

## Governing Lives

# Animals, Parks, and Princely Hunts from the Late Medieval Period to the Nineteenth Century

International Workshop at the University of Bern, 12–13 March 2021

*Online*



Heinrich Heil, *Die eingestellte Jagd in Favorite*, oil on canvas, c. 1738  
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## Theme

In the last years, the various forms of premodern princely hunt have attained more and more interest in historical research. Recent studies have shown that this time-consuming and costly activity of medieval and early modern rulers was linked to important political functions such as territorialisation, the attraction of noble elites to the court, and the symbolic representation of sovereignty. Furthermore, researchers in environmental and animal history have discovered the subject for its important role in the developments of regional landscapes and biodiversity, and human-animal relations in premodern courts. The workshop aims at discussing the connections between the socio-political and animal-related dimensions of the subject. We will analyse the various practical and symbolic roles of hunting dogs, falcons, and other non-human hunting assistants. Through which ways these animals came to the princely courts? How were they hosted and trained? And which role did their presence at court play in the self-representation of rulers and courtiers? Furthermore, a special interest will be paid to the premodern practices of game management. Which forms of protection and regulation were put into effort to ensure a sufficient presence of deer, pheasants, and other game populations? Can we even observe sort of domestication of wild animals? And which are the relations between such practices and the early modern discourses on human populations that, according to Michel Foucault, led the way to modern “biopolitics”? Based on papers that will circulate in advance and short presentations, the workshop will discuss these questions in a European comparative perspective.

## Programme

### Friday, 12 March 2021

#### 14:00–14:45 **Opening**

Round of introductions

Nadir Weber (Bern): *Courtly biopolitics? Introductory remarks*

#### 14:45–16:15 **Panel 1: Falconry and Power Relations** (chair: Christian Rohr)

Severin Bruttin (Zürich): *Seeing and eating: the power relations between humans and animals in premodern falconry / Sehen und essen. Die Machtbeziehung zwischen Menschen und Tieren in der vormodernen Falknerei*

Maike Schmidt (Erlangen-Nürnberg): *Keeping hawks for the king's entourage: practical aspects and social strategies drawn from the letters of Louis de Brézé and the state papers of Francis I (1515–1547) / „Vostre sacret blanc a esté un peu degoutté, mais il est sain.“ Falkenhaltung in den Briefen von Louis de Brézés (1463-1531) und anderen Quellen höfischer Provenienz*

#### 16:15–16:30 *Break*

16:30–18:00 **Panel 2: Practices of Game Management** (chair: Christian Windler)

Kristin Langefeld (Marburg): *Early modern wildlife management? The hunting ordinances of the landgraves of Hesse-Kassel from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century / Vormodernes Wildtiermanagement? Die Jagdverordnungen der Landgrafen von Hessen-Kassel vom 17. bis 18. Jahrhundert*

Nadir Weber (Bern): *Dealing with the third dimension: falcons and game birds in the imperial hunting park of Laxenburg near Vienna (eighteenth century) / Rechnen mit der dritten Dimension. Falken und Federwild im kaiserlichen Jagdpark von Laxenburg bei Wien (18. Jahrhundert)*

Raphaël Devred (Paris-Saclay): *The princes of animals: the government of the game in Rambouillet estate (1783–1870) / Les Princes des Animaux: Gouverner le gibier au domaine de Rambouillet (1783–1870)*

**Saturday, 13 March 2021**

09:00–10:30 **Panel 3: Hunting and Sovereignty** (chair: Nadir Weber)

Bruno Farinelli (Antwerpen): *A beastly court: parks, animals and power in the Duchy of Savoy (1559–1633)*

Yne Dom (Antwerpen): *The battle of preservation: printing ordinances to keep the Sonian Forest (to oneself)*

Adam Perłakowski (Kraków): *Bloody slaughters, noble competition and animal welfare: some remarks on the hunting culture in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the Saxon reign, 1697-1763 / Blutiges Schlachten, edle Konkurrenz und Tierschutz. Einige Anmerkungen zur Jagdkultur im polnisch-litauischen Adelsrepublik in der sächsischen Zeit 1697-1763*

10:30–10:45 *Break*

10:45–11:45 **Panel 4: Hunting and Knowledge** (chair: Carl Alexander Krethlow)

Marcel Berni (Zürich): *From praeludium belli to fair stalking: genesis and evolution of the early modern hunting knowledge / Vom Praeludium Belli zum weidgerechten Pirschgang: Genese und Evolution des frühmodernen Jagdwissens*

Aline Vogt (Basel): *Animals between philosophical discourse and courtly practice: biopolitics and the will to knowledge in sensualism / Tiere zwischen philosophischem Diskurs und höfischer Praxis – Biopolitik und der Wille zum Wissen im Sensualismus*

11:45–13:00 **Conclusions**

Baudouin Van den Abeele (Louvain): *Comment*

Grégory Quenet (Paris / Versailles): *Comment*

Final discussion

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**Interested audience und discussants are welcome to participate.**

For further information and registration, please contact [debora.heim@hist.unibe.ch](mailto:debora.heim@hist.unibe.ch)

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