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Press Release

## Aspects of the History and Philosophy of Constructing Animal Meaning

[East Lansing, MI] – Editors Linda Kalof and Georgina M. Montgomery's new book, *Making Animal Meaning*, is to be released December 1, 2011 by Michigan State University Press and will be available for sale through their website at [www.msupress.msu.edu](http://www.msupress.msu.edu) and through fine bookstores.

An elucidating collection of ten original essays, *Making Animal Meaning* reconceptualizes methods for researching animal histories and rethinks the contingency of the human-animal relationship. The vibrant and diverse field of animal studies is detailed in these interdisciplinary discussions, which include voices from a broad range of scholars and have an extensive chronological and geographical reach. These exciting discourses capture the most compelling theoretical underpinnings of animal significance while exploring meaning-making through the study of specific spaces, species, and human-animal relations. A deeply thoughtful collection—vital to understanding central questions of agency, kinship, and animal consumption—these essays tackle the history and philosophy of constructing animal meaning.

### **About *Making Animal Meaning*:**

A valuable contribution to theorizing what other animals mean to humans and how animals themselves create meaning. These original essays provide insight into how meanings are constructed and played out in specific contexts. The volume covers impressive ground – across disciplines, geographic locations, and time periods – while simultaneously maintaining its interesting focus.

—Amy J. Fitzgerald, author of *Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Researching the Interrelationships of Abusive Power* and co-editor of *The*

*Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings*.

With essays exploring both broad methodological questions and more narrow case studies, *Making Animal Meaning* offers critical insights into the complex ways animals and humans shape each other's lives, while also providing readers with needed reflections on the field of Animal Studies.

—Nigel Rothfels, author of *Savages and Beasts: The Birth of the Modern Zoo*

This wide-ranging set of essays explores the varied ways in which humans have sought to understand animals as they are drawn or compelled to enter human cultures. Sheep and jaguars, gorillas and hamsters, cats and dogs, pets and pests, predators and prey, all jostle here with writers from diverse academic disciplines, who would make sense of the multifarious lives and relations shared by animals and humans. Kalof and Montgomery's challenging collection helps us to appreciate the complex, conflicting and complementary ways of making animal meaning.

—Tom Tyler, Oxford Brookes University

### **About the Editors:**

Linda Kalof is a Professor of Sociology, a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, and founder of the Michigan State University interdisciplinary graduate specialization in Animal Studies: Humanities and Social Science Perspectives. Georgina M. Montgomery, an award-winning educator, currently teaches at Michigan State University with a joint appointment in Lyman Briggs College and the Department of History.

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