

**Title: House Crows in Zanzibar: Sanitation and Animal Infrastructure in Urban Spaces**

**Maxmillian Julius Chuhila  
Univeristy of Dar es Salaam**

**Abstract**

Health concerns and sanitation are central to emerging urban spaces globally. They occupy public and government interests to plan, implement and manage procedures and infrastructures to control outbreak and spread of diseases and unhealthy conditions. Most existing studies focus on technological and modern infrastructure networks for environmental and domestic waste management as central to the problem. In this paper I explore the use of animal infrastructure to address the problem of urban filthiness and biotic containment. I indicate that though it is less costly in terms of financing, house crows project in Zanzibar has turned out to be out of control and in the margins of its intended utility value. House crows were first introduced in Zanzibar in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to assist in the cleaning of an emerging urbanity. Since then, they have reproduced, cleaned, spread and became a waste by themselves and needs to be cleaned too. Governments in Zanzibar have tried for a long time to eliminate them unsuccessfully making them a big threat to ecology and public health at large. In this paper, I analyse how the cleaner have become worthless to the extent that it should be eradicated from the vicinities of urban spaces in Zanzibar.

**Keywords: House crows, Urban history, Environmental history, Urban infrastructures, Zanzibar**