

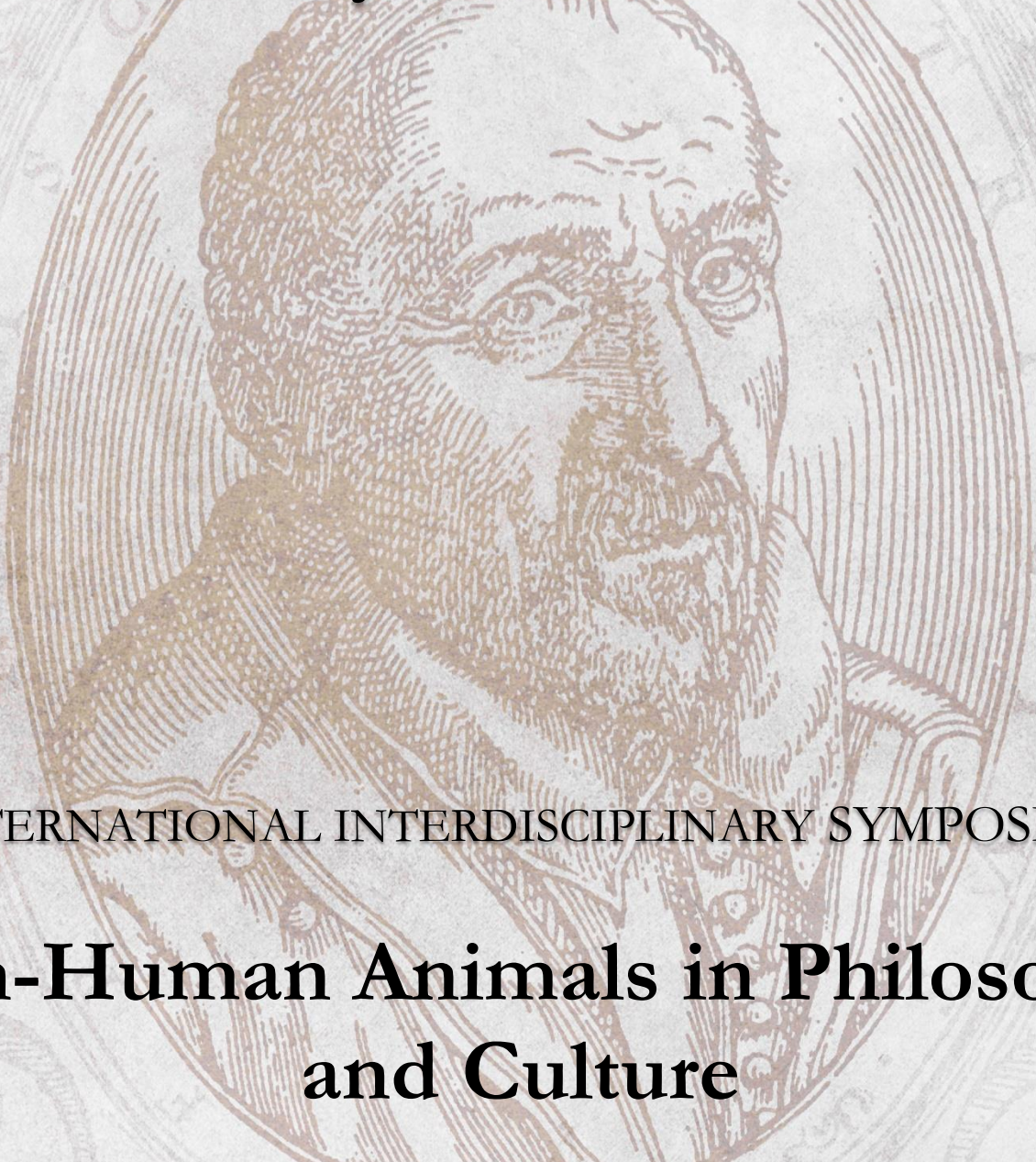


HRVATSKO FILOZOFSKO DRUŠTVO
Croatian Philosophical Society

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32nd *Days of Frane Petrić*



INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM

Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture

Cres, Croatia

22–25 September 2024

General information

Date 22–25 September 2024

Venue *Kimen* Hotel, Cres, Croatia

Working languages Croatian, English, and German

Programme plenary lectures
public lecture
parallel session presentations
round tables

Additional programme book presentations
cultural-artistic programme
sightseeing of the town of Cres

Contact address jguc@ffst.hr

Important dates and deadlines

Sending the completed 1 July 2024
Application Form

Confirmation of acceptance of 15 July 2024
presentations

Conference registration fee 15 September 2024
payment

Croatian Philosophical Society

The Croatian Philosophical Society ([CPS](#)) was established in 1957 and is one of the oldest professional associations in Croatia and South-East Europe. In the course of half a century, CPS has become an unavoidable platform for philosophical life in the region and one of the key cultural institutions in Croatia.

In the first decades, the activities of CPS revolved around the journal *Praxis* and the *Korčula Summer School*, which contributed with their international reputation to the affirmation of the Society in the region and beyond. They became a prolific communication base for domestic and foreign authors. In the early 1980s, the further development of Croatian philosophy was greatly invigorated by the establishment of the journal [Filozofska istraživanja](#), which filled the void after *Praxis* ceased publication in the mid-1970s. Shortly after the first issue of *Filozofska istraživanja*, CPS also began publishing the journal [Synthesis philosophica](#), and in 1990 the journal [Metodički ogledi](#). The “Filozofska istraživanja” and “Collected Works of Pavao Vuk-Pavlović” book series stand out as the Society’s best-known and most influential publishing successes.

The Croatian Philosophical Society has been actively organizing conferences, public discussions, and roundtables, always taking care to critically reflect on current affairs when choosing topics of interest. Amongst the conference activities of CPS, the following should be highlighted: the *Days of Frane Petrić* (since 1992, Cres), the *Lošinj Days of Bioethics* (since 2002, Mali Lošinj), the *Mediterranean Roots of Philosophy* (since 2007, Split), *Philosophy of Media* (since 2011), and the regular *Annual Symposium* of CPS in Zagreb, which has been held since the founding of Society in 1957.

The rich tradition of the Croatian Philosophical Society and the activities that correspond to current issues, along with its interdisciplinary and international orientation, have ranked the Society amongst the relevant philosophical societies in the world. Accordingly, the CPS has been a permanent member of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie – [FISP](#)) since 2006 and has to date hosted the annual meeting of the FISP Steering Committee twice.

Days of Frane Petrić

In collaboration with the institutions of the Town of Cres, the hometown of the great Renaissance philosopher and polyhistorian Frane Petrić (Franciscus Patricius; Cres, 1528 – Rome, 1597), the Croatian Philosophical Society founded an international scientific conference in 1992, called the *Days of Frane Petrić*. In the course of more than a quarter of a century of continuous work, the *Days* have become one of the leading scientific-cultural events gathering philosophers and scientists of the broadest range of backgrounds. Many world-renowned authors have partaken in the *Days of Frane Petrić*, and over the past 30 years, more than a thousand presentations were given by participants from more than 40 countries. Each year, the *Days of Frane Petrić* comprise two symposia – one with a regular annual theme dedicated to “Croatian Philosophy and Culture in Interaction and Context”, and especially to the work of Frane Petrić, after whom the event was named, while the other focuses on a new topic each year. In 2024 the main topic is “Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture”.

From the very beginning, the distinguishing features of the *Days of Frane Petrić* have been the interdisciplinary approach, the promotion of dialogue, and the adoption of pluriperspective attitude that accepts and appreciates both scientifically and non-scientifically relevant contributions, and values the different cultural and philosophical traditions and specificities.

“Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture” Conference Circular

“What is the human being?” is a crucial of Kant’s four questions, encompassing three others (about knowledge, ethics, and religion). The rational animal, the political animal and the symbolic animal are the most common laconic answers to this question. Man has therefore most often chosen the animal from their biological classification to define himself (not, for example, *homo* as *genus proximum*, or primates as order). In their search for the *differentia specifica*, however, human beings are usually trying to prove to themselves that they are something radically different from mere animals. Moreover, they open up a deep gap between the human and the non-human, the cultural and the natural, the rational and the material, running the risk of implicitly claiming that there are more similarities between a mite and a monkey than between a monkey and a human being. The result of such comparisons has often been a simplification of what animals are, even to the extent of denying them animal characteristics (as it was the case with Cartesian animal-machine). In any case, animals were degraded in order to elevate human beings (analogies can be found in many narratives of interhuman discrimination). Given that human beings are nevertheless animals, not only in the biological sense, but also defined as such in many anthropocentric philosophies, it is difficult to avoid using the term ‘non-human animals’, which has been used with increasing frequency in Western philosophy.

It is primarily in the context of ethics that philosophers discuss non-human animals. Although we may be more familiar with contemporary philosophers such as Peter Singer, or Modern Age philosophers like Arthur Schopenhauer and Jeremy Bentham, the consideration of non-human animals in ethics dates back to ancient Greek philosophers, let alone the ancient thinkers from the East. Pythagoras, the first philosopher to give himself such a name, also discussed the subject. Not only did he include non-human animals in the moral horizon, but he also believed that this inclusion unambiguously demands restraint from a meat-based diet. In our times, the importance and relevance of animal ethics is emphasised by veg(etari)an societies. Together with other social groups that are sensitive to our treatment of non-human animals, they are responsible for promoting bioethical sensibility. This is a crucial preliminary step in making certain issues recognized as ethical issues. This is also the goal of this symposium, which aims to review of different approaches and discuss the following issues:

- limits of human moral concern;
- animal welfare and animal rights;
- direct and indirect duties to non-human animals;
- moral conflicts between humans and non-humans;
- treatment of non-human animals at home (pets and pests);
- justification of using and/or abusing non-human animals for the purpose of:
 - entertainment,
 - food,
 - zoos,
 - product testing,
 - scientific experiments.

We also welcome all contributions to the symposium that focus on specific periods, theories, and thinkers that have made significant contributions to animal ethics:

- ancient Greek philosophy;
- ancient Indian and Chinese philosophies;
- Modern Age British philosophy (e.g. Bentham, Hume, Salt);
- Modern Age French philosophy (e.g. Montaigne, Voltaire, Rousseau);
- utilitarian, deontological, and virtue ethics;
- ethics of care, ethics of responsibility and feminist ethics;

- postmodern approaches to animal ethics;
- environmental ethics.

In this brief overview, we certainly do not want to overlook the 300th anniversary of the birth of Immanuel Kant. Although many animal ethicists consider him *persona non grata*, Kant's solutions demonstrate how non-human animals can be involved in moral regard even in an anthropocentric perspective. This does not mean, of course, that they should not be criticised. Those of you who are interested in this topic are encouraged to contact the Chair of the Programme Committee for more information and to send in your full papers on the topic before the symposium, in view of the ongoing preparation of the thematic section on "Kant and Non-Human Living Beings" in *Jabr – European Journal of Bioethics*.

It is certainly not our intention to limit the dialogue on the "animal question" to ethics, since non-human animals are of philosophical interest for many reasons, which can be summarised in a few suggested topics or keywords below:

- soul,
- culture,
- dualism,
- freedom,
- intelligence,
- mechanism,
- philosophy of life,
- anthropomorphism,
- the problem of other minds,
- philosophy of biology and philosophical biology.

Although the history of Western philosophy has been dominated by hostility to animality, it is increasingly opening up to various aspects of the "animal question". This is where philosophy should fulfil its critical vocation, taking into account issues that are marginalised or considered unworthy of attention, as if they were settled or self-evident. Culture as a whole has contributed to the diminishing of concern for animals, but it has nevertheless on many occasions expressed an immense interest in non-human animals. Moreover, in a sense, culture depends on animality. This is most impressively demonstrated by the cultural-zoological studies of Nikola Visković, who has elaborated many material and spiritual, concrete and symbolic uses of non-human animals, as well as their mistreatment and issues of their ethical and legal protection. His work shows that these aspects of animal presence in human culture cannot be reflected in isolation, but always in interconnection and interdependence. Thus, even a philosophical reflection on the complex relation between humans and animals should be opened up to other scientific and cultural approaches to the subject. The following are some of the topics through which an interdisciplinary and multi-perspective dialogue on the "animal question" can be intensified:

- material use of non-human animals,
- symbolic use of non-human animals,
- non-human animals in language and art,
- non-human animals in myth and religion,
- biological characteristics of non-human animals,
- non-human animals in the imagination and the unconscious,
- non-human animals in the ecosystem and species extinction.

All the proposed approaches, concepts and topics do not, of course, exhaust the research possibilities offered by the general title of the symposium. Considering that the island Cres, where the symposium will take place, is one of the habitats of the griffon vulture, we would also like to draw your attention to

the generally ignored wild animals that are constantly victims of human's merciless invasion of nature. Even if we ignore the enrichment that this bird provides as a symbolic substratum for human culture, let us mention just one detail of the material help that the griffon vulture provides to humankind. This large vulture (thus already a "hygienic of nature") is able to digest many types of dangerous pathogens, including the bacteria of anthrax, botulism and cholera. We should also remember such facts in a health crisis such as the recent one, where we have exhausted ourselves with discussions about the functioning of society, while too rarely and too silently looking beyond the human being. Therefore, the central question of the symposium can be formulated by the subtitle of Visković's *Cultural Zoology*: What is the animal for the human, and what is the human (in return) for the animal?

Application

If you are interested in participating in the symposium "Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture", please send us the completed **Application Form** (in the attachment to this circular) to the e-mail address: iguc@ffst.hr. Alternatively, registration forms can be posted (postal address: Hrvatsko filozofsko društvo, Days of Frane Petrić, "Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture" Symposium, Krčka 1, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia).

The working languages of the symposium are Croatian, English, and German. The deadline for sending completed Application Forms is **1 July 2024**. Received applications will be considered, and the participants will be informed of the organizers' acceptance of their presentations by 15 July 2024 at the latest.

Presentations will be given in parallel sessions. There will be 15 minutes for each presentation (discussions will take place at the end of each session, consisting of three to four presentations), except for the plenary presentations, for which 30 minutes will be allotted. Each conference room is equipped with a computer and a projector. The symposium programme will be sent to participants in early September, while the abstract booklet will be available at the opening ceremony.

Symposium participants are invited to submit papers based on presentations held at the symposium to the journals of the Croatian Philosophical Society *Synthesis philosophica* (English, German, and French), *Filozofska istraživanja* (Croatian), and *Metodički ogledi* (English and Croatian). The deadline for sending papers is **31 December 2024** at the official addresses of the journals.

Registration fee

All participants have to pay the registration fee. There are two kinds of registration fees:

FEE 1: 250,00 EUR

(includes double-room hotel accommodation with full board, participation in all events organized during the conference and conference materials);

FEE 2: 300,00 EUR

(includes double-room hotel accommodation with full board, participation in all events organized during the conference, conference materials, and an organized round trip by bus Zagreb–Cres–Zagreb, 22 and 25 September 2024).

The *Days of Frane Petrić* conference organizer will provide accommodation and meals for all participants whose applications will be accepted.

Instructions for payment:

Detailed instructions for registration fee payment will be sent to you with an acceptance letter.

Accommodation

The conference organiser will provide a double-room accommodation with a full board for all participants whose presentations are accepted at the [Kimen](#) Hotel where the conference will be held. Single-room accommodation is also available to participants and is charged an extra 30,00 EUR a day, which must be paid at reception upon departure.

Travel information

The Town of Cres is located on the island of Cres, Croatia.

Symposium will take place in [Kimen](#) Hotel (address: Melin I/16, HR–51557 Cres).

By a personal vehicle or a regular bus line: The Town of Cres is approximately 180 km south from Zagreb, easily accessible via highway Zagreb–Rijeka. Regular [ferry lines](#) are operating between the mainland and the island of Cres: from Brestova (mainland Istria) to Porožina (island of Cres), and Valbiska (island of Krk) to Merag (island of Cres). The ride lasts 25 minutes. Round trip Zagreb–Cres–Zagreb prices with a [regular bus line](#) range from 30 EUR to 42 EUR.

By plane: [Zagreb airport](#) is located on the city's outskirts, 30 minutes of a bus ride from the city centre. The [shuttle bus](#) operates between Zagreb Airport (Pleso) and Zagreb's central bus station every 30 minutes.

The island of Krk (next to the island of Cres) has a small airport ([Rijeka airport](#)), so you may also take it under consideration. Other possibilities are airports in Zadar, Pula, and Trieste. Notice that regular bus connections between the island of Krk and the island of Cres are not so often.

By an organised bus from Zagreb to the Kimen hotel, Cres: Organised bus for participants of the “Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture” symposium will depart from Zagreb on Sunday, 22 September 2024, at noon (Valbiska ferry port around 3:15 p.m., arrive at the hotel around 4:00 p.m.). The gathering is in front of the [International](#) Hotel (Miramarska 24, Zagreb). Travelling by organised bus means arriving directly from Zagreb to the *Kimen* hotel in Cres. The scheduled bus departure from Cres (*Kimen* Hotel) to Zagreb is on Wednesday, 25 September 2024, at 3:00 p.m. (Merag ferry port around 4:00 p.m., while the estimated arrival time in Zagreb is 7:30 p.m.). In case of insufficient occupancy of the bus, the organisation of the bus will not be possible, of which the participants will be informed in time.

If you plan to travel to Cres this way, you must pay Registration Fee 2.

Cres, Croatia

Main features of the Island of Cres

- Valun Tablet – one of the oldest Croatian Glagolitic monuments from the 11th century, written bilingually: the first row in the Glagolitic alphabet, and the second and third in the Latin alphabet (Carolingian), displayed in the Valun Parish Church.
- The only preserved Roman bridge on the Eastern coast of the Adriatic just outside Beli.
- Lubenice – a stone town with 4000 years of uninterrupted history. It is a Medieval fort erected on the edge of a 378-meter-high precipice and a jewel of Croatian rural architecture. One of the most beautiful beaches on the Island is the one beneath Lubenice, in the cove of St. Ivan, which the German newspaper *Bild* listed as the 15th most beautiful beach in the world.

Main features of the Town of Cres:

- The remains of a rampart in Cres: a cylindrical tower to the Northwest of the Town, three city gates (Bragadina, the Northern Gate of Marcela, and St. Mikula).
- The parish church of St. Mary of the Snows from the 15th century with a bell tower from the 18th century.
- A City Loggia from the 16th century with the stocks. The Loggia has always been the heart of the town's public life. Today is the liveliest in the morning when it turns into an open market.
- A City Museum from the 15th century, the house in which the philosopher Frane Petrić of Cres was born. It is also called Arsan Palace because it used to be an arsenal.
- A Franciscan friary with the Church of St. Francis from the 14th century. The distinguishing feature of the friary is a double cloister: the outer Renaissance cloister with family crypts, in which members of eminent Cresian families were buried, and the inner, older cloister with a well neck in the middle on which the oldest Cres coat of arms from the 14th century is carved. The friary also contains a museum with a collection of old master paintings and sculptures, an ethnographic collection, and liturgical books. A true rarity is a Glagolitic missal, printed in Senj in 1494.

Contact

Hrvatsko filozofsko društvo (Croatian Philosophical Society)
Dani Frane Petrića (Days of Frane Petrić)
“Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture” Symposium
Krčka 1, HR–10000 Zagreb

Phone.: +385 (0)1 6111 808

E-mail: dfp@hrfd.hr

Please send your **Application Form**
by **1 July 2024** at the address:

jguc@ffst.hr

Josip Guć, Ph.D.

President of the Programme Committee of the Symposium
“Non-Human Animals in Philosophy and Culture”