

Issue #8: More-than-human cities (summer 2027)

Deadline: 1st of November 2026, 23:59 PM CET

Amsterdam has a population of almost 1 million people, but if you also count the plants and animals that make the city their home, its inhabitants become innumerable. Together they form complex and interdependent ecosystems. Food, oxygen and the conditions that make urban life possible depend on these relationships. The city's ecosystem is also influenced by worldwide networks within colonial, capitalistic and globalizing history and contexts. These entanglements have profoundly affected and disturbed relationships between humans and the more-than-human world. Overextraction, climate change and biodiversity loss are transforming urban environments, while cities such as Amsterdam, already largely situated below sea level, face increasing risks from rising sea levels. What does it mean, then, to understand the city not simply as a human habitat, but as a shared and contested space of more-than-human life?

For AMJournal#8 we invite scholars from all disciplines to investigate the variety of ways in which humans, more-than-human life and cities interrelate, as well as to reflect on various critical questions. These include, but are not limited to: How can cities be understood as more-than-human spaces, shaped by relationships between humans and other forms of life? What can urban histories, memories and archives reveal about changing relationships between humans, animals, plants and their environments? How have colonialism, capitalism and global economic networks transformed these relationships? What might it mean to consider the city from more-than-human perspectives? How do cities make space for different forms of life, and how are these spaces shaped, contested or shared? What might more just, sustainable and caring forms of urban coexistence look like?

To encourage quantitative and qualitative research contributions, we welcome both empirical papers and essays. From studies on city nature, land use and food production (including the relationship between the rural and the urban) to research on the roles that for example religion, colonial trade and capitalism played in transforming relations between humans and nature, or empirical papers on the living conditions of city animals or plants – all research on both concrete and abstract approaches to humans and more-than-humans in the context of cities is welcome. We emphatically welcome contributions from Indigenous perspectives and/or the Global South. Furthermore, we welcome contributions from scholars in all stages of their research careers – including junior scholars, ambitious students, and freelance researchers.

Suggested research topics include:

Fashion, Identity and...

1. Coexistence
2. Multispecies
3. Biodiversity
4. Animals
5. Plants
6. Land use
7. Water
8. Care
9. Justice
10. Climate
11. Ecology
12. Reciprocity
13. Conflict
14. Interdependency
15. Infrastructure
16. Architecture
17. Archives
18. Museums
19. Representation
20. Methodologies

(Note. This list is not exhaustive)

Types of contributions

For Edition #8 “**More-than-human cities**”, AMJournal calls on authors from all disciplines to submit abstracts for the following contributions (deadline 1st of November, 2026).

The Essays

The essay is relevant to the current edition. Specifically, the essay provides a valuable contribution to the literature and polyphony that surrounds the theme. Authors should be explicit as to their own positionality, as well as the positionality of their contributions in the broader academic space and public discourse. As such, authors present a clear thesis statement in the text for which they offer sufficient reasoning. The argumentation in support of the thesis statement is embedded in existing academic literature. Therefore, essays should be well referenced and include a clear theoretical framework.

Short Essays are 2000-4000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, and endnotes

Long Essays are 4000-6000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, and endnotes

The Empirical Papers

The empirical papers present studies that are based on empirical analyses (e.g., data driven research, case studies, experiments). Authors present a defined research questions or hypothesis that is relevant to the current journal edition, which they explore by means of analysis. The qualitative or quantitative research results are presented and discussed with demonstrative or illustrative examples selected from the data/corpus/cases studied. The article provides a clear theoretical framework and methodology for research and follow the standardized structure for research articles (introduction, theory, methodology, results/analysis, discussion, conclusion).

2000-6000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, tables, figures, and endnotes

The Visual Essays

The visual essays consist of analyses of a series of images relevant to the issue's theme, as a printed exhibition. The visual essay should represent a critical academic reflection of the visuals, with a focus on what is presented or represented. The visuals can be a series, or a combination of multiple independent visuals sharing a common denominator. The visual essays should be well referenced, include a clear contextual framework and present an explicit thesis.

The author is required to research the use of the desired visuals (copyright). The images should be high resolution; there are no strict guidelines concerning the amount of images.

Visual Essays are 1000-3000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, tables, figures, and endnotes

Abstract Submissions

Submit an abstract of your contribution (max. 400 words excluding references and endnotes) plus five key words. Submit the title page and the abstract as two separate documents. On the title page, make sure you mention 1. your full name(s) and contact information, 2. the discipline(s) in which you (and your co-authors) operate, 3. the text's full (working) title and a running title (five words max.), 4. the type of contribution, and 5. if you qualify for the Best Paper Prize. Note, all abstracts undergo double-blind peer reviewing. As such, all abstracts should be *anonymized/ pseudonymized*.

The Best Paper Prize

To encourage contributions by junior¹ and freelance scholars, a Best Paper Prize is awarded each edition. The contributor of the winning contribution will be awarded a certificate and 350 euros.

Abstract Deadline

Submit your abstracts before 1st of November 2026, 23:59 PM CET to journal@amsterdammuseum.nl.

¹PhD, MA, MSc, and rMA students

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