

# ANIMALS IN ASIAN

## HISTORY, SOCIETY, THOUGHT



While rice dominates the modern view, animals have always played a crucial role in Asian cultures. Cicada, monkeys, crabs, dogs and horses feature prominently in Chinese and Japanese arts and crafts, philosophy and poetry. Much less known is that animals have also always been central to this region's historical social, political, and economic development, its ritual and intellectual life. Are animals an overlooked topic?

This conference brings together experts to explore animals as a way to gain new insights into the changes of Asian societies and cultures, their scientific approach and technological development, past and present. What role did and does Chinese and Japanese thought assign to animals, as a resource, as a living being, and in state politics and individual lives? In focus are three topics: (1) **Rites and resources**; (2) **Planning living beings, state management of animals and people**; (3) **Scholarly things, living creatures: animals in literature and art.**

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Organized and funded by the British Inter-University China Centre (BICC) and the Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS),  
The University of Manchester  
<http://www.bicc.ac.uk>

