



Animal History Network

Hayvanât Newsletter

20
25



Autumn

Photo Credit by: David Hertle



Hayvanât Talks

Suraiya Faroqhi

The Hayvanât Talks Fall Term commenced with Suraiya Faroqhi's presentation titled 'Searching for Animals in Ottoman Sources.' Addressing the challenge of finding direct archival evidence regarding animals, Faroqhi emphasized the necessity of 'thinking the untold' when sources remain silent. Noting that animals leave only indirect traces and that historians must therefore proceed with conjecture rather than definitive knowledge, the distinguished Ottoman historian enriched her presentation with examples from world history.

You can read the full article [here](#).



Irus Braverman

The second guest of the Hayvanât Talks was Irus Braverman, author of works such as *Zooland* and *Settling Nature*. Braverman discussed how settlers in the West Bank utilise sheep as instruments for both land control and 're-indigenisation.' Noting that the largest land grab since 1967 is characterised by settlers as a 'shepherding revolution' and by herself as 'sheep washing,' Braverman detailed the process through which sheep are transformed into 'living technologies' that legitimise violence.

You can access the rest of the article [here](#).





On December 15, Hayvanât will host
Gizem Haspolat ...



In this talk, Gizem Haspolat will open a discussion on animal labor in the context of live animal imports to Turkey and the cheap meat policy that has been in place since 2010. From a political economy perspective, she will reconsider the concepts of work and labor through nonhuman animals and critically evaluate the position of farmed animals within the Industrial Animal Complex.

Based on fieldwork conducted in customs offices, port cities, and livestock fairs, the talk will trace how imported animals are incorporated into circulation networks in Turkey and make visible the metabolic labor processes that constitute one of the key foundations of the live animal trade.



Zoopolis: Interspecies Relations in Istanbul from Past to Present

At the panel organized in partnership with **Hayvanât**, the **Turkish American Association for Scientific Studies**, and **ANAMED**, Can Nacar and Emir Küçük drew attention to the critical roles of animals in urban infrastructure by examining sheep and tramway horses in Ottoman Istanbul as forms of “migrant labor” and “capital.” Özlem Güçlü, on the other hand, highlighted the relationship between the 'de-caninization' policies persisting since 1910 and the mechanisms of social exclusion that also target women and LGBTI+ individuals. Concluding with an emphasis on interspecies compassion, the panel presented a new, non-speciesist perspective on urban history. The event, which also discussed routes extending from tramway stables to the Tophane slaughterhouses, made the silent history of animals visible.

You can access the rest of the article [here](#).





Opinion Piece

The Dogs

The Turkey premiere of *The Dogs* was held at Kadıköy Paribu Art on September 16-18, 2025, staged under the direction of Anestis Azas in English, Greek, and Turkish (with surtitles). Including Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu in its cast, this modern theatrical fable centers on the detective adventure of street dogs attempting to solve a murder. This death, staged as an accident to protect tourism revenues, pits the detective dogs against other cogs in a system filled with breeding, fighting, and police dogs. Blending political criticism with comedic elements and impressive physical performances, the play offers a 'joyful melancholy' without resorting to agitation. Questioning the role of dogs in the system as much as humans, the production invites the audience into a deep state of shared sentiment. The dedication and the state of 'becoming a dog' on stage call upon the audience to join that great 'Auuu' sound at the finale; with the hope of not leaving our comrades alone and joining that sound at the next screening.

You can access the rest of the article [here](#).



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