



rijksuniversiteit
 groningen



SYMPOSIUM: ANIMALS AND POWER IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

28 OCTOBER 2026 | GRONINGEN



Bakker-Nortzaal, Rölling Building

More information and
registration:



PROGRAM

9.30h-10.15h
Registration

10.15h-10.35h
Introduction to Animals as symbols of power by Audrey Crabbé

10.35h-12.00h

Session 1:
Animals as symbols of power
in political-economic/Kingship
contexts in Southwest Asia

(chair: Ayşe Ataş-Hooglugt)

10.35h-11.05h
Canan Çakırlar - Breeding Power, Nourishing Care: Zooarchaeology of
Camels, Economic Growth, and Pastoralist Care

11.05h-11.20h
Silvia Nicolás Alonso - Tracing the Flock, Binding The Land: Ovine
Transhumance And State Power In Third-To-Second Millennium
Mesopotamia

11.20h-11.35h
Brice Kanamugire Hirwa - Forging A New Visual Lexicon:
Animal Emblems In The Seleucid Empire

11.35h-11.50h
Elif Bilge - From the City to the House: Animal Imagery and the
Continuity of Power in Roman Asia Minor

11.50h-12.00h
Discussion

12.00h-13.00h
Lunch break

13.00h-14.00h

Session 2:
Wild animals and power in
Southwest Asia

(chair: Sven Gins)

13.00h-13.20h
Gökhan Kağnıcı - The Shepherd's Knife: Pastoral Kingship, Animal Culling,
and Managing the Wild in Sargonid Royal discourse (online)

13.20h-13.35h
Eva De Smet - Powerful predators: A zooarchaeological and stable isotope
analysis of the large carnivores of Troy

13.35h-13.50h
Mara-Lena Merkl - Keeping the Empire on a Leash: Exotic Animals and
Imperial Power in Ancient Mesopotamia

13.50h-14.00h
Discussion

14.00h-15.10h

Session 3:
Animals as symbols of power
in cultic contexts in
Southwest Asia

(chair: Laurien Folkerts)

14.00h-14.30h
László Bartosiewicz - The rise of metallurgy and animal slaughter in
the Near East

14.30h-14.45h
Donna de Groene - A zooarchaeological approach on feasting in Cyprus
during the Chalcolithic and the Prehistoric Bronze Age

14.45h-15.00h
Julien Roesselet - Piecing The Feast Together: One Bone And One Pot
At A Time

15.00h-15.10h
Discussion

15.10h-15.40h
Coffee and tea break

15.40h-17.00h

Session 4: Animals as symbols
of power in Egypt

(chair: Willemien de Kock)

15.40h-16.10h
Richard Thomas - Beyond Votives: Uncovering Evidence for Captive Care
in Falcons in Early Roman Egypt

16.10h-16.25h
Karim Mohsen El Sidy - The Lioness Bastet during the Libyan Period:
Perspectives on Her Fierce Aspect (online)

16.25h-16.40h
Kristopher Molčan - Turtle as a symbol of royal triumph: the Nile softshell
turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*) and its role in Ptolemaic-Roman temples

16.40h-16.50h
Discussion

17.00h-17.30h
Final discussion and closing words

17.30h-19.00h
Bone Attic Borrel