

# End of Year Report

Cambridge Centre for  
Animal Rights Law

Summer 2022 - Summer 2023

# Director's Report

Dr Raffael Fasel and I are pleased to present this Annual Report for the Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law.

Let me begin by saying that our donors have continued to support us; a tribute to the funders themselves but also a recognition that the Centre is doing what it said it would. It almost goes without saying how grateful we are to our donors for their continuing support. We plan to continue to expand our donor base as we want a broad spread of support. The Centre is on a long journey, and while there is measurable and clear progress, even the short-term goal of having animal rights law taught at universities across the world will not be realised for at least ten years.

But funding is only one side of the coin. On the other side are the activities that depend on and are the justification for asking for funding.

We continue to develop: in terms of organisation, many of our activities are approaching a mature state, so in the coming year we will be able to refine and improve rather than rebuild. For example, we plan to expand our Visiting Researcher programme so that we can have a critical mass of animal rights law scholars in Cambridge in Lent Term (Spring). We have already expanded our annual Essay Competition, so that it is now open both to university and secondary school students, and we want to have a larger pool of participants.

It is difficult to say whether some events stand out more than others; they all have something to contribute. If I had to pick one event from this last year, it would be the final two days in the Law Lecturers' Workshop we held in Antwerp, Belgium, when a dozen law lecturers presented their rich, detailed, and fascinating plans for how they will teach animal rights law in their own universities.

I would also like to add our thanks to two more groups: first, our Trustees, who continue to provide both support and guidance. Secondly, our newly established Advisory Board which met for the first time just before the Conference this year. The members have already given us their valuable reflections on questions we put to them, and we have no doubt they will be a significant resource for us going forward.

I am certain that the Centre will continue to contribute to the development and mainstreaming of animal rights law. Among the many positive comments from participants on our recent Conference, one stood out: that the Conference was a game-changer, the start of the next phase in the development of animal rights law. I do not know whether that will prove to be the case, but I do know that - in the words of our brochure - the Centre is "helping to make change possible".



**Dr Sean Butler**  
Cambridge, UK  
August 2023

Thank you to our sponsors:





# Executive Director's Report



**Dr Raffael Fasel**  
Cambridge, UK  
August 2023

In this Annual Report for the Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law, we present an overview of the main activities and events organized by the Centre between September 2022 and August 2023.

Michaelmas and Lent Terms (Autumn and Spring) at Cambridge are important terms and most of our activities take place during these months. We teach our Animal Rights Law course in the Law Faculty in these two terms; many of our Talking Animals, Law & Philosophy events take place then; and we have our annual intake of Visiting Researchers in Lent Term.

This year, we also held the inaugural annual Animal Rights Law Lecture, delivered by renowned primatologist Professor Frans de Waal. Apart from that, we organized two Law Lecturers' Workshops (in Antwerp, Belgium, 2022 and in Vermont, US, 2023).

These Workshops are meant to support law lecturers with introducing their own courses in animal rights law at their universities.

Our plans for the coming year are primarily to continue with our successful existing programmes, but we also have some plans for expansion. I would like to focus on just two of them.

In 2023-24, we are introducing a second programme for visitors: a Visiting Fellows programme. The Visiting Fellows programme will complement our existing Visiting Researcher programme, which allows two to three PhD candidates to come to Cambridge during Lent Term to progress their research.

The Visiting Fellows programme is for distinguished animal rights law scholars to spend both Lent and Easter Terms in Cambridge. In this way we hope to attract more scholars to the Centre, creating a lively animal rights law community where people can share their ideas and get new inspiration for their work.

We will also expand our Animal Rights Law Teaching Network. The aim this year is to collect data on the number of animal rights law courses that are currently being taught, and to organize more events in which the members of the network can participate.

We are very happy to answer questions on any of the things we are doing. We can have a call, or we can meet you in London or Cambridge.



# Main Activities



## European Animal Rights Law Conference 2022

Our annual European Animal Rights Law Conference was held in Cambridge in September 2022, at St Edmund's College. The event brought together leading academics from the UK, Germany, Italy, Finland, Belgium, France, and the US. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr Richard Ryder (RSPCA) on 'Painism, Speciesism, and the Law' and Professor Justin Marceau (University of Denver, Sturm College of Law) on 'Glass Walls and Animal Protection Messaging'.

The presentations by Conference participants were divided into four themed panels, among which 'The Constitutional Turn in Animal Rights' and 'Farmed Animals and Food Justice'. After each panel, there was time for a discussion between the panelists and questions from the audience.

The Conference was very successful, receiving positive feedback from both speakers and delegates. As always, these events are good opportunities for academics, students, and the interested public to meet, hear cutting-edge talks, and discuss and share ideas. The whole Conference was professionally recorded to allow wider access and also add to the increasing number of online talks freely available on our website.

[Watch the recordings](#) →





## Half-paper course at Cambridge University

Animal Rights Law is a half-paper course in the Part II (final year) undergraduate Law degree at the University of Cambridge. It equips students with the knowledge needed to navigate the complex legal landscape surrounding animal rights, covering topics such as legal theory, comparative animal rights law, and the design of future animal rights laws. Graduates with expertise in Animal Rights Law are well-positioned to make substantial contributions to legislative reforms, litigation, and advocacy efforts aimed at improving the legal status of animals across the globe.

We continue to have a dedicated group of very bright law students taking the course and attending our weekly lectures.

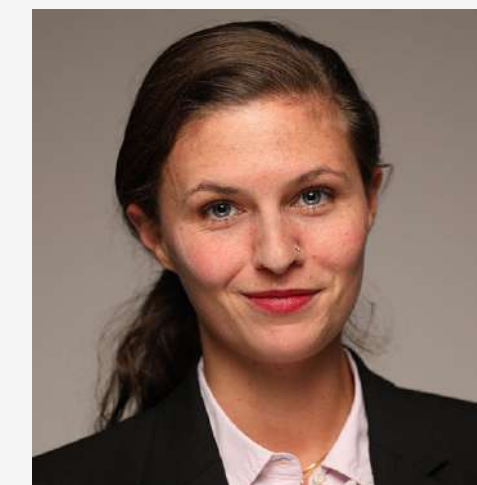


### “The Synergism of Animal Law and Science”

*25 April 2023*

**Lori Marino**

Executive Director, The Kimmela Center for Scholarship-based Animal Advocacy



### Book launch “One Rights: Human and Animal Rights in the Anthropocene” (Springer 2023)

*8 March 2023*

**Saskia Stucki**

Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law

Comments by **Sergio Dellavalle** (Turin), **Michaël Lessard** (Toronto/CCARL), and **Paulina Siemieniec** (Queen's University/CCARL)

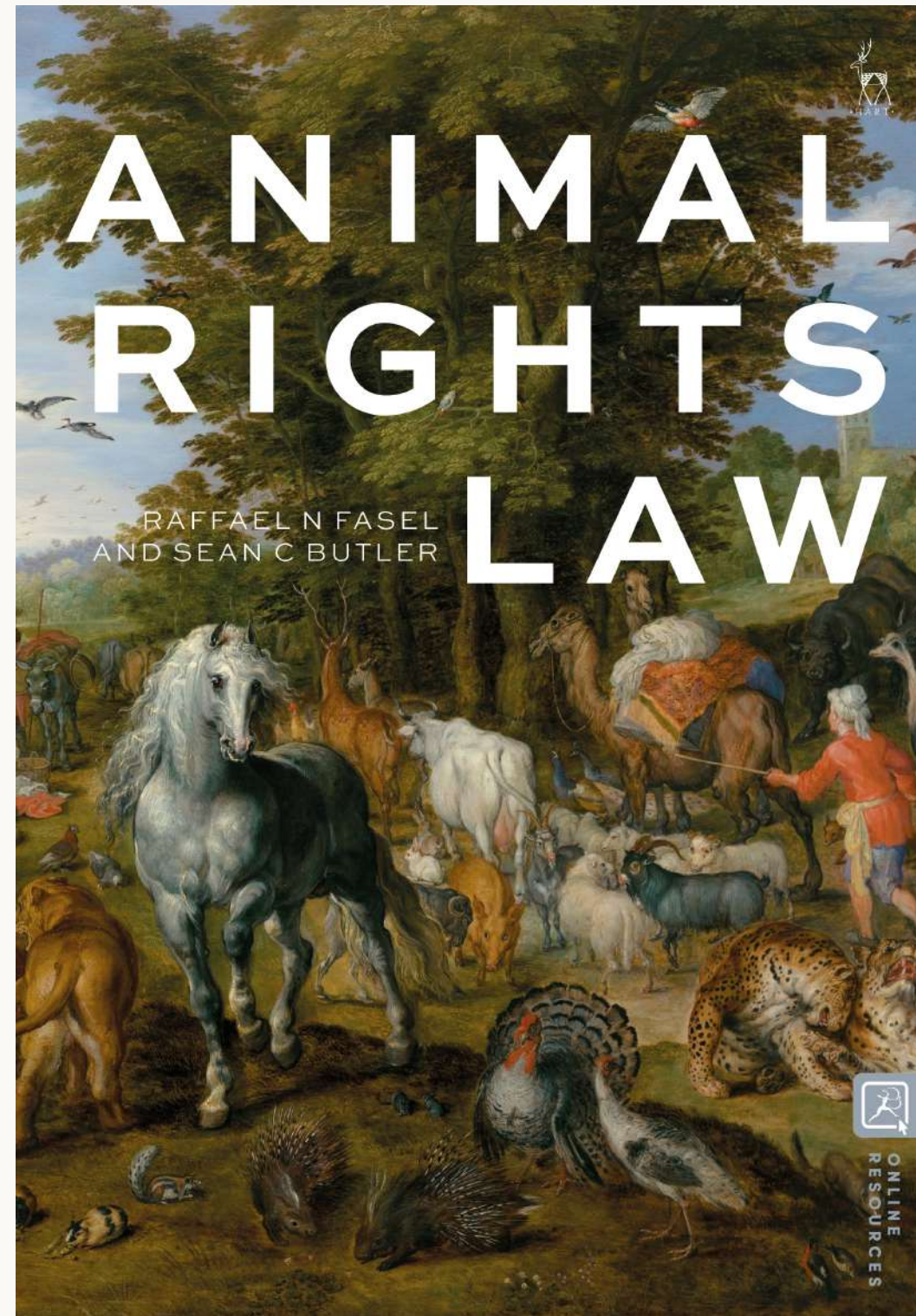
## Talking Animals series

The Talking Animals, Law and Philosophy talk series has had a successful Lent and Easter Term. The programme gives a platform to leading thinkers in the field.

We hosted talks by Thomas White (Loyola Marymount University), Matthew Liebman (University of San Francisco School of Law), Michaël Lessard (Sherbrooke University), Paulina Siemieniec (Queen's University), Lori Marino (The Kimmela Center), and Jane Kotzmann (Deakin Law School). The talks are recorded and can be viewed on our website.

This Spring, we also had two Book Launches. One was a launch of our own book, Animal Rights Law with comments by Cebuan Bliss (Radboud University) and Joshua Jowitt (University of Newcastle). The other was a launch of the new book of Saskia Stucki. Comments were given by Sergio Dellavalle (Turin), Michaël Lessard (Sherbrooke University), and Paulina Siemieniec (Queen's University).





Our textbook 'Animal Rights Law' was released in Spring 2023.

### Major New Textbook Launch

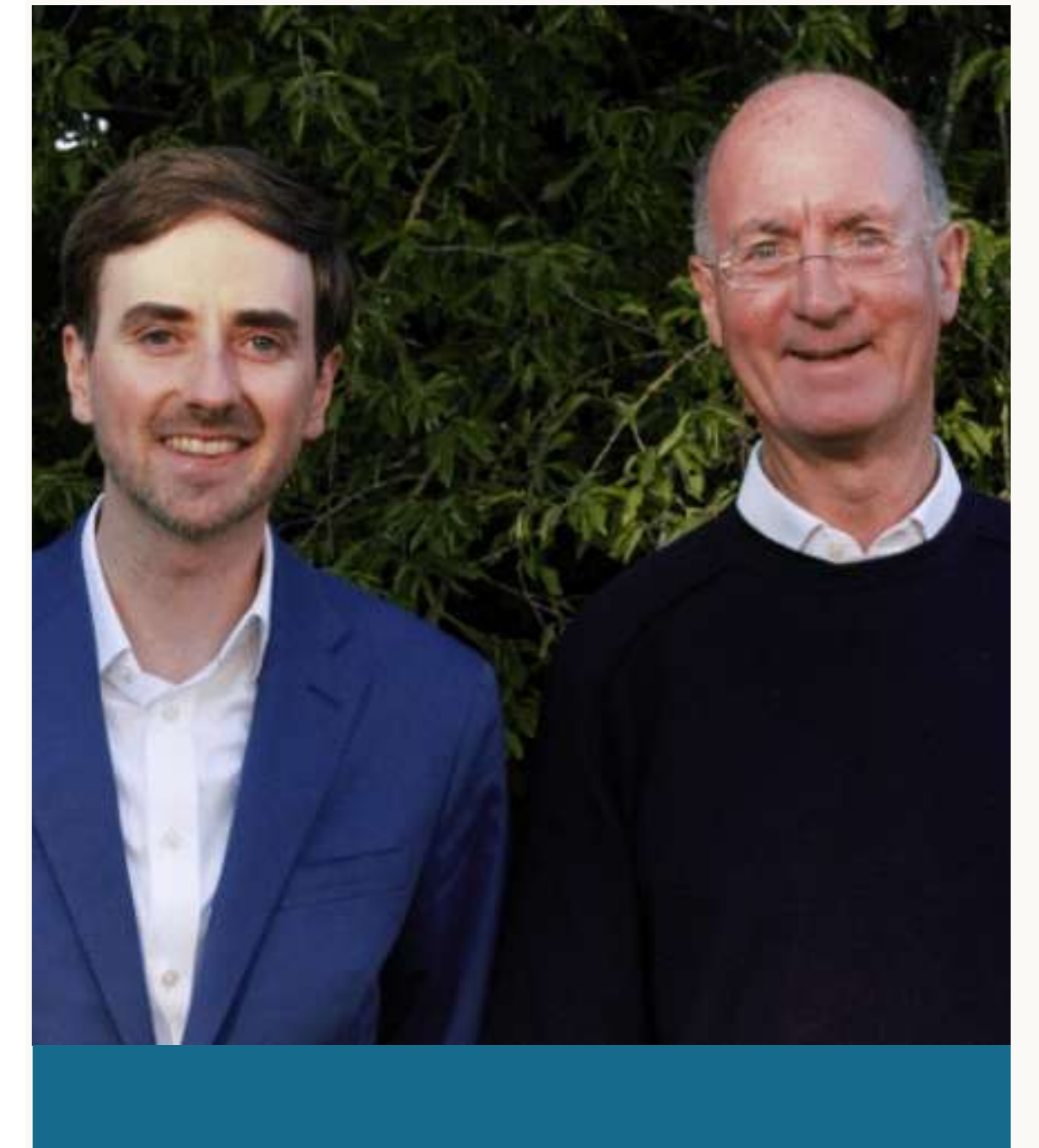
We are very pleased to announce that our textbook was released in Spring this year with Hart Publishing. It is the first comprehensive textbook in animal rights law. The book consists of eight chapters and a rich companion website so readers can get as much as possible from this resource, whether they are students, lecturers, or laypeople.

Authored by Raffael Fasel and Sean Butler, this easy-to-use book helps readers understand the legal evolution toward animal rights by explaining the ethics, legal theory, and social issues behind animal rights and connected topics such as property, subjecthood, dignity, and human rights. The book is now available for purchase [here](#) and [here](#).

The book's companion website provides access to briefs on the latest developments in this fast-changing area, and gives readers the tools to investigate their own legal systems with a list of key references to the latest cases, legislation, and jurisdiction-specific bibliographic references. We had a UK book launch in March at our Centre, and a US launch in April at New York University. The book has been received very positively.

Sean and Raffael have promoted the book at several occasions, such as the '[Law, Ethics, & Animals Program](#)' at Yale Law School and the [Animal Law & Policy programme](#) at NYU,

[See the book's website](#) →







### Law Lecturers' Workshop Antwerp

We expanded our Law Lecturers' Workshop last year, the first of which was held at the University of Antwerp in Belgium in Summer 2022. We had more applications for the Workshop than we had seats, and selected 13 law lecturers and PhDs to attend. Most of them were from universities in the region, as this Workshop was specifically tailored to Belgium and the Netherlands.

After two days of intensive lectures, the participants had one day to prepare their own syllabus and design an animal rights law course that fits their own interests and expertise. They were given all the tools necessary to come up with the required materials, and on Thursday and Friday presented their course outline to the group, with each person having 45 minutes to explain their ideas and engage with the group's feedback and questions.



### Law Lecturers' Workshop Vermont

In May 2023, we held another Law Lecturers' Workshop in Vermont, in collaboration with Vermont Law School. This time, we had an even larger pool of excellent candidates to choose from, and we selected 12 participants (law professors and lecturers) from the US and Canada.

The structure of the Workshop was the same as the Antwerp one: five days, of which one day preparation at home, and two days presentations by the participants themselves. We also had a guest lecture by Professor Delcianna Winders about the practicalities and politics of introducing animal rights law courses in the US. The Workshop was a great success, and all participants left with a full outline for a course to teach at their universities.





The inaugural Annual Lecture was delivered by primatologist Frans de Waal.

## Annual Lecture

We decided to establish the annual Animal Rights Law Lecture as part of our objective to make animal rights law a mainstream legal discipline. On 31 March, we had the inaugural Annual Lecture by renowned Dutch primatologist Professor Frans de Waal.

After a short introduction by Sean Butler about the links between animal sentience and animal rights law, Frans gave an interactive and inspiring lecture full of videos that beautifully illustrated his research on emotions in animals. We saw the chimpanzee 'Mama' hug her former care-taker, elephants recognizing themselves in a mirror, and enjoyed the reconciliation between male bonobos after a fight. The lecture hall was filled with over a 100 mesmerized pairs of eyes that followed the primatologist as he walked through the lecture hall, speaking about the wonderful world of animals.

Attendance was free, and all the tickets were taken up in the 247-capacity Lecture Theatre at the Cambridge Law Faculty. Professor De Waal spoke about animal emotions and their implications for animal rights. It was a very entertaining and inspiring lecture, and the audience listened with full attention. The lecture was recorded and published on our website.

After the lecture, the audience had the chance to ask questions, and there was an opportunity for attendees to have their books signed.

We plan for the inaugural Animal Rights Law Lecture to be the first in an annual series that will bring animal rights law to the attention of a broader public.

[Watch the Annual Lecture →](#)







We had two visitors from  
Canada staying at the Centre  
during Lent Term.

### Visiting Researchers Lent Term

In Lent Term 2023, we welcomed two Visiting Researchers to the Centre. We were very pleased to have Michaël Lessard, a final year SJD candidate at the University of Toronto, Canada, and Paulina Simieniec, a fourth-year PhD in Philosophy student supervised by Professor Will Kymlicka at Queens University, Canada.

Each of them came to Cambridge to work on a paper on animal rights-related issues. Michaël focused on animal agency in law, and Paulina focused on sexual reproductive rights.

As for all our Visiting Researchers, we met weekly for an informal College lunch, and also provided formal supervisions to support their work while with us. Both of them have largely finished their draft papers that will be sent out for publication in leading journals.

### Essay Competition

The annual Animal Rights Law Essay Competition was again very successful, with several dozen submissions from around the world.

This year, we again had a separate entry category for secondary (high) school students, alongside the existing category for university students.

The winning essays from the university entrants have been added to our website. We have also recorded an interview with both the winner and the runner-up of this year's competition, which can be watched on our website.

[Watch the interviews](#) →

### Animal Rights Law Teaching Network

This year, we also launched the Animal Rights Law Teaching Network to provide continuing support for law lecturers who are teaching or planning to teach animal rights law.

The Network aims to facilitate the growth of animal rights law as an educational subject at law faculties in Europe and around the world. It contributes to the Centre's objective of establishing courses in animal rights law at 100 universities within 5 years.

The network is managed by our Junior Research Associate,  
Dr Eva Bernet Kempers.



Thank you!