Horses and Humanity: Co-Evolution, Collaboration, or Conflict?

Programme, November 12-14, 2026

November 12

16:00 GMT Opening of the conference

16:20-17:20 Keynote

Peter Edwards, "Human-Equine Interaction in Early Modern England: A Unique Relationship?"

17:40-18:40 Session 1. The 20% Rule in History

Noora Piipponen and **Markku Niskanen**, University of Oulu, "The Rider Size / Horse Size through Time. The Almost Isometric Relationship Between Weight-Carrying Ability and Horse Size Allows Violations of the 20% or Less Rule"

Anastasija Ropa, Latvian Association of Scientists, "1/5 or 1/3? The Early Twentieth Century Carrying Capacity Standards for the Army Horses"

19:00-20:00 Round table. The 20% rule

Eve Rannamäe, Institute of History and Archaeology, University of Tartu, "Of Horses' Body Size and Conformation as Seen from Zooarchaeological Material in Estonia"

Michal Holeščák, National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, "Cuman Horses in the Medieval Period"

Anastasija Ropa, **Edgar Rops**, independent researcher, Latvia, "What You Can and What You Cannot Do with a Pony: Personal Reflections on the Practical Application of the 20% Rule in Horsemanship"

November 13

16:00-17:30 Session 2. Horses in the Family

Abby Letteri, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, "Perfectly Themselves"

Gunay Akbarova-Ben-Tzvi, independent researcher, Azerbaijan, and **Gulrukh Dilbazi**, "From Nader Shah Afshar to the Present Day: Three Centuries of Co-Evolution of the Dilbazi Family and the Azerbaijani Dilbaz Horse Breed"

Marina Îngustu, Department of Cultural Studies, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, "Children and Horses in Modern Romania (1859-1914). From Working Animals to Child's Companions"

18:00-20:00 Session 3. Horses, State and Society

Katrin Winkler, University of Vienna, "Horses in Greek Mythology with a Focus on the Amazons"

Camille Wilhelm, University of Strasbourg, "Agency or constraint? Horse breeding and human-horses relations in France (XVIIIth century)"

Afonso Soares de Sousa, IEM NOVA/FCSH; FLUC, "Discussing the Definition of the Word 'cavalo' in Medieval and Early Modern Portugal"

Alexia-Foteini Stamouli, University of Patras, "The Presence of Equids in the Historical Work of Michael Doukas"

November 14

16:00-18:00 Session 4. Teaching and Researching Horse History

Lonneke Delpeut, Vienna Institute for Archaeological Science, **Birgit Bühler, Nisa Kirchengast**, "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Horse History"

Carolyn Willekes, Mount Royal University, "Learning from Equids: How animal studies shapes teaching history"

Edgar Rops, "'Is Boucicault Still Alive?' The Ups and Downs of Teaching History at Pony Camps"

Vera Klontza, Masaryk University, "Horses and Humans as a Resilient Interspecies Relationship"

David Doherty, "Using Modern Technology to Validate Theories. The Findings of the HorseTech Conferences"

18:20-20:20 Session 5. Horses as Comrades, Kin, and Self-Reflection

Mathilde Prévost, IFAO (French Institute for Oriental Archaeology), Cairo, "Submission or cooperation? Working Relationships Between in the Ancient Egyptians and Domestic Equids During the New Kingdom (16th-11th Centuries B.C.)"

Miriam A. Bibby, School of Social & Environmental Sustainability, University of Glasgow, "We Need to Talk About Working-Class Horse-Keepers in History: Gatekeeping, Appropriating, and Fantasising Welfare Issues"

Cornel Micu, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, "Peasants, Farmers, Rednecks and Horses in Romanian Countryside"

Marjorie Wolfe, a McNair Scholar, California Polytechnic University Humboldt, "Relationships and Reciprocity, Ecofeminist Approaches to Human-Horse Kinship"

20:20-20:30 Concluding remarks

All virtual events can be accessed via MS Teams:
https://teams.live.com/meet/9366405351187?p=p16pAMC0LI151qy6gE

Selected sessions will be recorded and will be made available either on the #**cheironjournal** YouTube channel or via a unique link to registered conference participants only (subject to the speakers' agreement).

The conference is supported by the Latvian Association of Scientists