

Research seminar with Isabelle Schürch (University of Vienna)

Multispecies Histories. Thinking and Writing with Medieval Worms?

Monday 23rd November 2026, at 14:00 – 16:00

Room 1461-516 (AU Nobelpark)

Open to all AU staff and students. No registration required

Medieval worms are good to think with – especially because they were all too intimate companions of human beings. Entangled with human and nonhuman bodies and embedded in medieval systems of knowledge, they unsettled the epistemic and ontological boundaries through which natural historians, chroniclers, and medical experts defined "human". Writing academically about medieval worms requires attending to forms of life that often resist human-centred categories of historical significance. It also calls for a mode of historical narration capable of tracing entanglement without reducing more-than-human lives to mere extensions of human experience. Taking worms seriously as historical agents reveals the body as a multispecies site and challenges narratives grounded in human exceptionalism. This approach could open alternative ways of theorising more-than-human embodiment, historical experience, and shared modes of living – and dying.

Organised by the Research Programme in History, in collaboration with the Changing Environments research programme.

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