

About Us

Animal History Network is a platform for scholars who share an academic commitment to incorporate non-human animals into history writing.

Hayvanât - Animal History Network is a new platform dedicated to scholars exploring the often-overlooked role of animals in historical narratives. Recognizing Animal History as a burgeoning field, Hayvanât fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers from diverse disciplines, including history, sociology, anthropology, literature, philosophy, zoology, and veterinary medicine.

With a particular focus on the Ottoman Empire and post-Ottoman regions, Hayvanât aims to increase the visibility of scholarship on non-human animals. By examining the complexities of human-animal relations and interactions across various historical contexts, the network seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the past and its influence on the future

Hayvanât invites scholars interested in incorporating animals into historical analyses to join its network and contribute to this exciting new field of study.



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[@HayvanatNetwork](https://twitter.com/HayvanatNetwork)



[@hayvanatanimalstudies](https://www.instagram.com/hayvanatanimalstudies)



Scholars and students from different universities and different disciplines gathered at İstanbul Bilgi University on March 28 to launch a new academic network for researchers of Ottoman-Turkish history with an ‘animal history’ perspective.



HAYVANÂT

Animal History Network takes off!

The number of historians who are focusing on the animals that lived in the Ottoman Empire and post-Ottoman regions (more specifically Balkans, Anatolia, and the Middle East) grows day by day. In Fall 2023, a group of scholars and students at İstanbul Bilgi University came together and laid the ground for a platform for scholars who share an academic commitment to incorporate non-human animals into history writing. In December 2023, Hayvanât - Animal History Network was officially recognized as a research group within İstanbul Bilgi University.

On March 28, a group of scholars and graduate students from different institutions and different disciplines gathered at the santralistanbul Campus of İstanbul Bilgi University on the occasion of the launching of this new research group to discuss its perspective and agenda. Participants who specialized in history, sociology, political science, media studies, literature, linguistics, and other disciplines shared their thoughts to bring together historical evidence and the premises of the animal studies perspective.

Hayvanât promotes cooperation and exchange among researchers from diverse disciplines studying the Ottoman Empire and post-Ottoman regions. It will serve to increase the visibility of academic works about non-human animals to grasp different complex forms of human-animal relations/interactions and the transformations within varying contexts to contribute to creating a more equitable understanding of the past and future.

To meet this purpose, our website and bulletins will serve as a collective platform to announce recent works. We are planning to provide an open-access e-archive to assemble documents, images, and teaching materials that will encourage new research on animal history. Workshops and conferences can be stated among the long-term objectives of Hayvanât.

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