

International and interdisciplinary conference

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

15-17 November 2018 at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder



Roundtable 1: B/ORDERS IN MOTION – Current Challenges

Chair: Estela Schindel (Frankfurt/Oder)

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Today's borders are marked by complexity and high dynamism, a fact that becomes especially apparent when considering global phenomena such as migration flows, movement of workers, transformations of capitalism, virtual connectivity, or epistemic shifts. As we can experience social, cultural, economic, political, and legal crises, challenges, and uncertainties, borders seem to become the focal point of those orders being in motion. Two seemingly contradicting and still related processes can be observed, which contribute to the increase in borders' complexity: On the one hand, the call for borders producing clarity is maybe louder than ever before. As a result, the symbolic and material representations of borders gain meaning, and the bordering practices constituting them become increasingly elaborated. On the other hand, borders become increasingly vague since they become spatially dispersed and de-territorialized. Processes of in- and exclusion and related social categorizations of gender, ethnicity, etc. become contested and blurred. New temporalities such as (a-)synchronicity and interim periods emerge.

Considering these ambivalent processes, the first round table discussion deals with current challenges of b/order research and aims at tackling pressing questions concerning contemporary b/order arrangements on the one side and possibilities and obstacles for scientific inquiries on the other. Emphasis is put on the relations between state borders, membership to social categories such as nationality, gender and ethnicity, work and migration. Additionally, questions of how to theorize contemporary borders and related phenomena as well as of how to develop new methodological approaches are scrutinized.

PARTICIPANTS

Estela Schindel studied Communications in Buenos Aires and has a PhD in Sociology from the Free University Berlin. She has published extensively on cultures of memory, violence, and the politics of disappearance in comparative perspective between Latin America and Europe. She is a researcher and scientific coordinator with the Viadrina Institute for European Studies. Her current research analyzes the entanglements of violence, nature, and technology in the EU border regime.

Beata Halicka is professor for Cultural Studies at the University of Adam Mickiewicz: from 2013 to 2018 at the Polish-German Research Institute in Collegium Polonicum in Słubice and since 2018 at the Institute of Eastern Studies (Faculty of History) in Poznań. She lectured at the European

University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) between 2006 and 2014 and was a visiting professor at the universities in Calgary (2014) and El Paso, USA (2016).

Her book "Poland's Wild West" received the Identities Prize 2016 for the best historical book in Poland. Halicka is the author of six books and numerous articles and the editor of many collective publications. Her research interests are: social history and culture of East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, nationalism and forced migrations in Europe, Polish diaspora in the world, constructions of identities in border regions, German-Polish relations, issues relating to the culture and politics of remembrance. More on <http://beatahalicka.pl/>.

Christophe Sohn is urban and political geographer and senior researcher at the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER). He is also co-editor-in-chief of the Journal of Borderlands Studies. His research agenda focuses on the ways national borders are not only to be considered as territorial dividing lines or barriers but may also represent an economic, political or symbolic resource for border cities and regions.

Jelena Tošić is assistant professor for Transcultural Studies at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland and lecturer/researcher (Erasmus+ Project TRANSCA) at the Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria. Her current research focuses on (forced) migration & border studies, moral economy & deservingness and anthropology & education. Her recent publications include: African-European Trajectories of (Im)mobility: Exploring Entanglements of Experiences, Legacies and Regimes of Contemporary Migration (Special Theme in Migration and Society, forthcoming 2019, co-edited with Annika Lems); The relational ethics of "never (...) too much": Situating and scaling intimate uncertainties in an Adriatic harbor (Special Issue *Intimate Uncertainties: Ethnographic Explorations of Moral Economies across Europe*, edited by Sabine Strasser and Luisa Piart, in: *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 2018 27(2), forthcoming).