

*Symposium Cumanum 2026*

# Vergil and Animal Studies

Villa Vergiliana, Cuma-Bacoli

23-27 June 2026



Claude Lorrain, *Landscape with Ascanius Shooting the Stag of Sylvia*, 1681–1682.  
Ashmolean Museum (image via wikicommons)

## Organizers:

**Sanjaya Thakur (Colorado College)**  
**Kris Fletcher (Louisiana State University)**

*Under the auspices of the Vergilian Society,  
the Department of Classics of Colorado College and Louisiana State University*



**Tuesday June 23:**

18:30 – 19:30: Welcome aperitivo at Villa Vergiliana

19:30: Dinner at Villa Vergiliana

**Wednesday June 24:**

09:00 – 09:15: Introduction, Sanjaya Thakur (Colorado College, USA),  
Kris Fletcher (Louisiana State University, USA)

09:15 – 10:00: Welcome of Local Authorities

Panel 1 – Chair: Kris Fletcher

10:00 – 10:30: paper 1 Emily Hurt (John Cabot University, Rome)

“Founding Hesperia: Animals and Colonization in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

10:30 – 11:00: paper 2 Jay Reed (Brown University, USA)

“Turnus and Other Tigers in Roman Imperial Poetics”

11:00 – 11:30: Coffee

Panel 2 – Chair: Sanjaya Thakur

11:30 – 12:00: paper 3 Nicole Brown (Mount Holyoke College, USA)

“*Lanigeræ comitantur oves*: Polyphemus’ Sheep in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

12:00 – 12:30: paper 4 Nandini Pandey (Johns Hopkins University, USA)

“Human-animal biocapitalism and reproductive despotics in Vergil’s *Eclogues*, via Varro”

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

Panel 3 – Chair: Lily Panoussi (College of William and Mary, USA)

14:00 – 14:30: paper 5 Tashi Treadway (Johns Hopkins University, USA)

“Vergil and Animals: The Biopolitics of the Shared Disease and Care”

14:30 – 15:00: paper 6 Mira Seo (Wesleyan University, USA)

“Dangerous Deer: Intrusive Animals and Female Desire in the *Aeneid* and the *Rāmāyana*”

15:00 – 15:30: paper 7 Qibei Chen (Cambridge University, UK)

“The Christian reuse of Vergil’s animals: the serpent in Proba’s Vergilian *Cento*”

16:00 Visit to the Sibyl’s Cave and Cuma site

19:30 Dinner at Villa Vergiliana

**Thursday June 25:**

Panel 4 – Chair: Timothy Joseph

09:00 – 09:30: paper 8 Estella Kessler (Center for Hellenic Studies, USA)

“The wounded deer”

09:30 – 10:00: paper 9 Anne Tuttle Mackay

“Inept & (dis)Interested: Human Haplessness and Animal Response in the *Aeneid*”

10:00 – 10:30: paper 10 Sergio Casali (Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”)

“Animal Metamorphoses in Virgil’s *Aeneid*”

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee

Panel 5 – Chair: Mira Seo

11:00 – 11:30: paper 11 Katherine Krauss (Pennsylvania State University, USA)

“Bulls and Biopolitics in *Georgics* 3”

11:30 – 12:00: paper 12 Timothy Joseph (College of the Holy Cross, USA)

“Non-human hospitality and human diplomacy in *Georgics* 4.8–32 and beyond”

12:00 – 12:30: paper 13 Phoebe Lakin (Harvard University, USA)

“*Dictu mirabile monstrum*: Thinking Tentacularly with Virgil’s *Georgics*”

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 18:00: Visit to MANN: Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

18:00: Return to Villa Vergiliana

19:30: Dinner at Villa Vergiliana

### **Friday June 26:**

Panel 6 – Chair: Sergio Casali

09:00 – 9:30 paper 14 Gemma Bernadó Ferrer (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia)

“Servius’ interpretation of bees in his Commentary on the fourth book of Vergil’s *Georgics*”

09:30 – 10:00: paper 15 Stephen Kershner (Austin Peay State University, USA)

“What Vergil’s Post-Human Bees Have to Teach Us”

10:00 – 10:30: paper 16 Richard Thomas (Harvard University, USA)

“Human Animals: Empathy in the *Georgics*”

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee

Panel 7 – Chair: Nandini Pandey

11:00 – 11:30: paper 17 Daisy Dorrington (Newcastle University, United Kingdom)

“Wild Mother, Sexual Other: The She-Wolf’s Duality in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

11:30 – 12:00: paper 18 Krešimir Vuković (Charles University in Prague, Czechia)

“The Beast and the Sovereign: The Wolf in the *Aeneid*”

12:00 – 12:30: paper 19 Marsha McCoy (Southern Methodist University, USA)

“Lions, and Tigers, and Bears, Oh My! Circe’s Animals in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

Panel 8 – Chair: Jay Reed

14:00 – 14:30: paper 20 Lena Cavicchia (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

“Vergil’s Nightingale Reimagined in Bulgarian “Root-searching” Literature”

14:30 – 15:00: paper 21 Mélanie Labernède (Sorbonne Université, France)

“Birds and Myth in Vergil’s *Georgics*”

15:00 – 15:30: paper 22 Hedwig Schmalzgruber (Universität Graz, Austria)

“The human-bird metamorphoses in the pseudo-Vergilian *Ciris*”

16:00 Visit to Parco Archeologico delle Terme di Baia

18:30 Dinner and tour: Agriturismo Lavinum

