



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO
Dipartimento di
Lettere e Filosofia



Studi
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Animal Heroes in Medieval Literature

University of Trento, 25 – 28 September 2024

Call for Papers

The 25th biennial Conference of the International Reynard Society lands in Italy, surrounded by the turreted landscape of Trentino – Alto Adige and the broadleaved mountains of the Dolomites. Hosted by the Department of Humanities, it will focus on the role domestic and wildlife animals play in medieval literature.

Almost all medieval literary genres give significant room to the world of animals, both real and imagined: these zoological creatures are stereotyped and polarized, either positive or negative, and personify human qualities, acting on behalf of the Good or for the Devil.

We welcome contributions exploring the multifaceted nature of animal characters and the way they interact with the narrative system to raise consciousness in the medieval audience. Without being restricted to these areas of interest, contributions may refer to

- animals as narrators, like in the fables, where they talk with human voices to represent the ambivalent relationship between animality and humanity;
- animals as icons of symbolic thought, like in the bestiaries, where textual imagery and visual textuality merge together to shape faith-based mentalities;
- animals as indicators of social contexts and societal values, like in the fabliaux, where they are inextricably bound up with human activities, high- and low-status behaviours.

It goes without saying that presentations on any other of the traditional topics of the Reynardian Society are welcome.

The Society at the University of Trento invites proposals of sessions and papers in all major European languages.

Please send us your title and abstract (approximately 100 words for papers and 300 words for sessions), before December 31st: renard25.lett@unitn.it

For further information, you can contact the event organizers at any time, using the above email address.

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