

Preliminary Programme: Animals in Mesopotamia

Organizers: Raija Mattila, Sebastian Fink

Helsinki

Monday 14 December:

- 09:00–09:15 Welcome address by the organizers
09:15–10:00 Keynote I: Gabriela Kompatscher (Classics, University of Innsbruck):
Human-Animal Studies – Bridging the Hiatus between Academia and Society.
10:00–10:45 Keynote II: Gebhard Selz (Assyriology, University of Vienna): The Pivotal Role of
Animals in Early Mesopotamian Theoretical Reflection.
10:45–11:15 Coffee break

Session 1: Humans, Animals, Gods and Things: a Complex Relationship

- 11:15–12:00 Simonetta Ponchia (Assyriology, University of Verona): Gilgamesh and
Enkidu: The Two-thirds-god and the Two-thirds-animal?
12:00–12:45 Tua Korhonen (Classics, University of Helsinki): Approaches to Animal Fables:
Aesop, Anthropomorphism and Beyond.
12:45–14:30 Lunch break

Session 1: Humans, Animals, Gods and Things: a Complex Relationship (continued)

- 14:30–15:15 Catherine Mittermayer (Assyriology, University of Bern): Animals in Sumerian
Literary Debates.
15:15–16:00 Peeter Espak (Assyriology, University of Tartu): Creating Animals and Creating
Humans in Mesopotamian Accounts of Creation.
16:00–16:30 Coffee break

Session 2: Human-Animal Relationship in the Old Testament

- 16:30–17:15 Ingo Kottsieper (Old Testament Studies, Academy of Science Göttingen):
Animals – Partners or Subjects of Humans? Thoughts about the Relationship of
Animals and Humans in the Traditions of Israel.
17:15–18:00 Sanna Saari (Old Testament Studies, University of Helsinki): Animals are Enemies?
Echoes of the Royal Lion Hunt in Judges 14.

Tuesday 15 December:

Session 2: Human-Animal Relations in Economics

- 08:15–09:00 Marcos Such-Gutierrez (Assyriology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid): Man
and Animals in the Administrative Texts at the End of the 3rd Millennium BC.
09:00–09:45 Kai Ruffing (Ancient History, University of Kassel): Animal Husbandry in an
Irrigation Economy: The Case of Roman Egypt.
09:45–10:30 Michaela Weszeli (Assyriology, University of Vienna): For the Gods or for Money?
Animal Husbandry at the Temples in First Millennium Babylonia.
10:30–11:00 Coffee break

Session 3: Animals as a Source of Human and Divine Knowledge

- 11:00–11:45 Joonas Hirvonen (Assyriology, University of Leipzig): Animal Behaviour as a Source
of Knowledge in Mesopotamia.
11:45–12:30 Janne Mattila (Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Helsinki): Animals as a
Source for Human and Divine Knowledge in Early Islam.
12:30–14:30 Lunch break

Session 4: Transgressing Category Boundaries: Composite Beings

- 14:30–15:15 Ann C. Gunter (Assyriology, Northwestern University): Animal Friezes in Orientalizing Greek Art: Issues in Transmission and Meaning.
- 15:15–16:00 Sebastian Fink (Assyriology, University of Innsbruck): Gods as Animals and Things?
- 16:00–16:30 Coffee break

Closing Lecture:

- 16:30–17:15 Raija Mattila (Assyriology, University of Helsinki/Finnish Institute in the Middle East): Idealizing Animals.
- 17:15–18:00 Closing of the conference (Raija Mattila, Sebastian Fink)
The IHANE Project: a review of five years of work (Robert Rollinger)



Finnish
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the Middle East