



## **The Cat's Pyjamas: Cats in Culture and Society**

programme (updated 24 May 2023)

**Location:** Senate House Library, Dr Seng Tee Lee Room, and online

**Zoom-link:** shared with registered participants before the event

The times are London time/British Summer Time (UTC +1).

### **Day 1: Thursday 25 May 2023**

9.00-9.30	Arrival
9.30-10.00	Riitta Valijärvi & Charlotte Doesburg: Welcome
10.00-11.00	<b>Keynote 1</b> Chair: Charlotte Doesburg  Kathleen Walker-Meikle (Science Museum Group): The Paradoxical Medieval Cat
11.00-11.30	Break
11.30-13.00	<b>Cats in Pictures</b> Chair: Andrea Meyer Ludowisy (Senate House Library)  Taina Syrjämaa (University of Turku): Affections and Agencies – Photographed Cats in Finland at the Turn of the 20th Century  Charlotte Lindgren (Uppsala University): The Swedish Cat Findus on Book Covers  Charlotte Doesburg (University College London): The Dutch Pussycat Newspaper and Graphic Design
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	<b>Semitic Cats</b> Chair: Joseph Ford (School of Advanced Study, University of London)  Barbara Bakker (Dalarna University): Cats in Contemporary Arabic Children's Literature

	<p>Lovisa Berg (Dalarna University): The Feminine Feline – Cats in Arabic Love Poetry</p> <p>Lily Kahn (University College London): The Representation of Cats in the Jewish Textual Tradition</p>
15.30-16.00	Break
16.00-17.00	<p><b>Keynote 2</b> Chair: Riitta Valijärvi</p> <p>Kristyn Vitale (Unity College): Cat Social Lives – The Current Science on Cat Behaviour and Cat-Human Interactions</p>
17.00-18.00	Reception with refreshments

## Day 2: Friday 26 May 2023

9.00-10.00	<p><b>Cats and Libraries</b> Chair: Charlotte Doesburg</p> <p>Andrea Meyer Ludowisy &amp; Tansy Barton (Senate House Library): Information about the Exhibition</p> <p>Richard Espley (V&amp;A): Cats in Libraries</p>
10.00-10.30	<p><b>Cats in Ukraine and Russia</b> Chair: Riitta Valijärvi</p> <p>Per-Arne Bodin (Stockholm University): Ukrainian and Russian Cats – On Language and War</p>
10.30-11.00	Break
11.00-13.00	<p><b>Functions of Cats in Texts</b> Chair: Riitta Valijärvi</p> <p>Timothy Bourns (University College London): Cats in Medieval Icelandic Life and Literature</p> <p>Tonisha Guin (Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur): Decolonising Gender through Feline Femininity – Reading “Shashti, the Benefactress” as a Colonial Queer-Feminist Critique</p> <p>Antoine Paris (Université Bordeaux Montaigne): Fritz the Cat, Blacksad, and the No Man’s Lands of Anthropomorphism in Comic Books</p> <p>Elettra Carbone (University College London): Animals or Children? Representations of Cats in Bjørg Vik’s <i>Reisen til Venezia</i> (1992, <i>The Trip to Venice</i>)</p>

13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	<p><b>Cats and Humans</b> Chair: Charlotte Doesburg</p> <p>Yinhe Quan (Waseda University) &amp; Yuying Lai (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies): Analysis of the Status of Cat Ownership in Japanese Society and the Spiritual Soothing Effect of Cats</p> <p>Sanna Lillbroända-Annala (Åbo Akademi University): The Making of Stray Catness</p> <p>Riitta Valijärvi (University College London, Uppsala University): Cats and Language Pedagogy</p> <p>Vera Vasas (Queen Mary University of London): In the Eye of the Cat – A Biologist’s Summary on How Our Cats See and Understand the World</p>
16.00-16.30	Break
16.30-17.30	<p><b>Keynote 3</b> Chair: Riitta Valijärvi</p> <p>Ben P. Robertson &amp; Katona Weddle (Troy University): Revolutionary Cats – The Symbolic Paradox of Felinity</p>

There will be an option to have dinner together on both evenings in the local area. Dinner is not included in the conference fee.

For any questions, please contact the organisers:

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