Monkeys, Mules and Mockery

A Workshop on Animals and the Pejorative in Pre-Modern Texts

The Early Text Cultures Project invites you to join us at 5 pm on Friday 2nd June in the Mure Room at Merton College for a discussion of animals and negative depictions of nations, peoples and individuals. The presenters and participants will jointly explore the ways in which animals are employed within the pre-modern period to criticise individuals and groups, how such imagery alters between cultures and how modern perspectives might affect our understanding of it.

The workshop will involve a series of short presentations followed by a roundtable dialogue.

Alex MacFarlane (Linacre)
**An Armenian interpretation of the lobster in the Alexander Romance**

Vishal Sharma (Wolfson)
**Associations between dogs and marginalised people within the Mahābhārata**

Kirsty Stewart (Merton)
**Byzantine depictions of individuals as animals**

The event is open to all, and we hope that attendants will bring enrich the discussion with the insights from other traditions and periods. The event will be followed by a wine reception.