HUMAN-ANIMAL STUDIES (769) • Founded: 2014

This seminar is open to faculty and professional membership in the field of Human-Animal Studies, an area of vibrant new scholarship. The field's focus is on how humans and (other) animals have interacted across cultures and histories: how the protein, work, and products derived from animals have contributed to human projects; how cross-species relationships have shaped human histories; and how animals' imaginative and aesthetic roles in cultures are connected to the living presence of animals. Work in this field tends to be interdisciplinary, drawing on the social sciences and the humanities as well as on the already interdisciplinary fields of environmental and posthumanist studies.

CHAIR/S: **Brian Boyd**; **Naama Harel** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Elena G. Vanasse**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

November 19 — Joint meeting with (473) *Recent Research on Biblical Beasts: Reflections on the Oxford Handbook of the Bible and Animals*
Suzanna Millar, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)
Respondents: **Beth Berkowitz**, Barnard College; **David Carr**, Union Theological Seminary; **Naama Weiss**, Jewish Theological Seminary

December — Joint meeting with (435) *An Interspecies Contact Zone: Locusts and Humans in Colonial Burundi (1924–1939)*
Benoît Henriet, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

February 11 — *Zoopolitics in the Past*
Hannah Chazin, Columbia University

March 31 — *Good Mothers Kill Too: Human-Nonhuman Relations of Food in Contemporary Egypt*
Noha Fikry Ismail, University of Toronto (Canada)

April 21 — *What Animals Teach Us About Families: Kinship and Species in the Bible and Rabbinic Literature*
Beth Berkowitz, Barnard College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Brian Boyd**, bb2305@columbia.edu; **Naama Harel**, nh2508@columbia.edu