

**International Conference
September 06—08, 2023**

**Organized by the Viadrina
Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION**

**European University
Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
Gräfin Dönhoff Building
Europaplatz 1**



**CONTESTING
21st CENTURY
B/ORDERS**

Program

International Conference „Contesting 21st Century B/Orders”

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WELCOMES

Jan-Hendrik Passoth



Esteemed colleagues, honored guests, and participants,

In today's ever-changing global context, marked by remarkable shifts in geopolitics, evolving power dynamics, and a series of complex issues, the study of borders is of increasing relevance and importance. As we convene for the "Contesting 21st Century B/Orders" conference, we find ourselves at a significant juncture. This moment represents an important phase where the exploration of borders and migration holds profound importance, shaping our understanding of global events and the intricate interplay between them.

In recent years we have witnessed the collision of multiple crises—be they humanitarian, environmental, or political—in a global landscape that is increasingly interconnected yet rife with differences, distinctions, and conflicts. Borders, drawn as lines on maps, have transformed into dynamic sites where the world's most pressing issues converge. The movement of people, the flow of resources, and the clash of positions occur against the backdrop of territorial, ideological, and metaphorical boundaries, making the study of borders indispensable for comprehending the forces that shape our contemporary world.

Viadrina University, situated at the crossroads of Germany and Poland, exemplifies the profound importance of border research. Just as this university straddles a physical border, it also occupies a unique space at the intersection of disciplines, approaches, and knowledge cultures. This positioning mirrors the very essence of border research itself, which transcends traditional academic boundaries to illuminate the multifaceted dimensions of our global reality.

Viadrina's commitment to interdisciplinarity and cross-cultural understanding aligns seamlessly with the core of border research. The challenges of the 21st century demand insights that transcend narrow academic confines. Borders, whether geopolitical or intellectual, are spaces of convergence where diverse perspectives come together. Viadrina's emphasis on fostering collaboration across disciplines enriches not only its academic pursuits but also amplifies its role as a catalyst for addressing the pressing issues of our time.

I extend my warm welcome to each participant, each scholar, and each advocate of border research. Your commitment to exploring the intricate landscapes of borders and migration enriches our collective understanding and paves the way for a more informed and interconnected world. In the spirit of scholarly exploration, let me invite you to fostering fruitful exchanges, engaging in thought-provoking debates, and exploring the potential for lasting collaborations that extend beyond the conference's boundaries.

Prof. Dr. Jan-Hendrik Passoth is Vice President of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder and Professor of Sociology of Technology and Head of the Science & Technology Studies group at the European New School of Digital Studies (ENS) at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder.
Photo: European Univ. Viadrina.

Kira Kosnick



Dear conference participants,

as Director of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION that is hosting our upcoming international conference, I am delighted to welcome you to the European University Viadrina. With this conference, we celebrate the ten-year anniversary of B/ORDERS IN MOTION, the interdisciplinary research center of the university that critically examines the relationship between borders and orders. Combining border studies with research on migration, our understanding of borders incorporates not only geopolitical borders between states, but also, and as interrelated, the symbolic and discursive boundaries that operate as socio-cultural lines of demarcation between social groups. The center brings together not only colleagues from different disciplines and faculties of the university, but cooperates with scientists and organizations both nationally and world-wide. We are thus particularly happy to organize our upcoming conference in collaboration with the international research network "Borders in Globalization"– 21st Century borders (BIG) and the "Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network" (TEIN).

The conference could not be more timely, taking place in a historical moment in which the contestation of state borders has once again moved to the center of geopolitical tensions in Europe, with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. What is more, the UNHCR has never registered more people displaced, seeking refuge or asylum elsewhere as a result of violence, conflict and persecution world-wide. Human-made climate change is increasingly contributing to displacement, either indirectly by fuelling conflict or directly by making regions of our planet increasingly unable to sustain human life. While most of those forced and able to cross international borders are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, we also witness a tightening of border regimes in high-income countries against refugees and migrants deemed unsuitable or even dangerous by governments on economic or socio-cultural grounds. The EU's radical reforms of its migration and asylum laws that were agreed in June are a case in point, calling into question the very principles of the Geneva Convention that sought to internationally protect the rights of refugees world-wide in the wake of the Second World War.

The location of this conference is therefore also meaningful, taking place – for the most part – in a country that carries historical responsibility for this war and most of its related atrocities. As these were fuelled by antisemitism and forms of racism that not only sought to disenfranchise and displace but to murder entire populations, it is important to also engage with the ideological formations that deny groups of human beings equal worth and rights to state protection. The European University Viadrina is also directly located on the German-Polish border, thus forging connections and living the reality of an idea of Europe that seeks to overcome historical divisions and conflicts. We thus particularly welcome the participation of our international colleagues at this conference, as the challenges of 21st century borders can only be met conjointly.

Prof. Dr. Kira Kosnick is Director of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. She is member of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences and holds the Professorial Chair of Comparative Cultural and Social Anthropology at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder.
Photo: European Univ. Viadrina.



Anne Thevenet



Dear Participants,
Dear Organizers,

It's a great pleasure for me to be here with you and to be part of the opening session of this conference „Contesting 21st Century B/Orders“. I'm here as Deputy Director of the Euro-Institut, a cross-border institution aiming at facilitating cross border cooperation in the Upper Rhine region (between France, Germany and Switzerland) and also as coordinator of TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network). For me, this conference is unique in many ways. First of all this event marks the tenth anniversary of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, an interdisciplinary research center on borders that produced incredible work highlighting that borders must always be thought of in terms of dynamic interrelationships. A warm applause! Also for the huge work done to organise this great conference. Second, this event is also the TEIN annual conference 2023! The Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network formed 2010, gathers now 17 members from more than 10 borders in Europe (Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION is one of them!) and 2 associated members. The aim of our Network is to build capacities in cross-border contexts through training, counselling, support and research. To that end, TEIN's vision is one where exchange between practitioners and researcher on know-how, training, research and best practices across borders is facilitated and promoted. This leads me to my third point. This conference is also unique because since 2021, TEIN is part of the worldwide BIG-21st Century Borders project led by Prof. Emmanuel Brunet Jailly from the University of Victoria, Canada. For us it is a real honor to be part of this amazing project and to contribute, through this conference to the research pillar that focuses on governance questions related to borders and nationhood, Indigenous resurgence, self-determination, new-nationalisms, culture and history.

Last but not least, this conference is unique because of the impressive list of speakers and also because of you, dear participants. I'm looking forward to exciting presentations, fruitful discussions and wonderful networking possibilities!

Anne Thevenet is Deputy Director of the Euro-Institut and coordinator of TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network).
Photo: Euro-Institut.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

A little more than two decades into the 21st century, state borders have once more moved to the center of today's geopolitical tensions. Russia's war against Ukraine has brought a renewed focus on border contestations, not only in Central Europe. However, at stake in the contestation of borders is not only a territorial political order or the sovereignty of particular states. The relationship of borders to orders is also crucial in determining regulations and norms that govern different forms of inclusion, recognition and exclusion of social groups within states.

Thus, societal orders require drawing borders, whether they mark nation-state or trans-state associations or mark the contested boundaries of symbolic classifications. With migration and mobility, borders not only function as filters that selectively open or close but also as „hierarchizing machines“ that produce different status categories. Territorial and material borders, as well as social, symbolic and discursive boundaries and their instantiation, play an essential role in practices of power, practices through which processes of inclusion and exclusion are legitimised and hierarchically structured. Societal orders, for example, set boundaries of belonging to national communities and European or Western civilization. Both within the territorial borders of states and transnationally, they define racially and ethnically defined boundaries and mobilise hegemonic norms of gender and sexuality. At the same time, borders and societal orders, whether economic, legal, social, or cultural, are anything but stable. It is thus crucial to investigate how borders and orders are reproduced, contested, and transformed.

At the international conference „Contesting 21st Century B/Orders“, the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, in cooperation with the international research networks “Borders in Globalization“– 21st Century borders (BIG) and "Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network" (TEIN), aims to discuss how societal orders in the 21st century are changing through new forms of the border and boundary drawing and to investigate how the borders of the contemporary world are shaped.

The Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION invites you to Frankfurt (Oder) on the German-Polish border to engage in vivid discussions on this highly relevant and debated subject. From September 06-08, 2023, a range of border and order concepts will be put up for discussion: What processes of inclusion and exclusion do they condition? What grey zones and liminal spaces are created by them to what effects? Building on the aspects of marking (durability), permeability, and the formation of border zones (liminality) highlighted by the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION in its founding phase, we focus on the interplay of multidimensional – social, symbolic, and material – border demarcations and their significance for societal orders. Thus, we contribute to scholarly debates in which borders are described in their complexity and multiformity and conceptualized as assemblages, borderscapes, interfaces, or border textures.

ABOUT THE VIADRINA CENTER

B/ORDERS IN MOTION

As a central scientific institution of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and a joint project undertaken by the university's three faculties, the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION initiates and bundles analyses in the social, cultural, economic, and legal sciences concerning interrelationships between borders and orders. The term B/ORDERS encapsulates this notion: Borders aim to establish or maintain orders, be they specified in law, handed down through history, or expressed through symbols. Orders, in turn, cannot exist in the absence of border markings, whether in the form of lines on a map or as patterns for differentiation in people's minds. The understanding that borders and orders must always be conceived of in dynamic interrelationships guides the Center's research.

We do not consider borders and orders to be natural and given, but rather the result of social practice and the production of meaning, which is constantly becoming, in transformation, IN MOTION. Our multidimensional approach is oriented toward capturing configurations of borders and orders in their dynamics.

The Center brings together internationally established research priorities of the Viadrina in the fields of borders and boundaries as well as migration in order to further develop inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives. With a multitude of interdisciplinary research projects, academic events in various formats, publication series, national as well as international research partnerships, the Center has established itself as an internationally recognized hub for the study of border processes.

For further information, please visit the Center's website: www.borders-in-motion.de



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

»CONTESTING 21st CENTURY B/ORDERS«

You can find the latest program version on our website: www.borders-in-motion.de/de/conference-2023/Conference-Program

Wed, September 06, 2023

9:00 – 12:00 TEIN General Assembly, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

12:00 Registration, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Atrium

13:15 Welcome, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 1 (GD HS 01)

Stream: Social, Symbolic and Discursive B/Orders

14:00 – 15:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 7 (GD HS 07)

Panel

»Peripheralization and Peripheral Selves in Liminal Zones of the 21st Century«

Hosts

Gautam Chakrabarti (EUV)

Amelie Kutter (EUV)

Speakers

Amelie Kutter (EUV), Gautam Chakrabarti (EUV)

Yulia Egorova (Durham Univ.)

Christian Langer (Peking Univ.)

Gerardo Costabile Nicoletta (Charles Univ. Prague)

Discussant

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (EUV)

Stream: Territorial, Geopolitical and Material B/Orders

14:00 – 15:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 8 (GD HS 08)

Panel

»Transformation Processes in Borderlands in Times of Crises«

Host

Florian Weber (Saarland Univ.)

Speakers

Stefanie Thurm (Saarland Univ.)

Julia Dittel (Saarland Univ.), Sylwia Zawadzka (Univ. Wrocław)

Florian Weber (Saarland Univ.)

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Canteen

15:45 – 17:15

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 7 (GD HS 07)

Panel

»Multilingualism in Vocational Training: Co-Constructing Communicative Borderlands«

Hosts

Konstanze Jungbluth (EUV)

Nicole Richter (EUV)

Claudia Polzin-Haumann (Saarland Univ.)

Speakers

Leonie Micka (Saarland Univ.), Dagna Zinkhahn Rhobodes (EUV),

Sara Bonin (EUV)

Sabine Ehrhart (Luxemburg Univ.)

Alexander Cobbinah (Univ. São Paulo)

Discussant

Andrzej Zaporowski (Adam Mickiewicz Univ. Poznań)

15:45 – 17:15

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 8 (GD HS 08)

Panel

»Border Conflicts and Their Management in a New European Reality: Three Perspectives on Negotiating Territory, Identities and Power«

Hosts

Lars Kirchhoff (EUV), Anne Holper (EUV)

Speakers

Christina Horvath-Stenner (OSCE Vienna)

Tetiana Kyselova (Kyiv Mohyla Academy)

Marc Weller (Univ. Cambridge)

17:30

Keynote Lecture (Livestream)

Élisabeth Vallet (BIG, Univ. Québec à Montréal): »Who Needs a Border Wall? B/Ordering Through Othering in a Post-Pandemic World«

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 1 (GD HS 01)

19:30

Welcome Reception, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Atrium

Thu, September 07, 2023

Stream: Social, Symbolic and Discursive B/Orders

9:30–11:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 7 (GD HS 07)

Open Call Panel

»Imagining and Contesting Future Borders«

Hosts

Hannes Krämer (Univ. Duisburg-Essen)

Dominik Gerst (Univ. Duisburg-Essen)

Speakers

Hannes Krämer (Univ. Duisburg-Essen), Dominik Gerst (Univ. Duisburg-Essen)

Stefan Janković (Univ. Belgrade)

Lena Merkle (Univ. Magdeburg)

Paul Trauttmansdorff (Univ. Bologna)

11:30–13:00

Lunch, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Canteen

13:00–14:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 7 (GD HS 07)

Open Call Panel

»Border (Inter)Action«

Hosts

Concha Maria Höfler (Nottingham Trent Univ.)

Sabine Lehner (St. Pölten Univ. of Applied Sciences)

Maria Klessmann (EUV)

Speakers

Concha Maria Höfler (Nottingham Trent Univ.)

Andrea Cortés Saavedra (Univ. College London)

Christopher Lawless (Durham Univ.)

Corinna Angela Di Stefano (Univ. Konstanz)

14:30–15:00

Coffee Break, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Canteen

15:00–16:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Panel

»Drowned, Watered Down and Resurfaced. Forensics, Politics of Memory and Conviviality along Liquid Borders«

Hosts

Estela Schindel (EUV)

Darja Klingenberg (EUV)

Speakers

Zuzanna Dziuban (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Estela Schindel (EUV)

Carolina Kobelinsky (LESCNRS, Paris)

17:00–18:00

Keynote Lecture (Livestream)

Marie Sandberg (Univ. Copenhagen): »From ›Borderless World‹ to ›Borders are Everywhere‹. Revisiting the Notion of B/Order after the Practice Turn in Critical Border Studies.«

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 1 (GD HS 01)

18:15

Cross-Border City Tour

Meeting Point in front of the Gräfin Dönhoff Building

Stream: Territorial, Geopolitical and Material B/Orders

9:30–11:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Panel 1 (TEIN Annual Conference)

»21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Part 1): Translocal Cooperation & Public Welfare«

Host

Peter Ulrich (Univ. Potsdam)

Speakers

Thorsten Ingo Schmidt (Univ. Potsdam)

Michael Frey, Rahel Alia Müller (Univ. of Applied Sciences Kehl)

Karina Pallagst (Univ. of Kaiserslautern-Landau)

Martin Unfried (Maastricht Univ.)

13:00–14:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Panel 2 (TEIN Annual Conference)

»21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Part 2): Translocal Cooperation & Civil Society«

Host

Peter Ulrich (Univ. Potsdam)

Speakers

Birte Wassenberg (Univ. Strasbourg)

Anne Thevenet (Euro-Institut, TEIN)

Margot Bonnafous (Euro-Institut)

15:00–16:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 8 (GD HS 08)

Panel

»Polish Racial Frontier – Refugees on the Eastern Border of Poland«

Host

Lidia Zessin-Jurek (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Speakers

Marta Kindler (Centre of Migration Research, Univ. Warsaw),

Lidia Zessin-Jurek (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Jens Adam (Univ. Bremen), Sabine Hess (Univ. Göttingen)

Kamila Fiałkowska (Univ. Warsaw)

Natalia Judzińska (Institute of Slavic Studies Warsaw, Polish Academy of Sciences)

Discussant

Elżbieta Opiłowska (Univ. Wrocław)

Fri, September 08, 2023

Stream: Social, Symbolic and Discursive B/Orders

10:00–12:00

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Open Call Panel

»Researching Digital Borders – Taking Stock, Challenges and New Directions of Research«

Hosts

Nina Amelung (Lisbon Univ.)
Silvan Pollozek (EUV)

Speakers

Fredy Mora Gámez (Univ. Vienna)
Arely Cruz-Santiago (Univ. Exeter)
Claudia Aradau, Lucrezia Canzutti,
Sarah Perret (King's College London)
Ekaterina Mikhailova (IOS Regensburg)

12:00–13:30 Lunch, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Canteen

13:30–15:00

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 7 (GD HS 07)

Panel

»Race and Religion as Epistemic and Symbolic Borders«

Hosts

Luis M. Hernandez Aguilar (EUV)
Kira Kosnick (EUV)
Darja Klingenberg (EUV)

Speakers

Darja Klingenberg (EUV)
Aleksandra Lewicki (Univ. Sussex)
Sarah Bracke (Univ. Amsterdam)

15:00–15:30 Coffee Break, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Canteen

15:30–17:00

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 7 (GD HS 07)

Panel

»Transnational Gender Activism«

Host

Latife Akyüz (EUV)

Speakers

Roberto Kulpa (Edinburgh Napier Univ.)
Gavan Titley, Sheryl Lynch (Maynooth Univ.)
Delal Aydın (Univ. Duisburg-Essen)

17:30–18:30

Round Table

»Contested 21st Century B/Orders: Challenges for Transnational Research«

Emanuel Brunet-Jailly (Univ. Victoria), Astrid Fellner (Univ. Saarland), Sabine Hess (Univ. Göttingen),
Elżbieta Opiłowska (Univ. Wrocław)
Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 1 (GD HS 01)

Stream: Migration in a B/Orders Perspective

10:00–12:00

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 8 (GD HS 08)

Open Call Panel

“Forced Migrants from Ukraine: Negotiations of 'Here and There'”

Host

Zeynep Yanaşmayan (DeZIM)

Speakers

Elżbieta Goździak, Anzhela Popyk (Adam Mickiewicz Univ. Poznań)
Jonna Rock (DeZIM), Zeynep Yanaşmayan (DeZIM)
Viktoriya Sereda (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukrainian Catholic Univ.)

13:30–15:00

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Open Call Panel

»Migrant Entrepreneurs and B/Order Asymmetries as a Resource«

Hosts

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (EUV)
Judith Möllers (IAMO Halle/S.)
Ulf Brunnbauer (IOS Regensburg)

Speakers

Robert Rydzewski (Adam Mickiewicz Univ. Poznań)
Lumnije Kadriu (Inst. Albanology Prishtina)
Shahanaz Parven (Univ. Palermo)
Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (EUV)

15:30–17:00

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Panel

»Language and Border Studies – Intricate Yet Underexplored Relationships«

Hosts

Britta Schneider (EUV)
Rita Vallentin (EUV)

Speakers

Bettina Migge (Univ. College Dublin)
Carsten Levisen (Roskilde Univ.)
Leonie Schulte (Univ. College London)

Discussant

Sabine Lehner (St. Pölten Univ. of Applied Sciences)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM

September 06–08, 2023

allday exhibition

»Border Violence and the Viadrina in the 1990s«,
on the gallery on the 1st floor of the Gräfin Dönhoff Building (GD), Europaplatz 1

Poster exhibition during coffee breaks and lunch

Current projects of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION
VIP-room of the canteen, Gräfin Dönhoff Building (GD), Europaplatz 1

September 06, 2023

19:30 **Opening reception**
in the atrium of the Gräfin Dönhoff Building (GD), Europaplatz 1

20:00 **Possibility to let the day end**
at »KUMA« Bar, Kulturmanufaktur Gerstenberg (KUMA), Ziegelstraße 28A, 15230 Frankfurt/O.

September 07, 2023

18:15–19:30 **Cross-border city tour**
meeting point in front of the Gräfin Dönhoff Building (GD), Europaplatz 1

September 08, 2023

20:00 **Possibility to let the day end**
at »KUMA« Bar, Kulturmanufaktur Gerstenberg (KUMA), Ziegelstraße 28A, 15230 Frankfurt/O.

PROGRAM DETAILS

KEYNOTE LECTURES



Élisabeth Vallet
(BIG, Univ. Québec à Montreal)

Who Needs a Border Wall? B/Ordering Through Othering in a Post-Pandemic World

Wed, Sep 06, 17:30 - 18:30

Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 01 (GD HS 01)

Livestream (Link:<https://vimeo.com/event/3628050>)

When the Berlin Wall came down at the end of the Cold War, mobility became the new framework for analyzing the world system, with walls embodying the archaism of a bygone world. However, research has shown that border walls are part of the redefinition of territoriality and are consubstantial with globalization: the spaces where walls are erected combine both the modernity of a new norm of international relations and the archaic dimension of a feudal fortification. They produce entropy and accomplish a self-fulfilling prophecy by generating instability for which they become the predicted remedy. As the construction of walls accelerates and their number multiplies, it is clear that they accentuate the process of filtering flows, and that they must be understood in relation to each other, both on the ideological and political level, and on the practical level of flows and mobilities. Based on a decade-long study of border walls around the world, this talk discusses the global trend of border fortification in terms of its de-structuring effects, as it generates more instability, and its defining effects, as it reshapes a global order.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Élisabeth Vallet is professor at RMCC-Saint Jean (Royal Military College of Canada at Saint Jean), director of the Center for Geopolitical Studies - Raoul Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies, affiliate professor at the Department of Geography at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). She has been the Quebec lead for the Borders in Globalization program and is currently a co-researcher for the Borders in the 21st Century Program (University of Victoria). She has been the recipient of the Richard Morrill Outreach Award from the AAG's Political Geography Specialty Group. She is a regular columnist for the Canadian National Network (Radio-Canada) and for the newspaper Le Devoir. Her current research focuses on borders and globalization, border walls and governance.

Photo: Sylvain Légaré - Chaire Raoul-Dandurand.



Marie Sandberg
(Univ. Copenhagen)



From 'Borderless World' to 'Borders Are Everywhere'. Revisiting the Notion of B/Order after the Practice Turn in Critical Border Studies.

- CANCELLED -

In recent border studies, the idea of a 'borderless world' has been replaced by the 'borders are everywhere' hypothesis, based on Balibar's (2009) notion of 'Europe as a borderland' and further developed in the works of Rumford (2008, 2012), among others. Assisted by surveillance technologies, international agencies and biometric border control, borders have relocated from the territorial lines of the nation-state, proliferating into society, and even further into border-crossing bodies. According to this turn to border-as-practice a border is not singular; 'the border multiple' is enacted into being through political, economic, legal, as well as everyday life practices (Andersen & Sandberg 2012). This talk calls for continued critical inspections into our future notions of b/orders after the turn to practice. When borders diffuse into societies and bodies, when do we know how and when they matter? Based on ongoing research on the everyday conditions for refugees and volunteers in a regime of deterrence, temporary protection, and return policies after the so-called paradigm shift 2015–2019 in Danish migration policy, I will argue that there is a need for a self-reflexive border vocabulary, in which we can critically assess and resituate the b/orders we study, while maintaining a continuous research attention to the ongoing border struggles around the globe.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marie Sandberg is Associate Professor, PhD, in European Ethnology and the Director of the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS) at the University of Copenhagen. From 2021 she serves as the President for the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF). Marie Sandberg was the joint editor-in-chief of *Ethnologia Europaea – Journal of European Ethnology* 2013–2020. She has a record of leading and co-leading a range of research projects and networks, and she has worked systematically with integrating teaching and research. In 2012 she published the book "The Border Multiple" (with Dorte J. Andersen & Martin Klatt, Ashgate's Border Region Series) and she has published several peer-reviewed articles in high-ranked journals such as *Journal of European Studies* and *Identities*. She has held Visiting Scholar positions at the University of British Columbia, and at the Nijmegen Center for Borders Research (NCBR) at the Radboud University, and she has been a Senior Fellow at University of Zürich. Marie Sandberg is vividly engaged in discussions within international as well as Nordic fields of migration and border studies covering a research expertise in European borders, civil society initiatives and migration practices. She has conducted ethnographic studies of the ways borders in/of everyday life are continuously negotiated, overcome, and rebuilt in interactions such as volunteer work in support of refugees coming to Europe during the 2015 "refugee crisis".

Photo: Marie Sandberg.



ROUND TABLE

Contested 21st Century B/Orders: Challenges for Transnational Research

Fri Sep 08, 17:30-18:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 01 (GD HS 01)

The aim of the round table is to enhance interdisciplinary dialogue across three thematic streams framing the panels of the conference which also reflect the foci of scientific work at the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION: (1) territorial, geopolitical and material borders, (2) research on symbolic, social and discursive boundaries, and (3) research on migration and borders. This will underline the aim of the conference to further bridge the existing divide between research on the geopolitical and, territorial dimensions of borders on the one hand and research that focuses on symbolic and social boundary-drawing on the other.

The central scientific significance of the conference and the final round table discussion lies in fostering better exchange and identifying potentials for collaboration among participants from different disciplinary fields. With the concluding discussion we want to contribute to a better scientific understanding of 21st century b/orders, migration and b/ordering practices.

The round table discussion aims to bring together representatives of different trans-European and transatlantic research organisations and networks. The composition of speakers reflects the existing cooperations of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION.



Emanuel
Brunet-Jailly
(Univ. Victoria)
Borders in Globalization
(BIG)



Astrid Fellner
(Univ. Saarland)
UniGR-Center for
Border Studies



Sabine
Hess
(Univ. Göttingen)
Center for Global
Migration Studies



Facilitator:
Kira Kosnick
(European Univ. Viadrina)
Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN
MOTION



Ełzbieta Opilowska
(Univ. Wrocław)
Center for Regional and
Borderlands Studies



PANELS, WED, SEPTEMBER 06

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Peripheralization and Peripheral Selves in Liminal Zones of the 21st Century

Wed, Sep 06, 14:00-15:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 07 (GD HS 07)

Hosts:

Amelie Kutter (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)
Gautam Chakrabarti (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

Discussant:

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/Oder)

The recent handling of migration into the European Union, of the Covid-19 pandemic, or the war against Ukraine, have brought to attention how easily national-territorial borders and related social and symbolic boundaries become reinforced in times of crisis. This is particularly noticeable in places where the permeability of national-territorial borders and the alterity of cultural, ethnic, religious and other group-specific identities used to be taken for granted. Among them are borderlands of the European Union and multi-cultural contact zones that have emerged with global migration or have been inherited from Soviet, Yugoslav and colonial pasts. What has received less attention, however, is the question how, in these 'contact-zones of liminal identity-oriented exchanges' (Chakrabarti 2023), territorial re-bordering intersects with peripheralization, or: the construction of social and political hierarchies that have a strong spatial embodiment (Kutter 2017). People inhabiting a liminal zone are subject not only to re-bordering practices, but also to practices of peripheralization, which pressure them to relate to an administrative-economic or cultural and knowledge-producing center, be that historic or recent.

The papers in this panel explore the construction of central and peripheral Selves in selected liminal zones, among them European and Asian metropolises as well as European more rural areas at inner or outer margins of national territory. While the papers consider the macro-regional (EU) and global political and economic setting of such constructions, the major interest is in revealing how certain regions and spatially situated social groups are rendered central or peripheral through regimes of knowledge and strategies of self- and other-positioning. Inspiration is drawn from bodies of theory such as Empire, global micro history, comparative cultural history, postcolonial theory and applications in interdisciplinary discourse studies, cultural geography and interpretive sociology or interpretive political economy.

Contributions:

Introductory Statement: Peripheralization and Liminality

Amelie Kutter (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)
Gautam Chakrabarti (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

The recent handling — by various actors — of asylum-seeking migration into the European Union, of the Covid-19 pandemic, or the war in Ukraine, have brought to attention how easily national-territorial borders and the related social and symbolic boundaries get reinforced in times of crisis. This is particularly noticeable in places, like the EU's border-regions or multi-cultural contact-zones, where the permeability of national-territorial borders and the alterity of cultural, ethnic, religious and other group-specific identities used to be taken for granted. What has received less attention, however, is the question: how, in these 'contact-zones of liminal identity-oriented exchanges' (Chakrabarti 2024), territorial re-bordering intersects with peripheralization? Or: how has the construction of social and political hierarchies that have a strong spatial embodiment (Kutter 2017) functioned. People inhabiting a liminal zone are subject not only to re-bordering



practices, but also to practices of peripheralization, which pressure them to relate to an administrative-economic or cultural and knowledge-producing centre, be that historic or recent. This contribution by the panel-hosts aims to contextualise the notions of peripheralization and liminality and explores ways of articulating them for the study of re-bordering tendencies

Defining Difference: Peripheralization and the Liminal Self in Jewish-Muslim Solidarity Networks in the UK

Yulia Egorova (Durham Univ., Durham)

In recent years, British and, more broadly, European public discourses have involved a range of debates drawing attention to the conditions of discrimination against minority groups, as well as to the historical circumstances that had led to the emergence of these conditions. From the Black Lives Matter movement to initiatives in the decolonization of university curricula, the European public was invited to reflect on the historical and current experiences of marginalization that minority communities have faced. Some of these analyses involved a comparative dimension which sought to differentiate between the experiences of different groups, for instance, when in 2018-2021 the British political scene erupted with debates about definitions of community-specific forms of prejudice, such as antisemitism and Islamophobia, or when in 2021 a BBC channel convened a panel tasked with reflecting on whether the alleged 'success' that some citizens of Jewish heritage had achieved in British politics meant that Jews should no longer be classified as an ethnic minority. How have these comparative conceptualizations of the positions of different minority groups in the UK been received in solidarity fora, such as initiatives in inter-community dialogue, and what understandings of their relational subalternities have transpired in these conceptualizations? Building upon ten years of ethnographic fieldwork conducted among participants of an initiative of Jewish-Muslim dialogue in the UK, I will address these questions through the prism of my interlocutors' discussions of their positionalities vis-à-vis each other to demonstrate that they convey a strong sense of solidarity and refuse to relegate either Jewish or Muslim British citizens to the periphery of the project of racialized communities' political empowerment.

More-than-peripheral. Fractal Colonialities in Regimes of Visibility in Southern Italy

Gerardo Costabile Nicoletta (Charles Univ. Prague, Prague)

Southern territories of the Italian nation-state have been object of representations and stereotypes entangled in the general colonial question of the Mediterranean (semi)peripheralization in the world-ecology. These representations constituted the pivotal role of dispossession and racialization processes as well as the legitimation devices for reshaping socio-ecological configurations. Throughout the 160 years following the national unification, newer colonialities stratified in national representations of the southern territories. After the 2007 global financial crisis, the representations of southern countryside were structured in two regimes of visibility. On the one hand, the invisibilization of the export-led agro-industrial enclaves based on the exploitation of invisible racialized migrant workers and the intensive exhaustion of bio-landscapes as well as the environmental degradation led by the expansion of logistic infrastructures. On the other hand, the visibility of institutional policies and media discourses' fetishization of the small (white) communities articulating landscape, cultural heritage, and quality food as strategic assets to compete in the global economy. Dealing with these two regimes of visibility, this contribution will explore how new geographies of power in (post)neoliberal globalization offered new powerful discursive-material articulations of peripherality embedded in the rural-south nexus. Analyzing economic expert discourses circulating in complex public-private organizational machines, the contribution aims to show how southern Italian rurality became an object of territorial marketing for the leisure of (global) urban classes, converting (images of) southern peasant culture in a rhetorical strategy informing consolatory, nostalgic and extractivist white nativism. Combining postcolonial readings of the history of southern Italy, and world-ecology analysis with discourse and governmentality studies, this contribution proposes a discursive political ecology of peripheralization processes, peripherality, and peripheral selves.

From Periphery to Center? Chinese Obelisks as Embodiment of Fuzzy Boundaries

Christian Langer (Beijing Univ., Beijing)

Ancient Egyptian aesthetics is global beyond the traditionally explored western confines of (early) modern appropriations. This contribution sheds light on various issues related to the adoption and adaptation of the shape and concept of the obelisk in modern/post-monarchic China since 1911. The obelisks of China – primarily martyrs' monuments with a central political function since the days of the Republic – can be understood as an (indirect) conversation between Egypt and China as well as Europe and China, but also as one among the many different identities of and within China – facets of a longstanding global transformation. In this talk, I thus trace the general trajectory of modern Chinese obelisks and their function in Chinese society, and develop the following core ideas and questions: 1) China, once liminal when it comes to the development of the obelisk concept, may now be at the center/forefront of global obelisk culture; 2) several supposedly distinct identities conflate in Chinese obelisks (e.g., Chinese 'nationalities'; ancient Egyptian and 'Western' culture; 'Red Culture', i.e., socialism/communism); 3) one can conceptualize obelisks as cosmopolitanism given physical form; 4) within China and its (formerly) peripheral obelisk tradition, there may be further (spatiotemporally specific) peripheral traditions; and 5) obelisks can undermine the (re)affirmation of symbolic boundaries. This contribution generally touches on the political economy of commemoration.

STREAM: TERRITORIAL, GEOPOLITICAL AND MATERIAL B/ORDERS

Panel

Transformation Processes in Borderlands in Times of Crises

Wed, Sep 06, 14:00-15:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 08 (GD HS 08)

Host:

Florian Weber (Saarland Univ., Saarbrücken)

The first decades of the 21st century have impressively demonstrated the still considerable and potentially growing political and social relevance of nation-state borders – even after the interim ideal of a “borderless world”. A globalized world has certainly not rendered nation states irrelevant. This became evident with the Covid-19 pandemic from spring 2020 onwards, which brought territorial, social, and symbolic bordering processes back into focus. Measures were often taken to protect the “own population”, raising the impression that the “strong state” had returned. However, these decisions often collided with cross-border realities on a local level.

The war in Ukraine 2022 disrupted seemingly “given” structures of territorial orders. With it, ideas of Europe had to be discussed anew, along with questions about the scope of European solidarity. As a result, the European Union experienced, among other things, a change in energy supply conditions, which led to strategic differences between member states and negotiation processes of b/ordering – especially with regard to the status of nuclear, coal-, and gas-fired power as well as renewable energies.

The panel discusses recent upheavals in Europe, putting them into perspective. Emphasis will be placed on b/order contestations in the 21st century, especially from a comparative perspective on European borderlands. How do current upheavals manifest themselves on the peripheries of nation-states? Which effects do these crises unfold locally? What changes can be observed in the way borders and boundaries are drawn, in inclusion and exclusion processes?

Contributions:

Fostering Cross-border Cooperation through Policy Learning in and between Border Regions: The Case of the France Strategy

Stefanie Thurm (Saarland Univ., Saarbrücken)

One of the main goals of European cohesion policy is to mitigate regional disparities and create a common European space. Nonetheless, border regions are still frequently negatively affected by the barrier function of nation state borders and belong to the economic and cultural peripheries, with borders hindering truly integrated job markets and making service provision on both sides of the border inefficient. While cross-border cooperation programs initiated by the European Union, such as Interreg, help in combatting those disadvantages, such externally funded projects are not sufficient to address remaining disparities and have sometimes been found to phase out as soon as funding stops. Additional efforts are thus needed to preserve truly integrated cross-border regions and enable them to overcome their structural disadvantages. Against this background, this contribution focuses on the case study of the France strategy developed by the German state Saarland. The multisectoral France strategy is a policy with a thematic focus on improving language skills and has been designed to deepen cross-border integration sustainably aside from EU funded projects. In the presentation, several research questions are answered in order to gain a better understanding of the promoting factors behind the policy and its effects on and chances for European (regional) integration. First, the presentation asks in which way the France strategy uses the nation state border as a resource to overcome structural disadvantages. Second, the contribution retraces the factors which supported the development of the policy and shines a light on how the specific local context facilitated this process. Third, the analysis focuses on how the European multi-level governance structure enabled the transfer of the policy to the national and the European level and to other border regions. By doing so, the contribution also highlights the lessons that other jurisdictions can possibly draw from the experiences of the Saarland for future cross-border policies.

The Resilience of Cross-Border Cooperation: The Covid-19 Pandemic as an Impulse for Transformation Processes in Border Regions?

Julia Dittel (Saarland Univ., Saarbrücken)
Sylvia Zawadzka (Univ. of Wrocław, Wrocław)

The Covid-19 pandemic has shed new light on border regions in Europe. Formally unquestioned aspects of daily life, such as crossing national borders for work, shopping, leisure, or to visit family and friends, as enabled by the Schengen Agreement, came to an abrupt end when politicians across the EU introduced border controls and, in some cases, border closures in reaction to the worldwide spread of a 'new' virus. The pandemic posed severe challenges to people living in borderlands – hence it might not come as a surprise that the call for open borders was especially loud there.

In response to the disruption caused by the first wave of the pandemic posed, decision makers on a local and regional, but also on a national and EU level promised to take the interests and needs of border regions into account in the further course of the pandemic. There were active declarations that cross-border communication and cooperation would be put on a stronger, more interconnected, more coordinated, and more resilient footing. It remains open to what extent these short-term realizations did already or will unfold their power in a longer-term perspective. Can the Covid-19 pandemic be seen as an impulse for transformation processes in border regions?

In our paper, we consider two European border regions at the Franco-German and the German-Polish border. In a West-East comparison of an 'old' and a 'new' borderland, we aim to identify parallels and differences in the reactions to and effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will present results from document analyses and interviews with political and administrative stakeholders. On the basis of our empirical results we pay special attention to the multilevel cross-border governance structures, in which cross-border cooperation is embedded, and derive relevant factors for the resilience of cross-border cooperation.

Energy Borderlands in Times of Crises – Multidimensional Energy Discourses in Europe's Border Regions

Florian Weber (Saarland Univ., Saarbrücken)

The Russian war against Ukraine has triggered far-reaching discussions in Europe in recent months regarding the energy sector. The key issue in these discussions was and still is the direct dependence on



Russian gas imports. Germany, in particular, has purchased large quantities of gas from Russia in recent years to provide its energy security. However, the current political situation paves the path for an ideological shift away from Russian gas, which is causing major upheavals in the energy sector. The initiated discussions extend to the question of an 'alternative' energy production to energy imports. In this context, fundamental questions arise regarding the energy transition and the temporary return to the use of coal and nuclear power. In the energy sector, the Russian war against Ukraine and the related abandonment of gas imports from Russia is only one example of a current crisis with far-reaching upheavals. In addition, politically determined influences to promote the energy transition(s), such as the EU Green Deal and the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities, play a role in the discussion about energy production taking place in Europe. The discussions that arise in the course of these influences are not only conducted on a European or national level, but also (or especially) on the periphery of the nation states, in the regional and local context of the border regions, in which different negotiation processes around the respective forms of energy, i.e., different energy borderlands, prevail. These negotiation processes can be influenced by crises and upheavals – they can solidify or soften. The Energy Borderlands subproject – as a part of the Linking Borderlands joint project – explores the question of the extent to which energy spaces in border regions develop between global and European framework conditions, nation-state policies, and regional and local implementations or crises and upheavals. The presentation introduces both the prevailing energy discourses in the German-Polish and the French-Luxembourgian-German border regions as well as the effects of the crises and upheavals on these prevailing discourses. The analysis is based on empirical results from regional newspapers, expert interviews, political documents, and social media. The combination of a discourse-analytical and a spatial-theoretical approach (TPSN) with approaches from border studies enables a dynamic comparison of the energy borderlands and their socio-spatial dimensions in times of crises and upheavals.

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Multilingualism in Vocational Training: Co-constructing Communicative Borderlands

Wed, Sep 06, 15:45-17:15, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 07 (GD HS 07)

Hosts:

Konstanze Jungbluth (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder), Nicole Richter (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder), Claudia Polzin-Haumann (Saarland Univ., Saarbrücken)

Discussant:

Andrzej Zaporowski (Adam Mickiewicz Univ. Poznań, Poznań)

The panel will discuss typical communication strategies among young adolescents during their education and vocational training in border regions. In the classroom or during their practical exercises, the students, having different language repertoires and often varying language skills, use special strategies to communicate. In order to overcome language borders, they spontaneously make use of linguistic material from different languages in order to co-construct a common meaning. These strategies may overlap, mix, reinforce each other or even contradict. Through these performative acts and the interplay of different strategies, innovative forms of communication may emerge. Especially interesting is also the behavior of teachers and their attitude towards and handling of different languages in the classroom. The way the students use specific linguistic forms is rather exceptional for the norm-focused approach applied in the educational context.

The panel will also discuss the question how different approaches in foreign language didactics are performed in vocational training, especially in border regions. Foreign language acquisition seems to require specific methods in language learning adapted to this particular context, including the learning of technical vocabulary. Implementing these methods elaborated for this group of adolescents shall increase the efficiency in learning as well as the motivation of the students.

Besides multilingual language use and foreign language didactics, also the political framework, the challenges and chances of cross border programs in vocational training will be subject of discussion in our panel.

Contributions:

Co-constructing in the Border Regions Saarland-Lorraine and Brandenburg-Lubuskie: Insights into Language Policy, Metalinguistics and Interaction

Sara Bonin (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/Oder), Leonie Micka-Monz (Saarland Univ., Saarbrücken), Dagna Zinkhahn Rhobodes (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/Oder)

We focus on occupational plurilingualism in the educational context of the Polish-German border region Brandenburg-Lubuskie and the French-German border region Saarland-Lorraine. Incentives for cross-border vocational orientation and training practices can be observed due to a shortage of skilled workers and wage differentials specific to border regions. Multilingualism and other aspects of cross-border competence contribute significantly to successful communication. In Saarland and Lorraine, as well as in Brandenburg and Lubuskie, language policy promotes the neighboring language. However, in the cross-border vocational training context, language learning and teaching still show a lot more potential for development (cf. Polzin-Haumann 2017; Dost, Jungbluth, Richter 2019; Eberhardt 2022).

Cross-border social practice, particularly language use in the cross-border vocational training context, will be discussed and linked to the respective political framework and language policy, addressing the following questions:

1. In which language policy frameworks do cross-border vocational orientation and training program operate in both border regions?
2. What are the specific challenges and opportunities in cross-border vocational orientation and training in the field of language learning practice?
3. Which communicative strategies do trainers and trainees use in cross-border vocational orientation and training?

The talk is based on the project “Communicative Borderlands: Social Practice and Language in the Vocational Training Context” financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with in the joint project “Linking Borderlands”. We first look at language policy approaches supporting the neighboring language in Saarland-Lorraine and in Brandenburg-Lubuskie. Furthermore, we focus on opportunities and challenges in cross-border vocational education and training based on interviews with different players in the two border regions. Finally, we present results of our analysis of spontaneous speech recordings and participant observation of trainees and experts in concrete communicative practices.

Translanguaging as a Vehicle for Transbordering in Vocational and Professional contexts

Sabine Ehrhart (Univ. of Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette)

In our research on *smart*, a German company located in the French border region Lorraine, our research group GRETI discovered that the linguistic support and assessment offered by the company to the different categories of workers and employees did not correspond to the real needs of those groups. Persons with developed competences in oral communication were evaluated very low in traditional language exams, although they had an important and efficient role as mediators between the languages. The language classes offered did not correspond to the real needs of this particular environment.

Starting from this statement, with a group of European colleagues, we developed a project which aims to encourage to learn the neighbor's language in vocational settings, in order to prepare people to work in the multilingual environments of border regions. We would like to find ways to reduce the linguistic and cultural obstacles as much as possible. We try to formulate precise needs for each border region represented in our project with a special focus on young people. In my contribution, I will present some of the findings (the project is still ongoing):

On a more theoretical level, I would like to discuss the usefulness of translanguaging in professional communication. Recently, there has been a vivid discussion around this term brought to a wider scientific public by Ofelia García. Translanguaging enables persons without a full command of a linguistic system to communicate with others, without a feeling of creating faulty or erroneous constructions. This takes away an important part of the insecurity language learners experience, particularly in their initial stages of learning and acquisition. On the other hand, this might not encourage them to go further and to integrate a standard version of a national language, and presently this is still a key to success in most of the working spaces in the world. I would like to put up for discussion to which point the introduction of plurilingual strategies like translanguaging and receptive bilingualism can be taught in vocational schools

in border regions, and in the case of a positive answer, by which means this would be most successful.

Social and Linguistic Borderlands in Postcolonial Classrooms of the Global South (Brazil and Africa)

Alexander Cobbinah (Univ. of São Paulo, São Paulo)

Communicative borderlands not only open up between speakers of different languages who belong to different speech communities, but also in polyglossic situations, in which speakers have to resort to official languages or varieties which regulate access to education, the job market or bureaucracy in general. In this talk, I compare issues of polyglossia in postcolonial contexts that confront teachers and pupils in Brazilian and African classrooms. The use of colonial languages in schools all over the African continent systematically excludes pupils without access to these languages in their upbringing. Teachers are confronted with the lack of teaching materials in local languages, in some cases insufficient knowledge of the colonial languages and widespread language ideologies that valorize the official languages. In the Brazilian context, the polyglossia is more subtle as it involves varieties of Brazilian Portuguese, usually labelled as popular Brazilian Portuguese vs. the written standard. Linguistic prejudice, often along racial lines, systematically excludes students from lower social backgrounds, whose language use is often devalued as erratic. On both sides of the Atlantic colonial language policies and interests in maintaining postcolonial power structures work together to maintain status distinctions in favor of the ruling elites. Although an immediate solution to this complex problem is not in sight, a first step to mitigate the difficulties resulting from postcolonial polyglossia could consist in raising awareness of these dynamics, in order to avoid social or racial discrimination and ensure that the pupils' language practices are treated with due respect. Ideally, teachers' education would also involve raising awareness that knowledge of the high register (be it a colonial language or written standard Portuguese) cannot be assumed but would have to be actively taught as part of the curriculum.

STREAM: TERRITORIAL, GEOPOLITICAL AND MATERIAL B/ORDERS

Panel

Border Conflicts and Their Management in a New European Reality: Three Perspectives on Negotiating Territory, Identities and Power

Wed, Sep 06, 15:45-17:15, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 08 (GD HS 08)

Hosts:

Lars Kirchhoff (European Univ. Viadrina, Institute for Conflict Management, Frankfurt/Oder)

Anne Holper (European Univ. Viadrina, Center for Peace Mediation, Frankfurt/Oder)

Russia's attack on Ukraine's territorial borders – and thereby its integrity – currently is in the heart of public and scientific attention. Against this challenging background, the panel will focus on the various roles that conflict resolution formats and instruments (negotiation, dialogue and mediation) can play in the complex processes of validating, disputing or re-defining borders. Three bird's eye perspectives on the organizations as well as instruments (and their respective theories of change) at work in this field will open the panel. While conflicts around the Russian-Ukraine borders will constitute an essential agenda item, the dynamics of additional conflicts (and attempts to solve them) will be discussed to allow for a more complete picture. The following questions, challenges and instruments will form the core topics of the panel:

- What are the core motivations, identity drivers and geostrategic interests behind today's border conflicts – and how can modern conflict management better contribute to their de-escalation, management and possible resolution?
- Which larger patterns of power-redistribution, which inherent trade-offs and dilemmas are reflected in the ongoing contestation of borders, and what does this mean for designing processes that are capable to effectively respond to this complexity?
- What can be learned from the war between Russia and Ukraine for possible future border conflicts?

- Which specific role can the OSCE play in preventing, monitoring or solving border disputes in Europe?
- What is the contribution of non-official (so-called Track III) dialogue and mediation initiatives in managing conflicts around borders?
- Finally: What is the function of territorial borders in the dialectic interplay between *inter-state* conflicts and *intra-state* cohesion – and what makes them non-/negotiable as a result?

Contributions:

THE BASIS: The OSCE's Approach to Border Conflicts in a New Europe

Christina Horváth-Stenner (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Conflict Prevention Centre, Vienna)

The OSCE originated as a conference and is until today essentially a permanent forum of participating states that span across a vast geographic space, supported by a secretariat, including the Conflict Prevention Centre, and with operational arms (institutions and field missions) extending into the field. As a conference, the organization essentially *is* its participants, who take most of their decisions by consensus. Respecting borders and territorial integrity is a guiding principle among OSCE participating states under Article IV of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, agreed upon by consensus by all participating states including Russia. The consensus-based decision making – once achieved – gives legitimacy to all OSCE action and equips its field operations with eventually strong mandates to operate.

Depending on that mandate, the OSCE field missions, supported by the expertise of the Conflict Prevention Centre, play a significant role in addressing border-related disputes, including through mediation and dialogue facilitation, confidence building, providing “good office” and capacity building.

To further illustrate this: Through its field operations, the OSCE facilitates cross-border co-operation, effective border security and management, and capacity-building efforts for border services of host states as well as it engages local communities through providing dialogue platforms and joint conflict prevention training courses for heads of local administration and local communities in border areas of the host states. Moreover, OSCE prioritizes women’s role in addressing border-related disputes by supporting grassroots networks of women initiative groups in border villages. The OSCE field operations are likewise engaged in conflict resolution along boundary lines within their host countries. For example, the Mission to Moldova facilitated an agreement of local communities of a dispute along the boundary between Moldova and its breakaway region of Transnistria in 2019.

The OSCE had and has many other examples of operations concerning borders, including border monitoring. Their success depends on the strength of their mandates as well as on political realities on the ground, which for example can have a strong influence on the freedom of movement of the OSCE field operation. It is necessary to remain flexible on the ground while reminding participating states of the OSCE as a unique dialogue platform to achieve agreement on mandates that balance different interests, while remaining effective in their implementation.

Evidently, the war in Ukraine generated decisively new challenges for the OSCE, some of them still waiting for response.

A HARD REALITY TEST: Conflict Resolution Lessons from the War in Ukraine

Tetiana Kyselova (Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Kyiv)

The ongoing war teaches not only Ukraine, but Europe and its organizations a whole number of existential lessons – about the ineffectiveness of existing approaches and organizations dealing with Russia as well as about the failure of security concepts as designed during decades of alleged cooperation with Russia.

Furthermore, conventional approaches to peacebuilding that currently guide the academic and practical fields were mostly developed in the context of civil wars and inter-ethnic conflicts. Therefore, since 2014, Ukrainian researchers and civil society are advocating for a deep reconceptualization of these approaches to meet the new realities and needs of peacebuilding in this inter-state war of aggression – and the resulting new security landscape.

In the first period of the Russian-Ukrainian war (2014-2021), international organizations and donors imposed neutrality as a major approach to conflict resolution. The Ukrainian civil society was able to navigate around these impediments and develop their own understanding of peacebuilding. This understanding survived the

large-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine in February 2022 and remained ever more relevant in the current on-going war.

Relying on empirical evidence, this panel contribution will highlight the following elements of Ukrainian peacebuilding in the context of the most paradigmatic border conflict the international system currently faces:

- (1) strengthening Ukrainian agency in all international fora and legitimization of the protective use of force as a part of conflict transformation strategies;
- (2) emphasis on the intra-Ukrainian dimensions of the conflict – resilience and social cohesion – rather than the bilateral Russian-Ukrainian dimension;
- (3) recognition of asymmetries between the conflict parties and the need to empower Ukraine and to legitimate its interests and ‘red lines’ in terms of safeguarding sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity;
- (4) adaptations to the concept of neutrality;
- (5) the “track dynamics” of peacebuilding: if Track I runs counter to the societal perceptions of peace, civil society peacebuilding develops as an alternative approach and attempts to control Track I.

RADICAL RETHINKING: New Times – New Toolbox? (Finally...) Integrating the Russian Federation Dimension into Conflict Management

Marc Weller (Univ. of Cambridge, Cambridge)

The conflict involving Ukraine has, in the past, been addressed as a standard contestation about national minorities and their place within a dominant, titular majority of a state. The issue of language rights, and the supposed withdrawal of such rights in the case of the Maidan revolution, along with the question of regional autonomy, were identified by European actors as key issues that needed to be addressed after 2014. These steps were taken in order to satisfy the purported demands of Russian speakers in Ukraine and in particular in the Donbass, and of their sponsor, the Russian Federation.

Ukraine saw these measures as a means of undermining its freshly won sovereignty, and as the thin edge of the wedge pointing towards further demands, eventual secessionist conflict and possibly moves to join the Russian Federation. It could point to Moscow’s strategy of creating so-called frozen conflicts in its near abroad – created through aggression justified by preserving the interest of kin-minorities across Russia’s borders, and maintained in place to permanently de-stabilize the states in which they were created.

Answering aggression through proposals on minority rights has been a consistently failing approach of the West. The Carrington process sought to address Serbia’s concerns by way of protection for ethnic Serb communities in the newly independent former Yugoslav states. The international focus on minority rights was well meant and essentially justified according to the liberal world-view of the EU member states. However, it missed the point. It offered no remedy to a highly aggressive, ethno-nationalist and ethno-territorial agenda. Engaging in endless negotiations on the wrong issue underpinning such conflicts provides cover for the consolidation of a highly aggressive policy that is not really much concerned with improving the lives of ethnic kin living abroad. For the Russian Federation, the underlying agenda is one of geopolitical relations with the West, in particular the US and NATO, and territorial re-conquest or at least dominance of key areas lost to the Russian Federation upon the collapse of the Soviet Union. The EU and other actors have been persisting in their policy of negotiating about minority accommodation when territorial challenges and intervention are the real issue. Western actors have of course known full well that the issue at the heart of such conflicts is not the fate of minorities. But they have gone through the motions of negotiating on the issue, to try and demonstrate that ‘something’ is being done.

Where minority rights are raised and supposedly addressed in the context of geo-political contestation and aggressive domination of neighboring states, the West will need to learn to call the game in the future. It will either need to shift towards a policy of resisting aggression and intervention in the states of the former Soviet Union or Warsaw pact instead of pursuing faux settlements on minority issues. Or, in the alternative, it will need to accept Mr. Putin’s vision of Russian dominance over its ‘near abroad’ in the West. Any policy in-between is bound to be dishonest and will inevitably fail.



PANELS, THU, SEPTEMBER 07

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Imagining and Contesting Future Borders

Thu, Sep 07, 9:30-11:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 07 (GD HS 07)

Hosts:

Dominik Gerst (Univ. of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg-Essen)

Hannes Krämer (Univ. of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg-Essen)

The future plays an increasingly important role in the self-image of contemporary societies. Since the beginning of the 21st century, multiple experiences of crisis have contributed to an increased degree of foresight. The awareness of the society's finite nature in the face of the climate crisis is only the most visible example of society's gradual orientation towards what is to come. Research in the social and cultural sciences has shown that this orientation towards the future can be seen in many forms, with a view to a wide variety of social fields. Against this backdrop, the panel will explore the question of whether and how society's forward-lookingness is also evident at its borders. The leading question of the conference, "how societal orders in the 21st century are changing through new forms of border and boundary drawing and how the borders of the 21st century are shaped", will therefore be supplemented by a decided reference to the future. What imaginings of future borders do contemporary societies produce and to what are they reacting? How are inscriptions of the future expressed in everyday borderwork? Which visions of what is to come are decidedly negotiated at the borders? What is the connection between diagnoses of a "renaissance of the border" and descriptions of social expectations of the future? In this way, the panel addresses a research gap in contemporary border research. Whereas interest has so far focused on a retrospective description of border change, the panel follows the idea of viewing border change as a prospective process.

Contributions:

More Planet, Less Borders? On Post-Politics, Climate Articulation and Unorthodox Jurisprudence in the Anthropocene Times

Stefan Janković (Univ. of Belgrade, Belgrade)

After a wave of indications on anthropogenic sources of climate change, a complicated encounter with a shifting landscape of the earth nonetheless sparked quite different exploratory challenges for social sciences. Whereas this "event of the anthropocene" that came with denoting of distinct geological epoch where the humans present a principal macro-physical force has become a platform for profound ontological scrutiny of human-nonhuman relations, it has also propelled a much broader issue of designing future ecopolitical arrangements. As a direct response to the predicament signaled with the anthropocene, an inception of climate themes in various academic fields has therefore become a question of engagement with massive, unpredictable, unbounded, planetary-scale processes, mostly driven by the nonhuman entities. In that vein, ongoing debates in the fields of geopolitics and international law among others, have also hinted at alternative grammar in the reading of borders, sovereignty and legal conventions. In what follows, we attempt to uncover three potential "borderless" directions stemming from this planetary thinking. First, our discussion targets the so-called "speculative post-politics". As many authors in recent times underscore, a principal necessity with articulating the climate change goes along with surpassing the fixed territoriality and devising radically transformed institutional arrangements, capable of sustaining complex ecological infrastructures. Post-politics in this regard escapes from securitarian-like nature of biopolitics and becomes almost borderless by seeing the planetary habitability as an ultimate goal that should be attained through pursuing a more resilient and flexible solutions for climate variability outside the state mechanisms. Similar fashion might be found in quite controversial discussions on climate migration. As many authors have

convincingly underscored, an alleged dangers associated with the “climate refugees” have epitomized a profoundly ethnocentric conception of “state-machines” that produces the “strangers” as the antithesis to the ideal of sedentary life of civil nation-states. What these scholars also underline is a necessity to go beyond understanding the human mobilities in terms of movement occurring against the quite shallow conception of fixed environment. Instead, what they advocate is situating humans within much broader planetary mobilities of various scales and durations. Lastly, we discuss how the recent methodological shift in international law potentially evolves into an unorthodox jurisprudence. Namely, by overcoming the narrow format of rights, legal subjectivity, responsibility or ownership, it offers an innovative design of relationships between species and consequently induce new principles of ecological bonds, obligations and responsibilities.

Ideals and Humanity at the Border – Activist Utopias and Cosmopolitan Practice in Dialogue

Lena Merkle (Otto-von-Guericke Univ. Magdeburg, Magdeburg)

In my research I work with local grassroot organizations and NGOs on the divided islands of Cyprus and Ireland. The ideals of those border activists tend to be heavily influenced by utopian ideas of the futures they would like to build. They revolve around the societies they would like their children to grow up in, local responses to global crises and ideals of humanity and community. Interestingly, the identities that are promoted are also strongly based on nationality, shared culture and history and their islands as a place of unity and uniqueness. These ideals stand in stark contrast to the also promoted values of global solidarity and community that tend to heavily influence the messages and wordings of such organizations especially when it comes to public outreach.

In my paper I would like to look at this apparent ambivalence in the messages and goals of these organizations and try to establish a dialogue with theories that tend to focus more on the global than the local. Cosmopolitanism, anarchism and post-colonial transnationalism all produced a large body of work that debates matters around borders and nationality. These three philosophies all are strongly oriented towards (political) utopias and the elaboration on a different future society that is built less on exclusion and hegemony and more on appreciation of diversity and transnational community.

I would therefore like to focus on the exchange between the ideals behind local practice of cross-border activism and the global theories revolving around a new ordering of state borders or their abolition. The goal is to find shared imaginaries and visions but also to identify where both levels of debate clearly move in opposite directions and what could be potential ways to bring them back together.

Contesting Future Borders, Imagining Alternative Futures

Paul Trauttmansdorff (Univ. of Bologna, Bologna)

A central and formative ingredient in the governance of migration in the European Union (EU) is the continuous construction of a large-scale digital infrastructure to ensure border security. Although critical border and security studies have increasingly focused on the multiple aspects of techno-materiality and infrastructural devices of border control, less has been said about how such infrastructures encode and transmit collective future visions of borders and border (in)security. This contribution aims to analyze the dominant socio-technical imaginaries and futures of digital borders, empirically focusing on the work of the European Union Agency for the development and management of large-scale IT-systems, called eu-LISA, in designing and stabilizing future visions of borders. Studying the visionary dimensions of digital infrastructuring helps us to understand how imagination becomes collectivized and materialized, opens up or closes down sociotechnical realizations, or thus tacitly governs the project of digitally infrastructuring borders. This paper will furthermore problematize the simplified understandings border and migration management that underpin such futures. It will argue that they seek to discursively place officials in positions of control and authority while allowing them to conveniently distance themselves from the complex and messy realities of cross-border mobility. It will thereby criticize the creation of what I call, with reference to Cohn (1987), sanitized realities, which strategically remove the urgent questions of responsibility and accountability from discourses on the injustice and violence that occur at Europe’s borders. Finally, the paper reflects on some possible directions for reimagining digital technologies in the border regime, recentering our visions for how to respond to mobility and developing a politics of responsibility. It will suggest rejecting the



dominant imaginations of digital borders and their futures and fundamentally rerouting them to focus on responsibility and accountability for human beings and their diverse forms of mobility.

STREAM: TERRITORIAL, GEOPOLITICAL AND MATERIAL B/ORDERS

Panel 1 (TEIN Annual Conference)

21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Pt. 1): Translocal Cooperation & Public Welfare

Thu, Sep 07, 9:30-11:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Host:

Peter Ulrich (Univ. of Potsdam, Institute of Local Government Studies, Potsdam)

The panels “21st Century B/ORDERS and Civil Society” in the context of the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN) and Borders in Globalization (BIG) deal with the interplay of the public and civic dimension with new processes of ordering and bordering in the 21st century in Europe and beyond. In this conference, scholars and experts from TEIN, BIG and other scientific networks come together in two thematic panels to discuss the b/ordering effects as a result of recent local developments like handling of the coronavirus crisis, the Russian war in Ukraine and recent meta-b/ordering discourses caused by it. In the first panel, the focus of interest lies on the public welfare and the provision of civic services by public authorities in times of crisis and uncertainty. Recent crises have changed the view on the provision of basic services by public authorities and created the need to foster cross-border cooperation between municipalities and with civil society. The second panel discusses the current role of civil society in times disruptive shifting of b/orders in Europe and beyond.

The panel “21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Part 1): Translocal Cooperation & Public Welfare” deals with translocal cooperation and public welfare. The focus of interest lies on the public welfare and the provision of civic services by public authorities in times of crisis and uncertainty. Recent crises have changed the view on the provision of basic services by public authorities and created the need to foster cross-border cooperation between municipalities and with civil society. The main questions in the panel contain the composition of public services in a cross-border manner in times of multiple crises and uncertainty. The first talk will give an insight into public services from a legal perspective, while the second presentation will examine to what extent mostly nationally provided public services can be provided across national borders. The cross-border planning aspects of such public service cooperation are discussed in a third presentation. In the fourth presentation, the translocal and transborder cooperation in the field of health and emergency services in the EU are discussed as a response to the pandemic. The fifth presentation focusses on different participatory and cross-border civil society engagement forms in horizontal integration within cross-border regions. The panel “21st B/Orders & Civil Society (Part 1): Translocal Cooperation & Public Welfare” contains presentations from members of TEIN and BIG and is organized by the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) in cooperation with the Institute of Local Government Studies of the University of Potsdam.

Contributions:

Municipal Cooperation and Services of General Interest

Thorsten Ingo Schmidt (Univ. of Potsdam, Institute of Local Government Studies, Potsdam)

The provision of public services is one of the central tasks of municipalities. The supply of water, gas, district heating, electricity, local public transport and the disposal of wastewater and refuse are of outstanding importance for the inhabitants of a municipality. At the same time, the provision of services of general interest represents a major field of activity for municipal policy. Based on the constitutional guarantee of municipal self-government, this lecture will examine, from a legal perspective, the possibilities for municipalities to cooperate in the various fields of services of general interest in public and private law forms. Special



attention will be paid to the special-purpose association as an independent legal entity of municipal cooperation. In detail, questions of the formation of the cooperation, the participating bodies, the liability, the financing as well as the possible dissolution of the cooperation will be discussed.

Cross-border Public Services from a Legal Perspective

Michael Frey (Univ. of Applied Sciences Kehl, Kehl), Rahel Alia Müller (Univ. of Applied Sciences Kehl, Kehl)

The contribution will show from an applied legal and administrative science perspective the legal framework for future cross-border public services.

Besides a description of today's legal framework, we will also show the impact of administrative cultures and cross-border governance for cross-border public services.

After attempting a coherent definition of cross-border public services, the legal starting point will be the principle of sovereignty in the context of international public law and national constitutional law (Frey/Weigel, 2021). It will outline the limits and possibilities for cross-border public services determined by European and national law.

To illustrate, we will show insides of recent and concrete examples of the highly institutionalized multi-level and multi-sector crossborder governance in the field of cross-border public service in the Upper-Rhine region. We will emphasize examples in concrete policy fields, which are actually in a post-crisis transformation process towards a future role and form, e.g. cooperation in cross border public health services (TRISAN) but also in the institutional framework of cross-border cooperation in the Upper-Rhine Valley (further development of the INFOBEST-Network).

With a perspective on the future, it will illustrate interdisciplinary ways in legal and administrative sciences on how to overcome the legal dimensions of borders in the field of cross-border public services. With regard to administrative manners to overcome borders and difficulties in cross-border cooperation, we will reflect on the question, whether a stronger institutionalization could serve to develop cross border institutions possessing a wider capacity to act. Even in crisis situations, such as the coronavirus crisis, a backdrop created by inter alia expressions of the organizational path-dependency could be avoided.

The presentation will focus on presenting these elements in a way that opens especially the legal sphere for experts coming from other scientific disciplines in order to point out complementarities.

Cross-border Governance and Democratic Challenges

Martin Unfried (Maastricht Univ., Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross border cooperation and Mobility (ITEM), Maastricht)

In border regions where cross-border cooperation is already strongly institutionalised with Euregions and other cross-border bodies, there are experiences with obstacles that today cannot be removed. Further European integration and harmonisation does not necessarily help, since in certain important policy sectors like a cross-border labour market, or cross-border infrastructure projects, national legislation is still dominant. Since taxes or social security or permitting processes are deliberately not harmonised in Brussels, national rules today do not match better than years ago. Meaning that it is difficult to really benefit for an integrated labor market or a common public transport infrastructure. Hence, deeper cross-border integration needs different instruments than in the past. That could for instance mean that cross-border entities could get certain competences that are today entirely national. Or, that certain legal innovative instruments would make it possible to deviate from national legislation for instance in the case of bigger infrastructure projects.

The European Commission tried years ago to establish an innovative instrument with the proposal for an European Cross-Border Mechanism. However, the proposed regulation could not be adopted up-to-date due to the resistance of Member States. Innovative instruments or organisations are key, to overcome current obstacles. And at the same time, innovative organisations or legal instruments have to be supported by innovative democratic processes across the border. Here the questions of cross-border participation



processes come into play. How could innovative governance go hand in hand with innovative citizens participation and democratic cross-border processes?

Provision of Services of General Interest in Border Regions – A Challenge for Planning Cultures

Benjamin Blaser (RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau), Kirsten Mangels (RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau), Karina Pallagst (RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau), Nino Pfundstein (RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau)

The cross-border context displays different normative regulations, policies, strategies and spatial concepts, and furthermore also beliefs and values regarding spatial planning. This enhances the complexity of planning cultures to a certain extent. In this setting, the exchange of knowledge about different planning practices, processes and instruments of spatial planning will be a core competence of cross border development (Pallagst, Hartz, Caesar 2018). In this specific context the possibility might occur that a specific cross border planning cultures will be shaped, based on longstanding experience in cooperation. Cross border regions offer the possibility to investigate the principles of planning in a comparative mode, thus changes in planning cultures might be detected.

The provision of Services of general interest (SGI) lies at the core of spatial planning tasks, as for example in Germany, spatial planning is required to contribute to the provision of SGI for all citizens. Yet, SGI is becoming an increasing challenge in particular in (peripheral) rural regions as peripheral regions are often affected by the impacts of demographic change, like e.g. out-migration of young adults and an ageing population. Those developments lead to problems of the economic viability of some SGI. There are several problem-solving approaches to this dilemma, like a transformation to mobile Services or the digitalization of Services as well as strengthening the inter-communal or even regional cooperation of municipalities and providers. (Mangels, Riethmüller, 2018). This presentation deals with the challenges and opportunities for providing SGI in border regions, where different planning cultures collide. Areas of investigation are the Greater Region and the Brandenburg/Lebus region. The research presented here is based on findings of a research project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education entitled “Linking borderlands”.

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Border (Inter)Action

Thu, Sep 07, 13:00-14:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 07 (GD HS 07)

Hosts:

Concha Maria Höfler (Nottingham Trent Univ., Nottingham)

Maria Klessmann (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/Oder)

Sabine Lehner (St. Pölten Univ. of Applied Sciences, Ilse Arlt Institute for Social Inclusion Research, St. Pölten)

Interaction, understood as the “communication among those present” (Kieserling 1999), can be linked in various ways to borders and boundaries. These go beyond interactions at borders, such as cross-border cooperation, passport and customs controls, or smuggling. More broadly, borders and boundaries are complex manifestations of multiple relational practices. Boundary drawing comes into play in interactive situations through ascriptions, ways of speaking and how these are perceived and categorized (Busch & Spitzmüller 2021), indexing social categories, discursive positions and re/producing social orders. Finally, there are questions about the boundedness of interactions per se, distinguishing them from one another (Muhle 2017).

The panel seeks a detailed analysis of the production of boundaries in concrete interactions, as well as micro-perspectives on interactions at borders and the practices which manifest borders. To this end, the contributions in this panel offer empirical analyses of border interactions, which are situated in different sociopolitical, geographical, and spatial contexts, i.e., Chile, the Caribbean, and the European airspace. The contributions explore interactions at diverse border sites and their complex modes of production (i.e.,



communicative, discursive, legislative) by different actors (e.g., pupils, teachers, states, tourists, authorities).

Contributions:

Interaction, (moving) Borders, Space – the Interactional Construction of Borders and Border Spaces

Concha Maria Höfler (Nottingham Trent Univ., Nottingham)

This contribution will set the stage for the papers discussed in the panel by exploring some of the theoretical background on the connectedness of borders and boundaries with interaction. As complex manifestations of relational practices, borders and boundaries are at least partly (co-)constructed in interaction(s) while at the same time giving rise to specific communicative practices that enforce or subvert national borders or social boundaries. The panel's contributions center on the interactional (re)production of national borders, transnational spaces, and national categorizations. In doing so, they firstly emphasize the interactant's imaginaries: their imaginations of the spatial and socio-political categories they put forward, their assumptions about their interlocutors' imaginaries, and the very material impacts of these contested, often hierarchically structured, and constantly negotiated imaginaries. They secondly emphasize the shifting nature of the ensuing spaces and social constructions. National borders are never quite as fixed as they are imagined: they may be moved over time following wars or decolonial projects – or they might quite literally be taken along on a European cruise ship, transforming parts of Caribbean islands into spaces temporarily inaccessible to local inhabitants. The panel's contributions thirdly draw our attention to the specificities and complexities of the (trans)national, socio-political, and interactional contexts they examine. (Trans)national spaces – both those “attached to earth” and those in air space – as well as national categories and affiliations are interactively established in relation to their institutional and interactional context and may therefore come to mean very different things in different contexts.

The Symbolic and Relational Production of Borders in a Culturally Diverse School in Iquique, Chile: Transformations, Interactions and Classifications

Andrea Cortés Saavedra (Univ. College London, London)

This paper analyses the ways of producing borders in a school in the north of Chile where children of different origins coexist. I conducted an ethnographic study in Iquique, a city located in a Chilean region that shares a border with Bolivia and is part of an area that belonged to Peru before the War of the Pacific (1879-1883). In that sense, the objective of this paper is twofold. First, I will describe how borders as a material space are experienced, expressed, and understood by members of a school community in Iquique. Thus, Iquique as a space undergoes both material transformations and in relation to the meanings mobilized by its inhabitants, where the borders “challenged assumptions about fixity and stability” (Spyrou and Christou 2014: 9). Second, I will delve into the role played by the presence of migrant students in the symbolic, everyday and relational production of borders in the school community.

Specifically, this paper will explain how borders are produced, deployed, negotiated and contested within the school through daily interactions between Chilean teachers and Latin American and Caribbean children. Therefore, this paper will contribute to the understanding of the “everyday cultural negotiations of the border” (Spyrou and Christou 2014: 8). In short, this presentation will show how borders are articulated, manifested, negotiated and contested in a school located in a border area that, before a war, belonged to Peru. Likewise, I will delve into the role of migration in the daily negotiation of borders. On the one hand, the borders emerge as hierarchical devices that produce symbolic classifications, on the other hand, the daily and relational production of the borders allows signifying the forms of interaction in a culturally diverse school community.

Constructing Airspace Borders Through Interactions Within Sociotechnical Imaginaries: A Case Study of the Single European Sky

Christopher Lawless (Durham Univ., Durham)

This paper explores the interactional construction and contestations of airspace borders via the framing of the socio-technical imaginary. Socio-technical imaginaries have been described as technological plans or

visions through which " collectively imagined forms of social life and social order" (Jasanoff and Kim 2009: 120) are pursued. Much research has focused on how socio-technical imaginaries emerge within specific national and transnational spaces. This paper however uses the example of the European Commission's Single European Sky (SES) initiative to show how sociotechnical imaginaries also construct space and borderings in turn. SES encompasses a series of legislative and regulatory measures to reform European air traffic management with the vision to ultimately transcend sovereign control of airspace.

Drawing upon empirical research I describe how SES has been negotiated between various interest groups and stakeholders, including states who operate national air traffic control services, supranational European institutions and organized labor. I demonstrate that while these stakeholders are embedded within a particular imaginary for European airspace, their interactions have been characterized by mutual distrust and contested control of this imaginary. Through these interactions differing relations between national and transnational authority across European airspace have been projected, which also reflect differing rationalities of spatial authority and information control.

I show how these differing relations and rationalities project different borderings of airspace, and I argue that the SES imaginary has become an internal contest for who constructs and controls airspace borders. I utilize these observations to argue for the significance of what I term 'imaginative flexibility', which in turn leads to 'imaginative politics' – namely contests for who controls the course of a particular imaginary and its outcomes from within, based at least partly on assumptions about other stakeholder's interests. I use SES to show that imaginative politics not only leads to differing and contesting constructions of airspace borders, but that jobs, livelihoods, working conditions and safety are also at stake in this contested re-bordering.

The Effect of a Cruise Ship's Presence. Having a Closer Look at the Interactions Making up a Disembarked Border in the Lesser Antilles

Corinna Angela Di Stefano (Univ. of Konstanz, Constanze)

When a cruise ship docks on the Antillean Island of Dominica, a considerable part of the old town of the island's capital, Roseau, temporarily converts to a restricted area and transit zone. During the cruise season from November to April, at around four days of a week, this area becomes temporarily inaccessible for locals with the exception of port authorities and authorized vendors, tourism employees, or tour guides. Having a closer look at this case, I would like to consider these floating resorts as mobile pieces of the EU, carrying or disembarking the EU border throughout the Caribbean region.

Based on ethnographic observations in Roseau, informal conversations, and semi-structured interviews, I aim to analyze the multiple social interactions and relational practices that make up this bordering space overlapping the island. In doing so, I will put a more specific focus on the interrelatedness of articulations/perceptions of social boundaries and the practices of bordering observable in social interactions at the temporarily erected fences and within and around the restricted area.

Looking at bordering processes in the context of highly privileged touristic mobilities, I want to approach the question of border (inter)action, manifestation and experience, from a new perspective. This perspective shows that the border is not only mobile in the sense of being embodied human beings' fleeing or migrating bodies. This case shows that the border is as well transported as such, surrounding a cruise ship, and able to cause a state of exception in Dominica's capital.

The analysis is based on ethnographic research on mobilities and EU borders in the Lesser Antilles, conducted between 2015 and 2018 in altogether twelve months on Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique.



Panel 2 (TEIN Annual Conference)

21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Pt. 2): Translocal Cooperation & Civil Society

Thu, Sep 07, 13:00-14:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Host:

Peter Ulrich (Univ. of Potsdam, Institute of Local Government Studies, Potsdam)

The panel “21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Part 2): Translocal Cooperation & Civil Society” deals with translocal cooperation and civil society. The panel discusses the current role of civil society in times disruptive shifting of b/orders in Europe and beyond. The first presentation will focus on the role and the ways of emerging of civil society and b/ordering processes in a global context. Different understandings of civil society from different parts of the world are being brought to the fore. In another presentation, civil society participation in transborder cooperation in different cross-border regions within the EU will be presented. In a final presentation, different forms of civic participation in local administrations both in Germany and France will be presented.

The panel “21st Century B/Orders & Civil Society (Part 2): Translocal Cooperation & Civil Society” contains presentations from members of TEIN and BIG and is organized by the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) in cooperation with the Institute of Local Government Studies of the University of Potsdam.

Contributions:

Mental Maps and Representations of Borders in five EU Border Regions: a Comparative Approach

Birte Wassenberg (Univ. of Strasbourg, Strasbourg)

The article analyses the discussions and mental maps elaborated during the focus groups of cross-border actors, which have been organized between November 2021 and February 2023 in five EU border regions by the Jean Monnet network “Frontières en mouvement” (FRONTEM). The comparison encompasses the Franco-Belgian, the Franco-German, the Irish-Northern Irish, the German-Danish and the Rumanian-Hungarian borderlands. It appears clearly that perceptions of what is at stakes, what are the benefits and the risks of the border and what the cross-border region should ideally represent, diverge largely from one region to the other. But, furthermore, the imagined geographical representations of the borderland do not necessarily coincide with the reality of administrative and institutional cross-border spaces.

Engaging Civil Society in Cross-Border Regions in Europe

Anne Thevenet (Euro-Institut, Kehl)

If citizens’ engagement has always been important in order to build up coherent public policies, it has become unavoidable in order to reduce the growing gap between citizens, public institutions and politics.

Especially in cross-border territories, where the freedom of movement has been (severely) restricted during the pandemic, where disillusion about the European integration is too often a fact, citizens want to/need to be involved.

It is about rebuilding trust, rethinking cross-border living spaces and opening new possibilities for citizens and workers.

But how to organize citizens’ engagement? How to ensure efficiency?

Many challenges have to be faced like: How to motivate citizens? Who finances? Which format? Which methods? Which topic?

This contribution will try to illustrate these challenges through different experiences I had the chance to be part of at the Franco-German border and especially the TEIN4Citizens project (2019-2021), which consisted in the organization of five forums in different cross-border regions in Europe.

The contribution will then try to identify key factors of success for engaging citizens in cross-border regions.



Digitalization in Municipalities in Germany and in France

Margot Bonnafeous (Euro-Institut, Kehl)

As part of the project "Regional Open Government Labs", the town of Kehl (Germany) and the Haguenau Association of Municipalities (France) have been working together during 18 months on the topic of "Digitalisation in municipalities in Germany and in France". The Kehl Euro-Institut has coordinated the cooperation.

• „Regional Open Government Labs” is a federal project within which Kehl University of Applied Sciences for Administration is responsible for one regional lab. Due to the border situation, this lab has been meant to include some cross-border axes. Euro-Institut’s project component "Digitalisation in municipalities in Germany and in France" is one of those cross-border axes and aims not only at a comparison between the two towns, referring to their organizational and cultural contexts, but also at the building of capacities.

The following project aims have been identified:

- Achieve more transparency and participation for all social groups by promoting digitalization in rural areas.
- Improving public services through the creation of more digital service offerings.
- Digitalization as a location factor for municipalities in rural areas.
- Strengthening communication between administration, politics, and citizens through open digital technologies for the purpose of information flow and co-creation.

To achieve these goals, the working group has identified three topics on which the group has worked at three workshops.

1. The “digital employees” of the future - Developing a competence model in cross-border co-production.
2. Development of digital competences and the role of digital leadership - Comparison of practices and drafting of a strategy.
3. Digitalisation of the administration: What do citizens expect? Draft of a catalogue of measures for the further development of the “digital city hall” for citizens

After a brief reflection on the current state of digitalization of the administration in Germany and France, the proposed contribution will briefly summarize the results of the three workshops. The focus here will be on the results that can be of use to the two administrations in their respective processes.

Furthermore, the contribution will discuss which factors accelerate or slow down the digitalization of the administration. The findings of the project regarding staff and leadership, as well as the attitude of the citizens should provide information here.

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Drowned, Watered Down and Resurfaced. Forensics, Politics of Memory and Conviviality along Liquid Borders

Thu, Sep 07, 15:00-16:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Hosts:

Darja Klingenberg (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder), Estela Schindel (European Univ. Viadrina, Institute for European Studies (IFES), Frankfurt/Oder)

How to account for the deaths of the Mediterranean, for the slow violence produced through polluted rivers, or for the violent histories of black Atlantic? *Waterscapes*, *necro-hydrology* and forensic oceanography are some of the approaches through which scholars have tried to make sense of the specific features and challenges of geopolitical and extractive liquid borders in recent years. This literature discusses water in terms of the material and symbolic (co)production of limits and boundaries. In our discussion we aim to inquire into the social, cultural and affective implication of such lethal aquatic borderscapes and into the terms for the legal and political accountability for those crimes.

The panel presents diverse empirical cases of such aquatic borders – rivers, oceans and seas – and their relation with restrictive migratory policies, political violence and anthropocenic exhaustion. The presentations

will focus on the forensic and memorial politics and practices as well as on the collective strategies of mourning, conviviality and resistance that are developed around these borders.

Contributions:

Liquid Borders as a Forensic Landscape

Zuzanna Dziuban (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

My paper considers the liquid border of the Mediterranean as a complex political, cultural, and material space constructed by various modalities of violence directed against people on the move. It is a fluid space of violence, a violence of policing and abandonment that partakes in the production of death but also in postmortem violence against dead bodies. This perspective on the Mediterranean is, nevertheless, also challenged: in looking at the Mediterranean through the prism of the material reality of border deaths, I consider it a *forensic* landscape, brimming with traces of the violence of the European border regime. I do so by drawing from several art and activist projects carried out by European artists and scholars who engage with the sea. Centering on the question of European complicity in and (un)accountability for border deaths, these projects propose new ways to interrogate, repurpose and reshape the dominant frames and technologies of visibility around such deaths, recasting the Mediterranean as an archive of the violence it is meant to invisibilize. In my paper, this artistically and technologically mediated archive is, moreover, established as decentered and postanthropocentric. Working with several meanings of forensics, I turn analytical attention to water itself, casting it as a nature-culture infrastructure that matters for the ways in which the water dead are constructed and undone. Finally, I attend to the very challenge posed by the material affordances of the sea, and the bodies submerged in it, in retaining and archiving the presence of border deaths, as much symbolically and politically as materially, in order to *literalize* human remains and their lingering corporeal presence, and make water deaths 'reappear' and matter. Unsettling the notion that once submerged bodies disappear entirely, this paper ultimately confers agency on bodies of the dead and on the sea, engaging with the notions of aquatic archiving and the more-than-human memory of the water.

Rivers, Violence and Borders in the Anthropocene: A Report from the Oder

Estela Schindel (European Univ. Viadrina, Institute for European Studies (IFES), Frankfurt/Oder)

Rivers, like bodies of water altogether, have become central sites of border, forensic, and ecological contestation. They are being weaponized in the context of political violence, instrumentalized as a dissuasive factor for migration in the context of repressive border policies, and increasingly subjected to toxic pollution and ecological exhaustion. This imbrication of extractive, migratory and political violence transforms rivers into politically invested spaces where conflict and struggles unfold. My paper claims that this convergence should be read through the genealogy of what Ivan Illich called the conversion of water into a " H_2O ": a western modern process of abstraction of water that led to considering it as a void, neutral substance instead of historically, culturally and symbolically charged materiality. This allowed the estrangement of humans from their fluvial environment, which has come to be regarded as inert landscape, supply of dams, disposal sites for toxic waste and 'disappeared' bodies, or a strategic factor in border securitization infrastructures. It thus raises the question about the relation of human societies to their rivers, and what in this relation enables their objectified utilization for extractive, hydro-engineering or militarized purposes. And more importantly: Can this process be neutralized? Can the material and affective relation to our rivers be reassessed?

The paper discusses these questions and formulates reflections based on the case of the river Oder. While environmental activists on both sides of the border have denounced the ecological damage of the river following massive fish death in 2022 and alerted about the negative effects of the works of enlargement of the riverbed, the Polish initiative *Osoba Odra* has promoted the declaration of the Oder as a legal person. In several countries, a series of rivers and other natural features have been granted legal status as a way to acknowledge them as living entities and better protect them from environmental devastation. Can such a step help to counter the process of alienation from rivers that led to their necro-hydrological and ecological exhaustion? What can we learn from the struggles over the Oder so far?

Honoring Drowned Border Crossers: On Forensic Imagination and Affective Engagements in Catania (Sicily)

Carolina Kobelinsky (Univ. Paris Nanterre/CNRS, Paris)

In late 2017, a small group of locals involved in migrant reception with the Red Cross in the port of Catania (Sicily) joined forces in order to find ways of 'respecting' the dead border crossers arriving on European territory alongside their living counterparts during the Search and Rescue operations that have formed part of the landscape around the Mediterranean for several years now. Respecting the border dead soon became working on a database project aimed at giving back a name and a biography to the unknown bodies buried in the 'migrants square' of the local cemetery. The project differed from the (inter)national forensic protocol that had already been set up to examine the human remains recovered after one of the largest shipwrecks in the central Mediterranean, on 18 April 2015, that claimed the lives of approximately one thousand people. It is different insofar as it is a grassroots initiative, does not involve any substantial funding or the expertise of forensic pathologists, and has not developed in the media limelight but rather in the shadows.

The 'forensic imagination' that unfolds within this project, which is run by a small team of lay people, implies a particular way of looking at and thinking through material entanglements. An approach emerges that does not place bodies at the heart of the inquiry – indeed, it does not study them – but focuses rather on the traces associated with them. Putting together fragments of objects eroded by salt water and disparate documents lost in the dusty drawers of institutions such as the flying squad or the municipal undertakers can sometimes give a name to the bodies. Drawing on ethnographic material, I explore here how the creative and affective understanding of materiality makes possible to identify dead bodies, and how, in so doing, it transforms the living.

STREAM: TERRITORIAL, GEOPOLITICAL AND MATERIAL B/ORDERS

Panel

Polish Racial Frontier – Refugees on the Eastern Border of Poland

Thu, Sep 07, 15:00-16:30, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 08 (GD HS 08)

Host:

Lidia Zessin-Jurek (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)

Discussant:

Elżbieta Opiłowska (Univ. of Wrocław, Wrocław)

Poland's eastern border has been subject to unexpected challenges since the summer of 2021, spawning two radically different border regimes. On its northern section, the Belarusian-Polish interstate conflict has resulted in the blockade of transit refugees from third countries and their multiple pushbacks to the other side of the border. By contrast, the southern section of this border – adjacent to Ukraine – has soon served as a gateway for the refugees fleeing the Russian war of aggression.

The panel looks at the role and use of the border by the various actors involved in these two parallel situations on the Polish (and EU) eastern frontier. Among them: state authorities, NGOs/volunteers, local residents and refugees. As the research assembled in this panel shows, the border takes not only a physical form, but also a discursive one, based largely on the ethnicity or "race" of the refugees.

Contributions:

Grand Opening and Grand Closure – Conflicting Border Regimes on Poland's Eastern Border with Ukraine and Belarus

Lidia Zessin-Jurek (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)
Marta Kindler (Univ. of Warsaw, Centre of Migration Research, Warsaw)

Over the course of 2021-22, Poland's eastern border experienced the largest refugee movement since World War II. We engage with the striking differences in migration regimes in the northern and southern sections of this border. We analyze a list of factors that have led to the rapid formulation of these divergent positions toward refugees. In addition to security considerations and bilateral state policies, we discuss how policies toward refugees depend on the nationality, race, gender, and age of migrants. We also highlight cultural perceptions and social expectations of people on the move. The concluding question is to what extent the differences in the treatment of refugees, brought into sharp focus by the border we discussed, are specific to Poland, and to what extent they have become a permanent feature of the borders of the entire European Union.

Europe's New Color Line? Racialization and Solidarity along Poland's Eastern Borders

Jens Adam (Univ. of Bremen, Bremen)

Sabine Hess (Univ. of Göttingen, Göttingen)

Since the summer of 2021, two different movements of migrants and refugees reached Poland's eastern borders with Belarus and Ukraine: at first, a growing, but still rather small number of citizens from Middle Eastern and African countries tried to enter the European Union via the Belarusian-Polish border. Then, since Russia's full-fledged attack in February 2022, millions of Ukrainians were forced to flee their country westwards. Poland's right-wing government, its media allies and parts of the civil society reacted in fundamentally different ways: militarization, fencing and wall building, rejection and pushbacks as new standard procedures along the Belarusian border, fearmongering media campaigns and politically produced indifference towards the lives of refugees from the Global South; at the Ukrainian border administrative procedures were accelerated and simplified, infrastructures of reception emerged practically overnight, a rhetoric of welcoming, relatedness and solidarity was spread in public space.

Two, at first sight diametrically opposed, border regimes have been established. In our paper we will discuss if these two border regimes are in fact so different. Or do they rather point to a common and interlinked process of borderization that sorts people into different categories according to their 'entitlement' to move? Drawing on our recent empiric research, we will examine how these border regimes are politically, judicially and technically reassembled. We will discuss practices and policies to visibilize or invisibilize different groups of migrants and their mobilities. We will trace configurations of mobility that these two regimes bring about and how they enable or impede the movement of people through Poland. We will point to the very different conditions of possibility for enacting solidarity towards these politically differentiated people. Counterposing these observations we will argue that it is 'Europe' that is at stake here. We will show how the two border and mobility regimes are highly productive in terms of reinforcing 'Europe' as a racialized order and a racializing political project.

"White Enough?" and "We Shouldn't Have to Be Doing This" – Activists Facing Racializing Practices at the Polish-Belarusian Border

Kamila Fiałkowska (Univ. of Warsaw, Centre of Migration Research, Warsaw)

The presentation addresses the situation of violence on the Polish-Belarusian border on two levels. Firstly, it discusses selected aspects of living in a militarized zone within a structure of oppression. The state legally produces illegality (Mezzadra, Neilson, 2012) and criminalizes aid activities, creates a hostile environment for people on the move while legitimizing and normalizing the racial hierarchy in the Polish border zone and at the same time the external borders of the European Union. Secondly, based on the results of 30 IDIs with NGO workers and activists who provide assistance to migrants, the paper argues that the lack of state institutions in the area and the bare military power of the uniformed services force ordinary people to cross (their) boundaries. The analysis includes the motivations and ways in which physical and psychological boundaries are crossed among humanitarian aid workers.

Traces of Presence. Visual Aspects of a Humanitarian Crisis on the Polish-Belarusian Border and Holocaust Scripts

Natalia Judzińska (Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Slavic Studies, Warsaw)



Since the middle of August 2021 due to the activation of eastern Border Routes on both the Polish and the Belarusian border, and exclusionary migration policies of the European Union, thousands of asylum seekers are trapped in the forests. Their life-threatening journey leaves marks in the landscape of the borderlands: hundreds of clothes, toys, sleeping bags, but also documents, photos and other private belongings. This paper presents research on the material dimension of “deserted camps” found in the Polish woods as a visual representation that renewed Holocaust scripts and imaginaries.

PANELS, FRI, SEPTEMBER 08

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Researching Digital Borders – Taking Stock, Challenges and New Directions of Research

Fri, Sep 08, 10:00-12:00, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Hosts:

Silvan Pollozek (European Univ. Viadrina, European New School of Digital Studies, Frankfurt/Oder)
Nina Amelung (Univ. of Lisbon, Institute of Social Sciences, Lisbon)

For more than a decade digital borders and the datafication of European migration and border control has become an extensively studied field of research. At the intersection of critical migration and border, security, surveillance, and science and technology studies, a vibrant research community has emerged. This panel introduces, takes stock, and looks beyond the current state of the art of research on digital borders and the datafication of European migration and border control. By inviting scholars who contributed to the development of the research field and know the research community well, this panel aims to map out prominent trajectories and current challenges of research. It will outline blind spots and gaps and discuss promising directions of research that in Donna Haraway's sense continue to 'stay with the trouble'.

Among other things, this panel may discuss various topics such as

- EU databases, tech-maintenance institutions, and interoperability initiatives
- rationalities of biometric and algorithmic borders
- digital borders in post-colonial constellations
- data justice, transparency, and accountability
- datafication and autonomy of migration

Contributions:

Tracing the Invisible? Experiments on Digital Mapping within and beyond (Digital) Borders

Fredy Mora Gámez (Univ. of Vienna, Vienna)

Research in the intersections between Science and Technology Studies (STS) and critical border/migration studies have successfully interrogated the emerging spaces, relations of accountability, and forms of



interoperability, and governance embedded in (digital) borders. This paper draws on the existing literature to revisit what the assemblage of bordering technologies displaces and what the boundaries enacted by (digital) borders make/render invisible. In this context, the questions guiding the reflections in this paper are: how to remake the invisible as visible? What for? For whom? And how can the digital be also used in this process?

To reflect on the aforementioned questions, I share the outcomes of an ongoing mapping experiment inspired by work in anthropology, visual anthropology, and digital STS. Combining multi-sited ethnographic strategies and digital methods, this form of mapping traces the relations knitted around specific objects between different actors, including people on the move in Europe and Colombia. While doing so, mapping allows paying attention to other trajectories and stories, following new connections, and thinking back and forth in time and space within and beyond (digital) borders.

Drawing on the above, I argue for a potential line of inquiry concerned with using the tools of STS and critical border/migration studies, to reflect on how (digital) borders are entangled with other equally important sociomaterial orders. I also explore how the digital, as a methodological and performative tool, might endow us with ways of understanding the social relations shaping and shaped by mobility across and beyond (digital) borders otherwise.

One Software to Rule Them All, one 'Ecosystem of Trust' to Bind Them. Palantir's Far-Reaching Vision: from the US-Mexico Border to the UK's Border Flow Tool

Arely Cruz-Santiago (Univ. of Exeter, Exeter)

Palantir is an American technology firm founded in 2003 that sells software for data analytics and data-driven decision-making. Between 2017 and 2019, with data collected from unaccompanied children who crossed the U.S. – Mexico border, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) used Palantir technology to plan mass raids and to facilitate the arrest of parents and caregivers of unaccompanied children who arrived at the U.S. – Mexico border. The software provided by Palantir allowed ICE to store, search, and analyze large quantities of data, including family relationships, employment details, immigration history, criminal records, and home and work addresses and led to the separation of children from their parents, their subsequent detention, and deportation (Woodman, 2016).

International organizations raised concerns about the high risk that Palantir technologies pose to human rights violations of asylum-seekers and migrants within the U.S. system and beyond (Amnesty International, 2020). In 2020, despite (inter)national concern, Palantir became one of the six enterprises working with the UK government to create an 'ecosystem of trust' that will manage the data analytics and architecture of the UK's new border flow tool. This new tool will collate data on the transit of goods and persons, and monitor any potential impacts from border controls imposed by EU member states on goods or people coming from the UK.

Palantir's capacity to create systems that integrate vast, disparate data sources to analyze, digitize the border and establish a 'single source of truth' (Palantir, 2021) accelerates and produces a not-so-distant future in which all data will become border data (Amoore 2022).

Building on Turner's (2007) notion of enclave society which analyzes forms of immobility in free global polities and the inherent contradictions that it entails, I want to explore what types of enclaves and (b)ordering regimes emerge when an ever-expanding 'ecosystem of trust' encounters the immigrants, caretakers, and unaccompanied minors that fuel the economies of so-called advanced liberal democracies. This paper will discuss how the digital bodies of marginalized communities become the blueprint for the multiplication of enclaves within global north nation-states. Moreover, it will explore the forms of resistance and accountability that emerge in political regimes where 'all data becomes border data'.

(Un)Making Mess: Borders, Datafication, Critique

Claudia Aradau (King's College London, London), Lucrezia Canzutti (King's College London, London), Sarah Perret (King's College London, London)

Critical border and migration studies have shown that border practices are often messy, ambiguous, improvised and uncertain. With datafication and the increased use of algorithmic technologies at borders, messiness and the effects of uncertainty and disconcertment for migrants have become both more extensive and more intensive. As Daniel Neyland (2014) has observed about algorithms, it might be exactly their messiness that makes their endurance possible through 'continual adaptations'. If messiness has become the engine that powers datafied bordering practices, how then can we critically engage with its effects, while avoiding the 'managerialism' of clarity, systematicity, and standardization (Law and Singleton, 2000). In this paper we draw on fieldwork in border zones in France and Italy to show, on the one hand, how messiness undergirds border practices and how it becomes an object of critique. By engaging with Science and Technology Studies scholarship on mess, we attend to how the relation between order and mess is co-constitutive rather than oppositional. This has significant implications for how we formulate critiques of messy data and messy borders today.

Information Blockade at Borderlands: Comparative Case Studies from Eastern Ukraine and Central Asia

Ekaterina Mikhailova (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg)

Studies of digital borders predominantly focus on such phenomena as data-nationalism and surveillance on so-called "post-modern" hard borders – borders enveloped in multi-level international and bilateral cooperation projects, with the EU often being one of the counterparts. This study, in contrast, examines a set of digitalization phenomena arising at "modern" borders – those with little to no cooperation across them when bordering states often conduct their foreign affairs and structure their border regime in line with a *realpolitik* mindset. One digital practice identified as common along modern borders is the use of information blocking technologies, for instance, shut-down of Internet signal or jamming of TV- and radio-signal.

The presentation will discuss two recent cases of such information blockade that occurred in post-Soviet borderlands: the 2016-2019 "war of TV towers" among Luhan'sk and Donetsk People's Republics and Ukraine as well as the 2022 Internet (and border) shut-down in the Republic of Karakalpakstan – an autonomous region of Uzbekistan sandwiched between Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. In both cases, borderlanders were temporarily deprived of access to information under the justification of security concerns. While the two cases are different in many respects – from an intensity of cross-border ties to a degree of socio-economic regional development and geopolitical tensions associated with a border – their comparative discussion will allow us to further understand the circumstances leading to information blockade in border regions, mechanisms of its realization as well as its consequences for borderlanders.

STREAM: MIGRATION IN A B/ORDERS PERSPECTIVE

Panel

Forced Migrants from Ukraine: Negotiations of "Here and There"

Fri, Sep 08, 10:00-12:00, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 8 (GD HS 08)

Host:

Zeynep Wegele (German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Berlin)

The recent escalation of the war in Ukraine has put forced migration into the centre of political debates in Europe. Several European countries have witnessed en masse arrivals of people seeking protection from Ukraine. Whether these were relatively new (i.e. Poland) or more established reception (i.e. Germany) countries, these movements have led to heated discussions about European border and asylum regimes.

Yet with displacement dragging on longer, crucial questions about the contestations of not only “physical” borders but also of societal borders/boundaries have become burning. Starting with registration in respective European countries, forced migrants from Ukraine are daily confronted with a wide range of bureaucratic agents from employment agencies and welfare agencies to school administrators. It is in these encounters that practices of inclusion and exclusion redraw and reproduce societal boundaries. How do displaced migrants from Ukraine perceive and negotiate this production of boundaries? And how do they perceive and negotiate the being “here and there”, combining victimhood and agency? Looking at choices and practices in different spaces and arenas, this panel takes stock of the ways in which displaced people from Ukraine cope with borders, boundaries, and their position in and between Ukraine, their host country, and a potential third destination.

Contributions:

Navigating and Negotiating Borders in Primary Education. Ukrainian Children in Polish Schools

Elżbieta M. Goździak (Adam Mickiewicz Univ., Poznań), Anzhela Popyk (Univ. of Warsaw, Center of Migration Research (CeBaM), Warsaw)

Nadia, a primary school teacher in a large city in Ukraine, arrived in Poland just a few weeks after the Russian invasion of her homeland. Some of Nadia’s students were still in Ukraine, but many were scattered around Europe, in Hungary, the Netherlands, Germany, and several other countries. Divided by borders but united in their desire to continue their education under their teacher’s tutelage, they soon joined their classmates on Zoom and proceeded to learn in cyberspace. The case of Nadia’s students was a successful albeit challenging attempt to avoid disruption in the schooling process and uniting across borders. Using ethnographic data from empirical research with Ukrainian migrant students and their teachers in Poznań, Poland, as well as analysis of selected curricula, in this paper we look at education as a bordering practice. Nadia’s students and thousands of other migrant pupils entered Polish public schools—the law accords them this right—but do they belong to the “imagined communities” or are they perceived as the Other no matter how long they have been learning in Polish schools? What borders keep them separated from their Polish classmates? Are these borders imagined or real? Are there initiatives aimed at facilitating migrant children’s integration into Polish schools? We juxtapose the bordering of knowledge carried out through mandated curriculum emphasizing practices of nationhood with practices of (some) teachers aimed at transcending formal borders and creating different understandings of belonging and learning. We also ask the migrant children and their parents, what strategies they use to navigate educational borders.

(Im)mobility Decisions of Ukrainian Mothers: A Comparative Study of Berlin and Frankfurt/Oder

Jonna Rock (German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Berlin), Zeynep Wegele (German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Berlin)

The majority of registered refugees from Ukraine in Germany are women (80%) and almost half of them (48%) with care responsibilities for underage children. In this paper, we are particularly interested in uncovering the entanglement of motherhood practices and (im)mobility decisions of forced migrants from Ukraine in Germany. Literature has noted that while being responsible for the well-being of family members can be a burden for forced migrant women, particularly in precarious settings, it may also be a driving force that gives them the strength to cope with a new environment. This paper is based on original data collected between August and November 2022, which consists of thirty-two semi-structured in-depth interviews with female forced migrants aged between 20-45 years old, who have fled Ukraine with their children and are currently living in Berlin and Frankfurt Oder. This paper shows that despite the differential legal framework that has been put in place for Ukrainian newcomers, they face similar challenges as other forced migrant mothers. They find themselves in a paradoxical situation whereby they aspire to stay in Germany short or long-term for the sake of the safety of their children. Those with older children intend to stay longer in order to allow their children to finish secondary education in Germany. At the same time, they feel reduced to the role of being ‘just mothers’, having left good jobs in Ukraine behind, facing unemployment, no matter what level of education they might have attained in Ukraine. They were skeptical that they will manage to learn a new language, particularly initially without childcare and worried that their degrees will not be recognized so that they will have to start from scratch. Yet their temporary protection status seems to nevertheless save them from the overwhelming legal precarity reported by other forced migrant women.



'Identities-Borders-Orders': Lived Experiences of Displaced from Ukraine's War-torn Territories

Sereda Viktoriya (Ukrainian Catholic Univ., Lviv)

Steven Vertovec in his analysis of the cultural politics of nation and migration demonstrates that in regard to migration one of the key devices for constructing the national imaginary is the conceptual triad identities-borders-orders (IBO model, Vertovec 2011). In this course I will use a case of Ukraine to show that annexation of country's territories or break of the war unavoidably generates multiple physical, symbolic and legal/bureaucratic borders within the society ('borders and orders') and leads to redefinition of identities. These everyday experiences revolving around contested citizenships and borders devolve into matters of together state power and control on the one hand, and identities as well as social rights and benefits on the other.

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Race and Religion as Epistemic and Symbolic Borders

Fri, Sep 08, 13:30-15:00, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 07 (GD HS 07)

Hosts:

Luis M. Hernandez Aguilar (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

Kira Kosnick (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/Oder)

Darja Klingenberg (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

At the turn of the century, John Solomos and Les Back (2000) lamented that much of the contemporary and growing academic work on race and racism tended to not fully engage with antisemitism as one of the many empirical manifestations of the phenomenon. Racisms and antisemitism tended to be studied separately, revealing what appears to be an epistemic border. This tendency continued in the decades that followed, especially against the increasing Islamophobia in the frame of the 'war on terror' and the articulation of discourses positing a 'post-racial' Europe. With notable exceptions, antisemitism and islamophobia were studied separately, and when they were not, polemics and critiques arose on the potential dangers of thinking of these two forms of racism, especially on national contexts. Holocaust memory and anti-antisemitism became powerful reference points to bordering/boundary making practices within and in-between European societies. The race-religion constellation is an epistemic framework concerned with studying the complexity of racial exclusion in Europe via a comprehensive understanding of the race-religion intersection. Moreover, it is questioning how racial formations and processes of racialization involved not only the mobilization of the category of religion, but also gender and sexuality. The panel then seeks to explore and think through academic approaches dealing with conjunctures of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Roma-racism, conceptualizations of the 'Jewish' and 'Muslim' Questions, the intersection of gender and sexuality with the race-religion constellation, conspiracy theories as a shared dimension of antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Contributions:

Placing Eastern European Experience and Histories within the Debate about Racism and Antisemitism in Germany

Darja Klingenberg (Europa Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

Abstract: Over the last years German public and political debate discussed issues of Racism and Antisemitism and the relationship of histories of European and German Colonialism and the National Socialist history in a number of controversies. The Mbembe-Debatte, the translation of Michael Rothbergs "Multidirectional Memory", the discussion of Documenta 16 are just some example for heated and often polemic disputes. Other, more subcultural or academic controversies unfold around the relations between



Muslim and Jewish, migrant and racialized minorities and the way they are seen as vulnerable to structural racism, Antisemitisms and right-wing terrorism in public discourse. These disputes touch upon questions around global and local historical entanglements of histories of violence and their comparability, the appropriation and silencing of historical narratives and relations between marginalized groups that find themselves played out against each other. They involve questions about how to think race and religion, racism and antisemitism in contemporary European Migration societies in general and German society in particular.

In this paper I argue that these debates lack an understanding of continuities of histories of Racism and Antisemitism related to Eastern Europe. The legacy of German colonial attempts in Central and Eastern European Countries, the continuities of labor migration from Poland, Ukraine and the Balkans as well as of policies to control these from the late 19th century until now seem forgotten, faded from the maps of public memory. The fact that the majority of Jews in Germany have Eastern European and post-Soviet migration and family histories and experienced not only antisemitism but also racism is rarely considered in the mentioned debates.

Exploring this gap I make a case for a systematic consideration of legacies of racism and antisemitism related to the entanglements of Eastern and Western European histories within a transnational context. Thinking about overcoming the gap I draw on the current research on Anti-Slavic racism or racism against Eastern Europeans. Building upon these I elaborate a number of theoretical and methodological problems we need to acknowledge to further understand the specific forms of Racism and Antisemitism related to Eastern Europe and their place in the wider nexus of contemporary Racial Capitalism.

Coloniality, Race and Europeanness: Britain's Borders after Brexit

Aleksandra Lewicki (Univ. of Sussex, Brighton)

The literature on the politics of immigration frequently frames governments' responses to far-right mobilisation as a 'return to nationalism, ethnocentrism and the closure of borders', which for many observers is coupled with a 'rowing back on globalisation and neoliberalism'. This reading suffers from several limitations, including 'presentism', 'methodological nationalism' and 'exceptionalism'. In this article, I draw on and expand the scholarship on coloniality and the politics of immigration to address these shortcomings. Specifically, I explore the role of political mobilisation in the making of the post-Brexit border regime. My research draws on the analysis of legal and policy initiatives between 2020-2023, and 25 research interviews with individuals who publicly express their opposition to immigration via engagement in fringe and mainstream political parties, think tanks, grassroots organisations or vigilante groups. The interview data indicates multiple links and connections between these milieus and shows that each engages in action repertoires beyond the nation-state. And while nationalist closure is one of the outcomes of their mobilisation, the post-Brexit border regime also encodes multiple openings and loopholes for the circulation of financial elites *and* precariously employed workers. Thus, I argue that state and non-state actors co-produce a border regime that operates via neoliberal openings and closures which reinforce the coloniality of distinction. Specifically, the post-Brexit immigration regime enables the free mobility of those racialised as 'West European', facilitates disposable precarious labour mobility of those racialised as 'Eastern European', and severely restricts the movement of those racialised as 'non-European'. This racial imaginary does not only operate via binary distinctions of (non)/Britishness but puts people in complex hierarchical relations to 'Europeanness'.

Unsettling the Question, on the 'Jewish' and 'Muslim Question'

Sarah Bracke (Univ. of Amsterdam, Amsterdam)

The 'Jewish Question' and the 'Muslim Question' have, albeit distinctively, articulated public debates on the presence and existence of Jews and Muslims in Europe, constructing these communities and individuals as 'alien' to Europe, and in dire need of assimilation or integration. Recent research on Islamophobia has pointed out similarities and differences between this phenomenon and antisemitism, and yet, the 'Questions' remain unchallenged. The present contribution situates the 'Jewish Question' and the 'Muslim Question' in an arrested temporal horizon in order to think them relationally. We pay particular attention to the articulation of these public debates in the format of 'Questions' and the manifold political implications of such a configuration, as well as the issues raised by thinking these 'Questions' relationally. Ultimately, our aim is to



develop an analysis (theoretical and methodological) on how to approach and think the family resemblances of the 'Jewish Question' and the 'Muslim Question'.

STREAM: MIGRATION IN A B/ORDERS PERSPECTIVE

Panel

Migrant Entrepreneurs and B/Order Asymmetries as a Resource

Fri, Sep 08, 13:30-15:00, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 08 (GD HS 102)

Hosts:

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/O.)
Judith Möllers (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Halle)
Ulf Brunnbauer (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg)

In their function of migration management, state borders often pose a barrier which is difficult to cross, especially for so called third-country nationals who want to enter the EU. Goods and capital, on the other hand, seem to cross state and EU borders relatively unhindered – or at least under different conditions. In this panel, we want to link migration, material and financial cross-border flows to ask for ways in which migrant entrepreneurs use borders as a resource in order to open a profitable firm in their countries of origin – be it for the national or international market, or both. More generally, we want to focus on the meaning of borders for migrant entrepreneurs and their enterprises. For this, we understand borders not only as lines on the map, dividing two states, but also as social and symbolic boundaries dividing those socially constructed as “us” from “them”, creating differences which can be – among others – also economically exploited.

In our panel, we address the following questions from an interdisciplinary perspective:

- To what extent do (state and EU) border asymmetries – be it in the form of finances, access to labor and sales markets and tax conditions, human mobilities etc. – impact on the material and non-material flows across borders and may be successfully used or also represent obstacles for migrant entrepreneurs and their businesses?
- In which way do migrant entrepreneurs rely on knowledge, ideas and networks achieved and maintained “across the border” in order to open and run their businesses?
- In which way do border asymmetries find entry in the branding of certain products as “German” or “EU standard”, as such implying to be of a high(er) quality, and what kind of imaginaries and hierarchies, as well as economic success are built in them?
- In which way does the (state) border serve as a development marker, and what kind of implications does this have for businesses opened by migrants, but also for the communities in question? In which way can our findings contribute to a critical conceptualization of “development”?

Contributions:

Understanding the Albanians' Return to North Macedonia: Movement, National Borders, Economic Possibilities

Robert Rydzewski (Adam Mickiewicz Univ., Poznań)

In recent years, a number of ethnic Albanians from North Macedonia have decided to return from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Italy to North Macedonia despite of the unfavorable economic and political conditions in their home country (Mattioli 2016). It is interesting to ask what lies behind their decisions. What is the role of social ties they have maintained in their home country and the emigration country on their choice to return? How do national borders, which throughout the process of Balkan countries' integration with the EU became more pronounced, impact Albanian transborder mobility?

These questions seem to be particularly valid against a background of insufficient statistical and qualitative data regarding return migration in the post-Yugoslav context. Drawing on ethnographic research (Dimova 2007, Pichler 2009, Markov 2013), and circular as well as transnational migration studies (King, Lulle 2016,



Dahinden 2009, 2010) I question the argument that migrants return to their home countries because of the achievement of initial financial aims or deteriorating working conditions in the European Union. Although these arguments might reflect some ethnic Albanian's motivation to return, they do not cover the complexity of the phenomena. This presentation argues that the impact on the decision on return has had economic possibilities emerged thanks to transborder movement, which characterizes Albanian emigration. Furthermore, I explore Albanian diaspora's transnational ties established between home countries, emigration country and other Balkan states inhabited by Albanians, which allow for business activities in the transnational space and maintaining transborder contact with their ethnic fellows.

If I Am Doing This Here, Why Can't I Do It There? – Migrant Skills and Knowledge in Crossing Borders and Challenging Boundaries

Lumnije Kadriu (Institute of Albanology, Pristina)

Even though Kosovo is among the poorest countries in Europe and thus the desire to emigrate remains quite prominent within its population, the phenomenon of return migration (specifically self-voluntary return migration) is being increasingly evident, and it seems to involve a variety of motivations. The various studies that deal with return migration have focused on the reasons or causes that influence such a decision, which are usually diverse and numerous, such as: emotional, economic, social, and/or political. What migrants do and how they integrate once they return is also a quite heterogeneous experience.

While in the host country, they usually work in different jobs and are introduced to different employment environments. On the one hand, skills they already have gained in the homeland (i.e., working on the field) play quite a decisive role in the work they find in the host country and, on the other hand, experiences gained in the host country play also a decisive role in returning to the homeland and implementing new knowledge and skills there by establishing new entrepreneurship.

In this paper I will bring at least 3 cases of Kosovo Return Migrants in rural areas in order to see how they transfer and implement knowledge, ideas, networks and experiences gained abroad and how all this enables them to challenge their social boundaries.

The Transborder Flow of Remittances and Investments from Italy to Bangladesh

Shahanaz Parven (Univ. of Palermo, Palermo)

Immigrant populations make significant contributions to economies, of both the host and the home country. Among these contributions lie investment flows that run back from the host country to the country of origin, in the opposite direction to the migrants' journey as one of the counter-flows that Ravenstein had described.

In a previous study, we showed how the population of Bangladeshis migrated to Italy with prior migration experience is more likely to become entrepreneurs and to start their own business (Parven, 2019). This, in turn, implies that repeated migrants are more likely to become investors (albeit arguably, in the businesses they themselves own). This relates primarily to the business that they register in the host countries. There is also however an important flow of investments that runs back to Bangladesh ending up subsidizing the economy of the home country. Two classes of migrants can be identified corresponding to two different levels of access to financial resources and two different types of investments that flow across the border.

The first group of immigrants comprises the few skilled workers who, having studied engineering or other STEM subjects in Bangladesh, get hired in jobs related to their profession once they reach Europe. These are the wealthy immigrants, who are generally well-versed in English and who move out of the country to increase their salaries. As they accumulate savings, they can choose to send them home and invest them in local businesses, that they often start themselves.

The second group of immigrants comprises the very many unskilled workers, who have limited financial resources and have little capacity to sustain themselves. These workers do not follow a proactive strategy for investments, but rather react to the requests for investments that they receive from their immediate social networks. This is exemplified, among migrants that maintain family ties in Bangladesh, by the requests they receive for capital investments that would be used to purchase equipment and machines in the business owned by their families.

In this paper, we discuss the results of an empirical study we conducted to Bangladeshi immigrants in Italy. Using questionnaires, the invisible border between these two parallel investment flows is thus highlighted.



Trust Across Borders: Understanding a Key Selling Point of Migrant Entrepreneurs

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (European Univ. Viadrina, Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, Frankfurt/Oder)

Borders mark asymmetries, also in the economic sphere. In the case of Kosovo, this is more than obvious: compared to EU countries, the Kosovar market is import-oriented, purchasing power as well as salaries are low compared to the EU. Official unemployment figures are high, and many people of working age are leaving or planning to leave Kosovo to seek better conditions in the EU. This leads to a brain drain. At the same time, international investors are often shying to invest in Kosovo because they consider it as risky and associate them with a slow and corrupt administration, possibly insufficiently trained staff and a not so well-developed infrastructure, leading to unpredictability and general mistrust. Migrant entrepreneurs go against the tide by opening businesses in Kosovo and creating jobs, which in part strengthens production and exports in Kosovo, as well as wages and quality of employment. In this way, they not only promote the economy, but also prevent the brain drain by offering future prospects in their country. But what is their recipe and how do they establish themselves on the market - what is their unique selling proposition compared to local and international competitors, and how does this relate to trust?

Based on a qualitative study among migrant entrepreneurs in Kosovo and some international and local entrepreneurs, as well as on interviews with various state and international actors conducted in 2022 and 2023, this paper argues that trust comes into play at different levels: In order to open and run a business in Kosovo, and to find the right people or knowledge to navigate Kosovo's administrative and economic landscape, the ability to rely on trusted networks in Kosovo - especially through family members - is seen as fundamental. Trust - and asymmetric trust relationships - are also important in relation to the market in which these companies operate: in the Kosovar market, trust is sold by labelling products as "German", "Austrian" or "Swiss", or more generally as products of EU origin and thus as "more advanced" and of higher quality. To enter foreign markets and find customers abroad, entrepreneurs need to bridge the mistrust of foreign investors or customers and again, they rely on their networks build relationships of trust.

STREAM: SOCIAL, SYMBOLIC AND DISCURSIVE B/ORDERS

Panel

Transnational Gender Activism

Fri, Sep 08, 15:30-17:00, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Hall 07 (GD HS 07)

Host:

Latife Akyüz (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

On a wall in Tehran, Iranian women wrote: "After Mahsa, now everything depends on a strand of hair". The protests that began in Iran in response to the murder of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini by the morality police are spreading beyond Iran's borders and becoming not only a movement of solidarity but also a global resistance to anti-gender politics.

Long before this recent resurgence, queer feminist movements have played a pivotal role in the resistance to social and cultural transformations imposed by populist and authoritarian governments. However, the literature on anti-gender politics has largely ignored the role of challenges and resistances to these policies, focusing instead on authoritarian policies, discourses, and institutional transformation.

This panel aims to fill this void by discussing the anti-gender, anti-feminist politics imposed by different political regimes, as well as shedding light on how and why transnational gender activism challenges these politics. It is also intended to examine the opportunities and potential for fostering transnational solidarity among the queer feminist movements challenging anti-gender politics, as well as the effects of these mobilizations on democratizations not only in authoritarian regimes but also in Europe



Contributions:

RESISTing B/Orders: Navigating Meaningful Research Process in the Spirit of the Queer-Feminist Epistemologies within Neoliberal, Institutional B/Orders of Multi-National Funding Grant Systems

Roberto Kulpa (Edinburgh Napier Univ., Edinburgh)

In this presentation Roberto and the RESIST project team will reflect on the meanders of the contemporary higher education and research sectors across Europe from the perspectives of queer-feminist researchers located in diverse geopolitical contexts.

Neoliberalization of the academia and the social research has led to the creation of numerous institutional orders, epistemic borders confining whose knowledge counts as legitimate, and other b/orders of (il)legitimacy often strikingly exemplified in the field of gender and sexuality research. We will draw on the experiences of coming together as a group of queer-feminist and anti-racist researchers, who were successful in securing a multi-million EU grant for the research on 'anti-gender' mobilizations and everyday resistances to them. Using this locus of enunciation, we want to consider, together with the audience, what and how do we produce knowledge, and how these practices are shaped by numerous, explicit and implicit, b/orders that are – as power structures often are – both enabling and stimulating in some respects, as well as disempowering and disabling in others.

"RESIST: Fostering Queer Feminist Intersectional Resistances against Transnational Anti-Gender Politics" is a research project that addresses 'anti-gender' politics that imperil equality, gender and sexual diversity, and legitimacy of critical knowledge in contemporary Europe. During the session we will consider how institutional b/orders have shaped our research practices in the past, and how they impact our collaboration at present. We will reflect on the role of cultural (national, historical) contexts in which we are located, and how b/orders between different academic cultures shape our perceptions and practices of co-working. We will also pay attention to the linguistic practices within and beyond larger, trans-national, research consortia such as ours, reflecting on sometimes tricky waters of multilingual alliances and the global role of the Academic English as a de facto dominant language of the global research and higher education.

Drawing on our empirical experiences as the newly formed consortium of queer-feminist anti-racist researchers, is the first step towards broader and theoretical reflection on the coloniality of knowledge (Quijano, Mignolo) structures and geopolitics that organise our everyday research practices.

Mapping Anti-Gender, Anti-Feminist, Anti-Intersectional Rhetorics: Insights from the Horizon Europe RESIST Project

Gavan Titley (Maynooth Univ., Maynooth), Sheryl Lynch (Maynooth Univ., Maynooth)

Kovats (2015) and others argue that the most successful strategy of anti-gender movements is, in fact, the language they are using for political mobilization. For example:

- Gender and sex education in schools, and the protection of children from sexual exploitation and paedophilia is another issue falling under the 'gender ideology' umbrella, yet particularly from LGBT persons or, more recently, from 'powerful elites'.
- The protection of parental rights against 'state interference' and 'government overreach' is instrumental in this discussion. Moreover, the 'family' is no longer (only) associated with 'values' and object of protection, but conceived as subject of rights, an idea that historically resonates throughout the religious enclaves in the Americas, but could be gaining traction in Europe as well.

In this overview of our work in the horizon Europe RESIST project, we will summarize our understanding of the specific tactics, arguments, ideas, and narratives of anti-gender in Europe by working through five key case studies where these tactics are most visible, and analyzing how they circulate between contexts, inform each other and are manifest themselves through public controversies. The WP's objectives in mapping and explaining anti-gender discourses and policies are supported by research question RQ1: What are the political manifestations of anti-gender, how are they formed and articulated transnationally, and how are they informed by intersecting categories of inequality? This RQ has two sub-RQs:

- RQ1.1: How are representations and discourses of feminism, gender and intersectionality produced and used in populist nationalist politics and in repressive strategies that threaten fundamental rights?



- RQ1.2: How and why do these representations circulate beyond this politics in political discourse and media culture, and how are strategies of controversy-generation about feminism, gender, and intersectionality mobilized in wider public debate?

By overlaying an analysis of motivated political action with an attention to cultural networks; the transnational circulation of ideas and political strategies; and the integral significance of media dynamics, RESIST provides a unique mapping and analysis of anti-democratic political formations. RESIST's innovative conceptual framework offers novel insights into the range of mobilizations of anti-gender. This is necessary to make policy and practice more effective in countering anti-gender politics across and beyond Europe.

Empowerment of Women in the Kurdish Resistance

Delal Aydin (Univ. of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg-Essen)

This presentation will discuss the empowerment of Kurdish women in the Kurdish resistance. I will focus on the 1990s and refer to some iconic female leaders and fighters to show their paramount influence in the construction of Kurdish women as political actors. In the 1990s, the Kurdish resistance in Turkey gained substantial momentum, and the main pillars of today's Kurdish struggle were formed. Kurdish mass mobilization manifested in the streets, in the mountains, and in the Turkish legal politics, including the Turkish parliament. This was also a new form of political community, and Kurdish women have been one of the prominent carriers of this community. In this presentation, I will focus on the pivotal and often iconic role of women and gender played in the Kurdish movement.

STREAM: MIGRATION IN A B/ORDERS PERSPECTIVE

Panel

Language and Borders Studies – Intricate yet Underexplored Relationships

Fri, Sep 08, 15:30-17:00, Gräfin Dönhoff Building, Lecture Room 102 (GD 102)

Hosts:

Britta Schneider (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

Rita Vallentin (European Univ. Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

Discussant: Sabine Lehner (St. Pölten Univ. of Applied Sciences, Ilse Arlt Institute for Social Inclusion Research, St. Pölten)

Linguistics and Border Studies are often only implicitly present within each other, without explicitly targeting the conceptual and empirical relations of both disciplines. Two main fields of enquiry can be identified in these relations: Firstly, configuring language and language practices as constitutive of social boundaries and border concepts; secondly, configuring borders and boundaries as constitutive for what are the objects of linguistic enquiry – that is, what are languages or varieties. For the first domain, studies on language practices deal with boundaries as they analyze constructions, actualizations and destabilization of cultural, social, political, ethnic or human-non-human difference in interaction (cf. Wimmer 2008, Vallentin 2015). Besides, this first domain also includes the discursive formation of the "border" as a concept itself (cf. Rheindorf/Wodak 2018). For the second domain, historical, territorial or political border manifestations function as a template for the study of linguistic features in dialects, sociolects, and 'national' languages (cf. Zinkhahn Rhobodes 2016, Schwarz 2019, Nekula 2021) and as contexts to look at border- and language-crossing interactions (c.f. Gerst/Klessmann 2015, Meinhof/Galasiński 2002). In the determinations of linguistic objects, boundaries thus specify differences between what is taken to be varieties, -lects, or 'standard' languages (c.f. Vallentin 2022, Schneider to appear), while language practices, in turn, impact the formation of political or social boundaries. Consolidating these two complex fields, the panel aims at theoretically and empirically solidifying the relations between border/boundary studies and language studies and to deepen our understanding of the dialectical relationships between language and boundary formation.

Contributions:

The Dynamics of Identity Negotiation in a Borderland

Bettina Migge (Univ. College Dublin, Dublin)

National borderlands are particularly sensitive to identity formation, as identities that do not fit into national ideologies may be subject to discrimination and exclusion at various levels. Yet, people living in borderlands typically have transnational networks because national borders are generally porous and do not respect language communities but cut right through them. A particularly interesting border is the Suriname-French Guiana political border which consists of a river, the Maroni or Marowijne River, and separates an independent, post-colonial country that emerged from a plantation colony (Suriname) from a French penal colony that became a French overseas region (French Guiana). In addition, this borderland is nowadays mainly inhabited by transnational populations, Maroons and Amerindians, who were not only been negatively affected by European colonialism but even today remain marginalized and stigmatized, despite ongoing social changes such as urbanization. The findings from previous research (Léglise & Migge 2021) on the basis of a school survey and comparison of oral language practices in everyday contexts suggests that while Maroons appear to foreground their ethnic or Maroon identities, the border and dominant national language ideologies affect language naming and attitudes but appear to have little impact on actual language practices. In recent years there has been quite an increase in electronic media, facilitated by radio and Youtube which are used as important platforms for creating place belongingness and creating a distinct (Eastern) Maroon voice. This presentation critically examines the findings from early work, focusing on the different strategies that are used in some of these e-media to do Maroon identities. The discussion argues that rather than creating a unified ethnic identity, we see the emergence of a range of social identities that creatively draw on the full range of linguistic resources available to people and reconceptualizes their meanings, at least in part. While physical borders seem to become less important on the discursive level, they are still voiced in language practices and new social boundaries are emerging.

Wolves Across Borders: An Ecolinguistic Study of Animal Migration

Carsten Levisen (Roskilde Univ., Roskilde)

This paper explores Danish discourses of “the return of the wolf”, one of the core narratives of “national ecology” in contemporary public discourse and debates in Denmark. In short, the story goes like this: “After 200 years of absence, the wolf has returned to Denmark, when Polish and German wolves began to cross the Danish border and settled in the Jutland Peninsula (Western Denmark) again. Celebrated as a victory for biodiversity and a restoration of ecological order, but also talked about as illegal immigration on a par with human migrants crossing the border bringing danger and insecurity into the nation, the story of the returning wolves offers a revealing prism of a new trend: the nationalization of animal migration, and the ascription of nationality to (certain) animals, i.e. wolves being Danish, German, Polish, etc.

At the intersection of language studies, border studies, and animal studies, the paper explores the ecolinguistics of the new Danish “wolf narratives” from the perspective of “stories we live by” (Stibbe 2021), and with analytical methods from environmental semantics (Bromhead 2021, 2022; Bromhead & Levisen 2022). Unlike the common tendency of “erasure” in the representation of animals in discourse, the paper shows how sightings of “Danish wolves” have been magnified in discourse, and how the wolf has become a complex symbol of contradicting scripts and linguistic worldviews. At the same time, the hyper-anthropocentric narrative of wolves as (illegal) border crossers offers new insights into contemporary conceptions of the Danish-German border, of more-than-human nationalism, and of discursive sensitivities in an era of rising ecological awareness and environmental change.



Linguistic (In)Security: How Germany's Integration Policies Delay Newcomers' Socioeconomic Mobility

Leonie Schulte (Univ. College London, London)

What happens when states require —not merely enable or support— newcomers to learn a country's dominant language before they are able and allowed to work, study and become citizens? At first blush, this may seem beneficial for newcomers and local communities alike. In fact, language proficiency requirements across Europe are often treated as innocuous components of broader immigration policies. Indeed, in response to over 1.3 million displaced persons seeking asylum in Europe since 2015, many countries —and Germany in particular— have tightened their language learning requirements as part of stricter immigration control and as an effort to accelerate newcomers' socioeconomic incorporation. However, recent research in linguistic anthropology and related fields has demonstrated that such policies can, in practice, turn into significant socio-cultural and economic barriers for newcomers. Having granted asylum to over 1 million displaced persons, largely from Syria, Germany has been at the forefront of language policy reforms since 2014, introducing mandatory so-called “language-and-integration” programs for newcomers. Passing these programs is a prerequisite for them to be able to move on and pursue formal work, and long-term legal security in Germany. Such policies continue to affect newcomers' socioeconomic (im)mobility, including, quite urgently, over 1 million Ukrainians that have been displaced to Germany since 2022. Based on over five years of ethnographic fieldwork in Berlin, Germany, this paper traces the ways in which Germany's state-sanctioned language learning requirements slow, intervene and otherwise complicate newcomer access to formal employment and long-term legal security. In particular, I argue that rather than accelerating socioeconomic mobility (as advertised), these policies and programs significantly delay and slow access to work and citizenship. These temporal consequences thus compound the bordering effects of language-based immigration and asylum policy, often keeping newcomers in protracted periods of waiting and uncertainty.



Praxeological Border Research



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grenzüberschreitender Kartografie

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(*Border Studies. Cultures, Spaces, Orders, vol. 8*)

In German

In this study, the author develops practice orientation in border studies and shows how borders can be understood and researched as a form of social practice. Using a praxeological approach at the intersection of sociology and border studies, the author paves the way for complex border practices in cross-border cooperation. Her ethnography of cross-border mapping provides a dense descrip-

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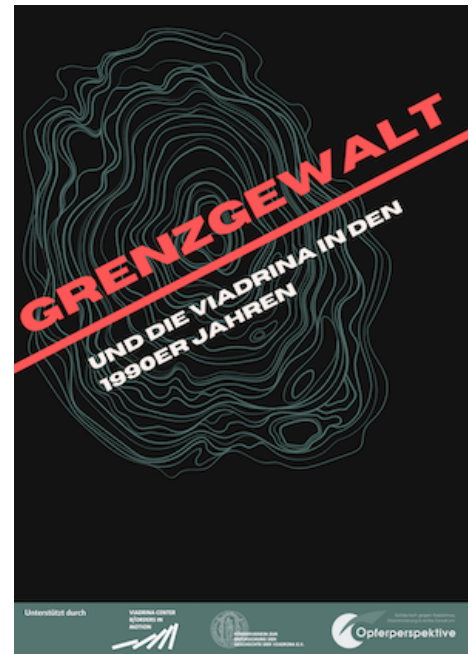
BORDER VIOLENCE AND THE VIADRINA IN THE 1990s

The exhibition „Grenz-Gewalt und die Viadrina in den 1990er Jahren“ (Border Violence and the Viadrina in the 1990s) deals with the racist and right-wing violence directly after the opening of the border between Poland and Germany. As the result of a three-semester seminar at the Viadrina, the exhibition focuses on the violence and discrimination experienced by students and employees of the university in the 1990s. Further, it sheds light on the reactions within the institution and therefore also on the university's role in the city.

The exhibition "Border Violence and the Viadrina in the 1990s" was organized by Ronja Kroll, Georg Hartmann and Maria Klessmann from Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder and Florian Grundmüller from Georg-August University Göttingen with the support of Skadi Pest (EUV) and Jessica Wolf (EUV).

We are pleased to be able to show the exhibition as part of the supporting program of the conference "Contesting 21st Century B/Orders.

The exhibition will be shown on the gallery on the 1st floor of Gräfin Dönhoff building.



POSTER EXHIBITION

The poster exhibition shows current research projects of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTIONS.

The exhibition will be shown during coffee breaks and lunch at the VIP-room of the canteen, Gräfin Dönhoff Building (GD), Europaplatz 1.

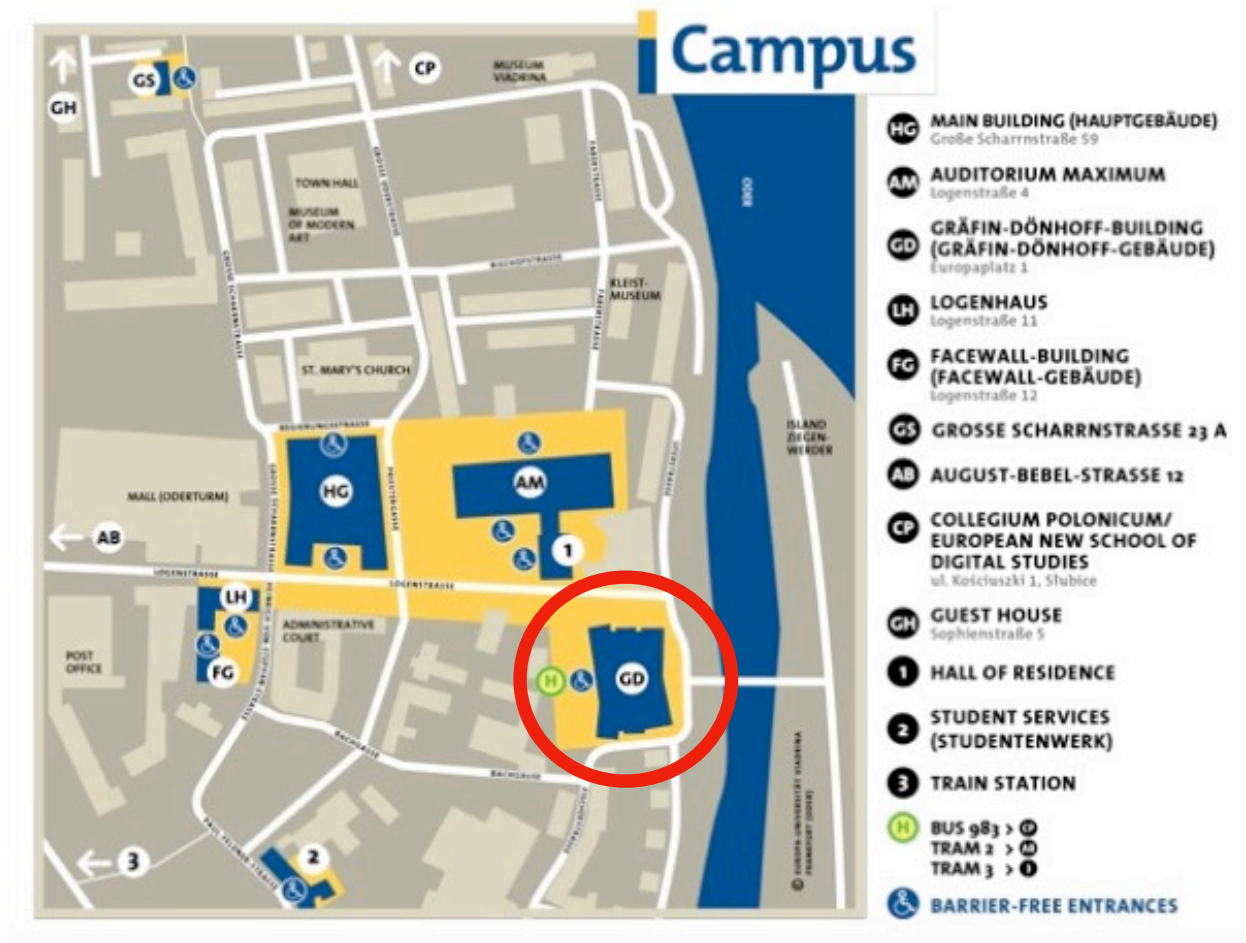
USEFUL INFORMATION

VENUE

The conference will take place at the **Gräfin Dönhoff Building** of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder (Europaplatz 1, 15230 Frankfurt/Oder).



Campus Map



Please find the **interactive city map** [here](#).



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If you travel by plane, choose the international Berlin Brandenburg Airport.

BER Airport is connected to the rail and road network. Airport Express and regional trains run together four times an hour from station T1-2 to Berlin Central Station.

In addition, the S-Bahns S9 and S45 run from T1-2 to Berlin city centre. Having arrived in Berlin, you need to take a direct train to Frankfurt/Oder.

Arriving by train

There is a direct train connection between Berlin and Frankfurt/Oder with the so-called Regionalexpress (RE 1). The train usually departs at least twice an hour from Berlin Zoologischer Garten, Hauptbahnhof, Friedrichstraße, Alexanderplatz, Ostkreuz as well as Ostbahnhof.

Timetables and long-distance **tickets are available here:** <https://www.vbb.de/en/tickets/>.

Alternatively you can purchase your train ticket (cost approx. 10€) upon arrival at the station, either at the ticket office or at the red-white DB (Deutsche Bahn) ticket machines.

Please consider that the final destination of the train can either be Frankfurt (Oder) or Eisenhüttenstadt or Cottbus. Also, please be advised not to get off at Frankfurt (Oder)-Rosengarten station (which is one stop before the main station Frankfurt/Oder you are heading for).

If you travel via Poland you also have the possibility to arrive directly to Frankfurt/Oder by train (without a detour via Berlin). You can obtain your ticket either at the Polish railway (PKP) or at Deutsche Bahn.

Arriving by car

Frankfurt/Oder and its Polish neighbouring town Słubice are easily accessible via motorway no. 12 (A 12).

Coming from Western, Southern or Northern Europe, your way will lead via Berlin, e.g. from southern Germany via motorway no. 9 (A 9, from Munich, France, Switzerland, Austria), via motorway no. 2 (A 2, from Cologne, Belgium, the Netherlands) or the motorway no. 24 (from Hamburg, Denmark, Sweden). When near Berlin, please follow the signposts towards the "Berlin Ring" (motorway no. 10 or A 10) and then to Frankfurt/Oder and Warsaw (motorway no. 12, A 12). Get off the motorway at the exit no. 9 (Frankfurt/Oder-Mitte) and follow the roads no. 87 / B112 to the city center (signposts "Zentrum", "Europa-Universität" or "Słubice").

Coming from Eastern Europe, take the Polish motorway no. 2 (A2) connecting Warsaw and Poznań with Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice.

It is incumbent upon every participant to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

REGISTRATION

September 06, 2023 - 12:00

Gräfin-Dönhoff-Building (GD), Atrium

CONFERENCE OFFICE

Gräfin-Dönhoff-Building (GD), Lecture Room 05

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ORGANIZING TEAM

Kira Kosnick
Dagna Zinkhahn Rhobodes
Andrea Meissner
Maria Klessmann
Marlen Reinschke
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Tobias Häußler

CONTACT

borders-conference23@europa-uni.de

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10
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