

# **Pragmatist animal geographies: Towards a transactional view of human-animal relations**

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Animal geographies has become a dynamic and distinctive sub-discipline of human geographical research and scholarship. New shifts, such as the *animal turn* or non-representational and more-than-human dimensions, enable geographers to rethink non-human species as embodied individual and collective beings with their own aspirations. In view of the fact that most human-animal studies are still focused on the human side and on human-related methodologies, alterations in (ontological) thinking are needed, which allows us to conceptualize both actors in a more balanced and integrative way. For destabilizing the dualism between humans and animals and analyzing their multiple coexistences, this paper advocates a transactional view and discusses its consequences for a geographical more-than human research. In line with its roots in classical pragmatism, this kind of view does not deal with relationship between elements, in the sense that one independent element may cause changes in, affect, or influence another element. Instead, a transactional perspective assumes that the aspects of a system – humans and non-humans – coexist and jointly define one another. Their relations, cultural practices and spatial formations are interpreted more fluid or as a flow of unique and entangled events. Such a point of view takes animals more seriously, it raises new ethical and political questions for geographers and new perspectives on how and why humans and non-humans coexist so differently in their shared lives.