

Conference Organiser

Society for Court Studies (Germany)

Department of History, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich

Date: 8-10 December 2016

Closing date for abstracts: 8 December 2015

### **Animals at Court**

Whoever does research on courts encounters, if only peripherally, animals: from horses to hounds, falcons to fleas. Animals at court included animals for food production and consumption; for transport; for the hunt; for equestrian sports; for defence; for companionship; or simply for exhibition as *exotica*. Animals had symbolic functions too, as indicators of power and rank for princes and courtiers (in crests and coats of arms, for example the double-headed eagle of Austria), and as representations of life at court (as in La Fontaine's phrase *Peuple cameleon, peuple singe du maitre*).

A growing curiosity about the history of animals invites further study and an interdisciplinary approach to animals at court.

We welcome proposals that analyse the functions of animals for courts, from basic ones, such as livestock and game to animals as companions or as part of symbolic representation. The period covered is from 1400 to 1918.

Proposals should comprise an abstract of no longer than one page. Papers can be delivered in English, German, or French. A conference volume is planned.

This Conference will be the first conference of the German branch of the London-based Society for Court Studies.

For further information, or to send abstracts, please contact:

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