



*Animal History Network*

# Hayvanât Newsletter

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Photo Credit by: Murat Bergi

SUMMER



# From Venice to YUNT: On the Trail of Animals

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Established in Istanbul's Sultanbeyli district in November 2023 through the initiative of Murat Can Sabuncu, YUNT is an art interaction space that aims to contribute to social transformation through art. It moves contemporary art production beyond the city center and embraces an interdisciplinary and participatory approach.

The exhibition *Of Strays, Rhinos, and Misunderstandings* by Levantine artist Guido Casaretto explores translation errors and the transformation of symbols in intercultural communication. Inspired by documents he encountered in Venice, the artist focuses on the interpretation of the unicorn figure as a "gergedan" (rhinoceros) in the 16th-century sales records between the Republic of Venice and the Ottoman Empire. The fact that the unicorn was seen as a mythical creature in the West but considered a real animal in the Ottoman context reveals how conceptions of creativity, reality, and nature differ between cultures.

***You can access the rest of the article.***

<https://hayvanat.bilgi.org.tr/post/venedik-ten-yunt-a-hayvanlar%C4%B1n-i%CC%87zinde>



# The Lives of Animals

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The exhibition *The Lives of Animals* explores human-animal relationships through their social, cultural, and political dimensions. It invites visitors to think not only from a human-centric perspective but also to consider the world from a new point of view—that of the animals.

One of the prominent works in the exhibition, Necla Rüzgar's *I Am What I Am*, draws attention to the idea of interspecies equality through a scene where different species drink from the same water source. Mine Yıldırım's archive-based research titled *Between Care and Violence* sheds light on the place of Istanbul's dogs in urban memory, while Sue Coe's *The Animals' Vegan Manifesto* offers a powerful call for veganism by criticizing the exploitation of animals within production systems.

Going beyond an anthropocentric perspective, the exhibition makes visible the representations and cultural imagery of animals in collective memory, inviting us to rethink the possibilities of living together.

***You can access the rest of the article.***

<https://hayvanat.bilgi.org.tr/post/hayvanlarin-ya%C5%9Fami>



# “Watering Down” History

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The relationship between fish and humans is explained through the “Orpheus paradox”: when a person looks at a fish, the fish disappears—and what remains is merely “fishing.” This leads to the erasure of the fish’s vitality and subjectivity, constructing it as a historical absence both in the past and in the present.

The “animal turn” that has gained prominence in 21st-century social sciences questions the anthropocentric structure of history. This approach argues that animals should be considered not just as passive beings, but as subjective agents who have played active roles in historical processes.

In this context, Cansu Asarkaya proposes the concept of “watering the archive.” She suggests rethinking the archive in a fluid, sensory, and multilayered way to reveal the memory carried by fish within their bodies, along their migration routes, and through their digital traces. This approach goes beyond what has been documented to also consider what was intended to be documented, and it embraces the responsibility of creating more inclusive interspecies archives in the future.

***You can access the rest of the article.***

<https://hayvanat.bilgi.org.tr/post/tarihi-su-land%C4%B1rmak>





# Book Introductions

## Farewell to the Horse: The Final Century of Our Relationship

Emelnur Ketencioğlu introduced Ulrich Raulff's book Farewell to the Horse: The Final Century of Our Relationship.

Farewell to the Horse was originally written in German by Ulrich Raulff in 2015 and translated into English in 2017. The book explores the deep bond between horses and humans, offering a significant contribution to animal and cultural history. Ulrich Raulff traces the historical journey of horses across various domains—agriculture, history, art, literature, sport, and war. According to the author, one of the reasons for the withdrawal of horses from social life is the mechanization of agriculture. The process of industrialization brought about by the Industrial Revolution greatly reduced the need for horses in farming. As Raulff also points out, the increase in urbanization after the Second World War led to the abandonment of rural areas, thereby weakening the human–horse relationship.

*You can access the rest of the article here.*

<https://hayvanat.bilgi.org.tr/post/ulrich-raulff-farewell-to-the-horse-the-final-century-of-our-relationship>

## Animali in Rivolta: confini, resistenza e solidarietà Umana

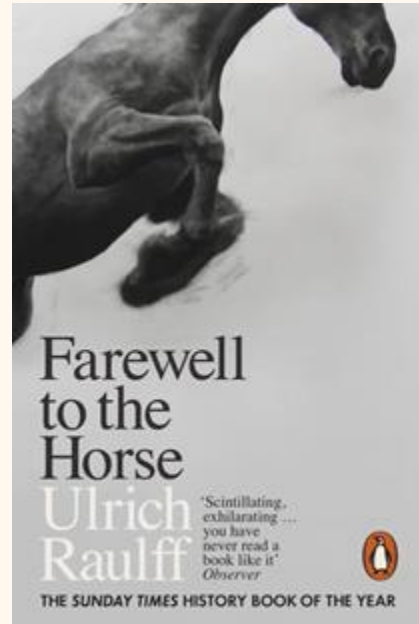
Greta Luchinetti introduced Sarat Colling's book "Animali in Rivolta: confini, resistenza e solidarietà Umana".

What does it truly mean to resist? Is it only deliberate, or can we look at resistance through other lenses? This is the fil rouge of "Animals in Revolt" (Mimesis Publishers, 2017), a 180-page book written by American sociologist Sarat Colling. Her profound passion for amplifying stories of animal agency shaped both her intellectual and artistic life.

This book offers a compelling reexamination of our relationship with non-human animals, showing that their struggles for autonomy mirror human resistance to oppression. It calls on journalists to reconsider narratives that diminish animal acts of defiance by treating them as exceptional or anomalous.

*You can access the rest of the article.*

<https://hayvanat.bilgi.org.tr/en/post/sarat-colling-animale-in-rivolta-confini-resistenza-e-solidariet%C3%A0-umana-mimesis-eterotopie-20>





# Announcements

## The Hayvanât Team Interviewed by Can Öztürk from T24...



The Hayvanât team was interviewed by T24's Can Öztürk about past and present policies targeting street animals. The Hayvanât team emphasizes that an 'anti-dog' politics is being legitimized through the media, and that under the guise of modern urbanism a policy is being implemented: multiplying the animals that can be exploited while killing those that cannot

The team members also highlight that, during the Ottoman period, elites adopted domestic—especially purebred—animals as status symbols, while street animals were regarded as incompatible with discipline, cleanliness, and civilization.

*You can read the full interview.*

<https://t24.com.tr/haber/hayvanat-hayvan-tarihi-agi-medya-vasitasiyla-kopek-karsiti-bir-siyaset-mesrulastirmaya-calisiliyor-somurebildiklerini-destekleyerek-artirma-somuremediklerini-katletme-politikasi-yurutuluyor,1257848.i>

## Hayvanât Fall Semester Talk Series

The Hayvanât Talk Series continues into the fall semester. This term's speakers include Suraiya Faroqhi, Irus Braverman, and Cătălin Pavel.

For announcements and updates about the series, you can follow the Hayvanât website and social media accounts.



hayvanat.bilgi.org.tr



hayvanat@bilgi.edu.tr



HayvanatNetwork



hayvanatanimalstudies

Address: Emniyettepe, Kazım Karabekir Stree, No 2/13,  
34060 Eyüpsultan İstanbul