

The research conducted at the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION links up with the **founding mission of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder)** and develops it further in thematic, methodological, and institutional respects. It simultaneously transfers it into current and future contexts of knowledge and society. Located in the midst of a European metropolitan region and on old national borders, the European University represents, so to speak, how the simultaneity of an overlap of center and periphery, of nation-statehood and transnationality, of drawing and dissolving borders are translated into an institutional form.

The research priority “B/ORDERS IN MOTION” is one of the key leitmotifs for further enhancing the **research profile** of European University Viadrina.

Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION

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**VIADRINA CENTER
B/ORDERS IN
MOTION**



English



Central Scientific Institution European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

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 work of the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION. The term **B/ORDERS**, which we coined, encapsulates this notion.

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.

As a **central scientific institution of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder)** and a joint project of the university's three faculties, the Center initiates and bundles analyses in the social, cultural, economic, and legal sciences concerning these interrelationships between borders and orders. With a multitude of interdisciplinary research projects, academic events in various formats, publication series, national as well as international research partnerships and with its digital science platform **B/ORDER STUDIES**, the Center has established itself as an internationally recognized hub for the study of border processes.

We see **borders as laboratories** in which societal developments are concentrated. By focusing our research on borders, societal dynamics can be observed, analyzed, and anticipated especially well. At the same time, we assume that besides nation-state orders and their borders, transnational and non-state configurations of borders and orders are relevant as well. For this reason, we investigate the diverse practices of marking, transgressing, dissolving, and reestablishing borders and the stabilization or transformation of political-legal, social, cultural, and economic orders which that entails.

We are convinced that this is a **highly relevant topic for society**: in our globalized world, seemingly contradictory processes of drawing and transcending borders, creating and dissolving orders take place simultaneously.

By not limiting our work to the examination of nation-state borders and orders, but also including social, cultural, legal, economic, and knowledge-based **B/ORDERS**, we merge approaches from classical Border Studies with sociocultural Boundary Studies.

Fields of inquiry

Besides basic research on **borders and boundaries**, the Center brings together internationally established research priorities of the Viadrina in the fields of **migration, labor, and conflict** in order to further develop inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives.

Field “Borders and Boundaries”

In the field of inquiry “Borders and Boundaries”, it is a key perspective to take into account the ideas and systems of orders behind the processes of drawing borders. We are interested in the interplay of bordering and ordering, which can overlap, intensify, or also dissolve each other. Therefore, a special interest lies in intermediate or liminal spaces which emerge if orders overlap or if borders are unclear, since they may produce new orders.

Field “Migration”

In the field of inquiry „Migration“, we study how borders are becoming a method for categorizing and classifying people, for channeling their mobility and to assign migrants specific spatial, social, and temporal positions within order systems.

Field “Labor”

In the field of inquiry “Labor”, we examine which borders and transgressions of boundaries determine the organizational forms of (gainful) labor. This leads to the question what mechanisms regulate access to and exclusion from labor and the social rights linked to it.

Field “Conflict”

In the field of inquiry „Conflict“, we focus on bordering processes during the course of a conflict. This sheds light on the normative frameworks of order adopted by the parties to a conflict and by potential third parties which must be defined and negotiated (anew). How do conflict dynamics change when certain “red lines” have been crossed?