Defining the Human and the Animal

German Studies Conference, May 2nd and 3rd
Knight Library Browsing Room

During the height of German idealism, German philosophers and writers emphasized the spiritual qualities of the human over the base instincts of non-human creatures. Such efforts to preserve the reign of the spirit over the body are particularly pronounced in the German context. The ideological implications of such attempts to safeguard human sovereignty are the central focus of the conference. It will explore literary, scientific, and philosophical endeavors at defining and redefining the borders between the human and the animal from the late eighteenth century up to the twentieth century.

Presented by the Department of German & Scandinavian, co-sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of Comparative Literature, Philosophy, the Journal of Comparative Literature, the Oregon Humanities Center, the German Studies Committee, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

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