The difference between man and animal plays a crucial role in Western philosophy. As early as in Aristotle’s *Poetics*, this distinction is bound up with issues of mimesis. Aristotle considers mimesis as a property that distinguishes man from other animals, but also defines the human susceptibility to imitation as the basis of the production of art. Ever since, anthropological and aesthetic concepts have tended to overlap when it comes to mimesis. In the tradition of philosophy and aesthetics, however, thinkers have alternated in attributing mimesis to humans and animals. Instead of being an intellectual capacity in the Aristotelian sense, mimetic processes can also be conceptualized as mere reproduction. This ‘low’ kind of mimesis has often been compared to imitative animal behavior. Covering such aspects as animals as metaphors of imitation as well as the subversive potential of animal mimesis, this conference will explore the outstanding, yet often unrecognized importance of the theory of mimesis for the dynamic field of Human-Animal Studies, and vice versa.
Thursday, 30 June 2016

9.45  WELCOME
Christopher Balme

INTRODUCTION
Antonio Chemotti
Katharina Krčál
Manuel Mühlbacher

10.30  UBQUITOUS SIGNS: THE RUDIMENTS OF PHYSIOGNOMY IN ART
Martin J. Kemp (Oxford)
Chair: Daniel Becker

11.30  Coffee Break

12.00  ANIMAL MIMESIS: BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE
Kyung-Ho Cha (Bayreuth)
Chair: Katharina Krčál

13.00  Lunch

14.30  UT CANCER: RETROGRADE MOVEMENT IN MUSIC
Katelijne Schiltz (Regensburg)
Chair: Antonio Chemotti

15.30  INTERACTING WITH PEACOCKS IN THE VŒUX DU PAON AND BESTIAIRE D’AMOUR OF OXFORD, BODLEIAN LIBRARY, MS DOUCE 308: KNIGHTS, LADIES, GODS, AND A COW
Elizabeth Eva Leach (Oxford)
Chair: Antonio Chemotti

16.30  Coffee Break

17.00  THE BLOOD OF THE ANIMAL: METAPHOR, MIMESIS, AND THE ORIGIN OF POETRY
Kári Driscoll (Utrecht)
Chair: Gawan Fagard

19.00  Dinner Reception at Seidlvilla

20.00  ANIMAL MUSIC: A ZOOLOGICAL PIANO RECITAL WITH TOBIAS KOCH

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Friday, 1 July 2016

9.30  THE RED PETER PRINCIPLE: JEWISH MIMETICS?
Jay Geller (Nashville)
Chair: Katharina Krčál

10.30  Coffee Break

11.00  NIETZSCHE’S MIMICRY
Antonia Ulrich (Potsdam)
Chair: Florencia Sannders

12.00  Lunch

13.30  MOCKING MIMESIS: ROBINSON’S PARROT AND THE RISE OF THE MODERN NOVEL
Roland Borgards (Würzburg)
Chair: Manuel Mühlbacher

14.30  Coffee Break

15.00  THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC IMITATIONS: HOAXES AS SUBVERSIVE MIMESIS
Julika Griem (Frankfurt/Main)
Hanna Engelmeier (Bochum)
Chair: Simone Niehoff

16.00  CLOSING REMARKS AND CONCLUSION

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ANIMAL MUSIC
A Zoological Piano Recital with Tobias Koch
Seidlvilla
Thursday, 30 June 2016, 20:00

Accompanying the theoretical discussion, Animal Mimesis offers an example of the relationship between art and the animal world. The pianist, Tobias Koch, will lead you through a musical zoo populated by chickens, dancing bears, fishes, wolves, prophetic birds: covering three centuries of Western music, from Jean Philippe Rameau up to Olivier Messiaen. The concert will give a vivid cross section of the different compositional reactions to acoustic, physical, and symbolical stirrings provided by the animal world.

Free admission
Please register by emailing: mimesis-doc@lmu.de