

THE SHADOW OF REASON.

ANIMAL COGNITION
IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES
(13th–15th Centuries)

PAVIA
14 September
2026

Almo Collegio Borromeo
Piazza Collegio Borromeo 9
Aula Didattica



- 09.15 **Welcome**
Luca Vanzago, Direttore del Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici
- Chair: **Michele Meroni**, Università di Pavia
- 09.15-10.00 **Tommaso Alpina**, Università di Pavia
Did Themistius Ever Write about Animals? A Medieval Mystery
- 10.00-10.45 **Rotraud Hansberger**, LMU München
Animal Cognition in the *Epistles of the Brethren of Purity* (*Ikhwān al-Ṣafā'*)
- 10.45-11.00 COFFEE BREAK
- Chair: **Gabriella Zuccolin**, Università di Pavia
- 11.00-11.45 **José Filipe Silva**, University of Helsinki
Specificity and Generality in Human Animal Cognition
- 11.45-12.30 **Mattia Mantovani**, KU Leuven / CNRS Paris
An Eye for Drugs. Peter of Spain on Animal Medicine and Animal Perception
- 12.30-13.15 **Michele Meroni**, Università di Pavia
Triplex est via: Animal Cognition and Behaviour in Some 13th-century Commentaries on Aristotle's *De animalibus*
- 13.15-14.30 LUNCH – Portico del Richini
- Chair: **Luca Bianchi**, Università di Milano
- 14.30-15.15 **Monika Mansfeld - Marek Gensler**, University of Łódź
The Process of Animal Cognition in Geoffrey of Aspall
- 15.15-16.00 **Aurélien Robert**, CNRS, SPHERE Paris
The Sense of Smell in Animals and the Olfactory Pleasures of Humans, according to Some Commentators on the *De anima* and *De sensu*
- 16.00-16.15 COFFEE BREAK
- Chair: **Tommaso Alpina**, Università di Pavia
- 16.15-17.00 **Christopher David Schabel**, CNRS, IRHT Paris
The Cistercian Pierre Ceffons on Storks, Humans, Dogs, and other Rational Animals
- 17.00-17.45 **Gabriella Zuccolin**, Università di Pavia
Zoognostics: Animal Physiognomy in the 15th Century
- 20.00 DINNER

Organizers:
Michele Meroni
Gabriella Zuccolin

