

Kinga Gáll – False Cat, Vile Dog. Prejudices against Animals

The long-standing relationship between humans and animals has been marked by inequality. Animals have generally been regarded as inferior to humans, and this perception has shaped the ways in which they have been treated. Based on analogies with human behaviour, animals have been attributed various characteristics that have entered language in the form of comparisons and phraseological expressions. These associations are often rooted in prejudice, ignorance, or misinterpretations of animal behaviour. This article examines which prejudices and which animals are reflected in the German language.

Sigrid Haldenwang – The Domestic Cat in Transylvanian Documents and Transylvanian-Saxon Dialect Sources

This article first discusses the domestic cat in its literal sense on the basis of dialect evidence. It then examines documentary and dialectal attestations in which the cat appears figuratively and metaphorically in sayings, proverbs, comparisons, weather lore, and North-Transylvanian folk beliefs. The material is drawn from the Transylvanian-Saxon Dictionary, the North-Transylvanian Dictionary, and relevant scholarly and dialect literature.

Adina-Lucia Nistor – Greedy Wolf or Cunning Fox? Most Common Theriophoric Surnames in Germany

Using frequency lists from 1996 and 2005, this study investigates animal-based surnames among the thousand most common family names in Germany. After eliminating orthographic and dialectal variants, twenty-six animal names remain. Drawing on the Digital Dictionary of German Family Names, the article analyses their primary meanings and distribution, showing that most originated as nicknames, followed by occupational names, patronymics, and house names. Wolf and Fuchs emerge as the most frequent animal-based surnames.

Gudrun-Liane Ittu – The German Animal Painter Otto Fikentscher (1862–1945)

Invited by the Sebastian Hann Association for Domestic Art Endeavours, the animal painter Otto Fikentscher exhibited drawings and oil paintings in Sibiu between 30 May and 9 June 1914. Before that date he had repeatedly travelled to Transylvania to paint wildlife in the Carpathians. His work is characterised by a realistic, almost photographic style, confident draftsmanship, and a masterful rendering of atmosphere.

Ioana-Andrea Diaconu – Uli Stein’s Tierleben: Cartoons with Bite. A Tribute

This contribution pays tribute to the cartoonist Uli Stein, who died in 2020, and to his commitment to animal welfare. Focusing on the cartoons collected in the volume *Tierleben*, it analyses the depiction of mice, cats, dogs, penguins, parrots, and snakes endowed with human traits. The article also considers the history of human–animal relations and explores the extent to which these cartoons display characteristics of the fable.

Delia Cotârlea – Literary Cats in Texts by Carmen E. Puchianu and Romulus Bucur

This article examines the motif of the cat in works by the Braşov authors Carmen E. Puchianu and Romulus Bucur, highlighting the many facets of human–animal relationships. Whereas Puchianu’s narrative largely merges the worlds of humans and cats, Bucur’s poetry maintains a clear separation between them.

Maria Sass – Anthropomorphism as a Literary Strategy. Wolf von Aichelburg’s Animal Stories

The article analyses selected animal stories by Wolf von Aichelburg, one of the Romanian-German writers convicted in the Braşov Writers’ Trial of 1959. These stories function both as veiled criticism of the socialist system and as literary constructions drawing on fairy-tale and mythological traditions, creating a complex textual fabric that resists definitive interpretation.

Sunhild Galter – Animals in Ricarda Terschak’s *Drei Kinder und ein Dackel*

Ricarda Terschak was a widely read children’s author in the 1970s and 1980s. Animals play an important role throughout her work, helping traumatised, abandoned, or neglected children cope with life. Although her books often pursue an educational purpose, their popularity demonstrates her ability to speak convincingly to young readers and her deep concern for their well-being.

Grazziella Predoiu – Pity and Fear: Animals in Herta Müller’s Texts

Animals are a recurring element in Herta Müller’s works, appearing both in titles and within the narrative world. They connect village and urban settings, symbolise suffering under oppressive systems, and sometimes become agents of power themselves. Through animal metaphors, Müller reflects on the relationship between the individual and the state, while also expressing a longing for love.

Roxana Nubert – Animals and Humans in Herta Müller’s Texts

From *Niederungen* onwards, Herta Müller uses animals as symbols through which human suffering, surveillance, and power relations are represented. Figures such as the frog, the

pheasant, and the fox reflect experiences of social control and political oppression. Animal slaughter, in particular, mirrors the suffering and helplessness of oppressed people, especially women.

Stefan Lindinger – Wieland’s Frogs, Raabe’s Geese

This article investigates the role of animals in two interrelated narrative works in which frogs and geese function as satirical mirrors of human society. In both texts, animal collectives parallel the behaviour of a provincial community, highlighting themes of conformity, instability, and the potential for collective upheaval.

Carmen Elisabeth Puchianu – Thomas Mann’s *Herr und Hund* Revisited

Building on previous research, this article offers a new reading of Thomas Mann’s idyll *Herr und Hund*. It examines the interaction between biographical and political contexts and emphasises the personal and literary significance of the narrative within Mann’s oeuvre. Photographs from the author’s private archive are used to illustrate selected descriptions of the dog Bauschan.

Cornelia Eşianu – Thomas Bernhard, Kant and the Parrot

Focusing on the parrot Friedrich in Thomas Bernhard’s play *Immanuel Kant*, the article first examines the bird’s linguistic games and then investigates its role and significance within the drama. Particular attention is paid to the parrot’s contribution to the play’s philosophical and hermeneutic dimensions.

Ali Osman Öztürk – The Relationship between Animals and Humans in Else Günther’s Children’s Books

The significance of animals for humans has changed throughout history. In Else Günther’s children’s literature, animals occupy a central place and play an important role in the socialisation of children and adolescents. The article explores the various dimensions of human–animal relations and the role of animals in the perception of otherness.

Alexandra Nicolaescu – *Paulas Katze* by Waldtraut Lewin

Although marketed as children’s and young adult literature, Waldtraut Lewin’s novel *Paulas Katze* offers a much richer exploration of memory and history. The article analyses the relationship between literature and collective memory, situates the novel within broader literary scholarship, and examines textual passages that function as expressions of collective remembrance.

Beate Petra Kory – The Symbiosis of Humans and Animals in Marlen Haushofer’s *The Wall*

This contribution examines the protagonist’s animal family in Marlen Haushofer’s novel *The Wall*. It discusses the role of animals in her survival, the mutual transformations that result from close human–animal interaction, and the forms of communication that emerge between humans and animals in conditions of extreme isolation.

Thorsten Hanisch – Franz Kafka and the Fly

This article traces the connections between Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*, George Langelaan’s short story *The Fly*, and David Cronenberg’s film adaptation. It highlights thematic and narrative parallels and demonstrates how the motif of transformation links these three works across different media and historical contexts.