

2015 University of Michigan Press Book Award

Andrei Markovits

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor

Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies

Professor of Germanic Languages and Literature

Professor of Political Science

Professor of Sociology

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From Property to Family: American Dog Rescue and the Discourse of Compassion (2014) by political scientist, sociologist, and award-winning teacher Andrei Markovits and co-author Katherine Crosby is the culmination of his longtime scholarly interest in the "discourse of compassion," which alters the way we treat people and ideas previously scorned by the social mainstream. The authors posit that compassion has been a driving force in the reshaping of human–animal relations and public discourse, resulting in better conditions for animals in the United States.

Breed specific canine rescue organizations, led primarily by women volunteers, are among the institutions that arose from this attitudinal and behavioral shift, identified by the authors as a "culture turn," which led to an "animal turn" with animals becoming family members rather than property. *From Property to Family*, the first academic research on this development, explores the history of breed specific canine rescue and rescue of stigmatized breeds, topography of dog registrations by breed, the rise of anti-cruelty statutes between 1970 and 2013, regional differences in rescue efforts, and the role of social media, among other topics.

Professor Markovits holds five degrees from Columbia University, a B.A., M.B.A., M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D., and received an honorary doctorate from Germany's University of Lueneburg. Before joining the University of Michigan faculty in 1999, he was a research associate at Harvard University's Center for European Studies and a faculty member at Wesleyan University, Boston University, and the University of California, Santa Cruz, where

he chaired the Politics Department. He has also held visiting professorships at universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Israel. A recipient of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, Professor Markovits is the author and editor of many books, articles, conference papers, and book reviews in English and 16 other languages on a variety of topics, including German and Austrian politics, anti-Semitism, anti-Americanism, social democracy, social movements, and the European right and left. He also has worked extensively on comparative sports culture in Europe and North America and teaches U-M's popular Sports, Politics, and Society course.

A dedicated teacher and influential mentor, Professor Markovits has been recognized with U-M's Golden Apple Award, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship, the Department of Political Science Tronstein Award for exceptional undergraduate teaching, and Best Professor honors by *The Michigan Daily*.

The University of Michigan is delighted to recognize Andrei Markovits and *From Property to Family: American Dog Rescue and the Discourse of Compassion*, which encourages readers to think deeply about complex issues, including the need for humans to grant succor and dignity to needy creatures, with the University of Michigan Press Book Award.