



Villa Decius Institute for Culture

CALL FOR PAPERS

Animals in Early Modern and Nineteenth-Century History and Culture

Kraków, Poland | 15–16 October 2026

We invite proposals for an international interdisciplinary conference devoted to human-animal relations in the early modern period and the nineteenth century. The conference seeks to explore the social, cultural, economic, intellectual, and symbolic dimensions of animals' presence in past societies.

While traditional historiography has often emphasized the utilitarian roles of animals, recent developments in Animal-Human Relations and related fields encourage broader methodological and theoretical perspectives. The conference aims to provide a platform for critical reflection, comparative approaches, and interdisciplinary dialogue.

Possible Topics Include (but are not limited to):

- Animals in early modern and nineteenth-century sources and historiography
- Social, cultural, emotional, and economic dimensions of human–animal relations
- Companion animals and domestic life
- Hunting, breeding, and animal management practices
- Animal welfare, veterinary knowledge, and care
- Legal regulations and early animal protection movements
- Animals in art, symbolism, religion, and political thought
- Animals in literature, language, proverbs, and everyday discourse
- Animals in childhood, education, and material culture
- The role of non-anthropocentric approaches in history education and museum practice

Venue

The conference will take place at Willa Decjusza, a sixteenth-century Renaissance villa in Kraków historically associated with humanist intellectual exchange. The venue provides a fitting setting for reflection on humanity's place within the order of nature.

Submission Guidelines

Please submit an abstract of up to 300 words, along with a short biographical note (max. 150 words), via the online form: <https://forms.gle/SRK2kTL41Zv5y3VS7>

Deadline for abstracts: 15 May 2026

Notification of acceptance: 15 June 2026

Conference fee: 15 July 2026

Submission form: <https://forms.gle/SRK2kTL41Zv5y3VS7>

Contact: animalsinhistoryculture@gmail.com

Practical Information

Conference fee: €90, (€45 for PhD students). The fee covers conference materials and catering (coffee breaks and lunches). Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Organising&Scientific Committee

Agnieszka Laszczak-Slaby

Institute of History and Archival Studies, University of the National Education
Commission, Kraków

Małgorzata Ewa Kowlaczyk

Institute of History, University of Wrocław

Dominika Kasprowicz

Villa Decius Institute of Culture

*We warmly invite scholars to submit their proposals and join us
in Kraków in October 2026.*