

postHUMANities

Humanities Center 2014-2015

"Sentiment and Savagery: Collapsing the Boundary Between Animals and Children in U.S. History"



Thursday, January 29, 2015 — 4:10pm

Scheler Humanities Forum, Linderman Library, Room 200

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In 1873, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), rescued a little girl from neglect and cruelty. "The child is an animal," declared the President of the ASPCA. "If there is no justice for it as a human being, it shall at least have the rights of the cur in the street." While many scholars pronounce ours a "post-humanist" age, for many nineteenth-century Americans, animals and children were not so far apart. This talk will ponder the cultural links that nineteenth-century Americans made between children and animals in order to explore the multiple ways in which we use children as liminal figures, beings who straddle the human-animal boundary.

Co-sponsored with the American Studies Program

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