

An abstract painting featuring two animal heads, possibly horses or deer, rendered in a cubist style. The composition is dominated by vibrant red and magenta hues, with bright yellow and orange highlights that create a sense of intense light or fire. The forms are angular and fragmented, with sharp lines and bold colors. The two heads are positioned facing each other, their forms overlapping and merging into the abstract background.

WAYNE GABARDI

THE NEXT
SOCIAL CONTRACT

ANIMALS, THE ANTHROPOCENE, AND BIOPOLITICS

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AND BIOPOLITICS



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For Jamie

and

Little Big Man

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CONCLUSION

ANIMALS, THE ANTHROPOCENE, AND BIOPOLITICS

A Labor of Sisyphus

Life in the Anthropocene is too strange to be human and afforded rights. It is too social and multiple to be objectified and given a price. And it is too feral to be pure or risky to be liberated in the wilderness.

—JAMIE LORIMER, *Wildlife in the Anthropocene*

Biopolitics in the Twenty-First Century

In the narrative of evolution, every “age” is the age of a dominant life-form. The current Anthropocene is a small blip on the evolutionary radar screen. The age of the dinosaurs was a much greater story. They dominated the planet for more than 150 million years, and just as the plant and animal remains of their time are now fuel for our modern civilization, our future remains will likely be a resource for the next dominant species. We could not have done it without the help of other animals and plants. Since the Great Domestication, we have depended on a small but essential number of species. We have also hastened the extinction of numerous other species. Planetary evolution is indifferent to a looming mass extinction largely of our own making. The planet will heat up and eventually go into another Ice Age. Existing species will vanish, and new species will come into being.

Just as “sustainability” was the mantra of late twentieth-century environmentalism, “resiliency” is the buzzword of twenty-first-century climate change. As global warming heats the planet, animals and plants have read the news and are moving to more hospitable habitats. The vacuum is being filled by new invasive species moving into these destabilized habitats. Life everywhere is on the move, seeking better environs. Humans are also thinking more seriously about the viability of their own civilization. If human evolution—perhaps all of evolution—experiences critical thresholds of optimal adaptation only when

on the brink, when on the precipice of a crisis, then this is our moment, this is our century.

In *The Fate of Species* (2012), Fred Guterl identifies six major threats facing humans in the twenty-first century: (1) superviruses, (2) species extinction, (3) climate change, (4) ecosystemic collapse, (5) synthetic biology, and (6) artificial intelligence (AI). Four of these challenges are playing out currently—superviruses, species extinction, climate change, and ecosystemic disruption. Biotech Frankenstein monsters, malignant designer diseases, and fully autonomous AI and robots are no longer the stuff of science fiction. Robots and synthetic life-forms will be mainstream by the twenty-first century's end. Guterl is a "techno-optimist," a believer in human high-tech ingenuity.¹ He rejects what he regards as the twin extremes of megatechnological geoengineering and environmentalist calls for a return to a simpler life.² He recommends carbon sequestration, changing farming methods, more genetically modified foods, shifting from annual to perennial crops, bioengineering synthetic meats from stem cells, and "reengineering wild animals that can live in the world as we've changed it."³ He concludes: "Humanity is a bold assertion, a derisive snort at nature. We've beaten the odds so far. To continue beating them will take every good idea."⁴

As I have maintained throughout this book, I remain skeptical of the ability of our late-modern civilization to meet the challenges of the Anthropocene. The fact that "humanity is a bold assertion" and has defined its identity in terms of "a derisive snort at nature" is precisely the problem. I believe that techno-liberalism will not be enough to save us. Yet the key to this statement lies in the "us." Who are the "we" likely to beat the odds? For most anthropocentric liberals, it is civilized humanity. Yet for posthumanists, the "we" is the biosphere and its living inhabitants. From the perspective of animal life, the odds are not that good. Humans will adapt and survive, but at what cost to other species?

Jedediah Purdy shares Guterl's liberal optimism when it comes to the Anthropocene, yet his source of hope and inspiration is not humanity's technological cleverness but rather the American "environmental imagination" and our ability throughout our history to translate this into an effective politics and progressive legislation. Of course, this ability has not been without great struggle, but each major era of American history has resulted in not only a new democratic politics of nature but also a new paradigm of environmental law that has served the country well. In *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene* (2015), Purdy reconstructs four historical versions of the American environmental imagination in the buildup to a fifth vision we need to forge today in response to the challenge of our time, the Anthropocene.

Purdy's conception of politics, historiography, and the environment revolves around his idea of imaginative lawmaking:

From the beginning, as noted in the Prologue, there has been a link between how Americans have acted toward the natural world and how they have imagined it—as a wilderness designed by God to become a garden, as a piece of symbolic art with the power to bring spiritual insight, as a storehouse of essential resources for national wealth.⁵

Law is a circuit between imagination and the material world. Laws choreograph human action in a thousand ways[.]⁶

Laws play out the logic of competing versions of environmental imagination.⁷

Law is the warp and weft that bind the two, shaping the material landscape, guiding human action on it, by translating ideal images of people and nature into concrete regimes of power.⁸

What then should be the next environmental imagination and legal regime for the Anthropocene? To sum up Purdy's vision in one sentence, we need a "democratic Anthropocene" capable of reining in the "neoliberal Anthropocene" and addressing the "paradigmatic problems" of "food, the treatment of animals, and climate change."⁹ This vision requires establishing a new farming and food system; addressing "the unsettling perception that we do not know, maybe cannot know, the ethical status, meaning, or experience of another living thing that stands in front of us"; and developing "new standards of success" with respect to climate change.¹⁰

Three issues addressed by Purdy speak directly to the concerns of this book: (1) the treatment of animals, (2) posthumanism, and (3) democracy in the Anthropocene. He acknowledges the animal welfare/rights divide. Both sides care deeply about animals, develop reasonable arguments, and cannot resolve their differences. He also is unable, or unwilling, to reconcile this impasse. However, he believes that both sides share an overconfidence in claiming to "know" animals and what they want. They underestimate "the difficulty of interpreting animal experience."¹¹ For Purdy, "not knowing another's consciousness" leaves us in a condition of "uncanniness" and "offers an ethics of uncertainty, a pause before judgment."¹² We "simply do not know what is behind another pair of eyes, and what is projection from behind our

own."¹³ We are in the infancy of animal studies and need more data, more legal discovery.

One attempt at illuminating the lifeworld of animals is posthumanism, which calls for, among other things, "leveling the hierarchical divide between human and nonhuman by blurring the boundary."¹⁴ The basis of value is shifted from the prevailing norm of anthropocentric humanism to biocentric "auto-poesis." We are a more complex emergent order of self-organizing matter "among other emergent orders."¹⁵ Humans are not the only agents in the world. It is more accurate to view the world not in terms of agents and nonagents but in terms of "actants" (borrowing Jane Bennett's term).¹⁶ Humans, animals, plants, biotic entities, and ecological processes all act on each other in complex cause-and-effect networks. This "new animism" extends the principle of equality of valuation to all life-forms. Purdy believes that posthumanism has the potential to initiate "a Copernican revolution in ethical imagination."¹⁷

The chief threat to our future is neoliberalism, with its corporate-centered view of the planet as a quantifiable standing reserve of consumable resources, its strategies of globalization, and free-market and megatechnological solutions to all problems, including global warming and biodiversity. Purdy regards this model of planetary management as antipolitical and anti-democratic. Since he believes that our current crisis is ultimately political, politics must lead us out of this neoliberal dead end. Yet what kind of politics? Purdy advocates a new vision of democracy capable of providing the underpinnings and structure for a new environmental imagination and era of environmental lawmaking. A democracy "open to post-human encounters with the living world would be more likely to find ways to restrain its demands and stop short of exhausting the planet."¹⁸

Purdy's vision of posthumanist democracy and a new environmentalism is grandiose, noble, and presented in eloquent, inspirational, poetic prose. His optimism is a reaffirmation of American liberal environmentalism. I agree with his characterization of the Anthropocene as a powerful framing concept for understanding our time; critiquing neoliberal globalization; and identifying our food system, the plight of animals, and climate change as our great challenges. Yet I find his vision of a new Anthropocene politics unconvincing. Purdy's conception of politics is liberal, legalistic, and idealistic. He acknowledges that "the public language and legal forms of modern liberalism is a poor sort of knowledge" and "palpably artificial."¹⁹ We need a more imaginative dimension to mainstream liberalism. Yet in the end it is law that defines politics, an idealistic view of law as the cause rather than the effect of change, as the connective tissue between the ideal images of people and institutional reality rather than as the handmaiden of powerful material interests, and in

the more Platonic sense of an ideal form that shapes reality rather than in the Weberian sense of the routinization and legitimation of power.

This conception of politics informs his idea of Anthropocene democracy, which is painted in very speculative and broad brushstrokes. Purdy admits that democracy in the world "has not been doing well." I would contend that it has been effectively outflanked by neoliberal globalization and technocracy. Democracy in the Anthropocene is dedicated to equality; is highly discursive and driven by active citizens (your voice and vote count); is "exemplary, or prophetic"; "less beholden to money"; "capable of self-restraint"; and posthumanist.²⁰ How all of these key features come together as a working model is unknown. For Purdy, democracy in the Anthropocene is largely a set of attitudes, an ethos capable of generating a new environmental imagination. How this new democratic imaginary is translated into environmental law that is able to effectively rein in our neoliberal Anthropocene is not developed.

As for the promise of posthumanism as a candidate for a new environmental imagination, following his position on the animal welfare/rights debate, Purdy resists making "the choice between the post-human position and the humanist riposte, and instead adopt(s) both." Let's "learn from both," he says.²¹ In the end, he is a modern liberal humanist who believes that humans are qualitatively different from all other forms of life. We are not assemblages of matter like other life-forms. We are distinctive *zoon politikon*. Posthumanism is "just another name for an enriched humanism."²² We should be open to posthumanist experiences, but posthumanism cannot translate into anything other than an intuition and feeling for the nonhuman world. While in principle we may believe in interspecies equality, in "liberal society and legalistic culture," it is impossible to implement this ethical ideal into a politics and laws, because we fundamentally cannot "know" animals, and therefore they cannot be represented in human councils.²³ We should admit that "we don't know what an animal's life means, to it or to us."²⁴ The best we can do is to approximate their lifeworld through anthropomorphic projection.

I take issue with this rather superficial view of animals. The case I make for posthumanism as a coevolutionary, biocentric, lifeworld-based ethics refutes this. We can know animals if we make them central to our lives as members of our community. One can turn Purdy's view of animals toward humans. Do we really "know" human beings in some deep existential, embodied sense? Has advanced liberal capitalism not rendered most of our experiences and knowledge of our fellow human beings superficial and instrumental? Furthermore, for Purdy, the question of animals is essentially a stand-in for "the larger issue of how to see nature."²⁵ The challenges facing animals in the Anthropocene are enormous, complex, ethical, and biopolitical questions of

life and death. His response to the question of animals in the Anthropocene is essentially a new version of the old animal welfarism.

As this century literally heats up and Anthropocene trends intensify, our species will redouble its efforts to protect its civilization from an ever-increasing set of challenges and resiliency tests. The list is long and growing longer—extreme weather incidents, coastal deterioration, habitat loss and fragmentation, ecosystem disruption, infrastructure disintegration and breakdowns, population pressures, mega-urbanization, overconsumption, displaced populations, refugee migrations, pandemic breakouts, resource production and allocation bottlenecks, cascade effects, system-capacity overloads, and technological overreach. The human race will become even more human-centered as it pulls out all the stops to ensure not its survival, which is not in critical jeopardy, but rather its current standard of living. This goal will come at the expense of the majority of life on planet Earth—the world's poorest human populations, the world's animals, and the biosphere.

The institutional logic of advanced modernity is weighed heavily toward policy responses that leverage “big modernity”—a plethora of global initiatives and international agreements, mega-engineering projects, and technocracy. The same mind-set that inaugurated the Anthropocene will be called on to tame and control it. This policy orientation represents an even stronger tightening of the ideology of anthropocentrism. Civilization will circle the wagons under the banner of “resilience”—human resiliency, or, more precisely, the resiliency of its power elites and their propertied resources.

Where Earth is headed geologically and biologically beyond this century is not fully known to us. What we do know is that the planet will continue to warm up, altering land, sea, and air environments and thus the conditions within which evolution takes place. We will have a much better sense of our planet's future at the end of this century. If trends continue, we will be much farther down the road toward triggering a mass sixth extinction. Environmentally, the Anthropocene will begin to replicate conditions that existed on Earth during the early Eocene epoch fifty-six million to forty-nine million years ago. The Eocene began ten million years after the last mass extinction wiped out most of the dinosaurs and ended the great age of large reptiles. This cleaned the evolutionary slate for the rise of mammals. Eocene translates as “dawn of new fauna” (i.e., mammals). The genesis of this new epoch was a major global-warming event that played out over several thousand years and kept Earth in warm greenhouse conditions for seven million years—the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM).

If the Anthropocene re-creates Eocene-like conditions on Earth over the next two to three centuries, then what will the biosphere look like? In general,

we can expect major mass migrations of life from old to new ecosystems, which will send both into disequilibrium. Ecologically, the planet will become more homogenized, and biologically more and more species will become invasive. The result will be simple ecosystems, which translates into less biodiversity. There will likely be fewer species within a habitat, but they will be more dominant, predatory, and spread throughout the general population. In short, expect more turbulent habitats and more competition within and between species. Expect a more visible and pronounced struggle for existence.

A warmer planet is likely to be beneficial to many plant species, since carbon-dioxide levels and temperatures will be higher, creating better conditions for photosynthesis. As for the oceans, expect the disappearance of many coral reefs; fewer fish and sea mammals; rising extinction rates; and more mass migrations, infestations, and deaths. Expect much higher levels of algae, which will compromise and kill off even more marine species. Our blue planet will become blue-green. Expect a golden age of jellyfish. Expect a global surge in insect populations and larger insects. Expect environments dominated by swarms of larger and more aggressive mosquitoes. Infectious diseases take hold and spread in warmer, more humid environments. Thus, expect malaria, dengue, and Zika virus belts to expand. Expect more and larger reptiles, especially snakes. Overall, expect a world with fewer mammals, birds, amphibians, and fish; less ocean life; and more plants, insects, and simpler life-forms. Therefore, expect more bacteria, spores, fungi, parasites, moss, millipedes, ants, termites, spiders, lizards, snakes, and, of course, humans. Over the next few centuries, what we will likely witness is the devolution of "higher," more complex life-forms combined with the punctuated evolution of simpler life-forms.

A Labor of Sisyphus

In *The Myth of Sisyphus* (1942), Albert Camus defines the human condition as "absurd." We confront a universe largely unfathomable and indifferent to our existence, yet it is in our nature to find a purpose or reason for our place in the world. The search for meaning is fundamental to our existence. It is the consequence of having a large, complex brain that produces surplus consciousness. We are overly conscious busybodies. For Camus, the world itself is not absurd; rather, our efforts to understand it are. Two predominant types of answers have been given to us by the world's great thinkers and salvationists—religion and reason. Yet the metaphysical hope provided by traditional religion and the systems of logical empiricism developed by modern philosophy and science are insufficient. Religion, philosophy, and science come up short.²⁶

Camus maintains that the fundamental contradictions of life must be lived and worked through in the realm of action. The experience of life cultivates in us a tragic awareness of the human condition. There is no escape or exit from our fate, yet rather than give ourselves over to despair, resignation, nihilism, or false utopias, we should adopt the perspective of conscious revolt.²⁷ This rebellion is not ontological. It is not a revolt against existence itself. It is a revolt against the concrete injustices of this world. In *The Rebel* (1951), Camus utters his famous reversal of Descartes—"I revolt, therefore we exist."²⁸ It is through our commitment to action, not in the abstract but to specific causes, that we find our place in the world and solidarity with others. In the end, Camus leaves us with two models. *The Myth of Sisyphus* represents the model of the individual in revolt. *The Plague* offers us a model of a community in revolt.

For Camus, the ancient Greek myth of Sisyphus exemplifies his response to the human condition. Sisyphus's fame comes not from his exploits among his fellow humans but from his defiance of the gods, not once but twice. Condemned to Hades by Zeus, Sisyphus outwits Thanatos (death) and imprisons him in his home. Ares, the god of war, frees Thanatos and delivers Sisyphus to Zeus. Before his descent to Hades, Sisyphus subverts the accustomed funeral rituals and appeals to the goddess Persephone that he needs to return to Earth for three days to arrange a proper burial and funeral. She allows him to go home. Once free from Hades, he refuses to return and lives a long life until he dies an old man. For his crimes against the gods and cosmic order, Sisyphus is sentenced by Zeus to roll a huge boulder up a hill only to have it roll back again. It is his labor for all eternity.

Sisyphus is Camus's "absurd hero." He respects his passionate embrace of life in all of its contradictions and identifies with his scorn of the gods. Yet ultimately he valorizes how he accepts his fate, owns it, and transforms it through Stoic rebellion: "His fate belongs to him. His rock is his thing."²⁹ What most interests Camus is "that pause" as Sisyphus "watches the stone rush down in a few moments toward that lower world whence he will have to push it up again toward the summit":³⁰

I leave Sisyphus at the foot of the mountain. One always finds one's burden again. But Sisyphus teaches the higher fidelity that negates the gods and raises rocks. He too concludes that all is well. This universe henceforth without a master seems to him neither sterile nor futile. Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night-filled mountain, in itself forms a world. The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.³¹

In *The Plague* (1947), a fictional account of the response of the inhabitants of Oran, Algeria, to the onset of bubonic plague, Camus works out his model of a community in revolt. The plague appears mysteriously, is indifferent to human suffering and death, and disappears as mysteriously as it appears. All the main characters represent different types of what existentialists refer to as authentic and inauthentic ways of life. Father Paneloux, the doctrinaire Catholic priest, explains the plague as divine punishment for our sins. Jean Tarrou, the son of a public prosecutor, has come to Oran to heal his troubled conscience and seek moral redemption. He views the world as being in the grip of rational murderers. Disgusted with the machinery of modern justice, he aspires to be an "innocent murderer." Raymond Rambert, a journalist on assignment from Paris, regards the plague as not his problem and does all he can to convince local bureaucrats to allow him to go home to his happy bourgeois world. Grand, a lonely civil servant, lives in a bipolar world of mundane routines and grandiose fantasies. Dr. Bernard Rieux, a doctor and Camus's Sisyphean hero, fights the plague day by day with Stoic dedication.

In dealing with the plague, Camus's characters overcome their personal estrangements through action and solidarity. Through his characters, Camus expresses his personal, philosophical, and artistic beliefs and commitments. Father Panaleoux's first sermon exemplifies all that Camus despises in official religion. However, his arrogant faith in God's cosmic justice is shaken by the agonizing death of Judge Othon's child, and his second sermon expresses a more humane humility.³² Through Tarrou, Camus communicates his belief that moral purity is impossible. We all have blood on our hands.³³ As for Dr. Rieux, he embodies Camus's ideal of being-in-the-world. He is world-weary but resilient. He befriends all the main characters and listens to their stories in a nonjudgmental way. He is lacking in moral self-righteousness but is firmly dedicated to fighting cruelty and relieving suffering. Fighting the plague is an act of common decency, not heroism. He confesses to Tarrou that he feels "more fellowship with the defeated than with saints. Heroism and sanctity don't really appeal to me, I imagine. What interests me is being a man."³⁴ And as the plague subsides, he realizes that "plague," a metaphor for all the concrete social evils of the world, never really dies but is reborn in a new and different form with each new generation.³⁵

The labor of Sisyphus and the community in revolt against injustice are compelling models of being-in-the-world. One discovers clarity of purpose in one's commitment to a course of action carried out with Stoic determination. One takes up a cause knowing full well that one's preferred or expected outcome is neither guaranteed nor likely. The historical context of Camus's

thinking, writing, and politics was World War II and the Holocaust. Our time is one of climate change and the holocaust facing animals. The Anthropocene is our “plague.” Camus’s challenge was the human condition. Our challenge is the posthumanist condition. In my own mind, adopting an evolutionary worldview renders the world meaningful. Life evolves, adapts, and coevolves. The first two processes are facts of life, occurring regardless of whether we are fully conscious of them. The third piece of the puzzle, coevolution, allows for conscious agency in a limited sense.

Carrie Packwood Freeman characterizes humans “as social animals who are uniquely prone to excess, explaining the biological need for humanity’s complex ethical systems.”³⁶ I agree that humans are prone to excess, but they are not unique in this regard. All animals—indeed, all living things—have an evolutionary drive toward excess displayed in different ways to ensure survival by optimizing adaptability. An optimal survival strategy is to proliferate and dominate. The difference is that most nonhuman animal excess is checked by environmental pressures. Most living organisms and populations live within the boundaries of larger ecological forces. What is unique about human excess is our ability to overcome environmental checks and balances. We are good at manufacturing excessive excess.

Modernity today is a juggernaut that has shifted into radical hyperdrive. As the human race becomes more fully modern, animals become more critically endangered. The odds are stacked against many animals. The human desire for animal meat is increasing as the world’s middle class mushrooms. The world’s oceans are overfished. CAFOs are growing globally. Climate change is radically altering habitats, and human terraforming continues to eliminate and fragment animal habitats. Many charismatic megafauna as well as the smallest of species will be gone if not ecologically extinct by century’s end. Shelters, zoos, and sanctuaries cannot accommodate all the abandoned, abused, and surplus animals.

The task is so formidable and daunting that our interventions become Sisyphean labors. In most circumstances, the plight of animals today can be reasonably comprehended and acted on only by adopting a calibrated form of triage biopolitics.

One can, however, be fortified by the knowledge that all evolution is local. The basis of macroevolution is microevolution. So it is with coevolution. It is here that we can cultivate a modest Sisyphean optimism. The next social contract will be shaped by the efforts of a diverse array of inhabitants of the posthumanist archipelago. I hope they will be equipped with an awareness and knowledge of the challenges facing nonhuman animals and humans

in the Anthropocene, with a critical citizen's eye on the legitimacy deficits of late-modern civilization, and with a posthumanist ethics and sense of justice.

Posthumanism is about up-close, real-world engagement with nonhuman animals as coevolutionary coinhabitants. On a personal level, I recommend that you do some serious homework. Be patient. Know the risks, the dangers, and your limitations. See the nobility in what are often mundane labors. Be prepared for adversity, frustration, defeat, and loss. Reach out to others. Since you are a culturally productive learning animal, if you take the time, you will find that your fellow animals are much smarter, reasonable, sophisticated, adaptable, and intuitive than you think. You can learn a lot from them. Go to where animals are and build communities around them. Making common cause with the plight of animals is a worthy calling. In doing so, you will discover that the lives of animals make life worth living.

NOTES

CHAPTER 1

1. Paul J. Crutzen and Eugene F. Stoermer, "The Anthropocene," *Global Change Newsletter* 41 (2000): 17–18; Paul J. Crutzen, "Geology of Mankind," *Nature* 415 (2002): 23.
2. Jan Zalasiewicz, Mark Williams, Will Steffen, and Paul Crutzen, "The New World of the Anthropocene," *Environmental Science and Technology* 44, no. 7 (2010): 2228–2231. Also see Jan Zalasiewicz and Mark Williams, *The Goldilocks Planet: The Four Billion Year Story of Earth's Climate* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2012), chap. 9, "Birth and Death of the Holocene," 199–227, and chap. 10, "The Anthropocene Begins," 229–267.
3. For an excellent summary of the geological debate to date on the Anthropocene, see Simon L. Lewis and Mark A. Maslin, "Defining the Anthropocene," *Nature* 519 (2015): 171–180.
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5. Lewis and Maslin, "Defining the Anthropocene."
6. Adrian Franklin, "Ecosystem and Landscape: Strategies for the Anthropocene," in *Animals in the Anthropocene: Critical Perspectives on Non-human Futures*, ed. Human Animal Research Network Editorial Collective (Sydney, Australia: Sydney University Press, 2015), 65.
7. Niles Eldredge, *Dominion* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997), xiv.
8. Jedediah Purdy, *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015), "Introduction," 17–21.
9. *Ibid.*, chap. 7, "Environmental Law in the Anthropocene," 228–255.

10. Jamie Lorimer, *Wildlife in the Anthropocene: Conservation after Nature* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015), "Introduction," 1–18.
11. Richie Nimmo, "Apiculture in the Anthropocene: Between Posthumanism and Critical Animal Studies," in *Animals in the Anthropocene*, 195.
12. See Patrick Gerland et al., "World Population Stabilization Unlikely in This Century," *Science* 346, no. 6206 (2014): 234–237.
13. Jack A. Goldstone, "The New Population Bomb: Four Megatrends that Will Change the World," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010, 31–43.
14. See John Bongaarts, "Human Population Growth and the Demographic Transition," *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* 364 (2009): 2985–2990.
15. Goldstone, "The New Population Bomb," 32–33.
16. See Laurence C. Smith, *The World in 2050: Four Forces Shaping Civilization's Northern Future* (New York: Dutton, 2010), chap. 2, "A Tale of Teeming Cities," 29–50.
17. See Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums* (London: Verso, 2006); Tommy Firman, "Post-suburban Elements in Asian Extended Metropolitan Region: The Case of Jabodetabek (Jakarta Metropolitan Area)," in *International Perspectives on Suburbanization: A Post-Suburban World*, ed. N. A. Phelps and F. Wu (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 195–209; Benjamin Marx, Thomas Stoker, and Tavnet Suri, "The Economics of Slums in the Developing World," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27, no. 4 (2013): 187–210.
18. In the United States, the Regional Plan Association has put forth "America 2050," which has identified eleven megaregions and a proposal to link them by high-speed rail. They are the Northeast, Great Lakes, Piedmont Atlantic, Florida, Gulf Coast, Texas Triangle, Front Range, Arizona Sun Corridor, Southern California, Northern California, and Cascadia. See www.america2050.org/megaregions.html.
19. See the World Bank Data Catalog 2012 GDP ranking table, available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/GDP-ranking-table>. Also see "Sober Look: Goldman's World GDP Projections for 2050," available at <http://soberlook.com/2012/11/goldmans-gdp-projection-for-2050.html>.
20. See the 2013 United Nations Human Development Report, "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World," available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2013>.
21. See Global Footprint Network at www.footprintnetwork.org.
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42. The famous "is-ought" passage appears in *A Treatise of Human Nature*, bk. 3, "Of Morals," pt. 1, "Of Virtue and Vice in General," sec. 1, "Moral Distinctions Not Derived from Reason," para. 27. See David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, ed. David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2000), 302. Also see H. O. Mounce, *Hume's Naturalism* (London: Routledge, 1999), chap. 7, "Reason and Morality," 77–98; and David Fate Norton, "The Foundations of Morality in Hume's Treatise," in *The Cambridge Companion to Hume*, 2nd ed., ed. David Fate Norton and Jacqueline Taylor (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009), 270–310.
43. On the influence of Hume on animal studies, see Tom L. Beauchamp, "Hume on the Nonhuman Animal," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 24 (1998): 322–335; Gary Steiner, *Animals and the Moral Community: Mental Life, Moral Status, and Kinship* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), chap. 3, "An Associationist Model of Animal Cognition," 57–88; Julia Driver, "A Humean Account of the Status and Character of Animals," in *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, ed. Tom L. Beauchamp and R. G. Frey (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2011), 144–171; and Angela Coventry and Avram Hiller, "Hume on Animals the Rest of Nature," in *Animal Ethics and Philosophy: Questioning the Orthodoxy*, ed. Elisa Aaltola and John Hadley (London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015), 165–184.
44. David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, bk. 1, "Of the Understanding," pt. 1, "Of Ideas, Their Origin, Composition, Connection, Abstraction, Etc.," sec. 4, "Of the Connection or Association of Ideas," 12–14. Also see David Owen, "Hume and the Mechanics of Mind: Impressions, Ideas, and Association," in *The Cambridge Companion to Hume*, 70–104.
45. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding: A Critical Edition*, ed. Tom L. Beauchamp (Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press, 2000), sec. 9, "Of the Reason of Animals," 79.
46. Ibid., 80.
47. Ibid., 81.
48. On natural and artificial virtues, see David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, bk. 3, "Of Morals," pt. 2, "Of Justice and Injustice," sec. 1, "Justice, Whether a Natural or Artificial Virtue?" 307–311; pt. 3, "Of Other Virtues and Vices," sec. 1, "Of the Origin of the Natural Virtues and Vices," 367–378.
49. David N. Stamos, *Evolution and the Big Questions: Sex, Race, Religion, and Other Matters* (Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2008), chap. 1, "Evolution and Knowledge," 21–22, and chap. 7, "Evolution and Ethics," 156–158; and Michael Ruse, *Evolutionary Naturalism: Selected Essays* (London: Routledge, 1995), chap. 8, "Evolution and Ethics: The Sociobiological Approach," 256.
50. Ruse, *Evolutionary Naturalism*, chap. 8, "Evolution and Ethics: The Sociobiological Approach," 254.
51. Stamos, *Evolution and the Big Questions*, chap. 7, 155–175.

52. On the biological theory of coevolution, see Paul R. Ehrlich and Peter Raven, "Butterflies and Plants: A Study in Coevolution," *Evolution* 18 (1965): 586–608.

53. On the chimpanzee-human last common ancestor (CHLCA) theory, see Nick Patterson et al., "Genetic Evidence for Complex Speciation of Humans and Chimpanzees," *Nature* 441 (2006): 1103–1108.

54. See Tim D. White et al., "Ardipithecus Ramidus and the Paleobiology of Early Hominids," *Science* 326, no. 5949 (2009): 75–85; and Jamie Shreeve, "The Evolutionary Road," *National Geographic*, July 2010, 34–67.

55. Primatologist Richard Wrangham has developed the "cooking hypothesis" that the control of fire and the advent of cooking raw meat were major revolutions in human evolution. Cooking provided more metabolic energy to early hominids and led to physiological changes, resulting in a smaller digestive system, jaw, and teeth and a more flexible skull, all of which allowed for greater brain growth and rudimentary speech. See Richard Wrangham, *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human* (New York: Basic Books, 2009).

56. There are two theories regarding the takeoff of sustained human cultural evolution. The "human revolution" view places a more "sudden" flourishing of "modern" human traits fifty thousand to forty thousand years ago. The gradualist view locates the onset of cultural evolution as far back as one hundred thousand to seventy thousand years ago. See Richard G. Klein, "Anatomy, Behavior, and Modern Human Origins," *Journal of World Prehistory* 9, no. 2 (1995): 167–198; and Sally McBrearty and Alison S. Brooks, "The Revolution that Wasn't: A New Interpretation of the Origin of Modern Human Behavior," *Journal of Human Evolution* 39, no. 5 (2000): 453–463.

57. The old narrative of Neanderthals as simple brutes who could not successfully compete with more sophisticated *Homo sapiens* who arrived in Europe forty-six thousand years ago has been significantly revised. They were in many respects as "modern" as our species. See Annalee Newitz, *Scatter, Adapt, and Remember*, chap. 7, "Meet the Neanderthals," 77–88; and Dimitra Papagianni and Michael A. Morse, *The Neanderthals Rediscovered: How Modern Science Is Rewriting Their Story* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2013).

58. See Joseph Henrich and Richard McElreath, "The Evolution of Cultural Evolution," *Evolutionary Anthropology* 12 (2003): 123–135. Robert Boyd and Peter J. Richerson summarize their gene-culture coevolution research program in *The Origin and Evolution of Cultures* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), "Introduction," 1–11. See also Boyd and Richerson, *Not by Genes Alone: How Culture Transformed Human Evolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), chap. 1, "Culture Is Essential," 1–17.

59. The theory of the human mind as operating with a modular architecture and functionality is first developed by Jerry Fodor in *The Modularity of Mind: An Essay on Faculty Psychology* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1983).

60. Richard Dawkins introduces the idea of the meme in *The Selfish Gene* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1976).

61. Kim Sterelny, *Thought in a Hostile World: The Evolution of Human Cognition* (Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2003), chap. 9, "Heterogeneous Environments and Variable Response," 162–173, and chap. 10, "The Massive Modularity Hypothesis," 177–210.

62. Boyd and Richerson, *The Origin and Evolution of Cultures*, chap. 1, "Social Learning as an Adaptation," 19–34; Boyd and Richerson, *Not by Genes Alone*, chap. 4, "Culture Is an Adaptation," 108–126; Kim Sterelny, "The Evolution and Evolvability of Culture," *Mind and Language* 21, no. 2 (2006): 137–165; Sterelny, *The Evolved Apprentice: How Evolution Made Humans Unique* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012); and Sterelny, "The Evolved Apprentice Model: Scope and Limits," *Biological Theory* 8 (2013): 37–43.

63. See Kim Sterelny, *Thought in a Hostile World*, chap. 7, "The Cooperation Explosion," 123–145.

64. *Ibid.*, chap. 8, "The Self-Made Species," 146–161.

65. Heidegger's idea of dwelling is one of the key modalities of *Dasein*, human being-in-the-world. In the essay "Building Dwelling Thinking," he makes the case that dwelling and building are closely connected ontologically and linguistically. In classic Heidegger fashion, he takes the reader on a genealogical journey, revealing the "primal nature" of words that have fallen into "oblivion" and whose "true meaning" has been lost. Dwelling and building come from the old English *bauen* and German *baun*, which means to inhabit an abode and cultivate a space of habitation. Building is not the art or technique of physical construction per se but a way of being-in-the-world that creates a space where humans can dwell. Building is about "locations in space," determining where we should live and why. More than this, it connects and integrates the "fourfold" primal forces of Being—Earth, sky, divinities, and mortals. Dwelling and building bring "the fourfold" into presence. They therefore are fundamental ethical practices dedicated to the preservation of an abode of dwelling. Dwelling is finding one's home in the world, a world Heidegger believes under conditions of modernity is one of existential homelessness. See Martin Heidegger, *Poetry, Language, Thought*, trans. Albert Hofstadter (New York: Harper, Colophon Books, 1971), "Building Dwelling Thinking," 143–161. Also see Leslie Paul Thiele, *Timely Meditations: Martin Heidegger and Postmodern Politics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995), chap. 7, "Saving the Earth: The Plight of Homelessness," 171–191.

66. The ancient Greek word "*phronesis*" translates as "practical wisdom." In book six of the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle classifies, defines, and analyzes the intellectual virtues of the soul—scientific knowledge (*episteme*); art, technical skill, and craftsmanship (*techne*); practical reason (*phronesis*); intelligence (*nous*); theoretical wisdom (*sophia*); understanding (*sunesis*); and judgment (*gnome*). Practical reasoning deals with the realm of action and conduct (*praxis*). It involves deliberation and judgment with regard to changing circumstances, applying knowledge and experience to things that are variable by nature. Practical wisdom concerns itself with particulars as well as universals. But knowledge of particulars can be attained only through experience, not through theoretical wisdom. Thus *phronesis* is a practical value-rationality that involves the application of principles and deliberative reasoning to context-dependent action-oriented situations to arrive at prudent decisions. It informs and guides how we act in particular situations. See *The Ethics of Aristotle*, trans. J. A. K. Thomson, rev. ed. (New York: Penguin Books, 1976), bk. 6, "Intellectual Virtues," 209–210.

67. Niche differentiation is one theory that has been developed to explain not only species coexistence and coevolution but also the fact that there are many similar species in nature. Other scientific theories that help explain coexistence and coevolution are the "neutral theory of biodiversity," which focuses on the rough equivalence of species in a habitat that do not outcompete each other, the idea of "self-organized similarity" among species within a niche, and the rate of new species introduction. See Martin Scheffer and Egbert H. van Nes, "Self-Organized Similarity: The Evolutionary Emergence of Groups of Similar Species," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 103, no. 16 (2006): 6230–6235; and Tommaso Zillio and Richard Condit, "The Impact of Neutrality, Niche Differentiation, and Species Input on Diversity and Abundance Distributions," *Oikos* 116 (2007): 931–940.

68. On the different approaches of environmental and animal ethics and the idea of biocentric ethics as a way of reconciling both of these outlooks, see Anna L. Peterson, *Being Animal: Beasts and Boundaries in Nature Ethics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013).

69. Paul W. Taylor, *Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986), chap. 3, "The Biocentric Outlook on Nature," 101–116.
70. *Ibid.*, 116–119.
71. *Ibid.*, 118.
72. *Ibid.*
73. *Ibid.*, 119–129.
74. *Ibid.*, 120.
75. *Ibid.*, 121.
76. *Ibid.*, 120.
77. *Ibid.*, 121.
78. *Ibid.*, 119.
79. *Ibid.*, 122.
80. *Ibid.*
81. *Ibid.*, 123.
82. *Ibid.*, 124.
83. *Ibid.*, 129–135.
84. *Ibid.*, 135–152.
85. *Ibid.*, 129.
86. *Ibid.*, 131.
87. *Ibid.*, 155; emphasis original.
88. *Ibid.*, 121n7.
89. *Ibid.*, 123.
90. See Wayne Williams, "Enchanted Worlds and Animal Others," in Aaltola and Hadley, eds., *Animal Ethics and Philosophy*, 83–98.
91. Taylor, *Respect for Nature*, chap. 1, "Environmental Ethics and Human Ethics," sec. 3, "Formal Conditions for Valid Moral Principles," 27–33.
92. *Ibid.*, chap. 3, 161–168.
93. *Ibid.*, chap. 4, "The Ethical System," 169–218.
94. *Ibid.*, 172–173. Taylor makes clear that the rule of nonmaleficence applies to only human moral agents. It does not apply "to the behavior of a nonhuman animal or the activity of a plant that might bring harm to another living thing or cause its death" (172).
95. *Ibid.*, 174–175.
96. *Ibid.*, 179–186.
97. *Ibid.*, 187. Taylor acknowledges that "the detailed facts of each situation" would influence "what restitutive acts are called for," but we "can nevertheless formulate some middle-range principles of justice" that can help guide our decisions with regard to the three rules of nonmaleficence, noninterference, and fidelity." For example, with regard to doing no harm, the situation would be different if an organism were harmed and not killed, if a species-population was harmed or on the verge of extinction, or if an entire biotic community was harmed or destroyed by humans.
98. *Ibid.*, chap. 6, "Competing Claims and Priority Principles," 263.
99. *Ibid.*, 264–265.
100. *Ibid.*, 270.
101. *Ibid.*, 272.
102. *Ibid.*, 280–291.
103. *Ibid.*, 291–304.
104. *Ibid.*, 304–306.
105. *Ibid.*, chap. 1, sec. 7, "A Note on the Ethics of the Bioculture," 53–58.

106. Roberto Esposito, *Bios: Biopolitics and Philosophy*, trans. Timothy Campbell (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008), chap. 1, "The Enigma of Biopolitics," 13, and chap. 2, "The Paradigm of Immunization," 45–77.

107. Ibid., chap. 5, "The Philosophy of *Bios*," 191–194.

108. Ibid., 186.

109. Ibid., 186–187.

110. On Heidegger's philosophy of *Dasein* (being-in-the-world), see Thiele, *Timely Meditations*, chap. 2, "Heidegger's Vision: Being-in-the-World," 42–57; and Dana R. Villa, *Arendt and Heidegger: The Fate of the Political* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996), chap. 4, "The Heideggerian Roots of Arendt's Political Theory," 113–143.

111. On Heidegger's postmetaphysical anthropocentrism, see Gary Steiner, *Anthropocentrism and Its Discontents: The Moral Status of Animals in the History of Western Philosophy* (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005), chap. 9, "Postmodern Conceptions of the Human-Animal Boundary," 204–214; and Matthew Calarco, *Zoographies: The Question of the Animal from Heidegger to Derrida* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), chap. 1, "Metaphysical Anthropocentrism: Heidegger," 15–53.

112. See Jonathan D. Singer, "The Flesh of My Flesh: Animality, Difference, and 'Radical Community' in Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy," in Aaltola and Hadley, eds., *Animal Ethics and Philosophy*, 99–116. Also see Maurice-Merleau Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, trans. Colin Smith (New York: Routledge, 1989); and Maurice-Merleau Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible*, ed. Claude Lefort and trans. Alphonso Lingis (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1968).

113. Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" *Philosophical Review* 83 (1974): 435–450.

114. J. M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999), "The Poets and the Animals," 50–54.

115. See Jakob von Uexküll, *A Foray into the Worlds of Animals and Humans: With a Theory of Meaning*, trans. Joseph D. O'Neil (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010); Jesper Hoffmeyer, *Biosemiotics: An Examination into the Signs of Life and the Life of Signs* (Scranton, PA: University of Scranton Press, 2008); and Donald Favareau, *Essential Readings in Biosemiotics* (Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer, 2010).

116. See Morten Tonnessen and Jonathan Beever, "Beyond Sentience: Biosemiotics as Foundation for Animal and Environmental Ethics," in Aaltola and Hadley, eds., *Animal Ethics and Philosophy*, 47–62.

117. See Adolf Portmann, *New Paths in Biology* (New York: Harper and Row, 1964); Neil Evernden, *The Natural Alien: Humankind and Environment* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); Kenneth Shapiro, "A Phenomenological Approach to the Study of Nonhuman Animals," in *Anthropomorphism, Anecdotes, and Animals*, ed. R. W. Mitchell, N. S. Thompson, and H. L. Miles (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1997), 277–295; Elizabeth Behnke, "Ghost Gestures: Phenomenological Investigations of Bodily Micro-movements and Their Intercorporeal Implications," *Human Studies* 20 (1997): 181–201; Traci Warkentin, "Interspecies Etiquette: An Ethics of Paying Attention to Animals," *Ethics and the Environment* 15, no. 1 (2010): 101–121; and Julie A. Smith and Robert W. Mitchell, eds., *Experiencing Animal Minds: An Anthology of Animal-Human Encounters* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012).

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120. *Ibid.*, 114.
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123. Ralph R. Acampora, *Corporal Compassion: Animal Ethics and Philosophy of Body* (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006), "Introduction: Somaesthetics and Animal Ethics," xiii–ix.
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125. *Ibid.*, chap. 2, "Flesh-and-Blood Being-in-a-World: Toward a Transpecific Ontology of Somatic Society," 25–47.
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132. *Ibid.*, chap. 5, "Reflections: A Model and a Vision of Ethical Life," 135.
133. *Ibid.*, chap. 3, "Affect Attunement: Discourse Ethics across Species," 81–88.
134. *Ibid.*, "Introduction," 10, 17–21.
135. *Ibid.*, 18.
136. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals*, "The Philosophers and the Animals," 23.
137. *Ibid.*, "The Poets and the Animals," 52.
138. *Ibid.*, 50–53.
139. *Ibid.*, 53.
140. *Ibid.*, 52.
141. Gary Snyder, *A Place in Space: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Watersheds* (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 1995), "Unnatural Writing," 169.
142. *Ibid.*
143. *Ibid.*, 170.
144. Peter Singer summarizes his ethical outlook in *Practical Ethics*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011), chap. 1, "About Ethics," 1–15.

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146. Singer, *Practical Ethics*, chap. 3, "Equality for Animals?" 53.
147. Ibid., chap. 5, "Taking Life: Animals," 101.
148. Ibid., 94–104.
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151. Gary L. Francione, *Animals as Persons: Essays on the Abolition of Animal Exploitation* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), chap. 3, "Taking Sentience Seriously," 129–147.
152. Ibid., chap. 2, "Reflections on *Animals, Property, and the Law* and *Rain without Thunder*," 67–128.
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155. Ibid., chap. 5, 132–142.
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157. Ibid., chap. 5, 121–125, 132–142.
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161. Ibid., chap. 2, "Antireductionism and the Natural Order," 17.
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171. See Gabardi, *Negotiating Postmodernism*, chap. 6, "Postmodern Strategies and Democratic Politics," 122–143.
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173. Gary Steiner, *Animals and the Limits of Postmodernism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013), chap. 3, "Later Here Signifies Never: Derrida on Animals," 77–131.
174. Gabardi, *Negotiating Postmodernism*, chap. 1, "The Modern-Postmodern Debate and Its Legacy," 3–16, and chap. 3, "The Idea of Critical Postmodernism," 43–65.
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183. *Ibid.*, 25.
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CHAPTER 4

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2. Susan Foster McCarter, *Neolithic* (New York: Routledge, 2007), chap. 5, "Animal Domestication," 73–74.
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27. *Ibid.*, 64. Camus writes, “Having started from an anguished awareness of the inhuman, the meditation on the absurd returns to the end of its itinerary to the very heart of the passionate flames of revolt. Thus I draw from the absurd three consequences, which are my revolt, my freedom, my passion.”
28. Albert Camus, *The Rebel: An Essay on Man in Revolt*, trans. Anthony Bower (New York: Vintage Books, 1991), pt. 1, “The Rebel,” 22.
29. Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays*, “The Myth of Sisyphus,” 123.
30. *Ibid.*, 121.

31. Ibid., 123.
32. Albert Camus, *The Plague*, trans. Stuart Gilbert (New York: Vintage Books, 1991), 220–228.
33. Ibid., 243–257.
34. Ibid., 255.
35. Ibid., 308.
36. Carrie Packwood Freeman, “Embracing Humanimality: Deconstructing the Human/Animal Dichotomy,” in *Arguments about Animal Ethics*, ed. G. Goodale and J. E. Black (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010), 11–30.

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WAYNE GABARDI is Professor of Political Theory and Honors Program Faculty member at Idaho State University. He is the author of *Negotiating Postmodernism*.

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