



# Animal Rites: American Culture, the Discourse of Species, and Posthumanist Theory

By Cary Wolfe

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In *Animal Rites*, Cary Wolfe examines contemporary notions of humanism and ethics by reconstructing a little known but crucial underground tradition of theorizing the animal from Wittgenstein, Cavell, and Lyotard to Lévinas, Derrida, Žižek, Maturana, and Varela. Through detailed readings of how discourses of race, sexuality, colonialism, and animality interact in twentieth-century American culture, Wolfe explores what it means, in theory and critical practice, to take seriously "the question of the animal."

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Animal Rites offers exciting new readings of a rich variety of texts. This is an original and provocative work that will open up important new arenas of discussion in literary and cultural studies, as well as the discourse of animal rights." - N. Katherine Hayles, author of *How We Became Posthuman*

#### From the Inside Flap

In *Animal Rites*, Cary Wolfe examines contemporary notions of humanism and ethics by reconstructing a little known but crucial underground tradition of theorizing the animal from Wittgenstein, Cavell, and Lyotard to Lévinas, Derrida, Žižek, Maturana, and Varela. Through detailed readings of how discourses of race, sexuality, colonialism, and animality interact in twentieth-century American culture, Wolfe explores what it means, in theory and critical practice, to take seriously "the question of the animal."

#### About the Author

**Cary Wolfe** is a professor of English at the University at Albany, SUNY. He is the author, most recently, of *Critical Environments: Postmodern Theory and the Pragmatics of the "Outside"* and the editor of *Zoontologies: The Question of the Animal*.

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