

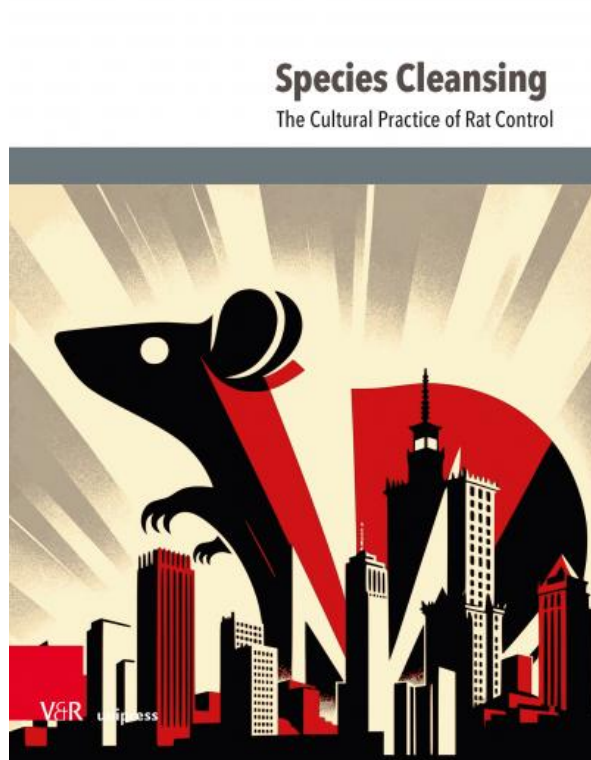
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Species Cleansing: The Cultural Practice of Rat Control

Jarzębowska, Gabriela

Jarzębowska, Gabriela. *Species Cleansing: The Cultural Practice of Rat Control*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlage, 2024.

Gabriela Jarzębowska



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The book scrutinizes post-war rat control programs in Poland, exploring their intricate intersections with politics, science, and ideology. It delves into the impact of prevailing cultural

narratives concerning problematic urban rodents on pest control and sanitary programs, as well as the ways in which biological factors shape, challenge, or impede political modernization initiatives. Employing urban rat populations as an unequivocal exemplar of an undesirable element, the author constructs an inquiry into the strategies of political exclusion. The analysis of rat extermination schemes facilitates an exploration of the patterns of social progress within a semi-peripheral country and the discursive shifts evident in political language regarding the troublesome non-human urban residents.

(Source: [Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlage](#))

This book was shortlisted for the [2025 Turku Book Prize](#) .

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