



Italian Association for Ethnoarchaeology (AIE)

CATS - PAST & PRESENT

An interdisciplinary perspective

Genetics, zoology, archaeology, archaeozoology, ethnoarchaeology,
anthropology, ethnography, folklore, history of art, sociology, veterinary,
psychology, literature, philosophy, performing, visual arts

Rome, 19th -21st November 2025

National Research Council (CNR)
Sala Convegni, via dei Marrucini (no street number)
19th-20th November

Sapienza Università di Roma
Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali ISO
Circonvallazione Tiburtina 4
21st November



In collaborazione con

ISTITUTO ITALIANO
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RC DIAGNOSTICA



Thanks to our friends, our *cats* friends and all the friends of *cats*

Elisa Barboni - *Oliver and Dolphin*, Enzo Barillà and Antonella Bizzarro - *Ernesto*, Stefano Biagetti, Ania - *Bambolina*, Paolo Burci, Giusy Calandra - *Punto e virgola*, Graziano Capitini - *Teodolinda and Mustafá*, Franco D'Agostino - *Panuzio, Sofia and Isotta*, Vienna Eleuteri - *Helwa*, Luciano Fattore - *Mais*, Fiore Family - *Micetta Family*, Adele Fiore - *OcchiBlu*, Fiorini Family - *Alien*, Jan Gadeyne, Patrizia Gioia, Simona Guerra - *Micio*, Marta Lugli - *Clappy and Sissy*, Luisa Migliorati - *Otto, Saké and Momoji*, Filippo and Anna Livia Perriccioli, Mario Federico Rolfo - *Minou*, Elisa and Gianluca Rollo - *Biro*, Andrea Romagnoli - *XFile*, Angela Rossi - *Strogatto*, Fernanda Rossi - *Gigio*, Antonio Tagliacozzo, Umberto - *Kyria and Sirio*, Roberto Vannata.

Our heartfelt thanks to *Cu.Cu. Cucina&Cultura Catering*, Rome's first fully organic, sustainable, and fair-trade catering service, for accompanying our conference with a philosophy so naturally aligned with our own - honoring the planet, nurturing genuine connection, and embracing a mindful vision of the future we choose to shape together.



Wednesday, 19th November 2025

National Research Council (CNR)

09:00 Registration and Welcome

09:30 Opening Remarks

INTRODUCTION

10:00 Simone Pollo (*Lectio Magistralis*) - *Cats, the City and Not-Just-Human Democracy*

10:30 Eugenia Natoli - *Solitary in the Past, Social in the Present: Behavioural Plasticity of the Domestic Cat*

10:45 Astrid D'Eredità, Barbara Nazzaro - *The Cats of Rome and the Colosseum: Between Collective Imagination and Daily Management of the Cat Colony*

.....Coffee Break.....

GENETICS & ISOTOPES

11:30 Claudio Ottoni (*Lectio Magistralis*) - *The Dispersal of Domestic Cats to Europe Over the Last 2,000 Years*

12:00 Jeanne Mattei, Thierry Grange, Eva-Maria Geigl - *What Can Ancient Genomes Teach Us About the Evolution of the Cat-Human Relationship?*

12:15 Betty Mouraud, Patrizia Serventi, Bea De Cupere, Marco De Martino, Valentina Rovelli, Sébastien Lepetz, Gaëtan Jouanin, Sean Doherty, Naomi Sykes, Laurent Frantz, Greger Larson, Joris Peters, Wim Van Neer, Claudio Ottoni - *Paleogenomic Insights into the Dispersal of Domestic Cats to Europe and Selection Patterns Across Time*

12:30 Gene T. Shev, Bea De Cupere, Anastasia Brozou, Benjamin T. Fuller, Marcello A. Mannino, Wim Van Neer, Steven Bouillon, Claudio Ottoni - *Cat-Human Interactions Reconstructed with Stable Isotope Analysis at the Late Roman – Early Byzantine Site of Sagalassos, Turkey (ca. 300-650 CE)*

.....Discussion.....

.....13:00 - Lunch Break.....

PALAEONTOLOGY & ZOOLOGY

14:00 Raffaele Sardella (*Lectio Magistralis*) - *Felids – 35 Million Years of Evolution*

14:30 Dawid Adam Iurino, Alessio Iannucci, Alessandro Tasso, Fabio Mongiovì, Fabio Bona, Marco Voltolini, Raffaele Sardella - *A Glimpse into the Enigmatic Evolutionary History of *Felis silvestris*: New Insights from a Late Pleistocene Cranium from Ingarano (Puglia, Italy)*



- 14:45** Jordi Serangeli - *The Importance of Felines in Both Human and Environmental Evolution*
- 15:00** Ibra Edoardo Monti, Roberta Lecis, Andrea Sforzi, Massimo Scandura - *A Wildcat from the Heart of the Mediterranean: Insights from One Year of Non-Invasive Monitoring of the Sardinian Wildcat (Felis silvestris lybica)*

..... *Coffee Break*

ARCHAEOZOOLOGY

- 15:45** Marco Masseti (*Lectio Magistralis*) - *An Ancient Commensal of Man*
- 16:15** Ursula Thun Hohenstein, Francesca Alhaique, Ivana Fiore, Antonio Tagliacozzo - *Wild Cat Exploitation in Italy during the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic*
- 16:30** Claudia Minniti, Chiara Assunta Corbino - *From Luxury to Companion Animal: The History of Cat in Italy from the Iron Age to the Middle Ages*
- 16:45** Ilaria Lonegro, Fabio Fiori, Antonio Curci - *Cats of the Elite: Case Study of the Cesspit of the Frederician Fortified Tower in Monselice (Padua)*
- 17:00** Eduards Plankājs - *Archaeological Evidence of the Earliest Domestic Cats in the Territory of Latvia*

..... *Discussion*

Thursday, 20th November 2025

National Research Council (CNR)

ARCHAEOLOGY

- 09:00** Franco D'Agostino (*Lectio Magistralis*) - *Cats in Mesopotamia*
- 09:30** Malgorzata Grebska-Kulow - *Leopards and Other Wild Cats in the East Mediterranean Region During the Prehistory*
- 09:45** Giuseppe Minunno - *Bastet in Phoenician Religion*
- 10:00** Marina Maria Serena Nuovo, Marta Osypińska, Piotr Osypiński, Iwona Zych - *The Cats of Berenike - Remarks on Some Companion Animals from an Early Roman Red Sea Port in Egypt*

..... *Coffee Break*

- 10:45** Valentina Cosentino - *The Cat between Ancient Greece and Rome: The Time of Resistance*
- 11:00** Andrei V. Varenov - *Cats and Feline Predators in Sanxingdui Ritual Bronzes*
- 11:15** Maria Kudinova - *Cats as Pet Animals in Medieval China (Tang - Song Period)*

- 11:30** Leonardo Fioretti, Lidja Mcnigh, Paolo Schirolli, Chantal Milani, Francesca Motta, Jonathan Elias, Sabina Malgora - *Miw, the Cat in Ancient Egypt: History, Sources, Relationship with People and Radiological Analysis*
- 11:45** Andrei V. Novikov, Aleksandr V. Kenig - *Cat in the Culture of Ob-Ugrians*
- 12:00** Olga V. Maltseva - *Domestication Pathway of Amur Cats: From Practical Hunters to Venerated Symbols*

..... *Discussion*

..... **13:00 Lunch Break**

HISTORY OF ART

- 14:00** Margherita Mussi, Manuel Bea, Gianpiero Di Maida - *Big Cats in Palaeolithic Art*
- 14:15** Daniela Zampetti - *Cats and Their Relatives: The Felids in the Central Sahara Rock Art*
- 14:30** Dmitriy V. Cheremisin - *Snow Leopard in the Rock Art of Altai*
- 14:45** Vladimir V. Bobrov - *Large Cats in the Art of Early Nomads of the Eurasian Steppe*
- 15:00** Arina Bodrova - *A Scene of a Feline Predator Tormenting a Hoofed Animal in a Pazyryk Tattoo*
- 15:15** Frédéric Devienne - *Cats and Humans in Chinese Pictorial Arts from the Origins to the Present Day: What Feline Imagery Reveals About Domesticated Cats in China*
- 15:30** Donatella Failla - *Cats and Women in Japan: Socio-Cultural Contexts, Representations, and Symbolic Meanings*
- 15:45** Franziska Kabelitz - *Cats in the Cabinet: Tracing Feline Presence in Berlin's Museum for Islamic Art*

..... *Discussion*

..... *Coffee Break*

16:30 POSTER SESSION

Friday, 21st November 2025

Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali ISO

PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS

- 9:00** Irina Sopova - *Cat's Role in European Musical Theatre*
- 9:15** Alessandra Lazzari - *Character Analysis of Feline Breeds as They Appear in the Periodic Graphic Series*



- 9:30 Galina Sychenko - *Matroskin the Cat – an Archetypal Fairy Tale Character, Iconic Cartoon Hero and the Face of the “Prostokvashino” Dairy Brand*

..... *Discussion*

ETHNOGRAPHY, ANTHROPOLOGY & FOLKLORE

- 10:00 Simona Bealcovschi (*Lectio Magistralis*) - *The Fabulous Journey of the Western Feline: From Demonization in the Middle Ages to the Enchantment of Contemporary Cyberspace*
- 10:15 Ferran Pons-Raga - *Beyond a Three-Letter Acronym (TNR): Ethnography of the Socio-Technical Life of Trap-Neuter-Return in the Canary Islands, Spain*
- 10:30 Antonio Affuso, Ada Preite, Marta Golin, Vito Antonio Baglivo - *Cats in Ionian Basilicata: Archaeological and Cultural Evidence*

..... *Coffee Break*

- 11:15 Suzana Marjanić - *The Balkan Cat*
- 11:30 Valeria Kolosova - *“Cat” Plants in Slavonic Folk Botany*
- 11:45 Mariya P. Chernaya - *The Cat’s Paw Is Soft, but Its Claw Is Sharp: Cats in Russian Folk Culture*
- 12:00 Francesca Lugli, Graziano Capitini - *Nomads and Cats*
- 12:15 Maria V. Stanyukovich - *Domestic Cat, Civet and Visayan Leopard Cat in the Philippines*

..... *Discussion*

..... **13:00 Lunch Break**

- 14:00 Aglaia Iankovskaia - *Cats That Walk by Themselves: Approaching Human-Cat Relationships in Indonesia*
- 14:15 Claudio Giardino, Jing Tai, Li Man - *Secular and Spiritual: Comparative Anthropological Perception of Cat between Eastern and Western Cultures*
- 14:30 Vienna Eleuteri - *From Desert Companions to Urban Symbols: The Evolving Role of Cats in Bedouin and Contemporary Saudi Society*
- 14:45 Guy Lanoue - *Cat Tales Among Northwestern Native North Americans*
- 15:00 Yaroslav Vassilkov - *Cats and Humans in India: From Harappa up to the Present*

Guy Lanoue - Final Discussion and Closing Remarks

..... *Final toast*



Thursday, 20th November 2025 – 16:30

Francesca Corradini - *Domestication and Beyond*

Dario Daffara, Marina Lo Blundo, Paola Francesca Rossi - *Follow the Footprints ... the Neverending Story of Cats in Ostia*

Marco Fatucci, Valentina Asta - *The Case of the Isolated Felis catus Cranium from the Castle of Santa Severa (Italy)*

Ivana Fiore - *Gnawing on Bird Bones: Fractures and Traces*

Ivana Fiore, Luisa Migliorati - *A Cat in the Well at Peltuinum (Aquila, Italy)*

Ivana Fiore, Antonio Tagliacozzo - *The Felids of Grotta della Madonna in Praia a Mare (Italy)*

Laura Eloisa Gorello, Ursula Thun Hohenstein - *The Lion and the Hero: A Feline Remain from the Sanctuary of Hercules at Campochiaro (CB)*

Francesca Lugli, Ivana Fiore - *The Cat at the Museum*

Beniamino Mecozzi, Dušan Borić, Francesca Alhaique - *The European Wildcat from the Fucino Basin (Italy): Paleontological and Archeozoological Considerations*

Maria Chiara Pizza, Giulia Patrizi, Lucio Fiorini, Claudia Minniti - *The Role of Cat in the Cult of Adonis: The Evidence from the Etruscan Southern Sanctuary of Gravisca (Tarquinia, Italy)*

Ana Rois, Beatriz Mendonça, Matilde Tavares, Íris Dias, Vitor Silva, Ana Loureiro, Susana Dias, Gonçalo Jesus - *Public Perceptions and Ecological Realities: The Contested Role of Cats*

Leonardo Salari - *Zoomorphic Figures of Felids in the Nile Mosaic of Palestrina (Latium, Italy; 2nd Century BC)*

Patrizia Serventi, Betty Mouraud, Gene Shev, Bea De Cupere, Valentina Rovelli, Marco De Martino, Marica Baldoni, Ulrich Schmölcke, Steven Bouillon, Wim Van Neer, Claudio Ottoni - *Bioarchaeology of Cats in Motion: Ancient DNA and Isotopic Traces from Medieval Urban Trade Hubs*

Assunta Alessandra Stoppiello - *The Universal Fascination of the Cat in Children's Imagination*

CATS past & present

1st International Conference



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