Animals & Empire workshop, 12-13 June 2013

Animal studies is an emerging field within the arts and humanities, transcending disciplinary boundaries in its investigation of the relationships between humans and other animals in subjects such as history, philosophy and literature. This workshop centres on the role of animals and the place of human-animal relationships in the history of the British Empire.

If you would like to attend this conference please contact the organiser, Andrew Flack, at Andrew.flack@bris.ac.uk

12 June 2013, Bristol Zoo Gardens

5:00-5:15: Arrival at the Zoo (Clifton Pavilion, Main Entrance)

5:15: Historical Tour of the Zoo (Andrew Flack, University of Bristol; Simon Garrett, Head of Learning, Bristol Zoo Gardens; Christoph Schwitzer, Head of Research, Bristol Zoo Gardens)

6:30-8:00: Public Lecture: Prof. William Beinart (St. Anthony’s College, University of Oxford): ‘The Adamsons, Born Free and the late colonial era: the images that captured the world’.

13 June 2013, Arts Faculty, 3-5 Woodland Road, University of Bristol

8:30-9:00 Registration, ROOM LR8

9:00-10:30 Panel 1: Species (Chair: Dr Jonathan Saha, University of Bristol)

Prof. Julie Hughes (Vassar College): ‘The Royal Tiger and the Ruling Prince in Colonial India’.


Prof. William G. Clarence-Smith (SOAS, University of London): ‘Mules in the English empire, nineteenth and twentieth centuries: despised but indispensable’.

10:30-10:45 Coffee

10:45-12:15 Panel 2: Looking (Chair: Prof. Peter Coates, University of Bristol)

Chelsea Medlock (PGR, Oklahoma State University): ‘Kipling’s Animals: Imperialism and Kinship in the Writings of Rudyard Kipling’.

Dr Helen Cowie (University of York): ‘Doing a Roaring Trade’: Travelling Menageries in Nineteenth-Century Britain’.

12:15-1.00 Lunch

13.00-13:30 Artist’s Presentation: Michele Elliot: ‘the vanishing: tigers past and present in India’.

1:30-3:00 Panel 3: Resource (Chair: Dr Karen Jones, University of Kent)

Matthew Park (PGR, Michigan State University): ‘Dead Meat: Cattle Slaughter, Islam, and Empire in a Colonial City’.

Dr Jonathan Saha (University of Bristol): ‘The White Man's Beasts of Burden: Elephants and Empire in Burma’.

Dr Simon Pooley (Imperial College, London): ‘No one can be cruel to a crocodile’: representations and utilisations of crocodiles in British colonial Africa, c.1890-1962’.

3:00-3:15 Coffee

3:15-4:45 Panel 4: Resurrection (Chair: Andrew Flack, University of Bristol)

Pandora Syperek (PGR, University College London): ‘Feathered Gems: Gould's Hummingbirds in the Natural History Museum’.

Dr Karen Jones: (University of Kent): ‘Transnational Tales and Taxidermy Tales: Necrogeography, Animal Capital and the Afterlife of Hunting’.

Dr Merle Patchett and Kate Foster (University of Bristol and Glasgow Sculpture Studios): ‘The Object(ionable) Histories of the Blue Antelope’.

4:45-5:30: General discussion (Chair: Prof. William Beinart, St. Anthony’s College, University of Oxford)