

SPACE / POWER / SPECIES

RICHARD FADOK

Spring 2023

Wednesday 10.15 – 1.15

ANTH 3036 + DSGN 3036



CAT'S CLAW (2011), MYRTLE VON DAMITZ III

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cities today house more urban wildlife than in any other period over the past two centuries. As climate change, wanton development, and other forces of habitat loss drive animals toward human settlements, a moral dilemma arises: How should we live in multispecies communities? To face this quandary, this inter-disciplinary course in anthropology and design will investigate the nature of space through the lens of human-animal relations. Combining seminar and studio formats, we will read scholarship on architecture and animals, conduct ethnographic fieldwork at a local building, and design animal-inclusive spaces that will be showcased in an end-of-term exhibition, *The Multispecies Metropolis*. By asking how the built environment mediates the lives we share with other animals from a global perspective, we will seek to reimagine and construct new architectural forms better suited to our shared existence on this more-than-human planet.

There are no formal prerequisites, but this course is intended for advanced undergraduates. Other interested students should write to the instructor for approval (rfadok@sas.upenn.edu).

GRADE ASSESSMENT

Participation (20) | Fieldwork (20) | Essay 1 (15) | Essay 2 (15) | Project (15) | Exhibition (15)

READING SCHEDULE¹

unit zero: an “abject lesson” in “human-centered design”

ONE. bird spikes, sorting the sordid (1/11)

Mary Douglas (1966)	<i>Purity and Danger</i>
Langdon Winner (1980)	“Do Artifacts Have Politics?”
*Colin Jerolmack (2008)	“How Pigeons Became Rats”
*Gordan Savicic and Selena Savic (2013)	“Unpleasant for Pigeons”
IDEO (2015)	<i>The Field Guide to Human-Centered Design</i>
*Ruha Benjamin (2019)	“Discriminatory Design, Liberating Imagination”

TURN IN: “The space we love”

ACTIVITY: Human-centered design workshop

unit one: conceptual foundations

TWO. space: the built environment (1/18)

Georg Simmel (1903)	<i>The Metropolis and Mental Life</i>
*Martin Heidegger (1971)	“Building, Dwelling, Thinking”
*Henri Lefebvre (1974)	<i>The Production of Space</i>
*Michel Foucault (1975)	<i>Discipline and Punish</i>
Michel de Certeau (1988)	<i>The Practice of Everyday Life</i>
David Harvey (2005)	<i>Spaces of Global Capitalism</i>

TURN IN: Fieldwork Fieldplay

ACTIVITY: Methods bootcamp

¹ The starred readings are mandatory. All others are optional. Monographs will be abridged to one chapter.

THREE. space: architecture (1/25)

*Pierre Bourdieu (1980)	"The Kabyle House or the World Reversed"
*Alfred Gell (1998)	<i>Art and Agency</i>
John Archer (2005)	"Social Theory of Space"
*Bernhard Siegert (2012)	"Doors"
Victor Buchli (2013)	<i>An Anthropology of Architecture</i>
Thomas Yarrow (2019)	<i>Architects</i>

TURN IN: Site selection

ACTIVITY: Campus architecture tour

FOUR. the animal turn (2/1)

Cary Wolfe (2003)	"In the Shadow of Wittgenstein's Lion"
*Donna Haraway (2007)	<i>When Species Meet</i>
*Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga (2011)	"Vermin Beings"
Karl Steel (2011)	<i>How to Make a Human</i>
Eben Kirksey (2015)	"Species"
*Zakiyyah Iman Jackson (2020)	<i>Becoming Human</i>

TURN IN: Reading architecture

ACTIVITY: Visit to the Spruce Hill Bird Sanctuary

FIVE. multispecies ethnography (2/8)

*Eben Kirksey + Stefan Helmreich (2010)	"The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography"
Matei Candea (2012)	"Different Species, One Theory"

*Anna Tsing (2013)	"More-than-Human Sociality"
Thom Van Dooren et al. (2016)	"Multispecies Studies"
*Heather Anne Swanson (2017)	"Methods for Multispecies Anthropology"
Maria Puig de la Bellacasa (2017)	<i>Matters of Care</i>

TURN IN: Fieldnotes

ACTIVITY: Ethnographic studio

SIX. more-than-human spaces (2/15)

*Sarah Whatmore (2002)	<i>Hybrid Geographies</i>
Irene Chang (2006)	"The Beavers and the Bees"
Catherine Ingraham (2006)	<i>Architecture, Animal, Human</i>
*Tim Ingold (2011)	"Building, Dwelling, Living"
*Zoe Todd (2018)	"Refracting the State through Human-Fish Relations"
Kristian Bjørkdahl + Tone Druglitrø	<i>Animal Housing and Human-Animal Relations</i>

TURN IN: Re-reading architecture

ACTIVITY: Theory building with building theory

unit two: bestial architectures

SEVEN. from domestication to domesticity (2/22)

Yi-Fu Tuan (1984)	<i>Dominance and Affection</i>
*Harriet Ritvo (1987)	"The Emergence of Modern Pet-Keeping"
Rebecca Cassidy + Molly Mullin (2007)	<i>Where the Wild Things Are Now</i>
Kristin Armstrong Oma (2013)	"Human-Animal Meeting Points"

*David G. Anderson et al. (2017) "Architectures of Domestication"

*Heather Anne Swanson et al. (2018) *Domestication Gone Wild*

TURN IN: Paper 1 – *Fieldsights* (6-8 pages)

ACTIVITY: Artifact laboratory with Penn Museum

EIGHT. farms, zoos, and other heterotopias (3/1)

*Michel Foucault (1967) "Of Other Spaces"

*Hadas Steiner (2003) "For the Birds"

Juno Salazar Parreñas (2018) *Decolonizing Extinction*

Lesley Sharp (2018) *Animal Ethos*

*Alex Blanchette (2020) *Porkopolis*

Joseph Pugliese (2020) *Biopolitics of the More-than-Human*

TURN IN: Zootypology analysis

ACTIVITY: Fieldtrip to the Smart Aviary at Pennovation Works

NINE. city critters, or synanthropic relations (3/15)

Gilles Deleuze + Felix Guattari (1980) "Becoming-Animal"

*Naisargi Dave (2014) "Witness"

Ann Kelly + Javier Lezaun (2014) "Urban Mosquitoes, Situational Publics, and the Pursuit of Interspecies Separation in Dar es Salaam"

*Radahika Govindrajan (2018) *Animal Intimacies*

Andrew Robichaud (2019) *Animal City*

*Peter Alagona (2022) *The Accidental Ecosystem*

TURN IN: Keyword entry

ACTIVITY: "Citizen architecture" with Penn Bird Strikes Project

TEN. feral in-"fur"-structures (3/22)

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| *Brian Larkin (2013) | "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure" |
| *Alaina Lemon (2015) | "MetroDogs" |
| Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing (2015) | <i>The Mushroom at the End of the World</i> |
| Nikhil Anand et al. (2018) | <i>The Promise of Infrastructure</i> |
| Stephanie Wakefield + Bruce Braun (2019) | "Oystertecture" |
| *Maan Barua (2020) | "Nonhuman Life as Infrastructure" |

TURN IN: Annotated transcription

ACTIVITY: *Feral Atlas* exercise

unit three: posthuman design

ELEVEN. nonhuman phenomenologies (3/29)

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| Jakob von Uexküll (1934) | <i>A Foray into the Worlds of Animals and Humans</i> |
| Gaston Bachelard (1958) | "Nests" and "Shells" |
| Vinciane Despret (2008) | "The Becomings of Subjectivity in Animal Worlds" |
| *Eduardo Kohn (2013) | <i>How Forests Think</i> |
| *Edward Dodington (2013) | <i>How to Design with the Animal</i> |
| *Anthony Dunne + Fiona Raby (2013) | <i>Speculative Everything</i> |

TURN IN: Paper 2 – *Theorizing Space, Power, Species* (6-8 pages)

ACTIVITY: Animal-centered design workshop

TWELVE. speculative fiction (4/5)

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| *Vilem Flusser + Louis Bec (1987) | <i>Vampyroteuthis Infernalis</i> |
| Samuel Gerald Collins (2003) | "Sail on! Sail on! Anthropology, Science Fiction, and the Enticing Future" |
| *Donna Haraway (2013) | "SF" |
| William Lempert (2014) | "Decolonizing Encounters of the Third Kind" |
| *Jeff Vandermeer (2017) | <i>Strange Bird</i> |
| Ryan Anderson et al. (2018) | "Speculative Anthropologies" |

TURN IN: "The space they love"

ACTIVITY: Workshop with the Creative Writing Program

THIRTEEN. art beyond the human (4/12)

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| *Eben Kirskey (2014) | <i>The Multispecies Salon</i> |
| *Yen-Ling Tsai et al. (2016) | "Golden Snail Opera" |
| Vinciane Despret (2016) | <i>What Would Animals Say If We Asked the Right Questions?</i> |

TURN IN: Sketch OR outline

ACTIVITY: Screening of *Golden Snail Opera*

FOURTEEN. collective research-creation (4/19)

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| *Timothy Choy et al. (2009) | "A New Form of Collaboration in Cultural Anthropology" |
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Paul Rabinow + George Marcus (2018)

Designs for an Anthropology of the Contemporary

*Natalie Loveless (2019)

How to Make Art at the End of the World

TURN IN: Mock-up OR draft

ACTIVITY: The craft of curation (group editing, layout planning, and object labeling)

FIFTEEN: *The Multispecies Metropolis* (4/26)

No reading this week

TURN IN: Final project

ACTIVITY: Exhibition set-up