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Panel “Civitas Innaturalis: Nature and (Post)Humanism in Italian Literature”

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**“Inseguito tu stesso animale / oltre la sillaba”
Antispeciesism, Eco-criticism, and Animal Advocacy in Contemporary Italian Poetry**

ABSTRACT

In the last fifteen years, Italy has witnessed a flourishing debate on animal studies and eco-criticism, primarily influenced by the work of Deleuze, Lévinas, Horkheimer, Derrida, Agamben and Singer. The most recent and poignant developments have been: Roberto Marchesini’s establishment of the new field of zooanthropology; groundbreaking publications on post-humanism and animal studies by young scholars such as Paolo Caruso, Paola Cavalieri, Lisa De Luigi, Massimo Filippi, and Eliana Villalta; and the intense philosophical inquiry on speciesism provoked by Leonardo Caffo and Marco Maurizi, now merging into the ongoing debate on the blog “Asinus Novus” and the journal “Animal Studies.”

In this paper, I will explore how contemporary Italian poets (e.g. Fernando Bandini, Maurizio Ferrari, Mario Luzi, Franco Marcoaldi, Paolo Volponi,) engage with these issues, focusing particularly on those works that have the potential to enrich the philosophical debate and help us understand, through the language of poetry, the shift in human/animal relationships, the validity of an anthropocentric view of the world, the clash between nature and artificiality, and the re-consideration of animals in the arts, not for their aesthetic qualities or as metaphors of the human condition, but rather as living beings at a biological level.

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Biographical note

Matteo Gilebbi is a Senior Lecturing Fellow and Cultural Advisor in the Department of Romance Studies at Duke University. He is also the managing editor of the Journal of Modern Italian Literature “L’Anello Che Non Tiene.” His primary area of research is the interaction between literature, philosophy, and mass media in modern and contemporary culture. His publications focus on the interaction between poetry and animal studies, and on the relationship between literature and digital technologies.