

Department of Languages & Cultures
2018 Research Seminar Series

A Talk by Prof. Dr Mieke Roscher
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The national-socialist dog?
On writing a political history of animals in the Third Reich



Within the medial self-representation of the Third Reich, the topic of dogs serving the national socialist cause was widely received and widely publicised. Nevertheless, historians have thus far neglected such topic when analysing the societal makeup of Nazi Germany, thus failing to grasp the whole picture of the workings of Nazi ideology. As I argue, it was via the real bodies of real animals that ideas of folk community and Germanic endurance were conveyed. Most importantly, animals contributed to shape the core ideas of national socialism's racial politics. In this talk, I introduce the concept of a political history of animals, which aims to uncover the layers of meaning of these racialized and Germanized animals and their importance for the national socialist narratives of *Volk*, blood and soil as well as the vision of a Great Germanic Reich.

Tuesday: March 13, 2018 14:00pm A3N7 3rd Floor Arts Building