

The research network ZOOMATHIA is organizing in Montpellier with the laboratory CRISES and in association with ANIMED network from **October 19 to 21, 2023** an International Conference dedicated to animal names.

### By the beast !!

The linguistic and cultural use of animal names in antiquity and the Middle Ages.



This conference focuses on several linguistic and pragmatic uses of zoonyms and the real animals that motivate them: **those that have multiple names** (polyonymy) and those that do not; **those that share their names with other animals**; **those that give their names to** (or receive them from) **humans, places, diseases**, or other objects in the world; **those that change their names** (*metonomasia*) and natures over time or by switching to another language; those that receive a naturalistic existence based solely on a name ("paper animals")...

This conference aims to explore not only the tradition proper to Antiquity, but also its reception in the Middle Ages, how new ways of naming animals appear. The languages concerned are all those of the cultures of classical antiquity (Greek, Latin, Egyptian languages, West Semitic languages). For the Middle Ages, zoonyms in Persian, Arabic, Slavic languages and vernacular languages (French, Italian...) will also be addressed... Between all these languages, the questions of translation specific to zoological literature are particularly interesting to consider.

Our aim is indeed to "grasp the animal by its names", through lexical, etymological and onomatopoeic questions, showing phenomena of derivation or metaphor. We will also try to see what zoonymy reveals about the conceptions of the world, notably through the links between zoonyms and toponyms (epichoric zoonyms, zoophoric toponyms). In addition to these zoonymic questions and issues, there is place to address issues related to zoo-onomastics and focus on "proper names" given to individual animals, such as horses, dogs, and oxen, both in Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

The glossary of animal names constitutes the pivot of zoological knowledge and ensures the continuity of zoological data, even if this tradition is uneven and full of misunderstandings (or facetiousness), like all transmissions. The identification of

animals through (or sometimes in spite of) their names, and the inter-linguistic correspondence that can be established, through translations, bilingual lexicons or borrowings, constitute a major dimension of the topic of this conference, but the zoological, referential or translation aspects are not the only issues of this meeting.

The zoonymic terminology also plays a crucial and dynamic role at the heart of the lexical and intellectual construction of ancient societies. Zoonyms operate links between different spheres of the socio-cultural structure, which go far beyond the totemic prism, and build micro-systems or elements of discourse whose effectiveness is based on a constant work of motivation and re-motivation.

The suggested approaches are therefore multiple and encourage the communication of linguistic, historical, translational, and anthropological approaches. Either case studies or more methodological approaches to animal onomastics and the human manipulations to which it gives rise may be proposed.

**Proposals for papers** (500 words maximum) by experienced researchers or young scholars should be sent before April 15, 2023 to the following addresses: [zoomathia@cepam.cnrs.fr](mailto:zoomathia@cepam.cnrs.fr), [arnaud.zucker@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:arnaud.zucker@univ-cotedazur.fr) and [chrchandezon@yahoo.com](mailto:chrchandezon@yahoo.com). They can be formulated in the traditional languages of the Zoomathia network: French, English, German, Italian or Spanish. The scientific committee will communicate its answers on June 01, 2022.

**Organizing Committee:** Christophe CHANDEZON (Université Paul-Valéry/Montpellier III), Arnaud ZUCKER (Université Côte d'Azur, Nice)

**Scientific Committee:** Sébastien Barbara, Christophe Chandezon, Jérémy Clément, Diego De Brasi, Isabelle Draelants, Cristiana Franco, Oliver Hellmann, Stavros Lazaris, Sian Lewis, Philippe Monbrun, Jean Trinquier, Marco Vespa, Arnaud Zucker.

Code de champ modifié