

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS

ABOUT

The Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements was established in 1992, and since then has helped the University of Kent gain wider recognition as a leading institution in the study of social and political movements in the UK. The Centre has attracted research council, European Union, and charitable foundation funding, and collaborated with international partners on major funding projects. Former staff members and external associates include Professors Mario Diani, Frank Furedi, Dieter Rucht, and Clare Saunders.

Today, the Centre continues to attract graduate students and international visitors, and facilitate the development of collaborative research. Recent and ongoing research undertaken by members includes studies of Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, veganism and animal rights.

The Centre takes a methodologically pluralistic and interdisciplinary approach, embracing any topic relevant to the study of social and political movements. If you have any inquiries about Centre events or activities, or are interested in applying for our PhD programme, please contact Dr Alexander Hensby or Dr Corey Wrenn.

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/social-political-movements/>

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SUBMISSIONS

Accepted by email on a rolling basis for Spring and Autumn issues.

Subscribe to our mailing list:

social-movements-centre@kent.ac.uk

Autumn 2020

Dear colleagues,

2020 has only gotten wilder—and yet, through it all, activism persists! For one, another wave of Black Lives Matter protest erupted in the States and spread over to the UK. Anti-maskers are having their day, as well.

We've been relatively quiet here at the Centre as folks are worn down from all the screen time and the plethora of free talks and panels. We have offered one panel discussion on activism in the age of COVID-19 (summary below). Meanwhile, our members have been chugging along with their own work, some of which is spotlighted herein.

Perhaps most interesting, the push to virtual has inspired some international collaborations in pursuit of social justice, such as the [International Association of Vegan Sociology](#) I co-founded with my colleague Zoi Sutton at Flinders University in Australia and the **Society for the Psychology of Human-Animal Intergroup Relations** (PHAIR Society) co-founded by member Kristof Dhont.

Thanks as always for your support!

Yours in solidarity,

Corey Wrenn



MEDIA

Sociology & Animals Podcast

As Chair of the Animals & Society Section of the ASA, **Corey Wrenn** has released an 11 episode Podcast, *Animals and Sociology*, which is available to stream on the ASA section page or vegansociology.com.

The Other Animals

A no-holds-barred look at the history of the Animal Rights movement, warts and all, with scholar **Corey Wrenn**.

The Other Animals

Corey Wrenn discusses her theory of 'Trump Veganism.'

Sentient Media

On social media, people are using photos of animal abuse to delegitimize Black Lives Matter protests. But the credibility of these claims is questionable at best. In this essay by Christian Sebastian McJettters, Dr Wrenn is quoted on the politicization of nonhumans by the right.

SURGE: The World's Most Dangerous Problem for Animals? Masculinity

Dr Wrenn was quoted, along with other vegan feminist scholars, on the problem that masculinity norms pose for vegan outreach. This essay, composed by Dr Alex Lockwood, is hosted by SURGE.

Kent News Centre

Kent sociologist: 'Dogs and cats should not be purchased as lockdown hobbies.' With more and more people spending time at home, companion animal adoption has skyrocketed. Unfortunately, so has for-profit breeding. In this piece, **Corey Wrenn** emphasizes that breeding and purchasing animals is unethical as it reinforces human dominance and the property-status of other animals.

NEW RESEARCH

Dr Alex Hensby

I have published a journal article titled '**Political non-participation in elections, civic life and social movements**' for *Sociology Compass* in December 2020. The article reviews existing theory and research on political non-participation spanning the electoral, civic and social movement spheres. Drawing partly on my own work, it proposes a more holistic approach to studying non-participation across multiple fields and contexts in the social sciences. The article can be accessed here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/soc4.12843>

In September 2020, Dr Hensby chaired an online debate as part of SSPSSR's welcome week on Black Lives Matter and its relevance to students and higher education. The panel consisted of students, activists, and Kent union representatives, and drew an audience of 75. The panel discussed the rise of BLMUK, the importance of decolonise movements, and the need to build inclusivity and solidarity among the student population at Kent. A recording of the debate can be accessed here: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/4eb5a294-c462-445c-83fe-60c4c4833e63>

Dr Corey Wrenn

Vegan Feminist Activism Then and Now." British Society for Criminology, November 26.

In this talk presented at the British Society of Criminology's Gendering Green Criminology virtual conference, Dr Wrenn outlines the history of the Western animal rights movement as one that has always been gendered. From the Victorian antivivisectionists to the Feminist for Animal Rights organization of the late 20th century, women have spearheaded the movement with an explicit recognition of shared oppressions between humans and other animals, even if they weren't always credited. New challenges are also outlined, including sexual harassment within movement circles and pervasive misogynistic tactics. The presentation can be viewed here:

http://www.coreyleewrenn.com/Pubs/WRENN_2020_BSC_Vegan_Feminist_Activism.pdf

Dr Ellie Jupp

Dr Jupp has been researching on mutual aid under Covid, which will be included in her book forthcoming with Bristol University Press on **'The Politics of Everyday Life: activism and local action in times of crisis'** (forthcoming 2021).

Dr Kristof Dhont

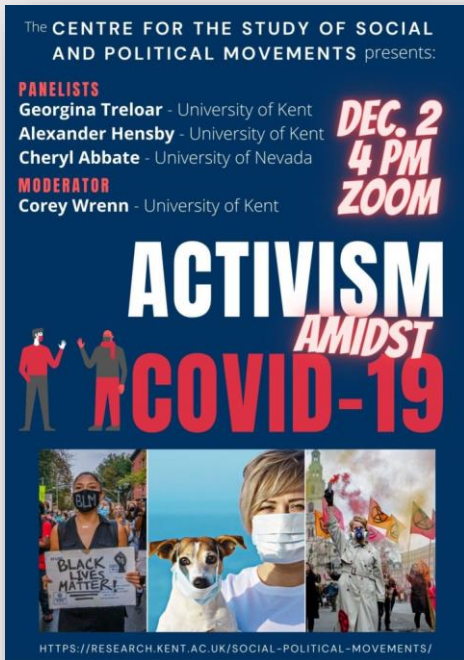
Dr Dhont's co-authored work, "[On 'meatheads' and 'soy boys'](#)" has been spotlighted in *The Psychologist*, the official magazine of the British Psychological society:

"If meat signals masculinity, then men who choose not to eat meat might sacrifice more than just their bacon. Indeed, the backlash against veganism and vegetarianism, with gendered insults such as 'soy boy', seems to be particularly directed at vegan (or vegetarian) men."



RESEARCH PANEL

Activism Amidst COVID-19



On December 2nd, I moderated a panel on UK/US activism in the midst of COVID-19 as co-director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements. My panelists included Dr Alex Hensby, co-director of the Centre, graduate student Georgina Treloar, Dr Ellie Jupp, and my colleague Dr Cheryl Abbate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Unfortunately, I was not able to record the event, but a fascinating discussion on astounding resilience in social justice spaces was offered. Some movements, like **environmentalism**, have taken a real hit in mobilization under the pandemic, but others, like **Black Lives Matter**, have experienced an upsurge in public and media attention.

COVID has also inspired *new* movements, notably the **mutual aid** movement in the UK, a community-organized response to inequality, vulnerability, and need when state measures have failed. We also discussed the **animal rights** movement, which, strangely, has not garnered anywhere near the attention that would be expected given the speciesist origins of the pandemic.

Lastly, our panelists reported on a **clear intersectional theme** running through various movements. The animal rights movement, in particular, has worked to raise the profile of racial injustice in food production, specifically with regard to ethnocentric racism against Chinese persons and the disproportionate impact of COVID infection in Latinx slaughterhouse communities.

- Dr Wrenn

The **ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION** of the
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

presents:

DIGITAL NETWORKING

from the margins

Jan 15, 2021

Zoom + Facebook Live + IG Live

8AM PST / 11AM EST



COREY WRENN, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Animal Advocacy Conference

Insights from the Social Sciences

June 30 – July 2, 2021

*Virtual
conference*

University of Kent



Photo: Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals

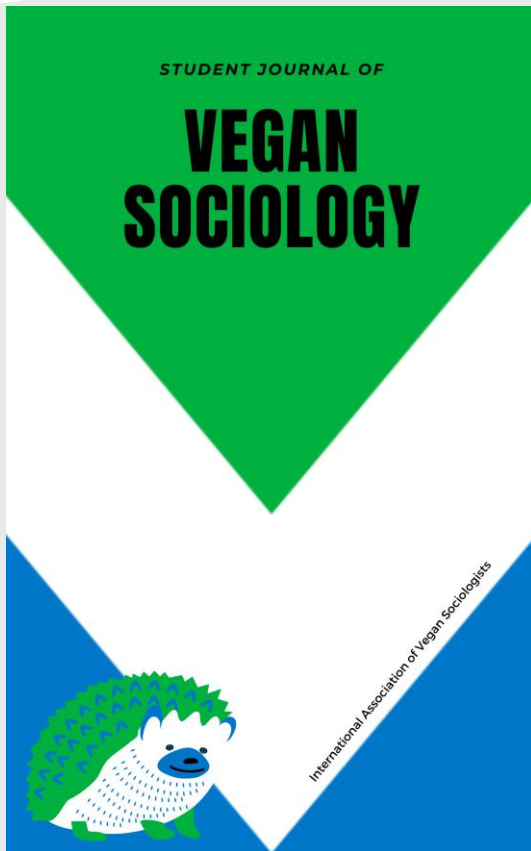
Virtual research talks in 2021

The psychology of human-animal intergroup relations, animal advocacy, and veganism

- Lucius Caviola - January 28, 4pm GMT
- Matti Wilks - February 25, 7am GMT
- João Graça - March 25, 4pm GMT
- Alina Salmen - April 29, 4pm GMT
- Catherine Forestell - May 27, 4pm GMT

PHAIR Society
The Society for the Psychology of
Human-Animal Intergroup Relations

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“Sociology is part of the seeing of other animals and, although still somewhat marginal to sociology, that sociological seeing is changing things in sociology. However, it is not just seeing other animals that should be a central component of sociology; the role of sociology in countering the oppression of other animals is also pertinent.”

– Kay Peggs, *Animals and Sociology* (Palgrave 2012)

Student Journal for Vegan Sociology is inviting papers to be featured in our first edition of the new student-centered journal. Housed in the *International Association for Vegan Sociologists*, we are calling for new ways of human and nonhuman animal interactions, encounters and ways of being. We would like to compile a collection of sociological papers that explore the question of nonhuman animal suffering and injustice through a variety of perspectives, which include: Coexistence, rewilding, ethics, entertainment, sport, food and more. We would particularly like to see a global presence of papers and voices that are underrepresented in the community.

We especially welcome novel student research and compelling new perspectives in vegan sociology. We recognize that student work can often be compelling, innovative, and of interest to the field, but often goes unrecognized. The aim of this journal is to spotlight student contributions to the scholarly pursuit of veganism and animal liberation.

Submissions should respect the ethos of the International Association of Vegan Sociologists. As such, **papers should be in accordance with anti-speciesist or vegan principles, respect nonhuman personhood, and ally with nonhuman liberation.**

Papers can be research-based or essay in style. We anticipate a range of papers for submission, between **2,000 and 5,000 words**, using **ASA citation style**. Papers should have an abstract and running headers and be separate from the title page, which should also include the running header as well as the author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), department(s), institutional address(s), and email address(s). Please do not include the author(s) name(s) on the submitted manuscript.

Please submit papers (and title page) to: **editor@vegansociology.com** **no later than February 19th, 2021**. Papers will go through the editorial team and are subject to a blinded peer review.

This is an annual publication. We regret that only the best quality submissions can be accepted for publication.