

International and interdisciplinary conference

“B/ORDERS IN MOTION: Current challenges and future perspectives”

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Roundtable 2: B/ORDERS IN MOTION – Future Perspectives

Chair: Hannes Krämer (Essen)

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Today's field of border studies has established as a vital research domain of various topics, advanced theoretical and methodological contributions and transdisciplinary relationships to neighboring fields. On the one hand, it embraces not only an interest in (the interrelation of) political-territorial borders and social and cultural boundaries, but focusses on a variety of research topics such as migration, work, gender, urbanism and education. Based on a general interest in the motions and dynamics of bordering practices and their impact on social orders, these topics are explored from a "border perspective". On the other hand, border theory and methodology have been increasingly diversified. While border theory is benefiting from recent developments in philosophy and social and cultural studies, the question of how theoretical achievements can be made fruitful within research processes is constantly negotiated. Concerning methodology, border phenomena not only seem to provoke a re-articulation of the benefits and limits of established research methods such as ethnography, but also demand for imaginativeness in doing research. Finally, inter- and transdisciplinarity have been key to border studies since its foundation and have kept this path. While this has offered opportunities as well as produced restraints regarding the research process, it demands for an explicit formulation of the relationship with neighboring fields such as migration, mobility, security etc. studies.

Taking the "future perspectives" of border studies in the center of this round table, we want to reflect on what awaits border studies around the next corner. Which topics and border dimensions (e.g. time) should gain interest or are yet to be discovered? Which theoretical and methodological insights can be deployed to sharpen our border-analytic eyes and to match the requirements arising from borders' becoming increasingly complex? How can border studies embrace the complexity of its research topics by implementing inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives without getting lost in "anything goes"?

PARTICIPANTS

Hannes Krämer worked as a research associate at the University of Constance and at the European University Viadrina. From 2014-2016, he led the research project "Temporal Boundaries of the Presence" and from 2017-2018, he led the research group "Border & Boundary Studies" and was scientific coordinator at the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION. Since 2018 he is professor of Communication in Institutions and Organizations at the University Duisburg-Essen. His research interests are studies of work and organization; cultural sociology; practice theory and micro-sociology; border & boundary studies; sociology of time; mobility studies; ethnography.

Chiara Brambilla, PhD, is Research Fellow in Anthropology and Geography at the University of Bergamo and Adjunct Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the IULM University of Milan. Her research focuses on anthropology, critical geopolitics and epistemology of borders; the Mediterranean border-migration nexus; borders in Africa. She is Associate Member of the Nijmegen Centre for Border Research (NCBR), member of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) and of the African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE).

Sabine von Löwis is a geographer and currently Senior Researcher in the field of Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS) in Berlin. From 2011 to 2017 she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre Marc Bloch, where she was involved in the joint research project „Phantom borders in East Central Europe“, studying the persistence and dissolution of socio-spatial structures as historical borders in Western Ukraine.

Burcu Toğral is a research fellow at the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS). She completed her undergraduate studies in International Relations (major) and Sociology (minor) at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara. She received an MA in European Studies and PhD in Political Science from the University of Hamburg. Before the IRS, she worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Eskişehir Osmangazi University in Turkey between 2014-2017. Her fields of research interests are securitization of migration, social movements, bordering processes, biopolitics of security, and racism.