



FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2021-2022

Assessing community views on pest species in Australia

Supervisor: Professor Rachel Ankeny

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School of Humanities

Pest species are a growing concern in Australia, particularly given the recent mouse plagues that are causing significant damage to agriculture and property.

This project seeks to perform a rigorous systematic review of existing literature on community views to pest species in Australia in order to identify key themes and gaps in our understandings, with particular reference to rodent pests. We will seek to establish patterns in people's views including demographic factors (e.g., rural versus urban), attitudes towards different types of species (e.g., natives versus introduced or invasive), and previous experiences, comparing Australia to other locales. This research will help to inform a broader funded research project to be conducted by the Adelaide Food Values Research Group (FVRG) together with biologists that will explore approaches for engaging the community about biotechnological solutions to pest control.

This project is especially appropriate for an undergraduate student with excellent research and organisational skills, and familiarity working with scholarly databases; it will be of particular interest to students who are concerned about human-animal relations, Australian attitudes toward native and introduced animals, and uses of emerging technologies.

The student will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with a high-quality research team, including humanities/social science and scientific academics, to produce an important piece of research that will have impact on social/public policy and future scientific research directions.

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- Publication in a high quality journal
- Work on existing competitive grant
- Systematic research
- Use of major online scholarly databases
- Organise and analyse research findings
- Preparation of a scholarly manuscript
- Perform interdisciplinary research which will contribute to public policy