



DWELLING TOGETHER  
URBAN HOUSING, NEIGHBORLINESS AND MULTILOCAL HOMEMAKING

# 12.07. NON-HUMANS AND THE POSTCOLONIAL CITY

## PROF. DR. VEENA HARIHARAN

My current research project looks at non-human-human entanglements in the postcolonial city as mediated by the moving image, particularly the documentary image. Responding to Edward Said's call for an 'imaginative geography', there has been an emphasis on the need to decenter the human, and move beyond a singular focus on the human subject to a 'revived animal/non-human geography' that can reveal the spatial practices of non-human animals. Similarly, the 'animal turn' in film studies is of recent vintage even if the history of the moving image has always been entangled with animals. How can we combine the insights of the 'animal turn' in geography and cinema scholarship to understand how cinema represents and produces its non-human geographies? As planners map the city along a "human/animal binary" where the purging of feral elements is upheld as a model for a controlled "postcolonial urbanism", how do animals inhabit, disrupt or negotiate boundaries between the human and non-human? In my presentation, I explore some of these questions via documentaries that represent human-non-human "dwelling together" in the multi-species cities of the postcolonial world.



Veena Hariharan is currently, Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Department of Theater, Film and Media Studies at the Goethe Universität, Frankfurt. After completing her PhD in Cinema Studies from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA, she taught at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India where she is Associate Professor of Cinema Studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics. Her articles and chapters on non-fiction film, the environment and non-human animals have appeared in anthologies and journals. Her book, *Embers of Reason: Contemporary Indian Documentary and the Secular Imagination* is forthcoming from the Cambridge University Press.

July 12th, 6-8pm at HU Berlin (in-person)  
room 315 (third floor) at IAAW, Invalidenstr. 118

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