

Panel introduction

Welcome everyone, and thank you for joining us for this panel on *Towards Pluriversal Urbanisms: Reimagining Postcolonial and More-Than-Human Futures*. My name is Santiago Orrego, and I am an urban STS scholar now focusing on fragmentation, more-than-human encounters, and ethnographic experimentation. Dr. Christian Ritter and I have prepared this session to bring together diverse perspectives that challenge universalist understandings of the urban, foregrounding instead plural, entangled, and more-than-human ways of knowing and inhabiting cities.

We begin from a simple but radical premise: cities are never only human. They are shaped by plants, infrastructures, soils, waters, machines, and animals, alongside the people who inhabit and struggle within them. In times of climate disruption and political instability, these entanglements expose the limits of extractive and universalist models of urban governance and point us toward other ways of imagining and inhabiting urban life.

This panel brings together scholars who approach the urban as a site of multiplicity, contamination, and possibility. Together, we ask: What ethical and political alternatives can emerge beyond ownership and exploitation? How might infrastructures and public spaces be reimagined for multispecies coexistence? And how can ethnographic practices account for diverse cosmologies and ways of knowing that exceed human-centered framings?

We invite you to see this session not only as a series of papers but as a shared exploration—an opening to rethink urban worlds otherwise, across difference, across species, and across modes of knowing.