

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Border deaths and migration policies: state and non-state approaches INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 14-15 June 2018



organized by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
(convenors: Thomas Spijkerboer and Paolo Cuttitta)

in collaboration with

International Organization for Migration and Médecins Sans Frontières



At the end of its research project on border deaths (<http://www.borderdeaths.org>), the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, in collaboration with IOM and MSF, **invites** researchers from across the disciplines, policymakers, state and non-state actors involved in border control and/or search and rescue activities, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, activists, civil servants and practitioners from across the world to engage in a dialogue and confront each other with their findings, experiences and insights about the issue of migration-related border deaths.

The conference will consist of:

- a) Three plenary sessions with invited speakers;
- b) Parallel workshops on specific issues;
- c) A final plenary session.

In the **workshops**, participants will discuss, from both **theoretical and practical perspectives**, different issues related to border deaths. A provisional, non-exhaustive list of such issues includes:

- a) *Statistics* (e.g. collection and use of data regarding dead and missing persons);
- b) *Dead bodies: the recovered and the missing* (e.g. search of the missing; identification, treatment and burial of corpses);
- c) *Living bodies: survivors and families of the victims* (e.g. grief, psychological issues, rights, claims etc.);
- d) *Legal aspects* (e.g. accountability for border deaths; legal causes of border deaths; legal avenues to prevent/address border deaths);
- e) *Migration policies* (e.g. relationship between border deaths and externalization, securitization, privatization, criminalization etc.);
- f) *Actors and roles* (e.g. the roles of different state and non-state, for-profit and non-profit actors in determining, preventing and/or managing border deaths);
- g) *Narratives* (e.g. the different rhetoric deployed by different actors in engaging with border deaths);
- h) *Comparative perspectives* (comparing border deaths issues in different countries/regions of the world, as well as on different migratory routes).

Participation is free (no fees) but subjected to **registration** before 15 May 2018. Registration can only be made online [here](#). **N.B.:** Should the number of requests exceed the capacity of the conference venue, priority will be given according to the order in which the requests were submitted (earlier requests will be given preference). In the registration form, participants are required to indicate the issue(s) they would like to discuss in the workshop.

Participants who wish to circulate a **paper** (e.g. a research paper, a report, a policy brief etc.) can submit an abstract of 150-250 words to borderdeaths.rechten@vu.nl. This can be done at the time of registration or later, but no later than 1 March 2018. The authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit a paper by 1 May 2018. Submitted papers will be made accessible to all conference participants, and may be considered for **publication projects**.