

# Geographisches Kolloquium

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**Shubhangi Srivastava**

National Institute of Advanced Studies,  
Bangalore



## **A tail of two cities: Human-dog relations in urban India and Germany**

The urban, seen as a living space, is a heterogenous composition of interactions between its inhabitants, built through their everyday lived experiences (Simone, 2013). The concept of urban has come far from its static descriptions based on demographics and structure to more dynamic concepts of everyday experiences. Yet, these experiences are still limited to those of humans. In our research, we observe the interactive city to understand how it is inhabited and configured by its human and nonhuman inhabitants equally. Through a combined lens of ethnography and ethology, we observe the human-dog interactions arising due to shared urban spaces in our two comparative cities: Delhi and Berlin. Both cities offer diverse cultural and historical backgrounds, shaping multispecies interactions. These interactions are laced with ecological, political, and social dynamics which contribute to the sustainability of cities. Through our research, we develop the idea of a 'pet city', where we attempt to understand the pet-keeping in cities through observing various aspects of human-dog relations including ownership, care, health, behaviour, and politics. We further the idea of sustainable multispecies cities, where the urban structures are inclusive of both human and nonhuman experiences.

### References

1. Simone, A. (2013). People as Infrastructure: Intersecting Fragments in Johannesburg. *Public Culture*, 16(3), 407–429. <https://doi.org/10.1215/9780822381211-003n>.

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