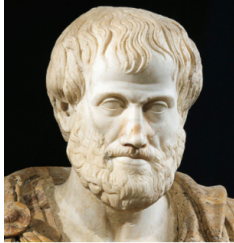




Einladung zu einem Gastvortrag von



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«Aristotle On the Emotions of Women»

A passage from the ninth book of the *Historia animalium* (Book VIII in Balme's edition) is the only evidence we have that Aristotle connected women's character to their biological make-up. This paper will explore what exactly Aristotle claims about the affective capacities of female as opposed to male animals and particularly human females, women. The *Historia animalium* is part of the project to gather relevant information about differences between animals in aid of explanatory accounts. While females within a kind are noted to be milder tempered and more thoughtful or intelligent, males tend to be spirited, aggressive and simple-minded (*HA* IX.1, 608a22-608b4). When it comes to women, reputable sources suggest that they are also 'more prone to tears', 'more apt to scold and fight', and 'more shameless and lying' (608b5-11). It is unclear why such descriptions, which appear to come about due to cultural influences, occur in a work concentrating on natural phenomena. If Aristotle were to agree to the veridicality of this data, he would have to square female physiology with complex human emotional responses, including anger and resentment. This paper will present a feasible way to understand why Aristotle includes these descriptions of women in the *Historia animalium* and how they might be in some sense 'biological'.

Donnerstag, 30. Oktober 2025

12:15 – 13.45 Uhr

UZH, RAG 104 (Rämistrasse 68, Zürich)

Dieser Gastvortrag findet im Rahmen des Kolloquiums «Emotionale Gemeinschaften in der Antike» von Prof. Markus Hafner und Prof. Douglas Cairns statt.

Dozierende, Studierende und weitere Interessierte sind herzlich eingeladen. Eine Teilnahme per Zoom ist möglich. Für den **Zoom-Link** und bei weiteren Fragen wenden Sie sich bitte an benedetta.foletti@sglp.uzh.ch.

Prof. Dr. Markus Hafner & MA Benedetta Foletti