Strange Relations: Poe and the Animal World

The animal world does not figure largely in the narratives authored by Edgar Allan Poe. Yet even though encounters between human beings and other species do not happen frequently in those texts, animal actors play significant roles in some of Poe’s major works. In addition, other Poe texts feature confrontations between human and animal agents that invite zoocritical interpretations. Possible areas of investigation include power relations between humans and other species as well as the construction of the animal subject, with a view to determining how far the process of anthropomorphization extends in Poe’s fiction. However, other lines of inquiry are also welcome.

At the upcoming American Literature Association Conference in Chicago (May 26-29), the PSA will sponsor a panel titled Strange Relations: Poe and the Animal World, for which the PSA seeks proposals. To submit a proposal, please send a title and abstract of no more than 250 words to Sławomir Studniarz at slawomirstudniarz@wp.pl Please use “PSA ALA Panel 2022” for the subject line. The deadline for submissions is January 10, 2022. Panelists will be notified by January 15, 2022.