



CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL PROTECTION

2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Image credit: Marina Zurkow and Sarah Rothberg



[HTTPS://WP.NYU.EDU/CEAP/](https://wp.nyu.edu/ceap/)

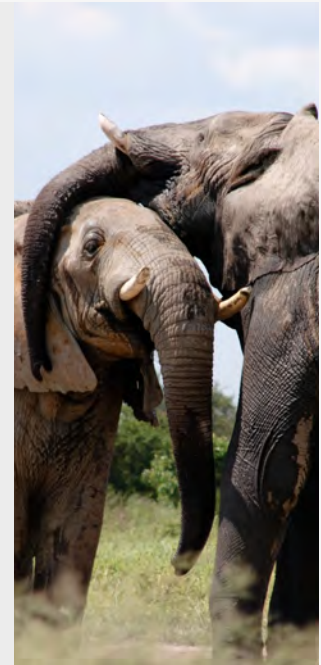
INTRODUCTION

NYU's Center for Environmental and Animal Protection (CEAP) was launched on September 21, 2018. CEAP conducts, supports, and disseminates research that contributes to the protection of both animals and the environment. The Center has three distinguishing features: (1) its focus on highly credible, evidence-based research that provides usable knowledge and policy recommendations to decision-makers and advocacy groups; (2) its emphasis on the integration of environmental and animal protection issues; and (3) its attention to fostering collaboration between scholars and private-sector change makers.

Environmental and animal protection originate from the same sources, but this was obscured for much of the late twentieth century as the environmental protection movement focused on species conservation while the animal protection movement focused on the welfare of domestic animals and their use in scientific research. As climate change has become the dominant environmental issue of our time and the animal protection movement has become more focused on animals used for food, these movements are reuniting. The nexus of animal agriculture, climate change, and conservation represents one of the most pressing and least understood threats to a sustainable future and is a main focal point of the Center's activities.

CEAP is an endowed research center, aligned with the Department of Environmental Studies, and reports to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

CEAP is an independent entity, but it is synergistic with other activities in the Environmental Studies Department and the University as a whole, including the Animal Studies Initiative and the Environmental Humanities Initiative. Environmental Studies, since becoming a degree-granting program in 2007, has graduated more than 500 majors. The Animal Studies minor, which was created in 2010, is approaching 100 graduates. The MA program in Animal Studies, which welcomed its inaugural class in 2018-19, has graduated its first student. During academic year 2019-20 there will be 24 Animal Studies graduate students in residence, a pool of enormous energy, enthusiasm, and talent. In addition to the rich offering of visiting speakers and seminars, the Department hosts regular discussion groups on animal welfare, and on food policy. The Environmental Humanities Initiative sponsors public events that touch on topics in CEAP's domain.



THE CASE AGAINST OCTOPUS FARMING



JENNIFER JACQUET
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES;
AFFILIATED FACULTY STERN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS;
AFFILIATED FACULTY
CENTER FOR DATA SCIENCE



BECCA FRANKS
VISITING ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

CEAP Deputy Director, Jennifer Jacquet led a paper, “The Case Against Octopus Farming” that brought out the synergies that exist between CEAP, the Department of Environmental Studies, and other scholars and institutions, as well as the strength of academic work that can tie together both environmental and animal research. This paper was co-authored with Dr. Becca Franks, also at NYU in Environmental Studies, and Peter Godfrey-Smith, Professor in the School of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney, and Walter Sánchez-Suárez a postdoctoral researcher in the School of Psychology at the University of Sussex and was published in *Issues in Science and Technology*, a publication of the National Academy of Sciences. The paper was widely covered in news outlets such as the UPI, the Guardian, the BBC, and TIME Magazine. The authors followed up this paper with an academic open letter entitled “The Octopus Mind and the Argument Against Farming It”. More than 100 distinguished scientists and philosophers signed a letter endorsing their conclusions. This is an excellent example of a case in which scientific knowledge and ethical reflection have stimulated a public conversation that bears directly on both to animal welfare and environmental quality.

LAUNCH

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018



C. CYBELE RAVER
NYU'S DEPUTY PROVOST



KEYA CHATTERJEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
US CLIMATE ACTION
NETWORK



DANIEL PAULY
KILLIAM PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA



PETER SINGER
IRA W. DECAMP PROFESSOR
OF BIOETHICS AT PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

Nearly 300 people came to hear speeches by academics, activists, and administrators, to eat vegan hors d'oeuvres, and to toast the new center. Environmental Studies Department Chair, Colin Jerolmack, hosted the event, NYU's Deputy Provost, C. Cybele Raver, welcomed the guests, and CEAP's Founding Director, Dale Jamieson, sketched the vision for the Center. Other speakers included Keya Chatterjee, Executive Director of the US Climate Action Network; Daniel Pauly, Killiam Professor University of British Columbia; and Peter Singer, the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University.



RESEARCH IN PROGRESS



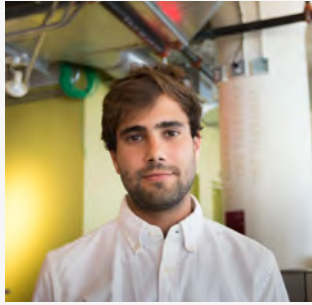
Matthew Hayek, “Quantifying Global Yield Gaps in Orphan Protein Crops for Lower - Meat Futures”

Plant-based alternatives to animal food products are a rapidly growing market in the US and show emerging potential abroad. An overarching aim of companies developing these alternatives is to displace a significant fraction—if not virtually all—of animal agriculture. Doing so would entail a fundamental transformation of global agricultural landscapes and economic support mechanisms away from current production systems and towards systems that produce useful plant proteins for manufacturing meat and dairy analogues. This would require the ready availability and procurement of plant protein crops that possess specific functional properties that can improve flavor and structure qualities to resemble meat, dairy, and eggs. There exist hundreds of varieties of leguminous crops, but their research investment and productivity is relatively low, and, thus, they do not benefit from the economies of scale characterizing soybeans. In this project Matthew will quantify global yield gaps for these varieties.



Dale Jamieson, “Meat and Dairy Production and Consumption in China: Bending the Curve”

The history of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is marked by an extraordinary turnaround from an isolated and economically impoverished nation to one that is integrated into the global economy and increasingly troubled by problems such as obesity and pollution. The fraction of adults in China who are overweight or obese is now at 42 %, more than double the fraction in 1991 -- and Type 2 diabetes increased 17- fold between 1981 and 2010. These increases mirror trends in the production and consumption of animal protein, which raise serious challenges to human health, global economic and environmental stability, and to animal welfare. This project, in conjunction with NYU Shanghai faculty member, Yifei Li, and NYU Shanghai student, Haley Sadoff, is the pilot phase of an ambitious project intended to contribute to bending the curve downward of China’s meat and dairy consumption.



Oliver Lazarus, “Big Beef and Dairy Influence on Climate Metrics and Policy”

In the 21st century, there has been a shift in how we view responsibility for anthropogenic problems beyond simply the nation state or individual consumers, and the need for a greater emphasis on the role of firms. Producers, particularly in the form of multinational corporations, have been identified as responsible parties for a number of issues, particularly anthropogenic climate change. Research conducted in 2013, for instance, catalogued the historic greenhouse gas emissions by the top 90 corporate fossil fuel producers. At least several fossil fuel corporations were aware early on of the threats posed by climate change, and acted to undermine regulations as well as the science of climate change. In 2018, a new study analyzed emissions from the top 35 corporate meat and dairy companies globally. Working with Environmental Studies professors Jennifer Jacquet and Sonali McDermid, Animal Studies graduate student, Oliver, is building on this work to examine corporate responsibility for beef and dairy’s role in anthropogenic climate change



Sonali McDermid, “Towards a Meatless Future”

Reducing the human consumption of animals is one of the most effective things we can do to reduce environmental impacts and improve animal welfare. Sonali is leading a group of Environmental Studies faculty members on two major projects devoted to that end. The first project reviews current research challenges and needs for reducing animal meat production and consumption, and advances a novel description of theories of change regarding plant-based and clean meat protein consumption, ranging from the technological to large-scale cultural shift. This project begins by building on existing knowledge of social, political, economic and intellectual conditions for successful reductions in animal consumption, and then considers and includes both empirical and normative, biophysical, market and economic, and social and ethical arguments. The second project develops trajectories and pathways for protein consumption in a world without animal meat, and constructs a unique evaluation framework for these pathways’ time-varying environmental, food security and nutrition, and animal welfare impacts.



Casey Riordan, “Alligator Wrestling and its Impact on Captive American Alligators in Florida”

Alligators in the United States are almost universally treated as nuisance animals with few resources allocated to humanely managing them. Recently, a new end-use for alligators in Florida is becoming more common and has been further popularized by the Animal Planet reality series, Gator Boys. Rather than harvesting alligators, some trappers relocate them to a “sanctuary” or nature park. Unfortunately, many of these facilities are not sanctuaries or even particularly natural, and force individual captive alligators to perform daily “wrestling shows” to entertain tourists. By using publicly available information about companies offering alligator wrestling shows to the public, Animal Studies graduate student, Casey, working with Environmental Studies professor, Becca Franks, will identify the major businesses offering wrestling shows. Drawing on a sample of publicly available videos of alligator wrestling matches in Florida, they will identify the behaviors performed during wrestling matches and assess the welfare implications for the individual alligators involved.



Chris Schlottmann, “Centering Animals in Agriculture”

The purpose of this project is to assess, document, distill, and translate the empirical and ethical importance of animal agriculture from a primarily environmental perspective. This project will focus on environmental assessments of agriculture, including the basic argument for emphasizing animals in environmental assessments of agriculture, how assessments differ, and why methane and nitrous oxide matter in such assessments. It will also explore psychologically resonant frameworks for understanding environmental, animal, and human impacts and ethics, including analyses of purity, localism, and non-industrial frameworks. This project is part of a larger research project, which will result in a monograph, which will align updated empirical evidence and ethics with a narrative about animal and environmental harms, and also offer positive stories about protecting animals and the environment. The main contribution of this project is to strengthen the case that animal agriculture deserves close attention from those concerned about environmental change.



Jeff Sebo, "Wild Animals, Climate Change, and a Duty to Assist"

This project begins by surveying the impacts that human-caused climate change is likely to have on wild animal populations. In light of these impacts, Jeff will argue that we have a moral duty to assist wild animals in adapting to human-caused environmental change. For people who think about morality primarily in terms of consequences, the argument will be that wild animal suffering is a high priority cause area owing to its scale, neglectedness, and potential tractability. For people who think about morality primarily in terms of rights and justice, this conclusion will be reached because we are complicit in many of the activities that cause wild animal suffering, we benefit from many of the activities that cause wild animal suffering, and we are currently in a state of unfairness and inequality with respect to wild animals. This work will contribute to a monograph, *Why Animals Matter for Climate Change*, which is under contract with Oxford University Press.

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR



Dale Jamieson

Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy; Affiliated Professor of Law; Affiliated Professor of Medical Ethics, School of Medicine; Associated Faculty, Center for Bioethics, College of Global Public Health

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Jennifer Jacquet, Deputy Director

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies; Affiliated Faculty Stern School of Business; Affiliated Faculty Center for Data Science



Colin Jerolmack

Associate Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies; Department Chair of Environmental Studies



Sonali McDermid

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies



Jeff Sebo

Clinical Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies; Affiliated Professor of Bioethics, Medical Ethics, and Philosophy; Director of the Animal Studies M.A. Program

LOOKING AHEAD

The ecosystem in which CEAP lives will be further enriched next year by our second class of Animal Studies MA students, and by four new faculty members joining the Environmental Studies Department. In addition, some talks and other events that bear on CEAP research have already been scheduled, including a two-week visit by Will Kymlicka and Sue Donaldson, the authors of *Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights* (2011); and a shorter visit by Justin Marceau from the Sturm College of Law at Denver University. CEAP's first year has largely been devoted to establishing the Center, creating administrative structures, and launching our initial research projects. Results from this work will begin to appear in the next academic year, both in the form of CEAP briefings and as academic papers published in refereed journals. In addition, during this past year extensive conversations were held with researchers, NGOs, and funders about future projects. Scoping work for a project on "New Models of Conservation" is already underway, and we expect this to develop further in the next year, and we also hope to initiate research on the possibility of a "meat tax." We continue to seek permanent funding for Dr. Becca Franks' research on fish welfare, and funding for a three-year post-doc at NYU Shanghai to work on the project, "Bending the Curve: Meat and Dairy Production and Consumption in China."

