

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 402 – Honours Seminar in Human Geography: Urban Animal Geographies and Histories



Course Instructor	Claudia Towne Hirtenfelder	Email: ch174@queensu.ca
Office	TBA	
Contact Time	2x 1.5 seminars/week	
Format	Seminar discussions, multimedia engagements	
Class Assessment	Weekly discussions, seminar presentation, short animal history, essay on animal commodity chains.	

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores the complex and multi-varied relations animals have with cities. For some animals the city is an opportune place where they can thrive, for many others the city represents displacement and violence (Thrift, 2021). Animals work, live, and die in cities but the ways in which they do so have distinct geographies and temporalities. Geographers are at the forefront of elucidating animals' entanglements with the urban and they flag how cities are an important place for thinking about multispecies power relations. This course will equip you with some of the conceptual and methodological tools you need to conduct such analyses yourself.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Exercise a critical and complex understanding of concepts related to urban animal geographies.
- Illustrate methodological and analytical skills to understand urban animals.
- Illustrate a nuanced appreciation for how animals interact with urban environments.

COURSE TOPICS

Some of the topics we will cover include: the urban governance of animals, multi-species power relations, geographies of inclusion and exclusion, questions of animal subjectivity, and animals' relations with Kingston.

COURSE READINGS (Selected readings and only specific chapters in the books will be required)

- Arcari, P., Probyn-Rapsey, F. and Singer, H., 2021. Where species don't meet: Invisibilized animals, urban nature and city limits. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 4(3): 940-965.
- Dean, J., Ingram, D. and Setha, C., 2017. *Animal Metropolis: Histories of Human-Animal Relations in Urban Canada*
- Hovorka, A., 2008. Transspecies urban theory: chickens in an African city. *Cultural Geographies*, 15(1): 95-117.
- Jerolmack, C., 2008. How pigeons became rats. *Social problems*, 55(1): 72-94.
- Kheraj, S., 2015. Urban environments and the animal nuisance: domestic livestock regulation in nineteenth-century Canadian cities. *Urban History Review* 44(1-2): 37-55.
- Narayanan, Y., 2017. Street dogs at the intersection of colonialism and informality: 'Subaltern animism' as a posthuman critique of Indian cities. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 35(3): 475-494.
- Palmer, C., 2003. Animals, colonisation and urbanisation. *Philosophy and Geography*, 6(1).
- Srinivasan, K., 2013. The biopolitics of animal being and welfare: dog control and care in the UK and India. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 38(1), pp.106-119.
- Thrift, N., 2021. *Killer cities*. SAGE Publications