Message from the President

President Konrad communicates several important initiatives of the ABS and thanks the numerous ABS members who have donated their time and energy to expanding border studies and building a stronger association.

Op-Eds

With these Op-Eds we wish to introduce a feature of the La Frontera. These brief, yet opinionated, articles bring up topical issues that we expect to be of interest to the La Frontera readership.

Conferences

Two major ABS conferences are on the horizon in 2014. First, our ABS annual conference in April in Albuquerque. Then, in June 2014, the first ABS World Conference will convene in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia.

New ABS Officer

ABS members have voted for their second Vice President! Congratulations to Dr. Martha Patricia Barraza De Anda

Task Force Report

The Task Force has offered a dozen recommendations, several of which will require changes in the ABS Bylaws.

JBS - ScholarOne Manuscripts

We are delighted to inform you that the JBS is ready to begin operating our new electronic submission and review system, ScholarOne Manuscripts.

Emmanuel, you will be a hard act to follow...

...but we at the University of Eastern Finland will do our absolute best to maintain effective and forward-looking management of ABS.

Greetings from the New ABS Executive Secretariat

As home to the Executive Secretary and Treasurer, the Karelian Institute (KI) is committed to advance the work of ABS both institutionally and substantively. Border Studies is a rapidly internationalizing research field with solid North American and European roots. We will build on this research tradition while markedly enhancing the international visibility and impact of ABS in the globally burgeoning research field of border studies.

In order to guarantee efficient and timely execution of the required duties and tasks, the work of the Secretariat is shared by Prof. James W. Scott acting as the Executive Secretary and Dr. Jussi Laine acting as the Treasurer and Vice Executive Secretary.

The ABS is at an important juncture in its almost 40-year-long history. Having established itself as the preeminent scholarly organization addressing borderlands issues in the US-Mexican and US-Canadian contexts, the Association has now emerged as a major international player in the area of border studies. ABS itself reflects the transformation of the research field: its geographic scope has expanded, its international membership has steadily grown, and the multidisciplinary approaches that it facilitates constitute a complex, socially engaged understanding of borders and borderlands. ABS has also increasingly facilitated international dialogue with regards to border policy and problems related to border management.

As part of its remit in representing a growing ABS, KI endeavors to promote international collaborative networks, seminars, and research that reflect various – and increasingly new – strands of political, social, and cultural inquiry. Ultimately, the need for a greater international and interdisciplinary focus in border studies is confirmed by the networked, heterogeneous, and highly fragmented manner in which multifarious border-related issues are presently dealt with.

We see ABS as fulfilling an important role in providing support for future socially and policy relevant comparative work. As home to the ABS Executive Secretary and Treasurer, KI works hard to facilitate a variety of activities targeting to advance theoretical development, methodological and conceptual discussion, case studies, and comparative projects with significant geographical coverage at a more global scale.

During the years, KI has acted as a coordinating unit for a number of international research projects working together with Russian and other European colleagues. Through active conference, graduate training and publication cooperation, it has become a central node of research networks that reach far beyond the European border study community and that extend to Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania. With the active support of the University of Eastern Finland and the Regional Council of Northern Karelia, KI is committed to further its central role within international border research networks.

At the 2013 annual meeting of the ABS in Denver, the Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland was selected as the host of the ABS Secretariat for the 2013 - 2017 term.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ABS colleagues,

In this message, I aim to communicate several important initiatives of the ABS and thank the numerous ABS members who have donated their time and energy to expanding border studies and building a stronger association.

First, I wish to bring to your attention the Report of the ABS Task Force that I appointed after the annual meeting in April, 2013. The Task Force was given the mandate to “explore the issues that are potentially divisive and harmful to the organization, and recommend changes in governance, structure and operations to prepare the ABS to guide and manage its growth and expansion as the leading organization for border studies in the world.”

The Task Force was chaired by Oscar Martinez and Chris Brown and comprised of eight ABS members (Anne-Laure Amilhat-Szary, Naomi Chi, Kimberly Collins, Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Todd Hataley, Jussi Laine, Michael Pisani, Rodolfo Rincones Delgado) and eight ABS past presidents (Christine Bremer, Manuel Chavez, Inesera Coronado, Paul Gauster, Heather Nicol, Tony Payan, Steve Mumme, James Scott). The Task Force has offered a dozen recommendations, several of which will require changes in the ABS Bylaws. Some recommendations related to expanding transparency, ameliorating language barriers, reducing marginalization, and acknowledging our core component as the Mexico-U.S. border region, are already being addressed.

The Report is published in this issue of La Fronteira. Please read the Report of the ABS Committee on Enhanced Governance and Transparency (pages 9-10) and send your comments, before January 31, 2014, to the Co-Chairs Christopher Brown (brownchr@nmsu.edu) and Oscar Martinez (martineo@email.arizona.edu). Chris, Oscar and I will review all of the comments and suggestions, and then present our final recommendations to the ABS Executive and Board prior to our annual meeting in April, 2014. Many thanks to Chris Brown, Oscar Martinez and all of the Task Force members for their excellent work and their commitment to the ABS.

Whereas, in 2013, the ABS conducted a major review of its governance in an effort to build a better future for the organization, the year has also seen accomplishment, growth and change in other ways. Thanks to Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly and his editorial colleagues, the Journal of Borderlands Studies is thriving with Routledge and moving into full quarterly status. Thanks also to Emmanuel and Jennifer Guest at the University of Victoria for providing the secretariat home for the ABS.

The secretariat has now moved to the Karelian Institute at the University of Eastern Finland thanks to James Scott, Ilkka Liikanen and Jussi Laine. The revised website initiated by Irasema Coronado, Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly and Tony Payan. In October, the ABS was sponsoring a special plenary on NAFTA and North American Borders at 20 Years featuring presentations by Irasema Coronado, Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly and Tony Payan. In October, the ABS was a co-sponsor of the third “Walls” conference in Montreal. Also, the ABS has been acknowledged at border studies meetings throughout the year in Europe, Asia and the Americas. In December, I have been invited as ABS President to present the keynote address at the international conference on Borderlands Modeling and Understanding for Global Sustainability in Beijing.

Two major ABS conferences are on the horizon in 2014. First, our ABS annual conference with the WSSA convenes early April in Albuquerque. Please submit your proposals for panels and papers by December 1, 2013, to Martin van der Velde. Then, in June 2014, the first ABS World Conference will convene in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia. Both of these ABS events promise to be highlights among the growing number of border studies events worldwide.

The work of the ABS also requires the participation of board members and the ABS membership at large in nominating committees of all kinds to select award recipients, board members and officers. Thank you to all for your diligence and hard work. Thanks particularly to Akihiro Iwashita and his committee members Irasema Coronado and Ben Muller for selecting the candidates to run for the second vice president position.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the commitment and extraordinary efforts of Christine Thurlow Brenner as she guided the ABS in the direction of substantial growth and internationalization. Christine, and Heather, Javier and others before her, worked hard to evolve a vision for the ABS that would align with border studies expansion and opportunity. That vision is now being realized, and I am grateful for Christine’s mentorship, and the legacy of ABS leadership before her that allows us to build and expand yet remain humble and connected to borderlands community.

Best wishes,

Victor Konrad, President
“Esa imagen de cientos de ataúdes nunca se borrará de mi cabeza. Es algo que uno no puede olvidar.” Lo dijo el Presidente de la Comisión Europea, José Manuel Durão Barroso, durante su visita a Lampedusa el pasado 9 de octubre.

La sacudida emocional provocada por la tragedia —que se ha cobrado ya más de 300 vidas— ha sido más intensa y generalizada de lo habitual. Y es que, con el tiempo, ha pasado a ser habitual que, cuando el número de víctimas no es tan desgarradoramente alto como en esta ocasión, las muertes de inmigrantes en las fronteras de la Unión pasen casi desapercibidas. Algo de eco en la prensa local y mucha rabia y denuncia en blogs y redes sociales. Pero muy poco espacio en los grandes medios. No suele haber, por supuesto, funerales de estado. Durante las dos últimas décadas, muchos inmigrantes ahogados y sin identified han sido sepultados en los cementerios de Ceuta, Melilla o Tarifa. Y ningún presidente del gobierno se ha arrodillado ante sus féretros.

El mismo día 9, Cecilia Malmström, la Comisaria Europea de Interior, escribía en Twitter: “Una inmensa tristeza frente a 280 ataúdes en Lampedusa. Esto no es digno de Europa”. Más tarde, en su blog, Malmström se preguntaba si quizás lo sucedido podría significar un punto de inflexión en la política migratoria europea. Pero no precisamente en la dirección que apuntaba Malmström en su blog. Marcaría un cambio de rumbo, pero en absoluto hacia la apertura de más vías de entrada legal a la UE.

Las muertes producidas el pasado 3 de octubre en el litoral de Lampedusa no son atribuibles a infortunios de la naturaleza. Están directamente relacionadas con el modelo selectivo de gestión de la movilidad de personas a través de las fronteras exteriores de la UE. El régimen fronterizo de la Unión Europea tampoco es un accidente natural. La arquitectura jurídica que lo conforma es fruto de decisiones políticas. Lo cierto es que, muy a pesar de lo que muchos querrían, dicha arquitectura se cimienta más en las decisiones tomadas en los parlamentos y cancillerías de los Estados miembros, que en las tomadas en la Comisión y el Europarlamento.

Pese a la consternación provocada por el último naufragio en Lampedusa, si lo que vaticina la encuesta de Le Nouvel Observateur se confirma, el espaldarazo simbólico a quienes reclaman más blindaje e impermeabilización en las fronteras exteriores de la UE será formidable.

Published originally in at Publico.es

WANT MORE? Read Cecilia Malmström ‘s blog post here. Cecilia also issued a statement on the day of the tragedy off the coast of Lampedusa. Photos and video clips from the visit to Lampedusa are available at the European Commission’s page.
Violence in Mexico has reached unprecedented levels, particularly since 2006 when former Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared a “war on drugs” and incorporated the military into the fight against transnational organized crime.

Much of the violence, concentrated in the country’s northernmost border with the United States, has been accompanied by the widespread use of visceral, terror-producing methods such as decapitation, dismemberment, mass kidnappings, public executions, car bombs, grenade attacks, and blockades. To date, Mexico’s drug war has “officially” claimed more than 70,000 lives, with an additional 27,000 disappearances linked to organized crime. In reality, the numbers are likely much higher, with some estimates placing the death toll at more than 100,000. At the same time, thousands of citizens have become internal refugees, displaced within Mexico or forced to move abroad.

The situation in Mexico and how it is perceived by the United States has had a significant impact on border security policy, including the current debates on immigration reform. Concerns regarding the impact of Mexico’s drug war on its northern neighbor, specifically the possibility of spillover violence, have led to a significant increase in U.S. border security spending. Possible connections between Middle-Eastern terrorism and undocumented immigration have even been claimed.

This “rhetoric of fear” – a sustained dialogue that defines Mexico as an ongoing threat to the security and integrity of the United States – has been exaggerated and exacerbated by various U.S. agencies and agents, including the mass media, federal authorities, and local and national politicians.

The real effect of Mexico’s current circumstances has been a massive increase in U.S. resources spent on border security, an investment of more than $100 billion over a seven-year period. The Border Patrol has doubled its number of agents, beefed up its fencing initiatives, broadened its infrastructure, and developed new, more invasive surveillance technologies. The rhetoric of fear has created tangible and positive effects on U.S. border security. Consider the recent figures released by federal agencies, such as the DPS and the FBI, that show a significant decrease of violent crime along the U.S. southern border. These positive effects have also spilled over into the U.S. border economy in general.

The rhetoric of fear, however, depicts an insecure border that can only be secured by obtaining additional federal funds to “protect” U.S. citizens from terrorists, drug traffickers and migrants coming from Mexico, often assumed to be linked to each other. These views, for example, are included in an assessment of Texas border security commissioned in 2011 by the state’s Department of Agriculture, which described Texas as a “war zone.” A more recent document elaborated by Texas DPS supports this approach, created by the rhetoric of fear that dominates the national discourse. An improved security environment in a number of Texas border communities has been confirmed by official figures. With regards to the border economy, preliminary data show that border cities on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande are experiencing serious economic difficulties while those on the U.S. side—particularly those in Texas—are starting to benefit significantly from the human and material resources coming from the south fleeing Mexico’s violence. In fact, violence has helped stimulate economic growth and hiring in the border regions of Texas, from the lower Rio Grande Valley to Laredo to El Paso. As noted in a recent article published in the journal Politics & Policy: “Overall, the unprecedented levels of violence in contemporary Mexico have benefited the United States in the key areas of security and economic growth. The alleged negative effects of Mexico’s drug war on the United States are simply misperceptions of the actual reality.”

Despite the instabilities in Mexico, there has been in recent years a significant investment in infrastructure to promote cross-border trade between northeastern Mexico and Texas and to reinforce the linkage of these regions with the main markets of both nations, Asia and Europe. One of the most important projects in recent years is the construction of the Mazatlán-Matamoros super highway that ties the major markets in the Pacific to the northern, northeastern, and southeastern parts of the Mexican border. Add to these developments the recent construction of international border crossings, such as the Donna-Rio Bravo and Anzalduas (Mission-Reynosa) international bridges.

At the same time, discoveries of oil and shale gas are reclassifying the Texas-Mexico border as an area of strategic value in terms of the trade and extraction of hydrocarbons. When taken with the plausible approval of energy reform in Mexico—which would privatize some sectors of Mexico’s hydrocarbon’s industry—there stands to emerge a new period of economic cooperation between the United States, Mexico and transnational oil companies in the world energy sector. This dynamic could have a transformative impact in northeastern Mexico, a zone rich in oil, natural gas and shale gas. The development of the maquiladora industry in Mexico’s border areas also continues to be of great interest to the Mexican government and transnational corporations willing to do business in the developing country.

Mexico’s drug war notwithstanding, current economic and trade developments represent a major opportunity for U.S. and Mexican corporations, especially those related to the energy sector. New investments in natural gas, shale gas and oil on both sides of the border, as well as recent infrastructure and commercial developments once energy reform is passed, will greatly benefit transnational companies, especially those located on the U.S. side. The “rhetoric of fear” is just a myopic perception that fails to consider other developments taking place within and without the Mexican “spectacle of violence,” a dynamic that has deeply injured Mexico, but not the United States.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

As President Elect and Program Chair of the next ABS-meeting, I am honored to invite you to participate in the 2014 annual meeting of the ABS. As usual the conference is organized in association with the WSSA. This year the meeting will take place from April 2-5, 2014 at the downtown Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque (NM). This city has been our venue many times in the past and always has been a welcoming host. It is with great pleasure that the ABS returns here.

Albuquerque, a modern city that at the same time cherishes its past, is the perfect place to address the organizing theme for this annual conference: ‘Borders as Signs of the Times’. This overarching theme suggests a wide range of topics and approaches with which to discuss the continuing challenges of defining what borders are and how they work. It also suggests that borders and border developments are both rooted in history (for example, through identities, loyalties, conflicts and controversies) as well as essential when trying to understand the dynamics (human mobility, flows and frictions, etc.) of the current era.

Apart from the regular sessions, we aim to address in particular two special areas. The first one involves focussing on the ontological, epistemological and methodological issues of borders. Here we have an excellent opportunity to take forward in explicit terms our often implicit discussions on the nature of borders in border studies. The second area is that of borders and education: it is about teaching the border and borders that are teaching, emphasizing the intricate relations between borders and our societies. As border scholars we have the obligation to be engaged in the (normative) discussion on the purpose and necessity of borders. As we have been invited by a publisher to offer a book proposal based on the conference theme, we have a great opportunity here to contribute to this public debate.

I am writing this message while participating in a conference in Barcelona (Spain) on European Cultures. Both the theme and location of the conference are very appropriate for border scholars. It seems that currently nation states are again being essentialized as containers of national cultures. Certainly in Europe the ongoing economic crisis is putting a strain on the idea of a common European culture and development and is stimulating the protagonists of reinstating national borders within Europe. Geographically Spain, being located at the Mediterranean, is also very close to the recent tragedies, where hundreds of migrants died trying to cross the evermore hardening borders of the European Union. This sea is also aptly known as Mare Nostrum, Our Sea. This is a very appropriate name, when pointing to our shared responsibility to contribute to solving this dilemma of protection and sharing. These struggles are also reflected in the recent building of a border fence between Greece and Turkey in response to increasing numbers of undocumented migrants and the firm plans of Bulgaria to do the same along part of their borders with Turkey.

The call for papers was issued this September and is also included in this issue of La Frontera. Apart from the regular paper session and roundtable events, some more traditional plenaries are scheduled, such as the book award and lecture. During last year’s business meeting also a new committee for the lifetime achievement award was inaugurated. At the time of writing the nominee is not yet known. I hereby would also like to invite you to come up with ideas for other plenary sessions, such as the brown bag documentary session we had last year.

I look forward to hear from you very soon about your paper and session proposals. And we are also very open to any suggestions for special sessions and events during our meeting. See you all soon in Albuquerque.

Martin van der Velde
ABS President Elect
Radboud University Nijmegen
the Netherlands
Call for Papers

2014 Annual Conference

April 2-5, 2014, Albuquerque, NM, USA

Hyatt Regency, Downtown, 330 Tijeras Ave NW

The Association for Borderlands Studies invites proposals for individual papers and complete panels related to the study of borders. While we welcome papers on all topics and areas related to border studies, the organizing theme for the 2014 annual conference will be Borders as Signs of the Times! This theme encompasses a wide range of topics and approaches, and focuses on the continuing challenges of defining what borders are and how they work nowadays. With this theme we would like to address in particular that borders and border developments are at the same time rooted in history (e.g. through identities, loyalties, conflicts and controversies) as well as essential when trying to understand the dynamics (e.g. of human mobility, flows and frictions) of the current era.

Within this overarching theme, next to the regular sessions, we aim to organize two special sessions:

Borders in Research: ontological, epistemological and methodological issues;

Borders and Education: teaching the border and borders that are teaching.

Papers which address one of these two topics will be considered for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Borderlands Studies.

Please include the following information in your proposal: Title of presentation, Name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number and email address, Other authors

Abstract not to exceed 200 words (some keywords are welcome)

Scholars willing to serve as moderators or discussants can indicate their interest in the proposal.

The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2013.

Please submit proposals to the program chair and coordinator:

Dr. Martin van der Velde (M.vanderVelde@ru.nl)

2014 ABS Program Advisory Committee:

Martha Patricia Barraza (UACJ, Mexico), Akihiro Iwashita (Hokaido University, Japan), Jussi Laine (UEF, Finland), Fabienne Leloup (UCL, Belgium), Victor Konrad (Carlton University, Canada), Tony Payan (UACJ, Mexico and Rice University, USA), Bas Spierings (Utrecht University, the Netherlands)
La Asociación de Estudios Fronterizos convoca a participar en la Reunión Anual 2014 mediante ponencias individuales o mesas completas sobre el tema de estudios fronterizos. Aunque se convoca a todos los académicos a participar en cualquier tema relacionado con el estudio de las fronteras, se hace una particular invitación a aquellos estudiosos del tema central de la conferencia durante el año 2014: Las Fronteras Como Símbolos de Nuestro Tiempo. Esta temática central bajo la cual se lanza esta convocatoria aglutina no sólo temas transversales a todas las fronteras sino una diversidad de acercamientos a las mismas y nos obliga a enfocarnos en los grandes retos que definen las fronteras del mundo y su funcionamiento el día de hoy. El pensar en las fronteras como los grandes e ineludibles símbolos de nuestros tiempos nos permite abordar aspectos relacionados con el peso de la historia (identidades, lealtades, conflictos, controversias, etc.) así como los grandes problemas de hoy (la movilidad humana, los flujos transfronterizos, las fricciones, etc.).

Paralelamente a las sesiones ordinarias, se pretende dar un énfasis especial a varias sesiones extraordinarias bajo los siguientes temas:

- La investigación de las fronteras: Problemas ontológicos, epistemológicos y metodológicos;
- Las fronteras en la educación: Enseñando sobre fronteras y lo que nos enseñan las fronteras.

Los ensayos sobre estas dos grandes vertientes se considerarán de manera puntual para una edición especial de la Revista de Estudios Fronterizos (JBS).

Favor de enviar la propuesta con las siguientes características:

- Título, Nombre, Afiliación Institucional, Dirección, Teléfono y Correo Electrónico, Co-Autores
- Resumen no mayor de 200 palabras, incluyendo las palabras claves
- Favor de indicar su interés en moderar o comentar mesas

Las propuestas deberán ser enviadas antes del 1º de Diciembre del 2013 al Dr. Martin van der Velde al correo electrónico M.vanderVelde@ru.nl.

Comité Asesor de Programa ABS 2014:

Martha Patricia Barraza (UACJ, México), Akihiro Iwashita (Universidad de Hokkaido, Japón), Fabienne Leloup (UCL, Bélgica), Jussi Laine (UEF, Finlandia), Victor Konrad (Carlton University, Canada), Tony Payan, (UAC), México y Rice, USA), Bas Spierings (Utrecht University, Holanda)
New ABS Officer

Recently, ABS members voted for their Second Vice President who will take over the position of Vice President next April 2014 at the ABS Annual Meeting in Albuquerque.

The candidates were:
Dr. Francisco Lara, Arizona State University and
Dra. Martha Patricia Barraza De Anda, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

Dr. Barraza was declared the winner after having received 50.5% of the eligible votes.
Dr. Lara received 48.5% of the votes, 1% of voters abstained.

97 votes were received from 227 eligible members.

This indicates a 43% response rate.

Dr. Barraza is a full time academic at The Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) in The Social Sciences and Administration Institute (ICSA). From 2006 to 2012, she served as General Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies at the UACJ. In addition to conducting research on border region economic issues, Dr. Barraza teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Mexican economic policy, growth theories and development, public finance, public sector economy and analysis of public policy. Patricia Barraza was born in Ciudad Juárez and received her Bachelor’s Degree in Economics at The UACJ. She received her Master’s degree in Public Administration and Public Policy at The London School of Economics and obtained the doctorate in social sciences at The Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico City. Her doctoral dissertation focused on the performance measurement outcomes of local public universities in Mexico. At The Autonomous University of Chihuahua, Barraza taught for ten years graduate and undergraduate courses in economics, public administration and public policy. Prior to became a full time academic, Dr. Barraza worked for several years at the central public administration where she occupied different positions as the lead economist in The Interior Ministry, Agricultural and Hydraulic Resources Ministry and Tourism Ministry. In these positions she conducted research on technical issues related to economic development and the design of public policies. Dr. Barraza has published research articles in academic journals in Mexico, Europe and North America.

Proposal for the Second Vice Presidency at ABS

1) Intensifying efforts for interdisciplinary integration between in border studies, through virtual coordinated seminars and classroom discussions. It is important to reach out to academics in the hard sciences to participate in the ABS, given that many of the problems in border management could be solved by collaboration among disciplines.
2) Encourage humanities scholars to have a more proactive participation in the ABS and in the development of joint research projects. Creating a border studies community will require greater coordination efforts among institutions. We should figure out mechanisms to apply for grants among several institutions.
3) Reinforce and encourage both qualitative and quantitative approaches in border studies, through the provision of joint courses and workshops, offered by most recognized members in the area at the ABS.
4) Through the support of the UACJ, I will seek to draw new members not only from Mexico but from Central America and South America, where many border studies are currently taking place and should be linked to the work of the ABS.
5) The UACJ makes the commitment to ensure that its institutional infrastructure provides support for the ABS. This support consists of space for the headquarters of the Association, which will be located at the Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Administración (ICSA) at UACJ, computer equipment dedicated to the tasks of the ABS, and a full time institutional full-time staffer to aid in the day-to-day work of the ABS.
6) A continual review of the rules and norms of the ABS is important so that we can deepen participation, democratize its processes, and make its action more transparent. The work that V. Konrad has done is extraordinary. It will be the task of the next Presidents to ensure that they are fully implemented and fine-tuned over time.
7) It is important to review the ABS resources to incentive the presence of individuals who are in far flung border regions, so that we can manage the globalization of the ABS and ensure that it becomes a truly comparative subfield.
8) Maintain the functions of the ABS and enhance them by consulting closely with past presidents to ensure that their experience and wisdom is integrated into the current management.
Subjects: Final report of a survey of relevant issues and input from Past Presidents
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2013
To: Victor Konrad, ABS President
From: Christopher Brown and Oscar Martinez, Task Force Co-Chairs

Some of the questions posed are binaries, and we provide a tally of answers with some editorial input. Others are very open-ended, and we have tried to compile the main ideas presented without just listing numerous ideas in a list.

Should the positions of the Executive Secretary and Treasurer (ES&T) be formally merged or kept separate? (The current bylaws have 2 separate offices, but they have been treated as one office for many years).

Responses were basically 50/50 on this, with the following arguments:

- **Merge them** – Although this is NOT what the current bylaws say, this is how we have run things for 10+ years, it works, and it should be left in play.
- **Separate offices** – The workload grows as the office grows, this makes for a nice division of labor, and this also prevents one person/institution from exercising too much control of the work of these offices.

Given this split, we recommend giving this to a committee of Past Presidents (CoPPs) that we ask to rewrite the bylaws. After the financial disaster we faced in 2006 when the ES&T was housed at University of San Diego, the past presidents that handled this crisis saw the need to rewrite the bylaws. However, we have only managed a relatively minor revision in the last 7 years. The need to revisit/rewrite the bylaws arises numerous times in this report.

Who serves as the Executive of the ABS (Board of Directors, Board plus Officers, President, or ???)

The overwhelming majority of responses was the Executive = the Board plus Officers, with only one person dissenting and arguing the Executive = The President. This latter view is what the current bylaws say, and this points to the need to revise the bylaws in this area. We do note one potential problem if the Executive = The Officers plus Board. In most organizations, the Board is the entity that oversees the President. The idea that a combination of the Board and Officers make major decisions is very well supported by our survey efforts, but this may complicate the process for the removal of the President in cases of malfeasance. We certainly hope such an instance does not arise, and this comment is NOT a reflection on current leadership. We may need some assistance from someone with a political science background in working on this part of the bylaws.

**Specifically, how do we establish quorum?**

The almost unanimous response was 50% plus one person of the Board plus Officers is a quorum, with the one dissenting vote going back to the view that the Executive is the President plus Board. A few people did note that major decisions should not be made with less than a quorum. Several people argued that attending by phone or Skype should be allowed, and email votes could be accepted on a limited business.

What steps can be taken to insure Board members attend Board meetings at the Annual Meetings, and how should attendance requirements be enforced?

The major theme that folks supported was that one or two unexcused absences should result in removal, and candidates should be told clearly and must understand that serving on this Board is serious business and not an honorary thing. People should commit to serving and making the Annual Meeting at which the Board meeting is also held. We did see several people repeat the idea that email voting or Skype or phone attendance is acceptable. In the past, the ABS has held conference call Board meetings, and this worked well. We also did this for emergency meetings after the financial crisis of 2006.

How are the decisions for selection of the ES&T and JBS Editors to be reached?

Most people felt that these decisions should be handled via an open call with a committee (perhaps CoPPs) reviewing application files and making recommendations, as we have done in the past. In the case of the JBS Board and Editorship, folks felt people with experience as editors should be involved on the committee. People differed as to who should field the recommendations and make the final decision:

- Some people said the Board plus Officers should make the decision and report to the membership.
- A few people said the recommendations should always go directly to the membership for a vote.
- A few people said that the decision MUST go to the membership if the Board plus Officers did NOT follow the recommendations of the committee.

This is probably another issue we should put to the committee rewriting the bylaws and ask them to research this with other similar organizations to reach a recommendation.

How should language barriers be ameliorated?

Responses on this were highly varied, and we provide the major ideas and arguments below:

- English is the global language of science, younger members of the academy from outside the US speak English, and ABS participants should be able to navigate this environment, perhaps with some assistance.
- Our heritage argues that we provide some materials in Spanish and English, but the Journal articles should be published in English.
- Ideas for things we should/could publish in Spanish and English that many people supported included bilingual publication of La Frontera, bilingual publication of abstracts, and bilingual publication of the ABS Website.
- One person argued that these things should actually be published in English, Spanish, and French.
- Most did NOT support simultaneous translations of conference sessions outside of a special plenary. Cost and complexity were cited as reasons for this view, but enlisting volunteer translators on an informal basis was supported.

How does the leadership and membership of the ABS prevent perceived or real marginalization of individual members or constituent groups?

Increased communication was almost universally supported, and specific ideas included:

- Opening the Board meetings to the general membership (only Board members can vote).
- Publishing minutes of the General Membership and Board Meetings on the Website and in La Frontera, perhaps with referral to a PURL to save space in the newsletter, and
- The development and deployment of a listserve.

Several people supported the idea that a future VP or permanent Board member be from Mexico, and this idea surfaces below in the issue of the US-Mexico Borderlands staying as a focus of the group.

How does the ABS keep the U.S.-Mexico border as the core component of the organization and at the same time capitalize on the global border studies movement by incorporating more scholars from other continents?
An overwhelming majority of responses (10 vs. 2) argued that the US-Mexico Border region must remain a key focus of the group, but we also need to accept we are becoming a global group in an increasingly global community. A few people asked if the focus on the US-Mexico border needed to be maintained. The idea of region-specific subgroups was posed by a few people, and as noted above, several people supported the idea that a future VP or permanent Board member be from Mexico. Specific efforts to maintain participation of Mexican colleagues at the Annual Meeting were suggested, including special sessions on the region, travel grants for scholars that need financial assistance to attend, or partnering special sessions on the US-Mexico Border with a special issue of the JBS.

What is the best way for the ABS to manage its finances and establish financial oversight, a sub-committee charged with oversight of the Treasurer or some other mechanism?

We saw a 50/50 split on this, with the following ideas advanced:

- Half of the people responding noted the current system of the Treasurer reporting to the Board/Officers first, and then to the membership, has worked well and should be continued. This system did fail us in the financial crisis of 2006, and this past situation may argue that a higher level of scrutiny may be warranted.

- The other idea posed was that we should develop some form of auditing committee (CoPPs?) and charge them to do the job. One PP suggested we ask the WSSA what they do; they do have a sub-committee of the Board that does this and reports to the Board on an annual basis.

How does leadership of the ABS better provide for transparency in all its operations? Are there specific areas that are in need of special attention in this regard?

Responses to this question were quite similar to the question on marginalization, with the major focus on more open communication. Specific ideas included publishing major meeting minutes in La Frontera and on the Website, opening the Board meetings to the membership (only Board members vote), avoiding the potential or perceived concentration of power in one person or position, and not making major decisions with less than a quorum. The CoPPs was again offered as a potential group that could help. However, 40% of folks wanted to keep things informal and allow the Board and Officers to sort these issues out.

Should ABS formalize the "ad hoc" group of Past Presidents as an advisory body to the ABS President and the Board?

We saw a 50/50 split on this issue, with half the group arguing this should remain ad hoc and half the group wanting to formalize this group to help in some key areas identified above.

Would you be supportive of establishing an “ABS parliamentarian” whose decisions would be final with regard to the interpretation of the By-Laws?

This question saw a 60/40 split, with the majority favoring a parliamentarian, provided this person(s) was/were fair and experienced. The CoPPs was again offered as a potential group that could help. However, 40% of folks wanted to keep things informal and allow the Board and Officers to sort these issues out.

* * * * *

**Thoughts, Comments?**

Please send your comments, before January 31, 2014, to the Co-Chairs Christopher Brown (brownchr@nmsu.edu) and Oscar Martinez (martineo@email.arizona.edu).
Of Interest...

JBS - ScholarOne Manuscripts

We are delighted to inform you that JBS has already began operating its new electronic submission and review system, ScholarOne Manuscripts. All our work will now be undertaken using this system which brings with it a number of advantages - authors, for example, will be able to track the progress of their manuscripts.

Electronic systems can seem impersonal, but the Journal of Borderlands Studies has tried to build good relationships with our editorial advisors, authors, and reviewers, and we intend to remain a friendly, approachable journal.

ABS mailing list has been updated!

To subscribe to the list or change your existing subscription, please go to: https://lists.uef.fi/mailman/listinfo/abs.newsletter

To post a message to all list members, send your email to abs.newsletter@lists.uef.fi

ABS Annual Awards

Past Presidents' Book Awards

The ABS Past Presidents’ Book Award is presented to any published monographic book in the social and natural sciences, and humanities involving original research on borders, borderlands and border regions, and reviewed in the JBS. The Gold Award consists of a plaque, a certificate and a year’s free membership in ABS. Also, the winner of the Gold Award chairs the ABS book award committee for the next year and is the ABS guest and keynote speaker.

Best Paper Award

This award is the creation of Professor Harlan Koff, President of the Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion (RISC), at the University of Luxembourg. RISC is proud to sponsor a yearly best paper award to be presented at the annual meeting of the ABS. The award, selected by a committee of scholars from ABS and the RISC Consortium, will recognize the best paper submitted by the deadline, and presented in person by at least one author. The award committee will only consider original papers on comparative research on the human or environmental impacts of cross border regional integration processes. The paper selected for this award will be submitted for publication in the journal Regions & Cohesion. The author(s) will also receive a certificate and 250 Euros.

Best Student Paper Competition

ABS extends a special invitation to graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in borderland issues to take part in the upcoming meeting. Up to four cash awards are offered to the best student papers presented at the conference: first and second place for both graduate and undergraduate students. In addition to these cash awards, the first place graduate paper will be automatically considered for publication in the JBS.

For more information please consult the ABS website.

Border Studies at EPCC

Borderlands is a website of El Paso Community College, comprising articles on the history and culture of the El Paso, Juárez, Las Cruces border region, comprising the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua, MX. It is a unique resource of faculty-edited college student articles on the U.S.-Mexico border, originally printed as an annual supplement to the El Paso Times newspaper.

Their new web address is: http://epcc.libguides.com/borderlands
Conference Report

Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders

The first joint Border Studies conference of the EU-FP7 projects EUBORDERSCAPES and EUBORDERREGIONS on “Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders,” organized in Bergamo, Italy in early July 2013 did not only present on-going research activities within these two large-scale international projects to the wider public but engaged also a numerous scholars external to the projects in dialogue and in this way contributing to the development of conceptual, methodological, and empirical research on borders and border crossings.

Organized by the University of Eastern Finland, in close cooperation with Ce.R.Co. – Centro di Ricerca sulla Complessità at the University of Bergamo, the conference aimed to make a constructive contribution to debate within border studies by encouraging a processual reading of borders as potential elements of political innovation through conceptual (re-)framings of social, political, economic and cultural spaces. As a number of papers indicated, this requires a nuanced and critical re-reading and understanding of borders as resources in terms of the exercise of power, the management of conflict, cross-border cooperation, and the everyday negotiation of borders by “ordinary” citizens and non-citizens. The presented papers will be developed into an edited volume as well as a journal special issue in order to disseminate the findings more broadly. A number of working papers will also be uploaded in the project’s webpages. On behalf of the organizers, I wish to thank everyone for their contributions and making the conference a truly enjoyable experience. I also hope to see you again in Israel in December 2014, where the next EUBORDERSCAPES conference will take place!

Kind Regards,

Jussi Laine, Conference Co-Chair
Call for Student Participation

The ABS extends a special invitation to graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in borderland issues to take part in our upcoming meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, April 2-5, 2014. Towards this goal, we are happy to announce the continuation of our Student Paper Competition in which four cash awards will be offered to the best student papers presented at the conference.

$250 U.S. for best graduate student paper $125 U.S. for second place graduate paper and $150 U.S. for the best undergraduate student paper $75 U.S. for the second place undergraduate paper

The first place graduate paper will be automatically considered for publication in the Journal of Borderland Studies.

The specific guidelines are as follows:

- Papers must be sole-authored by the student submitting the paper.
- Papers must be original work developed as a conference research paper.
- Manuscripts should be no longer than 25 pages, double-spaced with 1 inch margins, or approximately 6000 words in length. Manuscripts should also comply with the guidelines for articles to be submitted to the Journal of Borderland Studies.
- Students must present the paper at the conference to qualify for the prizes.
- Students must be full time students and current members of the ABS at the time of the conference, although students can certainly join as part of the registration process. We ask that students have their faculty advisor confirm their student status and level of study at the time the paper is submitted,
- Students must submit a typed, professional quality manuscript to Dr. Bustillos-Durán by March 3, 2014. Members of the Committee on Student Participation will evaluate the written document towards the award of the cash prize, yet the ABS reserves the right not to grant prizes if papers are not of adequate professional quality. For further information, feel free to contact Dr. Bustillos-Durán at bustillos.sandra@gmail.com.

Call for RISC sponsored Best Paper Award

This year, again, the ABS is delighted to offer a best paper award.

This award is the creation of Professor Harlan Koff, President of the Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion (RISC, University of Luxembourg, http://wwwen.uni.lu/research/lish/department_of_political_science). RISC is proud to sponsor a yearly best paper award to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS).

The award, selected by a committee of scholars from the ABS and the RISC Consortium, will recognize the best paper submitted by the deadline, and presented in persona by at least one author and conference participant duly registered at the WSSA and ABS annual conference.

The award committee will only consider ABS original paper on comparative research on the human or environmental impacts of cross-border regional integration processes.

The paper selected for this award will be submitted for publication in the journal Regions & Cohesion. The author(s) will also receive a certificate and 250 Euros.

Submissions are to be sent by March 3, 2014 to Dr. Christine Brenner, at Christine.Brenner@umb.edu

Members of the RISC Award Committee will evaluate the paper towards the award and cash prize, yet the ABS reserves the right not to grant prizes if papers are not of adequate professional quality.

2014 Western Social Science Association Conference

Greetings,

Please find information on the Call for Papers for the WSSA Conference in Albuquerque, NM, below. The conference will be at the Hyatt Regency, April 2–5, 2014.

Also below please find information on the Poster Competition, Student Paper Competition, The John Wicks Dissertation Competition and student travel award.

More information can be found at http://wssa.asu.edu.

Registration can be done online here.

Callforpapersflyerfor2014-1.pdf
CallforPostersflyerfor2014.pdf
StudentPaperCompetitionflyer2014.pdf
StudentCompetitionPaperCoverSheet2014.pdf
WicksDissertationCompetitionflyer2014.pdf
WicksCover.pdf
WSSAwards.pdf

Looking forward to seeing you in Albuquerque,

Larry A. Gould, PhD

Executive Director

Western Social Science Association
Since the end of the Cold War era, state borders have increasingly been understood as multifaceted social institutions rather than solely as formal political markers of sovereignty. The changing significance of borders has been partly interpreted as a reflection of global “de-bordering”, and of optimistic scenarios of globalization and international cooperation. However, such notions of “de-bordering” have been challenged by or even succumbed to the reality of ethnic and cultural tensions and increasing complexity and instability in the world system. It is time to ask how often contradictory global tendencies are reflected on the ground. We can recognize global megatrends that are changing the nature of borders but also regional and local processes of border-making and border negotiating.

The unprecedented expansion and transformation of the global economy and the concurrent fluidity of people and goods within a context of increased securitization, signifies fundamental societal challenges that directly relate to borders. On this view, borders help condition how societies and individuals shape their strategies and identities. At the same time, borders themselves can be seen as products of a social and political negotiation of space; they frame social and political action and are constructed through institutional and discursive practices at different levels and by different actors.

Despite new border studies perspectives that favor a broad cultural, economic and complex governance view of borders and borderlands, a strict top-down international relations view of borders continue to dominate policymaking.

This current era of heightened globalization requires that we pay attention not only to the tendency of increased governance of borders and border regions, but also at the regional responses to such development.

Through regional responses to globalization, borders are reproduced, for example, in situations of conflict where historical memories are mobilized to support territorial claims, to address past injustices or to strengthen group identity – often by perpetuating negative stereotypes of the “other”. However through new institutional and discursive practices contested borders can also be transformed into symbols of co-operation and of common historical heritage. For more, please see: www.uef.fi/en/abs2014world

### Keynotes

- **Prof. Oscar J. Martinez**, University of Arizona
- **Prof. Paul Nugent**, University of Edinburgh
- **Prof. Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary**, Université Joseph Fourier/CNRS-PACTE
- **Prof. Anssi Paasi**, University of Oulu
- **Prof. Alexander F. Filippov**, Higher School of Economics/Russian Academy of Sciences

The ABS World Conference is organized by the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies.

The VERA Centre coordinates and promotes research and education programs on Russian and border studies at the University of Eastern Finland. It strengthens the strategy of the University and corresponds to the need for increasing multidisciplinary research on borders and border areas in Russia and Europe.

Looking forward to seeing you in Joensuu and St. Petersburg!

Jussi Laine, Ilkka Liikanen & James W. Scott
Call for Student Participation

ABS 1st World Conference

9–13 June 2014, Joensuu, Finland – St. Petersburg, Russia

The Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) extends a special invitation to students who are interested in borderland issues to take part in our upcoming meeting in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia, 9-13 June 2014.

Towards this goal, we are happy to announce a Student Paper Competition in which three awards worth 500 EUR each will be offered to the best student papers presented at the conference.

The specific guidelines of this paper competition are as follows:

• Papers must be sole-authored by the student submitting the paper, not co-authored with a faculty advisor or other student(s).

• Papers must be original work developed as a conference research paper, not a project report for funded work.

• Manuscripts should be no longer than 7,000 words not including tables/references/figure captions. For further guidelines, please follow the guidelines of Journal of Borderland Studies; consult http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rjbs20#.UjdNR2QY140 for these formal guidelines.

• Papers are accepted only in English.

• Students must present the paper at the conference to qualify for the prizes.

• Students must also be full time students and current members of the ABS at the time of the conference, although students can certainly join as part of the registration process.

Students must submit a typed, professional quality manuscript via EMAIL communication to Dr. Jussi Laine, at jussi.laine@uef.fi by April 18, 2014. Members of the Committee on Student Participation will evaluate the written document towards the award of the prize, yet the organizers reserves the right not to grant prizes if papers are not of adequate professional quality.

For further information, updates regarding the conference, and to download forms for submitting proposals, please see the conference website at:

www.uef.fi/abs2014world
GOLD AWARD: Gabriel Popescu

Bordering and Ordering the Twenty-first Century: Understanding Borders

In reviewing this book, Tatiana Zhurzhenko states that the reader will not be disappointed at the author’s goal “to offer a critical understanding of state borders at the beginning of the twenty-first century” and “to problematize borders in order to help readers uncover the inherited complexities they involve, their unfinished character, and their fundamentally contested nature”. Zhurzhenko’s comment is very accurate. This work by Gabriel Popescu delivers not only on its goal, but provides a theoretical framework to understand the nature and purpose of borders in a globalized world.

The ABS Past Presidents’ Book Award Committee chose Bordering and Ordering the Twenty-first Century: Understanding Borders as the best book of 2013. This book provides an excellent classification of borders as viewed by various disciplines as well as providing a framework to understanding the changing nature of borders. In this manner, the work by Popescu is reminiscent of the work of Ellwyn R. Stoddard. Understanding the spatial characteristics of borders and reviewing its impact on the formation and transformation of borders is innovative. Finally, the author offers an excellent review of modern attempts to control mobility across borders. The final chapter reviews, within the framework constructed, the various types of cross-border cooperation. His review of this cross-border cooperation is as innovative as the work of Remigio Ratti and Shalom Reichman. Theory and Practice of Transborder Cooperation, was in 1993. This book will be useful to students as well as seasoned researchers.

SILVER AWARD: Gerard Toal & Carl T. Dahlman

Bosnia Remade: Ethnic Cleansing and its Reversal
Oxford University Press, 2011

The book chronicles how the combination of biopolitical and geopolitical segregation can lead to the ability to clearly define groups in a manner that facilitates the eradication of particular populations. It is a detailed account of the atrocities that can occur when the “others” can be so readily identified and clustered. The book reviews the local and global factors that lead to the destruction of a country (Yugoslavia) and how the confluence of political, economic and migration factors led to the ability to attempt the extermination of a group of individuals. After examining all the facts the authors argue that not enough time has elapsed to determine whether the intended goal of ethnic cleansing actually worked. Their book, however, provides a written warning of how the establishment of new borders can have catastrophic results. The book provides a historical account of the facts while providing some framework to understand how the different parts of the puzzle came into play.

BRONZE AWARD: Jennifer Wawrzinek & J. K. S. Makokha, eds.

Negotiating Afropolitanism: Essays on Borders and Spaces in Contemporary African Literature and Folklore
Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011

This collection of essays not only gives the reader an understanding of the many of the complexities the African countries have dealt with due to the inheritance of post-colonial borders but leads the reader to understand the new aspiration of the African people and their resilient spirit to overcome this inherited problematic maze. The book provides the context for appreciating what can be accomplished if borders and spaces are more effectively dealt with.

The ABS Past Presidents’ Book Award is presented to any published monographic (single or multiple authored, including edited) book in the social and natural sciences, and humanities involving original research on borders, borderlands and border regions, and reviewed in the Journal of Borderlands Studies.

The Gold Award consists of a plaque, a certificate and a year’s free membership in ABS. Also, the winner of the 2013 Gold Award will chair the ABS book award committee for 2014 and be the ABS guest and keynote speaker at the annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2013 Award Committee Members
Chair: Dr. Joseph Nevins, Associate Professor of Geography and Chair of Earth Science and Geography, Vassar College, Gold Award 2012
Professor and ABS Past President David J. Molina, University of North Texas
Professor and ABS Past President Stephen Mumme, Colorado State University
Professor and ABS Past President Jim Peach, New Mexico State University
Publications


Spierings, Bas (2013). Fixing missing links in shopping routes: reflections on intra-border urbanization and city center redevelopment in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Cities 34, 44-51.


La Frontera

Like our new look?

We hope you like the new look of our web site and newsletter; we are very proud of them. The new site was designed already at UVic and transferred to UEF together with the rest of the ABS secretariat. We certainly realize that some things are in different places, some things are still in the wrong places – and some things are not even there yet! But we are on it! This is all very new to us as well, but we are determined to make it work. We are also making an effort to make more of the content available also in Spanish! We would like to acknowledge our appreciation already now for our colleagues at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez for making this possible. The next issue of La Frontera should already give you a glimpse of what is to follow.

Little by little, we will develop the web site into something that we can be proud of; the façade of our association. We believe that the web site needs to reflect the ABS as a whole; it needs to become dynamic, interactive, organized, informative, resourceful, and all the other things the ABS is. It also needs to be constantly up-to-date and reflect the cutting-edge nature of our work.

In order to all this, we need your help! Any comments are most welcome – if you dislike the page – or the layout of this new La Frontera – just let us know! No offense taken!

We also need news, information about upcoming events, your new books or articles and the like. In addition to La Frontera and our new listserve, the new ABS web site has also a blog, through which information can be brought to the attention of all visiting the page.

- Jussi

Officers

Dr. Victor Konrad — President
Dr. Akihiro Iwashita — Vice President
Dr. Martin van der Velde — President Elect & 2014 Conference Chair
Dr. Christine Thurlow Brenner — Past President
Dr. James W. Scott — Executive Secretary
Dr. Jussi P. Laine — Treasurer & Vice Executive Secretary

Board of Directors

2011-2014 Term
Dr. Benjamin Muller
Dr. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera
Dr. Sandra Bustillos-Durán

2012-2015 Term
Dr. Francisco Lara-Valencia
Dr. Jussi P. Laine
Dr. Naomi H. Chi

2013-2016 Term - Vacancies

Executive Secretary

Contact by email: absexec@uef.fi or via mail at:

ABS Executive Secretariat
c/o Karelian Institute
University of Eastern Finland
P.O. Box 111, FI-80101 Joensuu, Finland

RESOURCES

ABS is in the process of forging links with other research institutions internationally, most recently with The Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR). ABS and CIBR have collaborated in the compilation of an extensive bibliography. The bibliography contains work on state borders, border regions, borderlands, cross-border cooperation and trans-national governance. It is available in sections corresponding to regional categories, or can be accessed as a single file ordered alphabetically by author. ABS will update the bibliography annually.

Suggestions for new references are welcome.

Contact: absexec@uef.fi

ABS is endeavoring to keep the links as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership benefits include the Journal of Borderlands Studies, our online newsletter, La Frontera, Members receive information about international borderlands conferences.

JOURNAL

Our primary publication is the Journal of Borderlands Studies, published three times a year. It has, for more than a decade, distinguished itself as a leading forum for borderlands research.

CONFERENCES

ABS Annual Meetings are held with the Western Social Science Association’s annual conference. Next conference will be in April 2-5, 2014 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Association for Borderlands Studies 1st World Conference will be organized in June 9-13, 2014 in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia.

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- Jussi