



HUMAN-ANIMAL-STUDIES IN CLASSICS: EMOTIONS

September 12-13 2025,
University of Zurich

Location

KOL

Kollegiengebäude
Hauptgebäude
Rämistrasse 71
8006 Zürich



RAA

Rämistrasse 59
8001 Zürich

Zoom

All lectures can also be attended via Zoom. Please contact the organizers for the access details.

Organizers

- **PD Dr. Islème Sassi**
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Universität Zürich
- **Dr. Bettina Reese**
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Universität Potsdam

Conference

Non-human animals are omnipresent in Greek and Latin literature: dogs accompany the hunt, horses bring warriors into battle, donkeys grind grain. They are pets or farm animals, prey or threat. But what feelings do animals trigger in humans? What abilities are attributed to the animals themselves? Are they perceived as things or as sentient subjects?

Our “Human-Animal-Studies in Classics” conference examines the representations of the emotional dimension of human-animal relations in literary and visual representations and thus contributes to an expansion of the research field of human-animal relations or human-animal-studies to include the ancient perspective.



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University of Zurich, the UZH alumni
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Alttertumswissenschaften Zürich.

Programme

Day 1 – September 12

09:30	Opening C. Cardelle / I. Sassi / B. Reese KOL-G-222	
	Panel I Archaeology KOL-G-222	Panel 2 Christian Literature KOL-N-1
10:00 (+ 10 min break)	Luisa Balandat (Bonn) / Matthias Grawehr (Basel): <i>Touching dogs.</i>	Johanna Jürgens (München): <i>Tierhaltung und Sozialfürsorge bei Clemens von Alexandria und Gregor von Nazianz.</i>
10:50 (+ 10 min break)	Claudia Knörle (München): <i>Pferde zeigen (E)motion. Die Bedeutung von Mensch-Tier-Darstellungen auf der Trajans- und Marcussäule in Rom.</i>	Stefan Metz (Tübingen): <i>Wer hat Angst vorm bösen Wolf? Eine angstbesetzte Mensch- Tier-Beziehung und ihre pastorale Verwendung in der Spätantike bei Augustinus und Quodvultdeus.</i>
11:40	Joy Stähli (Zürich): <i>Die Vogelkoren des archaischen Griechenlands. Affektive Dimensionen und Mensch- Tier-Beziehungen in der antiken Votivikonographie.</i>	Ingo Schaaf (Fribourg/ Rom): <i>Omne animal potest amare quod sibi intellegit bonum, et odire quod intellegit malum. Mensch- Tier-Beziehungen im Opus imperfectum in Matthaeum.</i>
12:30	Lunch	
	Panel 3 'Wild' Animals I KOL-G-222	Panel 4 Philosophy I KOL-N-1
14:00	Sian Lewis (St. Andrews): <i>A constant guest: Animal presence and meaning in polis and chora.</i>	Tomás N. Castro (Lissabon): <i>Animals and humans in relation to the gods. Plutarch on the possibilities of reciprocity.</i>

14:40 (+ 30 min break)	Lea Schlüsener (Marburg): <i>Animals Mirroring Human Emotions. The Case of the Tigress in Statius' Thebaid.</i>	Anthony Ellis (Bern): <i>Jealous beasts. The Rivalrous Emotions in Ancient Animal-Human Relations.</i>
15:50		Angela Pabst (Halle): <i>Wie die Tiere ihre Seele verloren.</i>
16:30	Melissande Tomcik (Montreal): <i>Lion Heart: Leonine Emotions in Latin Literature.</i>	Thorsten Fögen (Durham/Changchun): <i>Tiere und Emotionen in den Noctes Atticae des Aulus Gellius.</i>
17:15	City Tour	
19:00	Keynote Lecture KOL-G-222 Sofia Forss (Zürich): <i>Curious Creatures: What we can learn from studying Curiosity in Animals.</i>	
20:00	Dinner	

Day 2 – September 13

	Panel 5 Animals and the familia I RAA-E-29	Panel 6 'Wild' Animals II RAA-E-30
09:30	Sanja Särman (Uppsala): <i>Pity, horses, and unwilling brides in the Iliad.</i>	Ryan Denson (Katowice): <i>The Other Marine Dogs. Seals and Mixed Emotional Reactions to Hybrid Marine Animals.</i>
10:10 (+ 30 min break)	Jordan Ardoin (Colorado): <i>Oedipus at Kolonos Hippios: The Meaning of Horses in Sophocles' Oedipus at Kolonus.</i>	Miika Remahl (Helsinki): <i>Cur illi atrocissimus leo uni parsisset. Serenity and affection of the human- lion tales in the Roman literary landscape.</i>

11:20	Nicole G. Brown (Mount Holyoke College): <i>Feeling Ruminative: Sheep and Goat Emotions in Roman Art.</i>	
12:00	Marina Tzortzakaki (Kreta): <i>Pushing the boundaries between animal and human: Apuleius' The Golden Ass.</i>	
12:40	Lunch	
	Panel 7 Animals and the familia II RAA-E-29	Panel 8 Philosophy II RAA-E-30
14:00 (+ 10 min break)	Arlette Neumann- Hartmann (Fribourg): <i>Noch Wildtier oder schon Haustier? Die Beziehung von Katzen und Menschen im antiken Griechenland.</i>	Diego De Brasi (Trier): <i>Nähe und Distanz. Zur Konstruktion von Empathie gegenüber Tieren in Plutarchs De sollertia animalium.</i>
14:50 (+ 10 min break)	Giovanni Tagliatalata (Siena): <i>Jenseits der Tierhaftigkeit. Der liebende Lehrer Cheiron in der Achilleis von Statius.</i>	Lothar Willms (Berlin): <i>Tiere und Emotionen in der kynischen und stoischen Philosophie.</i>
15:40	Tashi Treadway (Baltimore): <i>Animal emotions in ancient veterinary medicine.</i>	Pamela Zinn (Lubbock, Texas): <i>Lucretius On Animal Affection.</i>
16:30	Closing Remarks	

For last-minute changes, please visit the project website at <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/hi-altertum/projekte/tagungen/human-animal-studies-in-classics-emotions> or scan the QR code on the right.

