectives of AALTRA.
- To create a recognition pathway for excellence in animal law research which will encourage students and scholars to (continue to) research and publish in animal law.
- To promote excellent quality in animal law scholarship.

The work must be in the broad field of 'animal law'. As a guide this does not include work in which either animals or the law are purely incidental. The work must address the position or interests of animals in relation to the law. AALTRA gratefully acknowledges that the prize of $500 is funded by the Centre for Law as Protection at Deakin University.

Abstracts and Presenters by Theme

Theme 1: Animals in the Courtroom - Litigation, Evidence & Adjudication

Ashleigh Best - Do courts admit animals?

Barrister (Clerk: Greens List) - a.best@vicbar.com.au

Abstract

My paper will examine recent pieces of animal law litigation in which I have been involved. The cases covered will depend on which have been finally determined as at the date of the conference. I propose to examine the different fora in which the proceedings were brought, the statutory frameworks involved, and how the interests of animals were factored into decision making by the relevant court or tribunal. The paper will analyse how animals' distinct legal status is given expression in contemporary curial settings, and what challenges flow from animals' inability to participate in any direct sense in proceedings, including in terms of procedural fairness.

One example will be the recent decision of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in *Jeges v Wellington SC*[2026] VCAT 563, in which the Tribunal set aside a decision of a local council to grant a permit for a greyhound race track because the permit application was incomplete. I propose to consider the extent to which the interests of greyhounds were captured by the statutory frameworks which the Tribunal considered and applied in this decision, and to interrogate whether their material, lived needs factored into the disposition of the matter. Where courts are silent about or otherwise exclude animals in proceedings that directly affect them, I propose to interrogate why this occurs and why this is problematic.

Bio

Ashleigh Best is a barrister at the Victorian Bar. She specialises in environmental law and adjacent fields, including planning, building, property, and subdivision, but maintains a broad practice in public and commercial law. She holds a PhD from Melbourne Law School, which investigated the legal status of animals in disasters, and completed her undergraduate degrees at the University of Technology Sydney. She has a longstanding interest in animal law.

Kathryn Jurd - Bridging the Welfare and Enforcement Gaps: a Critical Analysis of Judicial Responses to Animal Cruelty in NSW

University of New South Wales - kathryn.neal@unsw.edu.au

Abstract

POCTAA is now 47 years old. Successive governments have committed to modernising the legislation, however it has proceeded in entirely piecemeal fashion. There are significant risks to reform continuing without a clear understanding of how the law is currently enforced, or whether earlier amendments have achieved their intended effect. The research is designed to examine two key gaps in animal cruelty enforcement. The first, referred to as the "welfare gap", is identified as the difference between best practice animal welfare as established by scientific research and the minimum legislative standards set by law. The second, the "enforcement gap" arises later in the regulatory cycle and concerns the disparity between these statutory minimum protections and the actions actually taken by enforcement authorities. This research will examine all animal cruelty complaints (ca 90,000) made to RSPCA NSW between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2025 and consider whether the changes to POCTAA influence public expectations and enforcement practices by signalling a tougher stance against animal cruelty. Utilising a whole of population sample, all prosecutions commenced between 2017 and 2025 will be reviewed, and analysed to describe charging structure, animal type and

number, and crucially to consider sentencing patterns by Judges in NSW for animal cruelty offences. Finally, it will qualitatively assess the factors influencing judicial decision-making in sentencing animal cruelty offenders, by analysing court transcripts and published judgments. By identifying and analysing these gaps, the research will contribute to improving animal welfare outcomes and inform future legislative reforms, ultimately aiming to enhance both the standard of welfare protections and their enforcement in NSW.

Bio

Kathryn is a PhD Candidate at UNSW Faculty of Law and Justice. She is currently an Acting Judge of the NSW Local Court. For over nearly 20 years Kathryn has held appointments including as the RSPCA NSW General Counsel (9 years) where she was responsible for 847 animal cruelty prosecutions. Prior to that she was a Senior Solicitor at the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (10 years), where she had carriage of the greyhound live baiting case Kadir v R. Kathryn has been involved in animal cruelty prosecutions from the NSW Local Courts to the High Court of Australia since September 2015.

Selected Publications

- Kathryn Jurd and Sophie Riley, "Brighton v RSPCA NSW: Appeals and Lessons Four Years On", (2024) 14(22) *Animals*, 3345, https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14223345.

Cassandra Gonis - The Limitations of Tribunal Decisions in Victoria's Greyhound Racing Industry

Deakin University - cgonis@deakin.edu.au

Abstract

In the decade since the 2015 ABC Four Corners' investigation into the practice of live baiting in Australia's greyhound racing industry, almost all states and territories have commissioned some form of inquiry or review into greyhound racing. Across jurisdictions, the final reports have repeatedly and strongly recommended that there be a structural divide between a state's industry commercial operator and regulatory body to eliminate inherent conflicts of interest. This recommendation was never implemented in Victoria. The Victorian controlling body, Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV), remains responsible for both the promotion and regulation of greyhound racing. GRV frames itself as a 'world leader in sport integrity and animal welfare' and claims a strong culture of voluntary compliance. Yet this position fails to account for growing public awareness and media attention on the animal welfare issues endemic to greyhound racing, specifically the over-breeding and frequency of greyhounds injured and killed each year both on and off the track. This presentation will use Victoria's greyhound racing industry as a case study to investigate how its regulatory governance framework implements enforcement mechanisms such as prosecution and penalties. It focusses on the normalisation of greyhound suffering during disciplinary decision-making where the judgements often place greater importance on the justifiability and acceptability of human conduct, rather than the suffering itself.

Bio

Cassandra Gonis is a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) student at Deakin University. Her current Honours research focusses on Victoria's greyhound racing industry and adopts a socio-legal approach to investigate how law and governance shape institutional responses to greyhound suffering. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts from Deakin University, with a double-major in Literary Studies and Gender Studies.

Alexandra Whittaker - Artificial Intelligence, Evidence and Justice: Can Decision-makers Trust AI in Animal Law?

Adelaide University, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences; Lewis and Clark Law School, Center for Animal Law Studies - alexandra.whittaker@adelaide.edu.au

Abstract

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how evidence is generated, identified, synthesised and communicated across legal systems. In animal law, emerging AI technologies are increasingly being used to analyse animal behaviour, monitor welfare, detect disease, and synthesise large volumes of scientific literature relevant to policy and regulatory decisions. Yet the legal implications of relying on AI-generated or AI-assisted evidence remain largely unexplored.

This presentation examines the growing role of AI in evidentiary processes within animal law and considers what this development means for concepts of justice, procedural fairness and evidence-based decision-making. While AI promises greater efficiency and the capacity to engage with complex scientific datasets, it also raises significant concerns regarding transparency, explainability, bias and accountability. If courts, regulators and decision-makers cannot understand how AI-generated conclusions are reached, can such evidence be meaningfully challenged or tested through traditional legal processes?

Drawing on developments in evidence law, administrative decision-making, and emerging applications of AI in animal welfare science, the presentation explores whether existing legal frameworks are adequate to assess the reliability and admissibility of AI-assisted evidence. It argues that the challenge is not simply technological but fundamentally normative: determining when reliance on AI enhances justice and when it risks undermining it.

The presentation concludes by proposing principles for evaluating AI-generated evidence in animal law disputes and regulatory settings, with a view to ensuring that technological innovation strengthens rather than weakens the legitimacy of legal decision-making affecting animals.

Bio

Dr Alexandra Whittaker is an Associate Professor at Adelaide University whose work spans animal welfare science and animal law. Trained as a veterinarian, lawyer, and animal welfare scientist, she is particularly interested in regulatory decision-making and the translation of scientific evidence into policy and practice. Her current research examines evidence synthesis, evidence-to-decision frameworks, and the ethical and legal implications of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in animal welfare and animal law. She teaches animal law and animal welfare to animal science students, and serves on a range of committees involved in law reform and advice provision around animal-based regulation.

Selected Publications

- Cooper-Rogers, B., Klingner, P., Whittaker, A., Forder, R., & Fernandez, E. J. (2026). Program animal welfare: A scoping review of animal interaction programs and their welfare impact on zoo-housed animals. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 297, 106919. https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/items/54c76565-d772-434b-bb80-c2f155d934d8
- Hryhorenko, L., Demoulin, F., Whittaker, A. L., McWhorter, T. J., Allon, J., Hemming, R., … Fernandez, E. J. (2026). Effects of implementing a whole-carcass feeding routine on the behaviour of zoo-housed African lions (Panthera leo). *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 301, 107041. https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/items/71207b13-3f18-4d0b-9b4e-585e18e336a4
- Partoon, J., Whittaker, A., Yuan, X., & Watters, J. (2026). Thinking Towards the Technological Future of Zoos and Aquariums. *Zoo Biology*.
- Whittaker, A. (2022). *Law Relating to Animals: A Concise Guide for Animal and Veterinary Scientists in Australia*. CRC Press.

- Whittaker, A. (2025). Strengthening the Nexus Between Animal Science and Law. In J. Kotzmann, & J. Kyriakakis (Eds.), *Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis* (1st ed.). Federation Press.
- Whittaker, A. (2021). The Laboratory Animal Veterinarian's Contribution to One Welfare. In T. Stephens (Ed.), *One Welfare in Practice: The Role of the Veterinarian*. Taylor and Francis (CRC Press).

Liz Hicks - Gagging by Other Means: Private Law as the New Ag Gag

University of Melbourne - Liz.Hicks@unimelb.edu.au

Abstract

Legal protections for animals in democracies largely depend on their visibility. Animal welfare law developed at a time when animal use was embedded in populated, democratically accessible spaces. As that use has scaled and moved into industrial production and slaughter, structurally removed from public view, outcomes for animals have declined. This dynamic sits at the heart of ag- gag legislation - increased criminal penalties for farm trespass, and restrictions on publishing footage obtained through trespass - which has long been contested in constitutional litigation. Slaughterhouses and animal facilities are now pursuing a parallel strategy through private law, relying on tort, equity, and copyright to achieve similar ends. This "private law turn" raises questions distinct from, and additional to, those raised by ag- gag legislation itself.

This presentation compares two current proceedings, in Australia and Germany - *Game Meats Company v Farm Transparency* (2024–present) and *Brand Qualitätsfleisch GmbH v Schubert & Haßel* (2025–present). The comparison shows that private law ag- gag reproduces core themes from constitutional challenges to ag- gag legislation - particularly the significance of image, and the fact that the footage at issue typically depicts lawful rather than unlawful practices - while also raising questions of its own. Most notably, it suggests that private law is poorly equipped to articulate the public interest considerations that underpin structural protections for animals - even in systems, like Germany's, where private law and constitutional protections are more easily integrated.

Bio

Liz Hicks is a Lecturer at Melbourne Law School, where she is associated with the Centre for Law and Environment and Comparative Constitutional Studies. She holds a doctorate jointly awarded from the Melbourne Law School and Humboldt University of Berlin, and an LLM in German and European Law and Legal Practice from Humboldt University of Berlin.

Selected Publications

- "Proportionality and Protracted Emergencies: Australia's COVID- 19 Restrictions on Repatriation Rights" (2023) 45(1) *Sydney Law Review* (Advance).
- "Context and the Limits of Legal Reasoning: The 'Victim Focus' of Section 18C in Comparative Perspective" (2016) *Federal Law Review*, Vol. 44.
- "A Right to Come Home? Repatriation Rights & Policy in Australia", *Governing During Crises* Policy Brief #11 (Melbourne School of Government), posted 20 April 2020, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3898313.

Theme 2: Enforcement, Regulation & the Failures of Animal Protection Law

Alicia Bennett - Dignity, Protection, and Mutuality: Reframing Companion Animals within Victim-Centred Justice

Griffith University Law School - a.bennett2@cqu.edu.au

Abstract

Over the last century, companion animals have increasingly been recognised within animal protection and welfare legislation, reflecting public concern for animal sentience and wellbeing, and expectations that governments will protect animals from harm. Despite these developments, companion animals continue to experience significant neglect and cruelty, while legal systems frequently fail to hold perpetrators accountable or provide meaningful protection for animal victims.

This paper argues that these failures arise, in part, from the continued marginalisation of animals within criminal justice processes. Although companion animals occupy relational roles within human communities, they are rarely treated as victims in the same way as vulnerable human groups recognised within victim-centred models of criminal law. In areas such as human trafficking, child abuse and neglect, and domestic and family violence, victim-centred approaches increasingly emphasise procedural justice, dignity, participation, and protection. By contrast, animal welfare enforcement remains largely dependent on non-government regulatory agencies, such as the RSPCA, which are under-resourced and have limited capacity to pursue complex prosecutions and sustained protective interventions.

The paper argues that the underutilisation of legal mechanisms, including prohibition and protection orders, reinforces the precarious status of companion animals within shared social and political life. Drawing on models of procedural justice and victim-centred approaches, the article proposes restructuring animal welfare and protection frameworks to foreground procedural fairness, dignity, participation, and respect. It advances a more relational and politically inclusive understanding of companion animals as vulnerable participants within multispecies communities, while acknowledging the persistent asymmetries of power that shape human–animal relationships.

Bio

Alicia Bennett is a PhD Candidate at Griffith University Law School, researching the legitimacy of Queensland's companion animal welfare regulatory system. With more than 30 years' experience in the justice sector, including service as a Detective Sergeant with the Queensland Police Service, she now teaches law at Central Queensland University and is a sessional lecturer at Griffith Law School. Her research focuses on animal welfare law, regulatory enforcement, and the recognition of animals as victims, with the aim of informing policy and legislative reform.

Selected Publications

- Alicia Bennett, "Left Unprotected: Animal Welfare Law Reform and the Enforcement Gap", *Alternative Law Journal*, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/1037969X261488176.

Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere - The Flagrant Injustice of Regulatory Capture of Animal Welfare Policy in New Zealand

University of Auckland - marcelo.rodriguez.ferrere@auckland.ac.nz

Abstract

In 2020, the High Court of New Zealand struck down regulations permitting farrowing crates for pigs in commercial farms on the basis that they were inconsistent with the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (NZ), directing the Government to introduce new regulations phasing out the practices. The Government

duly did so, with the effect that farrowing crates and mating stalls were due to be phased out by 18 December 2025.

On 1 October 2025, however, the Government introduced amendment legislation seeking to override the judgment of the Court and existing legislative constraints to permit the use of farrowing crates and mating stalls in their current form for a further ten years, and their modified use indefinitely. This move blindsided key animal welfare organisations – including the SPCA – and ran contrary to clear recommendations from the Government's own animal welfare advisory committee.

The amendments were passed under urgency to prevent the phase-out from occurring, and were done so with limited public engagement. However, throughout the phase-out period, key figures from the pork industry were in constant contact with Government officials, to the extent of essentially drafting the amendment legislation and the standards contained therein.

The brazenness with which these actions occurred provide a salutary lesson for the fragility of New Zealand's animal welfare regulatory system, as well as the acute vulnerability it has to regulatory capture. This paper will document this occurrence, but also advance the case that it is symptomatic of systemic dysfunction and injustice, before offering solutions to prevent such actions occurring in the future.

Bio

M. B. Rodriguez Ferrere is an Associate Professor at Auckland Law School at the University of Auckland. His research interests include the regulation of relationships between humans and nonhuman animals, constitutional law and administrative law.

Selected Publications

- M Rodriguez Ferrere, "Regulatory Capture of Animal Welfare Policy in New Zealand", *International Handbook of Legal Language and Communication: From Text to Semiotics*, A Wagner (Ed), Springer (2026).
- M Rodriguez Ferrere and M Hyslop, "Systemic Deficiencies in Animal Welfare Enforcement", *New Zealand Law Journal* 6:206–208.
- M Rodriguez Ferrere, "The Failure of Codes of Welfare in New Zealand", in J Kotzmann and J Kyriakakis (eds), *Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis*, Federation Press (2025).
- M Rodriguez Ferrere and A Geddis, "The Supreme Court, Public Law and Adjudicative Minimalism", in J McLean (ed), *The New Zealand Supreme Court: The Second Ten Years*, LexisNexis (2024).
- M Rodriguez Ferrere (ed), *The Legal Recognition of Animal Sentience: Principles, Approaches and Applications*, Hart Publishing (2024).

Alexandra McEwan - An Analysis of Australia's Animal Protection Framework: Activating Bourdieu's 'Field' Method

Central Queensland University - a.mcewan@cqu.edu.au

Abstract

In Australia, despite the best efforts of a robust animal protection movement, substantive law reform has remained elusive. This article explores the explanatory capacity of Pierre Bourdieu's work by examining Australia's animal protection framework as a 'field'. Applying Bourdieu, I argue that, within animal protection as a regulatory field, the welfare–cruelty opposition constitutes a form of 'symbolic violence'. For intensive animal farming industries, this status began to manifest from the 1970s onwards, when these industries began to operate under Codes of Practice. The introduction of Codes of Practice also marginalised 'animal cruelty' as an offence relevant only to defendants estranged from the economy proper. The analysis has implications for how we think about law reform and animal protection advocacy, animal cruelty and animal welfare. It highlights the value of

reflexivity and presents a unique perspective on social change that has relevance for a range of contemporary social justice issues.

Bio

Alexandra is a multidisciplinary scholar and Senior Lecturer in Law at the College of Law, Criminology, and Justice. She is an experienced law academic with expertise in online legal education, curriculum development, and legal education research. Alexandra's approach to research draws on her background in law, anthropology, and health. She is passionate about investigating the law in context through the prism of human obligations to other species, social justice, and social theory. More specifically, analysing how the law mediates political power across dimensions of class, race, species membership, and the natural environment. Her recent research and publications have focused on transformative learning, wildlife trafficking in Vietnam, ag-gag laws, and legal education.

Selected Publications

- A McEwan, "An Analysis of Australia's Animal Protection Framework: Activating Bourdieu's 'Field' Method" (2026) *Social & Legal Studies* (online first), 1–22, doi:10.1177/09646639261469721.
- A McEwan and L Price, "Assessing the Transformative Learning Impact of International Study Tours in Clinical Legal Education" (2026) 36(1) *Legal Education Review*, 1–23.
- A McEwan, R Schlagloth, E A Morgan, et al, "The Role of Local Governance Tools in Koala Conservation: A Comparative Assessment of Koala Plans of Management in Australia" (2026) 29(2) *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*, 147–175, doi:10.1080/13880292.2026.2650857.
- R Schlagloth, F Santamaria, T Cadman, A McEwan et al, "Community and Scientists Work Together to Identify Koalas Within the Plantations Inside the Proposed Great Koala National Park in New South Wales, Australia" (2025) 2(4) *Wild*, 1–19, doi:10.3390/wild2040042.

Amanda Whitfort - 'Selling Tragedy': Exploring Animal Rescue Practices in Hong Kong and their Implications for Law and Policy

University of Hong Kong - whitfort@hku.hk

Abstract

This article explores the motivations for and repercussions of animal rescue practices in Hong Kong through interviews with 30 members of the animal sheltering community. The first study of its kind, it reveals a previously unreported narrative around the Hong Kong public's framing of the problem of unowned animals. Interviewees identified popularised animal rescue practices in the community which undermine the ability of shelters to support their animals' welfare needs effectively and, in some cases, have resulted in animal cruelty. Lack of government action to address the problem of unowned animals in a humane and effective manner is identified as a significant motivator for the harmful rescue practices reported. Policy and legislative responses are suggested to improve the protection of unowned animals in the community from the risk of cruelty.

Bio

Amanda Whitfort has been admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor in Australia, and was the first local resident of Hong Kong to pass the Overseas Bar Qualification Examination. Ms Whitfort currently leads the Criminal Litigation course on the PCLL programme and teaches Animal Law on the LLB, the first internationally-focused animal law programme in Asia.

Ms Whitfort has published and presented internationally on Criminal and Animal Law and is the leading authority on Animal Welfare Law in Hong Kong. Her research has resulted in significant legislative and policy change for Hong Kong.

She is the founder of the SVIS Initiative which provides law enforcement authorities worldwide with reliable scientific data assessing the ecological harms caused by wildlife crimes, in the form of Species Victim Impact Statements (SVIS). Her research examining loopholes in Hong Kong's capacity to effectively combat illegal wildlife trade led to the inclusion of wildlife offences in the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance in 2021.

Selected Publications

- 'An Empirical Study of the Operational Challenges for Private Animal Shelters in Hong Kong and Their Links to Regulatory and Policy Gaps' (2026) Whitfort, A, Ho SP, Woodhouse F, and Chun M. Animals (19):2994. https://doi.org/10.3390/ani16192994
- 2. 'Responding to Illegal Wildlife Trade in Hong Kong, SAR, China' in Routledge Handbook on Wildlife Crime, edited by Francis Masse et al., Routledge, UK, 2025.
- 3. 'Countering Illegal Wildlife Trade in China in the Wake of COVID-19: Implications for Australasia' in Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis, edited by Jane Kotzmann and Joanna Kyriakakis, Federation Press, Sydney, 2025.
- 4. 'The Impact of Discretion in the Criminal Justice System on Animal Cruelty in Hong Kong' in Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence: A Psycho-Criminological Understanding, edited by Dr Oliver Heng Choon Chan and Dr Rebecca Wong, Wiley, USA, 2024.
- 5. 'Recognising the Ecological Impact of Wildlife Crimes in China through Public Interest Litigation' (2025) Whitfort, A and Liang Z. 20 Journal of Comparative Law.
- 6. 'Successful Control of Feral Cat Populations through Trap Neuter Return and Long Term Monitoring on a Remote Island in Hong Kong: A Community Case Study' (2025) Tilley H; Wong, MC; Wong, KY and Whitfort, A. Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health.
- 7. 'A Collaborative Model for Restorative Compensation in Public Interest Litigation Involving Aquatic Ecology in Guangdong Province, China' Liang, Z. and Whitfort, A. (2025) 2 Wild 16.
- 8.'Solving climate change requires changing our food systems' Feigin, S; Wiebers, D; Blumstein, D; Knight, A; Eshel, G; Whitfort, A et al. (2025) 5 Oxford Open Climate Change.

Theme 3: Legal Status - Personhood, Subjecthood & Statutory Interpretation

Sophie Riley - From Objects to Subjects: Animals and Moral Valence of the Law

University of Technology Sydney - Sophie.riley@uts.edu.au

Abstract

This paper argues that justice for animals remains illusory while their classification as objects of the law persists. Lack of legal personhood has been seen as a major barrier to changing the status of animals as objects, noting that animals are unable to possess rights, yet in a practical sense they are not exclusively property, nor do they lack some incidents of subjecthood. This abstract elaborates on two incidents of subjecthood (rather than legal personhood) that could be expanded to shift animal classification closer to a subject of the law: legal standing; and participation in the political process.

The material draws on new generation scholarship that, first, evaluates justice for animals, and second, examines the political turn in animal law. The former suggests that animals can be passive, or non-personal, subjects of the law, where they hold "incidents of legal personality," including legal standing, which do not need to be balanced by the bearing of reciprocal duties. The political turn

extends *justice* obligations to animals, rather than obligations derived from "personal morality", and incorporates giving animals a voice in matters of policy and governance, effectively facilitating participation in decision-making processes.

This is not to say that personal moral choices are irrelevant because, at any given time, the law judiciously selects which moral claims it will countenance to progress the law. In this way, law, justice and morality are linked. The moral valence of the law refers to the power and capacity of the law to deal with moral issues and to promote fairness in law and policy. In current debates, it largely centres on how to make animals visible within human-created and human-centred systems where they lack the protection of legal personhood which humans enjoy. The paper does not argue for full legal personhood but suggests two ways forward, namely, legal standing and "collective communication" in policymaking, both incidents of legal personality that animals can enjoy as non-personal subjects of the law.

Bio

Sophie is an Associate Professor at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and has published widely on the ethical treatment of invasive species, farm animals and wildlife welfare. She is an editor (Public Policy Section) and review editor for the journal *Animals*, as well as an editor for the *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*. She has worked with IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) on a report on invasive alien species, presented and accepted by the United Nations. For nine years Sophie held a statutory appointment as a category C member (speaks for the animals) on the Animal Research Review Panel, and she is currently the president of AALTRA (Australasian Animal Law Teachers' and Researchers' Association).

Selected Publications

- Sophie Riley, "Animal Law and Environmental Law: Conflict and Synergies" in Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt and Iur Saskia Stucki (eds), *Handbook on Global Animal Law*, OUP (2026, forthcoming).
- Sophie Riley, "Animals as Killable Objects: Lessons from Australia on the Use of Definitions in Cat Management" in Jane Kotzmann and Joanna Kyriakakis (eds), *Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis*, Federation Press (2025), 99.
- Sophie Riley, *The Commodification of Farm Animals*, Springer (2022), https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-85870-4.
- Sophie Riley and Steven White, "Navigating the International Legal Terrain for Animal Health and Protection: Specialist Agency or Framework Convention?" (2022) 10(2) *Global Journal of Animal Law*, 1, https://journal.fi/gjal/article/view/148764.
- Sophie Riley, "The Changing Legal Status of Cats in Australia: From Friend of the Settlers, to Enemy of the Rabbit, and Now a Threat to Biodiversity and Biosecurity Risk" (2019) 5(18) *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 1, https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2018.00342.

Krisshnaa Kannan - The Forgotten Sentient: Animal 'Propertyhood' And The Structural Blind Spot of International Legal Jurisprudence

Monash University - kkan0031@student.monash.edu.au

Abstract

This submission critically analyses how international trade and international human rights frameworks reduce sentient animals to mere property and commercial commodities, notwithstanding the legal advancements made in conferring rights to other entities such as rivers and ecosystems. By critiquing traditional anthropocentric legal doctrines and drawing parallels with the global rise of ecosystem jurisprudence, it argues that extending legal personhood and rights to sentient animals is a necessary and logical evolution of international law; and to not do so is a severe tragedy for the advancement of human civilisation and animals. Analysing rudimentary international instruments reveals a provincial

universalism, for example reflected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which deliberately employs terms like "human beings" to bar non-human claims.

Even though such legal instruments hold an embedded, human-centric, provincial architecture that treats non-humans as exploitable resources; the broader legal corpus contains pre-existing interpretive doctrines. For example, evolutionary treaty interpretation, binding regional models and Conventions like the European Convention on Human Rights; provide avenues to avoid this human-centric architecture. There are also global precedents from New Zealand, India, Colombia, Ecuador, as well as judicial dissents in New York and Argentina, which consequently weaken traditionalist objections. Summarily, this submission advances that to be able to reform international legal frameworks, a change of conscience and the institutional will to utilise available judicial interpretive tools, is necessary. This would conclusively ensure that international law aligns with the evolving moral consciousness of global society, and thus transcends its current anthropocentric limitations.

Bio

Krisshnaa Kannan is a fourth-year Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy) student at Monash University. His research and academic interests centre on legal topics revolving around social justice, philosophy and legal reform. Alongside his commitment to social justice, reflected by voluntary essay submissions spanning across animal rights, South Pacific island nation issues and media law; he volunteers for many initiatives, including non-profit community advocacy. He is also interested in diplomacy as well as entrepreneurship, reflected by his recent selection to the Cambridge Global Business Symposium and the virtual Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations.

Tero Kivinen - The Rhetorical Case for Animal Rights

University of Helsinki - tero.kivinen@helsinki.fi

Abstract

While the philosophical foundation for animal rights has been established for over half a century, the end of animal exploitation remains nowhere in sight. Animal law faces a fundamental persuasion problem. In an era defined by a growing polycrisis where ecological collapse, public health emergencies, and social inequality reveal the deeply shared vulnerabilities of humans, animals, and the environment, numerous discourses have recently emerged to address these systemic threats. Within this interconnected landscape, the long-term impact and relevance of a single-issue movement like animal law remain increasingly uncertain.

Existing scholarship predominantly approaches animal rights through the lenses of moral philosophy or legal theory. This paper offers an alternative, highly pragmatic approach by applying a rhetorical perspective to animal rights law. Drawing from both classical and contemporary rhetorical theory, I outline a novel framework for the progressive development and strategic promotion of animal rights—advancing their core protections in substance, even where explicit terminology falls short.

Ultimately, this paper demonstrates that a rhetorical reframing of animal law generates far more persuasive and adaptable discourse. By shifting focus toward audience alignment, strategic framing, and shared values, this perspective bridges the gap between moral philosophy, legal theory, and public advocacy. Furthermore, it creates vital synergies between animal law and parallel disciplines fighting the global polycrisis, positioning animal protection not as an isolated cause, but as an essential component of collective resilience.

Bio

Tero Kivinen is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki. His research interests lie at the intersection of animal law, advocacy, and rhetoric. Kivinen currently works for REBOUND (Reconceptualizing Boundaries Together Towards Resilient and Just Arctic Future(s)), a six-year project (2023–2029) funded by the Finnish Strategic Research Council, where he investigates the impact of green energy projects on the rights of nonhuman animals.

Selected Publications

- T Kivinen and V Koponen, "Addressing the Negative Impacts of Wind Power on Wildlife: Could Animal Rights Law Be the Answer?" (accepted/in press) *Yearbook of Polar Law* 18.
- T Kivinen and V Koponen, "Animal Law and the Constitutional Status of Animals in Finland", in F Dalpane and M Baideldinova (eds), *Animal Law Worldwide: Key Issues and Main Trends Across 27 Jurisdictions*, T.M.C. Asser Press (2025), 127–145.
- T Kivinen, "Animals and International Law: A Rhetorical Perspective", in T Pietrzykowski and B Wahlberg (eds), *Research Handbook on Animal Law and Animal Rights*, Edward Elgar (2025), 518–536.
- T Kivinen (ed), *Comparative Animal Law* (2024) 12(2) *Global Journal of Animal Law*.

Theme 4: International Perspectives

Rachel Killean - Multispecies Transitional Justice and the Colombian Example

University of Sydney - rachel.killean@sydney.edu.au

Abstract

Transitional justice (comprising justice-oriented responses to periods of mass violence and repression such as trials, truth commissions and reparations) remains constrained by an anthropocentric paradigm that recognises human suffering while treating harms to other species as incidental. This exclusion is produced by the dominance of Eurocentric ontologies, by legalism's subject/object binary, and by an epistemic speciesism presuming nonhuman animals to be passive and beyond the reach of justice claims. Building on my work theorising a more multispecies transitional justice (Killean, 2026; Killean and Dempster, 2025), this paper takes Colombia as its case study. Colombia offers an unusually generative setting, with constitutional jurisprudence recognising animal sentience and the intrinsic value of nature, legislation mandating protocols for animals affected by conflict, transitional mechanisms already recognising territories as victims through Indigenous relational cosmologies, and, most recently, systematic documentation of the tens of thousands of animals killed, abandoned, or instrumentalised during hostilities, alongside dozens of species pushed toward extinction by conflict-driven illicit economies. By examining the rhetoric and the practice of Colombia's transitional justice mechanisms, I argue that Colombia illustrates both the possibility and the limits of moving beyond human-centred justice.

Bio

Dr Rachel Killean is a Senior Lecturer in Sydney Law School. Dr Killean's multidisciplinary research centres responses to violence. She has a particular focus on transitional justice, victims' rights, and legal innovations that seek to prevent or repair environmental harms. Dr Killean is the Co-Convener of the ANZSOC Green Criminology thematic group and the Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law. She sits on the editorial board for the *Journal of Genocide Research*, *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, and the *Sydney Law Review*. She is the author of *Victims, Atrocity and International Criminal Justice* (Routledge, 2018) and the co-author of *Green Transitional Justice* (Routledge, 2025, with Lauren Dempster).

Selected Publications

- M Elander and Rachel Killean, "When Victims Matter" (2026) *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, Oxford University Press, https://academic.oup.com/jicj/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jicj/mqag052/8789598.

- Rachel Killean and Elizabeth Newton, "Transitional justice and other-than-human harm: lessons from Colombia", 2 January 2026, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 30(1):145–169, Taylor & Francis, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13642987.2025.2502561.

Altamush Saeed - Animals, Disaster Law and the Food System: A Multispecies Justice Analysis from Pakistan and the World

Advocate - chaltamushsaeed@gmail.com

Abstract

Where animals appear in international disaster law, they appear as property. The UN Sendai Framework refers to them within the category of "livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds," measuring their loss by its cost to human households. A small number of jurisdictions have gone further: the United States under the PETS Act 2006, New Zealand under the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015, and several Australian states under animal welfare emergency plans. These provisions are concentrated in wealthy common law countries and are weighted towards the anthropocentric human-animal bond.

This paper surveys the much larger group of jurisdictions without such provision, and examines Pakistan in detail. The 2022 floods killed an estimated 1.1 million farmed animals, and comparable losses occurred during the 2025 and 2026 monsoons. The National Disaster Management Act 2010 makes no reference to animals, the applicable welfare legislation remains the colonial Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1890, and the recognition of animal rights by the Islamabad High Court in Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (2020) and Nelofar v Chief Commissioner ICT (2026) has not been extended to disaster governance.

The paper then relates this legal invisibility to the causes of disaster itself, focusing on livestock emissions and on the zoonotic risks generated by intensive production. It argues that emergency and biosecurity frameworks render farmed animals visible principally as objects of lawful destruction, and that multispecies justice requires disaster law to address the food system that produces both the victims and the conditions of their loss.

Bio

Altamush is an advocate and animal rights activist. His activities include:

- Environmental and Animal Rights Consultants Pakistan | Sole Founding Managing Partner | Pakistan's 1st Animal and Environmental Law Firm
- Pakistan's 1st International Animal and Environmental Rights Conference | Founder and Lead
- Animal Rights and the Law | Food Legal Systems in Pakistan | Visiting Faculty, Kinnaird Law School, Lahore, Pakistan
- Environmental Law | Visiting Faculty, NUST Law School, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Public International Law | Visiting Faculty, University of Central Punjab Law School, Lahore, Pakistan
- Vice Chair for International Affairs | American Bar Association TIPS Animal Law Committee
- Founder and Chair, Animal Law Committee | Lahore and Islamabad High Court Bar Associations

- Charity Doings Foundation | Founder and Director | Pakistan's 1st Multispecies Justice Organization

Selected Publications

- Saeed, A., "From the United States to Pakistan: Can Climate Change Pave the Way for an International Right to Animal Rescue in Disasters?" (2023) 29(2) *Animal Law Review* 193. ISSN 1088-8802.
- Saeed, A., "From Local to Global: A Comparative Study of Animal Law Protections in International Disasters Around the World" (2024) 12(2) *The Global Journal of Animal Law* 65–85, Special Issue: "Comparative Animal Law", published 25 October 2024. ISSN 2341-8168.
- Saeed, A., "Reimagining Justice Across Species: Building an Interspecies Justice Ecosystem in Pakistan", Asia for Animals Coalition, Asian Policy Coalition (30 May 2025).

Theme 5: Food Systems, Farmed Animals & Emerging Technologies

Jane Kotzmann - True Cost Accounting and Dairy Production

Deakin University - j.kotzmann@deakin.edu.au

Abstract

Contemporary dairy production produces significant negative impacts on animal, human and environmental health. Much of this cost is externalised, meaning that it is not factored into the price of dairy but instead carried by taxpayers, the environment and generations to come. The lack of sustainability in food systems, such as that in the dairy industry, has led international organisations, including UNEP, the OECD and the FAO, to recommend that governments and policymakers adopt policies that internalise hidden costs within food prices. One means of achieving this is using true cost accounting (TCA) to quantify hidden costs and then using that knowledge to inform policy development. Policies that seek to internalise hidden costs would help to ensure that market prices are reflective of the social and environmental costs associated with production. This presentation outlines how TCA could be implemented by policymakers to develop policies relating to the dairy industry and considers whether doing so might improve justice for dairy cows and their calves.

Bio

Jane Kotzmann is an Associate Professor at Deakin Law School and was previously an Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Jane's research focuses on animal rights, human rights, and the theoretical foundations of legal and governance systems. Her work examines the potential extension of international human rights principles to non-human animals, and what this reveals about the anthropocentric assumptions embedded within legal frameworks. Across this research, she is interested in how law determines inclusion and exclusion within systems of moral and legal consideration. Jane holds degrees in Commerce, Law (with Honours), and a PhD in human rights law from Deakin University, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching (Teach for Australia) from the University of Melbourne.

Selected Publications

- Jane Kotzmann, 'Sentience and Intrinsic Worth as a Pluralist Foundation for Fundamental Animal Rights' (2023) 43(2) *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 405–428.
- Jane Kotzmann, 'Recognising the Sentience of Animals in Law: A Justification and Framework for Australian States and Territories' (2020) 42(3) *Sydney Law Review* 281–310.

- Katie Woolaston and Jane Kotzmann, *The Cambridge Handbook of One Health and the Law: Existing Frameworks, Intersections and Future Pathways* (Cambridge University Press, 2025).
- Jane Kotzmann and Joanna Kyriakakis, *Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis* (Federation Press, 2025).
- Jane Kotzmann and Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere, *The Legal Recognition of Animal Sentience: Principles, Approaches and Applications* (Hart, 2024).

Aleesha Simoncini - The Road to a Kinder Future through Rewilding Former Dairy Land

Deakin University - aleesha.simoncini@deakin.edu.au

Abstract

What would our world look like if humans no longer relied on cows for milk? Where would the estimated 270 million dairy cows go? What would happen to the farmers and workers who rely on this industry for their livelihoods and what would happen to the vast land currently used by the industry? Importantly, what opportunities could arise for ecosystems and threatened species if we chose a different path?

This presentation conducts an overview of the dairy industry and explores a post-dairy future through the lens of law and multi-species justice. It argues that meaningful change requires dismantling the structural biases which have occurred through government support, subsidies and laws that are currently prioritising the dairy industry at the expense of cows, other animals, people and the planet.

This presentation calls for stronger protections for cows and redirecting subsidies and support to the dairy farmers seeking to transition to plant-based farming or rewilding programs. As the demand for dairy declines due to the proposed actions, enormous areas of land previously used by the dairy industry will be freed for rewilding to offer an extraordinarily promising pathway for ending the suffering of cows, supporting wildlife protection, reducing the risks of the sixth mass extinction and restoring habitat. Further, this presentation illustrates how sanctuaries will emerge as vital spaces in this transition, as a place for animal law educational sites, serving as a tool for justice to create a kinder world for animals, people and the planet.

Bio

Aleesha is working on a research project on dairy transition with A/Prof Jane Kotzmann and Dr Morgan Stonebridge. Aleesha is an animal law research assistant for A/Prof Kotzmann and a final year Law and Environmental Science student at Deakin. She volunteers at Edgar's Mission doing animal enrichment and tours. In 2026 she presented at the Animal Rights Forum on *A Roadmap Towards a Kinder Future for Dairy Cows*, and ran an animal law lecture at La Trobe. In 2025, she presented a seminar on *Animal Law* at Deakin after training in Belgium and Oxford. Aleesha began animal advocacy at 15 years old, delivering school and radio presentations, and has experience working with wildlife, farmed animals and field work.

Christine Parker & Hope Johnson - 'Creating Entirely New, Deliberately Different Meats': Emerging Technologies, Animals and the Limits of Regulation Through an Examination of Australia And New Zealand's Approval of Cell-Cultivated Meat

University of Melbourne / Queensland University of Technology - christine.parker@unimelb.edu.au / h2.johnson@qut.edu.au

Abstract

Emerging technologies, like AI and lab-grown meat, are often positioned as a solution to the suffering of nonhuman animals and a way to profoundly advance their interests. Yet, the extent to which these technologies can achieve these goals is uncertain and contested. The approval last year in Australia and New Zealand of cell-cultivated (lab-grown) quail, produced by Vow Pty Ltd, is a recent example of the ethical questions and implications tied to emerging technologies, their regulation and their impacts on animals. This paper presents findings from a discourse analysis of the regulatory approval documents for Vow's cell-cultivated quail, public submissions to that approval and related media commentary. The regulatory process exclusively dealt with technical, acute food safety concerns and did not provide a space to consider the broader implications of cell-cultivated meat. Submissions provided in support emphasised market benefits but rarely engaged with animals or the environment. The media presented Vow's product, and cell-cultivated products in general, as a powerful way to reduce animal suffering and bring about significantly beneficial environmental outcomes. Yet, it simultaneously positioned cell-cultivated products as non-disruptive, niche foods that are, therefore, not a threat to animal agriculture. Consequently, a significant disconnect existed between the contradictory claims in the media that shape public and political understandings and the regulatory process that assesses cell-cultivated products. We conclude by detailing the need for regulatory and institutional arrangements that can better consider the implications of emerging technologies for animals.

Bios

Christine Parker is a Professor of Law at Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, a Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making and Society and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia. Her research examines how law, regulation and governance can respond to complex societal challenges. She teaches and researches corporate regulation, animal law and food law and policy. Her current research focuses on the intersections between AI, and other emerging technologies, and the ethical treatment of animals.

Hope Johnson is an Associate Professor at the School of Law, Queensland University of Technology and an ARC DECRA Fellow. She researches food and agricultural law and policy using socio-legal methods. Her current research focus is the politics and regulation of advanced meat alternatives.

Selected Publications - C Parker

- S Coghlan and C Parker, "Harm to Nonhuman Animals from AI: A Systematic Account and Framework", *Philosophy and Technology*, DOI: 10.1007/s13347-023-00627-6.
- Tanita Northcott, Katherine Sievert, Cherie Russell, Abdul Obeid, Daniel Angus, Christine Parker, "Unhealthy Food Advertising on Social Media: Policy Lessons from the Australian Ad Observatory" (2025) *Health Promotion International*, DOI: 10.1093/heapro/daae192.
- H Johnson and C Parker, "An Impossible Task? Australian Food Law and the Challenge of Novel Meat Analogues" (2022) *Federal Law Review*, DOI: 10.1177/0067205X221107411.
- C Parker, R Carey, F Haines and H Johnson, "Can Labelling Create Transformative Food System Change for Human and Planetary Health? A Case Study of Meat" (2021) *International Journal of Health Policy and Management*, DOI: 10.34172/ijhpm.2020.239.
- K Sievert, M Lawrence, C Parker and P Baker, "What's Really at 'Steak'? Understanding the Global Politics of Red and Processed Meat Reduction: A Framing Analysis of

Stakeholder Interviews" (2022) *Environmental Science and Policy*, DOI: 10.1016/j.envsci.2022.08.007.

Selected Publications - H Johnson

- C Parker and H Johnson, "Leveraging Food Labelling for Animal Advocacy: A Strategic Approach", in J Kotzmann and J Kyriakakis (eds), *Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis* (pp. 79–98), Federation Press (2025).
- H Johnson, C Parker and A Gladkov, "The Future of Meat in the Anthropocene: A Framing Analysis of US Regulatory Debates for Labelling Cultivated Meat" (2025) *Law, Innovation and Technology* 17(2), 467–496.
- S Cao, H Johnson and A Tulloch, "Exploring Blockchain-Based Traceability for Food Supply Chain Sustainability: Towards a Better Way of Sustainability Communication with Consumers" (2023) *Procedia Computer Science* 217, 1437–1445.
- R Messner, H Johnson and C Richards, "Towards Systemic Solutions to Food Waste: Creative Destabilisation and Escaping Food Waste Lock-In" (2022) *Journal of Rural Studies* 92, 180–188.
- K Sievert, V Chen, R Voisin, H Johnson, et al, "Meat Production and Consumption for a Healthy and Sustainable Australian Food System: Policy Options and Political Dimensions" (2022) *Sustainable Production and Consumption* 33, 674–685.

Theme 6: Educating for Animal Justice - Pedagogy & the Discipline

Christina Jackson - Educating for Animal Justice

Bond University —christina.jackson@student.bond.edu.au

Abstract

What does justice have to do with legal education? If legal education teaches students to understand and apply the law as it is, how can it prepare them to challenge laws that legitimise harm towards animals?

Building on a synthesised framework of critical pedagogy and transformative learning, and drawing on interviews with Australian animal law educators, this paper argues that justice for animals requires reimagining not only the law, but the way it is taught – and that this reimagining is already occurring in Australian law schools.

Despite differing views about activism, neutrality and the role of the teacher, animal law educators consistently create intellectually rigorous learning environments in which students are encouraged to confront legally sanctioned animal harm, critically examine anthropocentric legal frameworks, and explore what justice for animals requires of the law, lawyers, and society more broadly. Together, these practices illustrate how justice-oriented legal education teaches critically without indoctrinating, moves beyond legal doctrine while maintaining academic rigour, and creates the conditions for transformative learning by trusting students to grapple with difficult questions and reach their own informed conclusions.

At a time when justice-oriented subjects remain institutionally vulnerable, the paper celebrates the educators who have established and sustained animal law as a discipline and argues that their collective practice reaffirms the legitimacy – and necessity – of justice-oriented legal education.

Bio

Christina Jackson is a PhD candidate at Bond University whose work explores legal education through the lens of animal law. Drawing on critical pedagogy and transformative learning, her doctoral research explores how the way we teach the law can shape not only the lawyers of tomorrow, but the future of justice for animals. Alongside her doctoral studies, Christina is a practising lawyer, a sessional academic, and a management committee member of the Australasian Animal Law Teachers' and Researchers' Association (AALTRA).

Selected Publications

- Christina Jackson, "Reclaiming Justice in Legal Education: Insights from Critical and Transformative Animal Law Teaching", *Alternative Law Journal*, 2026-03, DOI: 10.1177/1037969X261421592.

Theme 7: Relational & Restorative Approaches - Justice Beyond the Courtroom

Felicity Tepper & Lev (Leo) Bromberg - Repairing More-than-Human Relations: Animal Law and Environmental Restorative Justice

Australian National University / La Trobe University - felicity.tepper@anu.edu.au / l.bromberg@latrobe.edu.au

Abstract

Many if not most animals are deeply entangled in social, political and economic worlds shared with humans. Yet, current legal regulatory systems treat other animals as either threats, or passive objects of protection and ownership - commodifying and alienating them from decisions affecting their lives, habitats and flourishing. Even laws purportedly aimed at protecting animals routinely override fundamental animal interests, leading to concerns that they legitimise animal exploitation and suffering.

To address this deep legitimacy deficit, the paper introduces environmental restorative justice (ERJ) - theory and practice that builds upon the core values of restorative justice - and suggests that ERJ represents animal law's natural ally and essential catalyst. Our conception of ERJ proposed in this paper recognises non-human animals as not merely elements of a damaged environment or passive beneficiaries of repair, but as agential stakeholders and members of multi-species, inter-connected communities. As a relational framework, ERJ doesn't just respond to harm after it occurs - it works preventively to stop animal interests being overridden in the first place. Our conception of ERJ consists of three dimensions: interest representation, non-anthropocentric deep listening and structural empowerment. The paper discusses each of these dimensions using indicative examples of site-specific approaches, demonstrating how ERJ can reimagine, and potentially help bring about, an institutionalised restorative animal jurisprudence that actively hears, honours and mandates animal voices in multi-species decision-making.

Bios

Felicity Tepper is an interdisciplinary socio-ecological-legal researcher at RegNet, ANU. Her research explores how legal and regulatory approaches can become more responsive and restorative for animals and the broader living world. She focuses on non-anthropocentric legal design, multispecies

decision-making paradigms and environmental restorative justice as pathways towards multispecies accountability and Earth governance.

Dr Lev (Leo) Bromberg is a lecturer of law at La Trobe Law School, La Trobe University, who researches at the intersection of animal law and regulation. Leo's doctoral thesis developed and applied an original normative framework for evaluating regulatory initiatives - the multi-species account of law and policy - that is highly significant for legal regulation and governance scholarship.

Selected Publications - Felicity Tepper

- Tepper, F., "Amplifying Edge-Awareness: Socio-Ecological Restorative Approaches to Human-Wildlife Coexistence".
- Tepper, F., 2025, "Criminología verde: alternativas a la impunidad y al punitivismo ante los daños bio-socio-ecológicos / Green Criminology: Alternatives to Impunity and Punitivism Facing Bio-Socio-Ecological Harms", G Varona Martinez (ed.), Dykinson, Madrid, 47–87.
- Forsyth, M., Hollingworth, D., Tepper, F. & Walker, C., "Environmental Restorative Justice: Creating Spaces for Traditional Owner Knowledge and Cultural Values in Regulatory Environment Protection" (2025) *Environmental and Planning Law Journal* 41(1), 41–60.
- Forsyth, M. & Tepper, F., 3 October 2024, "Environmental Enforceable Undertakings: An Innovative Tool to Repair and Prevent Environmental Harm", *Journal of Environmental Law*, 1–27.
- Tepper, F., 2023, "The Animal Issue in Ecosystem Restoration: Foregrounding the Animal Family through Environmental Restorative Justice (ERJ)", *Journal of Victimology* 15, 99–146.
- Forsyth, M., Pali, B. & Tepper, F., "Environmental Restorative Justice: An Introduction and an Invitation", in *The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Restorative Justice*, Springer (2022), 1–23.

Selected Publications - Leo Bromberg

- J Howe, T Kariotis and L Bromberg, "Is the Boss Watching, and Are Unions Doing Anything About It? Workplace Surveillance Regulation in Australian Enterprise Agreements" (2026) *Labour and Industry*, 1–23, DOI: 10.1080/10301763.2026.2625594.
- L Bromberg, "A 'Scramble' for Animal Welfare Reform: Using a Multi-Species Conception of Legitimacy to Evaluate Poultry Welfare Standard-setting and Standards in Australia" (forthcoming) *Monash University Law Review*, 1–72.
- Bromberg, Lev, "Applying a Multi-Species Account of Law and Policy to Evaluate the Legitimacy of Australian Farmed Animal Welfare Standards", ed Christine Parker and Tess Hardy (2024).
- L Bromberg, C Parker and S Coghlan, "Artificial Intelligence and Non-human Animals: A Multi-species Justice Approach for AI Law and Governance", in J Kotzmann and J Kyriakakis (eds), *Animal Law in Australasia: A Quiet Crisis*, Federation Press (2025).
- L Bromberg, "Numbing the Pain or Diffusing the Pressure? The Co-optation of PETA's 'Naming and Shaming' Campaign against Mulesing" (2021) 43(3) *Law and Policy* 285–313, DOI: 10.1111/lapo.12172.

Kate Seear - On dogs, loopholes and doing drug law otherwise

Deakin University - kate.seear@deakin.edu.au

Abstract

Relationality is central to *The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, the instrument at the heart of the international drug control regime. In the Convention, drugs are said to be governable because they

bear on and disturb various relations. So, 'addiction' is apparently 'fraught with social and economic danger to mankind', and the central logic of prohibition is that 'mankind' must be protected from the harms of those objects we categorise as 'drugs' (see Derrida 1993; Seddon 2016). Importantly, the multispecies dimensions of drug law and policy are rarely a focus in scholarship, as I have argued elsewhere (Seear 2025). And yet, drug law, policy and practice are a multispecies concern. This much should be obvious when we consider that various beings, such as plants and fungi, have never been *outside*drug policy, as the very objects humans cultivate and consume, and thus as some of the *central targets* of prohibition. In this presentation, I consider another way multispecies questions figure in drug law, via an account of our dog Cyril's cancer diagnosis. I consider some questions raised by his access to drugs, as well as an accidental encounter we had with an apparent 'loophole' in Australia's system of real time prescription monitoring. I ask how the law conceptualises human and non-human relations, dependence, autonomy, and contagion, what questions might be worth asking when living and dying with a dog on drugs, and whether a loophole is not a gap to be sealed, but an opening to an otherwise.

Bio

Kate Seear is a Professor in the Deakin Law School. She is Co-Director of the Centre for Law as Protection, and an ARC Industry Fellow, with expertise in law and sociology. Her research focuses on alcohol and other drugs, health, gender and the body. She has written on issues including the law and harm reduction, drug-related stigma, overdose and hepatitis C. She draws on a range of theoretical approaches in her work, including Science and Technology Studies, feminist theory, and posthumanism, and is currently writing a book exploring the intersections between drug law and multispecies justice.

Selected Publications

- Kate Seear (early online), "Drug Law is a Multispecies Concern", *International Journal of Drug Policy*.
- Kate Seear and Sean Mulcahy (2025), *Human Rights and Drug Policy: Summary Report of Project Findings and Recommendations*.
- Kate Seear and Sean Mulcahy (2024), "Making Kin with More-than-Human Rights: Expert Perspectives on Human Rights and Drug Policy", *International Journal of Drug Policy* 133, 104597.
- Alejandra Zuluaga and Kate Seear (under review), "Epistemic Barriers in Drug Policy: A Decolonial Perspective on the Interpretation and Application of Human Rights".

Presenters' Instructions

Presentation technology

A computer and projector will be available for presentations.

Please use PowerPoint for your presentation and set the screen ratio format to 4:3.

Please save the presentation file as ***Surname_Firstname*** for identification purposes.

Presenters are requested to email their presentation and any accompanying video or YouTube files to Sophie.riley@uts.edu.au by **Wednesday 19 November** in order that all presentations can be checked and preloaded onto the meeting room computer ahead of the start of each conference day.

If you have any difficulties in meeting this deadline, please liaise with Sophie, Sophie.riley@uts.edu.au

Please ensure that a backup copy of the presentation and any accompanying video files are brought along to the Conference on a USB stick or a laptop or other device that can be connected to the audiovisual equipment in the room.

Duration

We have an amazing array of abstracts and presentations, and to ensure we give equal time to each presentation, as well as allow time for a few questions, presenters are strictly limited to **12 minutes per paper.** A reminder at 10 minutes, and at 12 minutes the chair will stand and the presentation will end.

You will probably not be able to present the entire paper in this time, so please only pick one or two themes to discuss. The programme contains the abstracts and email contacts of all presenters, so attendees can contact you for further information.

Presenters

Presenters are requested to come to the assigned meeting room 20 minutes prior to the start of the session to meet the Chair of the session and double check their presentation is preloaded.

Session Chairs

Session Chairs are also requested to come to the assigned meeting room 20 minutes prior to the start of the session to meet the presenters in that session.

The Session Chair's responsibilities include introducing the session and the speakers, ensuring that the time is equally divided across all presentations, keeping the session to time, and guiding the general discussion

WHY WE CARE ABOUT JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS



Brian Sherman AM – a pioneer in animal advocacy and amongst other things, integral to the establishment of: Voiceless and its grant programmes, the Brian Sherman Animal Law Prize and the Brian Sherman Animal Law Clinic at Bond University. https://voiceless.org.au/



Aleesha Simoncini (AALTRA committee member) with "Some Days" at Edgar's Mission https://edgarsmission.org.au/
Some Days was born with three and half legs. She would likely have been killed in the first week of her life.



Tottie – she now lives at Edgar's Mission and was the star of Animals Australia, "Be Their Hero" advertising campaign. https://animalsaustralia.org/take-action/campaigns-and-investigations/be-their-hero/



Three lovely boy ratties are living a life beyond their wildest dreams after being rehomed from a research facility by not-for-profit organisation Liberty Foundation Australia (libertyfoundation.org.au). They were featured on several social media campaigns this year, including a recent one put together by Animals Australia - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhzGQEc1HuY

RSPCA New South Wales



Nate's story Nate, a one-year-old Staffy cross was found with a shattered leg and heat stress. RSPCA NSW travelled eight hours to rescue him, supported his surgery and recovery and cared for him for 335 days before he finally found a loving home. https://www.rspcansw.org.au/

AUSTRALIAN Alliance for Animals

Alliance for Animals brings together Australia's leading animal protection organisations – representing more than 2 million people – to increase their collective impact for animals. https://www.allianceforanimals.org.au/

Animal Defenders Office

The Animal Defenders Office (ADO) is a national non-profit community legal centre that specialises in animal law. https://www.ado.org.au/about-us



Unlike millions of his kind, Loki the rescued lamb will thankfully never see the inside of a live export ship. And from May 2028, not another Australian sheep will ever step foot onto one as the trade finally ends, thanks to decades of Animals Australia's campaigns and investigations. https://animalsaustralia.org/our-work/live-export/live-sheep-export-ban-secured-with-labor-government-win/

CENTRE FOR LAW AS PROTECTION

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Centre for Law as Protection at Deakin University.
Using legal tools to protect people, animals and the environment
https://lawasprotection.org.au/



Gabriel is an orphaned joey whose future will hopefully be safer in the wild, with Animals Australia's campaign to protect kangaroos from commercial and no commercial shooting. He's just one of the hundreds of thousands of gentle and unique native animals we continue to advocate for each year. https://animalsaustralia.org/our-work/wildlife/protect-kangaroos-and-joeys/