



University of Victoria

BEARING WITNESS: Animal Loss in the Anthropocene



"The Endangered Giant." Image: Geran.de.Klerk. Unsplash. CCO.
"Pronghorn at Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge." Image: Tom Koerner/USFWS_Mountain-Prairie. CC2.0.

Dr. Jodey Castricano

- Professor, Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies, University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus
- Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics
- Online via Zoom ([pre-registration](#) required)
- In-person for UVic Students/Faculty/Staff cleared to attend on campus – FRA 265
- Wednesday, Mar. 16, 2021, 12:30 – 1: 50 p.m. (PST)

REGISTER NOW



According to scientific consensus another species is lost every 30 minutes and 70% of wildlife species have already been lost to anthropogenic climate change in the wake of extractivist capitalism. Increasingly, the call to bear witness to animal loss in the Anthropocene has fallen to the environmental humanities and shaped as a response to “the annihilation of millions of our fellow animals.” Such calls to witnessing are based upon the cultivation of “a transformational ethics grounded in empathy and kinship” (Wiseman). However, attempts to bear witness to such loss must inevitably confront the question of How to hold such overwhelming numbers of beings in our minds? How is it possible to bear empathetic witness to mass extinction? This talk seeks to address the challenge to bearing witness through storytelling as a medium of holding space for empathy and kinship, which in this case involves a story of Nietzsche and the unnamed *Horse of Turin* and Jacques Derrida and his little cat, Logos.

Professor of English and Cultural Studies at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, **Jodey Castricano** has published three books on the issues germane to critical animal studies: *Animal Subjects: An Ethical Reader in a Posthuman World*, (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2008) and *Animal Subjects 2.0* (co-edited with L. Corman, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2016), which builds on the previous work in the field of critical animal studies and posthumanism. Castricano also co-edited with Rasmus Simonsen to produce and contribute to *Critical Perspectives on Veganism*, (The Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series, 2016), a collection of essays that examine the ethics, politics and aesthetics of veganism in contemporary culture and thought.



ANIMALS & SOCIETY
RESEARCH INITIATIVE

uvic.ca/asri
aasri@uvic.ca



the Brooks
Institute
for animal rights law & policy inc.