

Preface

Human-Animal Studies are gaining more and more momentum in archaeo(zoo)logy for good reasons - it is time to have yet another look at animal-human relations that is less anthropocentric than it was before. Such an approach could come in different forms: from the study of single species and their relation to humans to a so-called multispecies archaeology. However, it could also include imaginary animals, such as dragons and unicorns, or half-animal, half-human beings. The present book is on the one hand to be understood as a small contribution to Human-Animal Studies in archaeo(zoo)logy - and on the other also as a first step towards a multispecies archaeology, being a broader look on different species, non-human and human-animal, but, for the time being, excluding plants.

With some alterations and additions, the publication basically goes back to a digital session at the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) in Kiel (Germany) in September 2021, entitled »Beast and Human«. I am very grateful to my session co-organisers Dr. Ekaterina Kashina from the State Historical Museum in Moscow (Russia), Dr. Tuija Kirkinen from Helsinki University (Finland), Prof. Hannah O'Regan from Nottingham University (United Kingdom) and, finally, Associate Professor Giedrė Piličiauskienė from Vilnius University (Lithuania). It was the five of us who collaborated on the shaping and handling of the EAA session and who still remain in contact.

For various reasons, the present book is now, regretfully, solely edited by me. However, the EAA session as such, with its colourful and diverse set of contributions, is worth publishing. As it has turned out, the papers can be arranged in such a manner that they constitute a narrative which ranges, geographically, from the United Kingdom to Russia and, chronologically, from the Late Palaeolithic to Early Modern Times.

The book's narrative fits in with the ongoing long-term research program on Human-Animal Studies, which was started in 2010 by my dear colleague PD Dr. habil. Ulrich Schmölcke and myself at the then Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) in Schleswig, northern Germany. Due to its integration into the Leibniz-Centre for Archaeology (LEIZA, with its main seat in Mainz) in 2024, the ZBSA ceased to exist as an institute, but research is continued in Schleswig. That work has always included - and continues to do so - publishing articles and monographs as the outcome of personal research, as well as the organization of conferences, some of which have resulted in the extended proceedings »Hunting in Northern Europe until 1500 AD« (2013), »Raptor and Human« (2018), »Raptor on the Fist« (2020) and »Bear and Human« (2023), while research on »Exotic Animal and Human« is still ongoing. These books also have a bearing on the articles in the present publication.

The gathered texts have gone through a peer review and a close copy-editing. Reviewing was done by the editor and, additionally, from among the book authors or externally. This excludes the editor's text that serves as introduction, discussion and synthesis. I am grateful for the help I had in the reviewing process, and it is most welcome that both print and digital versions (Open Access Gold) of the book will be available.

Book production always involves different parties, which shall not be forgotten. I would like to thank all the authors for providing such substantial texts and for being so patient in the long process of creating the book. As for many years now, there was precious help by dear colleagues in Schleswig with whom it is a pleasure to work: copy-editor Dr. Gundula Lidke and graphic editor Matthias Bolte. The cover layout was created by Nicole Viehöver (LEIZA, MONREPOS | Archäologisches

Forschungszentrum und Museum für menschliche Verhaltensevolution, Neuwied) and, as for many years now, Sharon Shellock (United Kingdom) carried out the language proof-reading of the texts. Thanks to all! Finally, Dr. Rosie Bonté (Brepols Publishers, Belgium) came up with the idea for a book based on the EAA session. Without her, there would be no such book. This is well-remembered.

Enjoy the publication!

Oliver Grimm
Schleswig, May 2025