

The Workshop will take place at the main building (Hauptgebäude) of Humboldt University, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin, 11-12 December 2015.

Room number: 2249a.

Organised by:

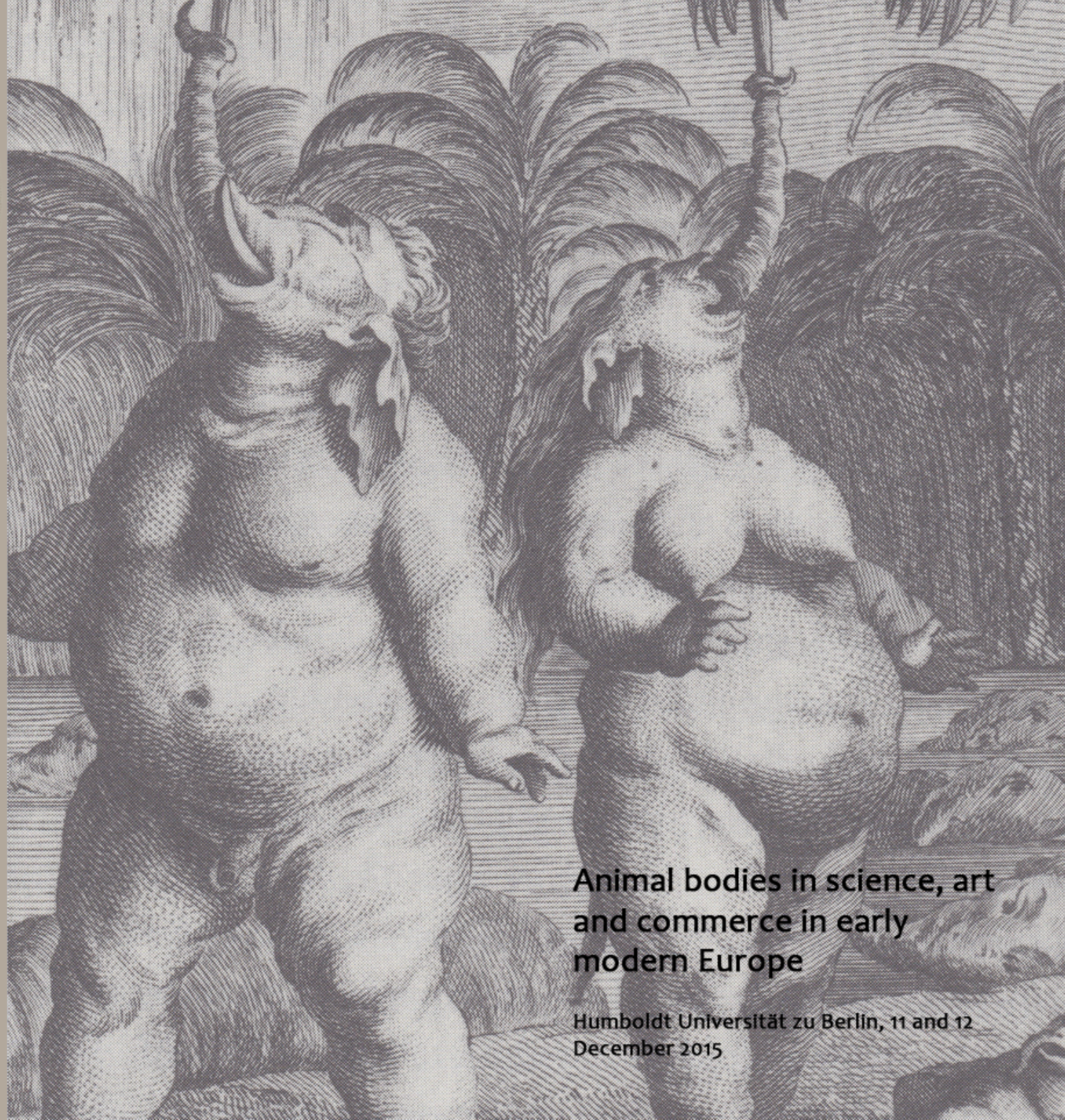
Rafael Mandressi (Centre Alexandre Koyré, EHESS-CNRS-MNHN/ Paris)
Alan Ross (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)
Silvia Sebastiani (EHESS-CRH/ Paris)
Pierre Serna (Institut d'histoire de la Révolution Française, CNRS/UMS 622/ Paris)

Organizational assistant and discussant:
Marion Deschamp

The conference is open to all subject to prior registration by 7 December 2015.

For further information contact:
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A Humboldt University KOSMOS Workshop organised in collaboration with the Centre Alexandre Koyré, the Institut d' Histoire de la Révolution Française and the École des hautes études en sciences sociales.



Animal bodies in science, art and commerce in early modern Europe

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, 11 and 12 December 2015

Programme

Friday, 11 December

9.00 am
Welcome and introduction to the workshop

9.15 am
Laurence Talairach-Vielmas (Toulouse)
"We were obliged to take Harry to see the wild beasts at Exeter Exchange": Exotic animals, children's education and polite culture in Georgian Britain

Sarah Cockram (Glasgow)
Interspecies affection and proximity to companion animal bodies at the Renaissance court

10.45 Coffee break

11.15
Alan Ross (Paris/ Berlin)
The metamorphosis of the body. Simians and conservation techniques, 1660-1840

Marieke Hendriksen (Groningen)
Singular to serial: collecting animal preparations and the evolution of comparative anatomy in the eighteenth century

12.45 Lunch

14.15
Emma Spary (Cambridge)
Cannibals, carnivores and revolutionaries: negotiating the 'natural' diet in eighteenth-century France

Malik Mellah (Paris)
The rural economy in France during the Directory (1795-1799): a science of the body of the live animal?

Rafael Mandressi (Paris)
The Politics of Animal Anatomy in Turgot's France: Rinderpest, the "Massacre Général" of Cattle and Anatomical Experiments in Félix Vicq d'Azyr's endeavor to build a Comparative Medicine

16.15 Coffee break

16.45
Panel discussion:
Alan Ross,
Silvia Sebastiani,
Pierre Serna

Animals and the history of the body

18.15
Keynote lecture

Daniel Roche
(Collège de France, Paris)

La plus belle conquête de l'homme: du corps des chevaux aux corps du cavalier.

Saturday, 12 December

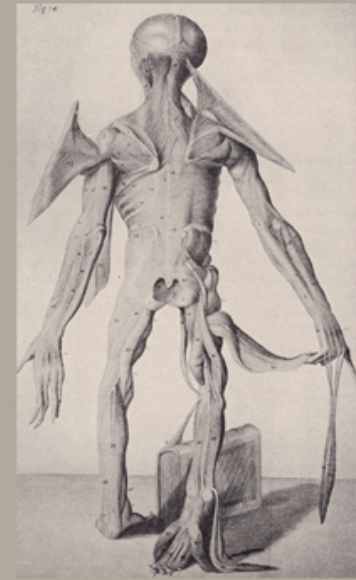
9.30
Andrew Wells (Göttingen)
Painful Experiments: Reproduction, Knowledge, and Identity in the Case of Mary Toft, "The Rabbit Woman of Godalming"

Silvia Sebastiani (Paris)
Aping the Enlightenment: human/animal boundaries in the age of British abolitionism

11.00 Coffee break

11.30
Christian Jaser (Berlin)
Bodies of Speed: Magic, Veterinary Medicine and the Performance of Racehorses in Italy and Germany (15th-16th centuries)

Pierre Serna (Paris)
Reproduction or sexuality? "Voyeurisme" and science at the French Museum of Paris 1793-1820"



Animals had key economic and cultural importance in pre-industrial European society. More specifically, it was their bodies which were of almost exclusive interest to early modern Europeans. In the meat-heavy diet of courtly cuisine they were as indispensable as their labour was in agriculture and warfare. Their skins, fur, feathers and bones were irreplaceable as raw materials in almost every pre-modern industry and were, like other commodities, entangled in local and global trading networks. In the visual and performing arts, animal bodies were laden with a virtually unlimited wealth of symbolic meanings, while the anatomical comparison between the bodies of humans and animals became an increasingly important part of medical research. Likewise, the live, moving animal body continued to be an indispensable element of urban entertainment for instance in horse races, dog and cock fighting.

Historians of gender and early modern identity have pointed out the way in which attitudes to the human body were closely linked to discourses at all levels of early modern society. Individual aspects of the importance of animal bodies in early modern society have been discussed in works on the history of anatomy, food, slaughtering, fashion and the arts.

We believe that at this point in time an interdisciplinary forum for exchange is necessary to encourage exchange and debate on the various aspects of the significance of animal bodies to early modern Europeans.