

## Special Issue

# Play, Cooperation ☒ Competition and Foraging in Animal Ontogenies and Phylogenies - Comparative Multipolar Perspectives

### Message from the Guest Editor

This special issue is about the role of developing behavior, including play and playfulness, throughout deep time. Behavior can seed radically new ecological initiatives in a pluralistic evolutionary framework. Equally, behavior can preserve old initiatives that can be adapted for new purposes long after the associated supporting morphologies are gone. The key guiding significance of habitat in ecology is underscored by its interaction with ontogeny -- how animals develop skills and behavioral flexibility to interact with their physical environment and to hack these interactions in a way that may (though not necessarily consciously or planfully) open new avenues of niche construction, creation and innovation. In reimagining food and habitat as activities rather than contested commodities and in stressing the active role that organisms play in ecology and evolution, the papers in this special issue embrace a vaster pluralism than has been.

In this Special Issue, original research articles and reviews are welcome.

We look forward to receiving your contributions.

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### Guest Editor

Dr. Robert M. Fagen  
Ronin Institute, Montclair, NJ 07043, USA

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 January 2024)



## Animals

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**Impact Factor 2.7**  
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## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Animals* is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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### Editor-in-Chief

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