

## Summary of the doctoral thesis

### **“The animal in early Greek thought. Changes in the perception of animals in the context of the evolution of the concept of soul and intellect until the 5th century BC”**

The subject of this thesis is the perception of animals in Greek thought until the 5th century BC, analyzed on five levels: the level of body, soul, intellect, society, and religion. I am primarily interested in three questions: 1) was human understood in opposition to the animal? 2) were changes in the concept of the soul and intelligence correlated with changes in the perception of animals? 3) what can we conclude about the perception of animals from the fragments of perspectival character? The first chapter deals with the working methodology; in the second I analyze the perception of animals in the epics of Homer and Hesiod, in the third – in the Presocratic philosophy, in the fourth I present perspectival fragments, and in the fifth I raise the problem of the relationship between the archaic concept of the soul, the belief in reincarnation, and vegetarianism. What I wanted to prove is that the understanding of animals in archaic Greek thought differed from the one we know from classical and late antique texts. There are few archaic fragments in which human is placed in opposition to animals, and their interpretation is ambiguous. In the period I was interested in, the human and animal souls were treated in the same manner, and although different thinkers held differing views on intelligence, only Alcmaeon defined human as possessing some aspect of intelligence that distinguished him from animals. In early Greek thought we can also find passages of a perspectival character, which show that Greek thinkers were interested in the animal point of view and found it as valuable to study as the human one.

Krakow, 18th May 2023

Author's signature: 

Supervisor's signature: 