Message from Joensuu, New Home to ABS in the European North

This year has seen a major change in the everyday operations of our Association – the ABS Executive Secretary and Treasurer have been moved from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, to Joensuu, Finland and the University of Eastern Finland (UEF). More precisely, ABS is now headquartered at UEF’s own Karelian Institute (KI). Scholars and research teams working here have played a major role in driving contemporary scientific, policy-related and more widely public debate on borders. As home to the Executive Secretary and Treasurer, we here at the KI are working hard to advance the work of ABS both institutionally and substantively. At KI, the operations of the ABS Executive Secretary and Treasurer are carried out by a team experienced in project and organizational management. The core team has actively supported ABS in several capacities: as regular members, as members of the ABS board, as a Past President, as reviewers for JBS and, most recently, as book review editors for the JBS.

The year since our last meeting in Denver has certainly been challenging, but it has been extremely edifying and constructive. We wish to thank everybody for their patience and flexibility. The transfer of the ABS secretariat from Uvic to us here at UEF in Finland was more complex and took longer than what we had expected, but we all preferred to get things right rather than rush them. Many, many thanks to Emmanuel and Jennifer for their priceless help in this process. The transfer of the secretariat as smooth as possible, thank everybody for their patience and flexibility. The transfer of the secretariat as smooth as possible, we have our utmost to maintain effective, transparent and forward-looking management of the ABS. We are also working hard to increase the membership, increase the international visibility and thus the ability of ABS to promote international and comparative research on borders and borderlands. Our first main objective has was to make the transfer of the secretariat as smooth as possible and to ensure that despite all the red tape a major change like is unavoidably imply we are able to take care of all the duties we are in charge of in timely fashion.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ABS colleagues,

Welcome to Albuquerque! Many of you will remember the great meetings that we have enjoyed in Albuquerque over the years, and this ABS program promises to be one of the best ever. Martin van der Velde and his program committee have done an exceptional job of attracting a huge turnout and building an excellent program. I encourage you to express your thanks to Martin for this accomplishment.

The ABS program is available on our website for your information, and I am sure that Martin will have some highlights to discuss in his message. I wish to mention one aspect of the program, and this is the ABS Lifetime Achievement Award. This year we will honor Ed Williams as the association’s second award winner. He joins Oscar Martinez, who won the award last year, as a celebrated honoree of the Association for Borderlands Studies. I urge you all to be present for his remarks to the ABS.

During the summer and fall of 2013, the ABS secretariat moved from the University of Victoria in Canada to the University of Eastern Finland. The transition is now complete, the new look of La Frontera is in place, the services of the secretariat are growing, and we are looking forward to an expanding ABS thanks to James Scott and Jussi Laine.

The ABS secretariat is also organizing the first ever ABS World Border Studies Conference June 9-13, 2014, in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia. This event has attracted more than 400 participants worldwide, and this speaks to the substantial growth and engagement of border studies internationally. The conference will extend the recognition and the influence of the ABS in border studies globally. This crowning achievement is but one of many border studies conferences, symposia, workshops and other events happening on every continent. The Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) conferences continue to flourish. And now we are seeing the development of border studies in countries and regions where they have not been apparent. One area of recent growth and development in border studies is China. China, Latin America, Africa, and other regions are potential areas for the growth of the ABS. We need to engage faculty and students from all of these areas to build the ABS of the future.

The Journal of Borderlands Studies is now a full quarterly with more papers and features. The relationship with Routledge is positive and successful, and for all of this we have to thank Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly and his co-editors and book review editors. In April, at the ABS Board Meeting we will vote on a set of international region editors to join Emmanuel as co-editors of the JBS. The journal is growing in volume, impact and prestige, and we can all be proud this accomplishment.

During the past decade and particularly in the past few years, the ABS has grown larger, more complicated, more diverse and more representative of border studies worldwide. There have been governance issues, and I set up a Task Force to address these issues after the last ABS meeting Denver. In Albuquerque, the ABS Board will discuss the report of the Task Force and begin to implement recommendations. We continue to value the input and advice of all of the ABS membership in this process. Thanks again to all who served on this important Task Force, and to the leaders Chris Brown and Oscar Martinez.

At this year’s ABS conference, the ABS Board will meet during the first day of the conference to make certain that all Board members have the opportunity to attend and participate. Our meetings the day before the ABS conference were not adequately attended. I look forward to a full meeting of the ABS Officers: Victor Konrad (President), Martin van der Velde (President-Elect and Program Chair), Christine Thurlow Brenner (Past President), Akihiro Iwashita (First Vice-President), Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda (Second Vice President), James Scott (Executive Secretary), Jussi Laine (Treasurer and Vice Executive Secretary), the ABS Board: (2011-14) Benjamin Muller, Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Sandra Bustillos-Duran, (2012-2015) Francisco Lara-Valencia, Jussi Laine, Naomi Chi, (2013-2016) Paul Richardson, Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary, Mark Montoya. A special welcome to Martha, Paul, Anne-Laure and Mark on the occasion of their first ABS Board meeting. Thank you to the Officers and the Board of the ABS for your commitment, and for your tremendous help this year as we all worked to make a better ABS, and a stronger future for border studies.

One important aspect of building for the future involves our continued focus on engaging students to present at the ABS and participate in the work of the association. Please encourage all of your students in border studies to get involved in the ABS. They are the future of the ABS.

Finally, I would like to thank Christine Thurlow Brenner for the excellent work that she has accomplished on the ABS Board, as an Officer, and most recently as President and Past-President.

Best wishes,

Victor Konrad,
President
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

Soon we will gather in Albuquerque for the next ABS-meeting. This year’s meeting, with the overarching theme ‘Borders as Signs of the Time’, features no less than 50 panels and about 170 presenters. Without doubt you will be able to compile an individual program that will closely fit your specific interests.

On our renewed ABS-website you can retrieve the most recent program and the abstracts. As usual you are encouraged to study the program and consider carefully how you may gain most from the variety of panels and presentations offered. We have tried to set up the program in such a way that you are able to follow consistent themes such as business at the border, daily life at the border, environmental and geopolitical issues and much more. This year we have encouraged you to especially consider the ontological, epistemological and methodological issues of our discipline and the topic of teaching the border and borders that are teaching. This call has been successful and several panels have been programmed on these issues.

Next to the regular panels, several special and plenary sessions have been scheduled. On Thursday and Saturday Brown Bag Lunch meetings are scheduled where you can enjoy documentaries on Japan’s and the US-Mexico borderlands. On Thursday afternoon Ed Williams will receive the ABS Lifetime Achievement Award and talk on the “The Association for Borderlands Studies at Mid-point: Progress and Problems”. On Friday afternoon an impromptu panel has been scheduled in which the fluid situation and current border challenges with the Ukraine and Russia over the Crimean area will be discussed. Saturday afternoon we will continue the dialogue of the ABS Visioning Committee and the ABS Planning Initiative in a plenary session. Distinguished panelists share their thoughts on how the ABS can continue on its road to a world-wide border studies community. And of course you are all invited to participate in the ABS Business Meeting and join us at the ABS reception afterwards.

Finally I want also to acknowledge the help from the 2014 ABS Program Advisory Committee. Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda, Akihiro Iwashita, Victor Konrad, Jussi Laine, Fabienne Leloup, Tony Payan, and Bas Spierings have been of great help and made the whole process manageable and enjoyable because of their commitment and enthusiasm.

I look forward to seeing you all soon in Albuquerque.

Martin van der Velde
President Elect and 2014 ABS Program Chair
Radboud University
Nijmegen, the Netherlands
How have borders, both real and perceived, as well as border identities, social, economic and political connections have played into the current events in Ukraine/Crimea/Russia?

You are invited to attend a special Association for Borderlands Studies roundtable

“Ukraine and Russia: Borders in Motion”

Friday, April 4th, 4:30-6:00pm
Pavilion Room V, Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

Border scholars will reflect on recent events in the Ukraine and Russia.

Invited panelists include:

Katarzyna Stoklosa
Professor, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Marina Oborotova
President, Center for International Studies and Albuquerque International Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

James Scott
Professor, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Moderator: Christine Thurlow Brenner, University of Massachusetts Boston

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Even though there are certainly traditions and procedures that must be preserved, our idea here has not simply been to copy what our predecessors had done, but to create an ABS Secretariat that reflects us. Being based in Finland means of course that we now operate under Finnish legislation and rules, and many of you must have also noticed that, for example, ABS membership fees are now collected in Euros. But even more importantly, our ambition is to build a Secretariat that reflects who we are as individuals and where our interests lie with regards to the ABS.

Border Studies is a rapidly internationalizing research field with solid North American and European roots. We are glad to be able to build on this research tradition that now spans almost 40 years while markedly enhancing the international visibility and impact of ABS in the globally burgeoning research field of border studies. ABS’ new location in a European border region is emblematic of the widening international interest in ABS as well as of the increasingly global scope of borderlands studies. However the move to Finland also signals continuity and a commitment to develop ABS’ rich tradition of interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue. Above all, we are working towards developing a truly international perspective, building on the US-Mexican Borderlands experience that has guided ABS’ research vision. As part of our remit in representing the Association, we are seeking 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 and encouragement for future comparative work. As home to the ABS Executive Secretary and Treasurer, KI facilitates a variety of activities targeting theoretical development, methodological issues, case studies, and significant geographical coverage at a more global scale. We have updated the ABS website and ABS newsletter, La Frontera, both for the benefit of present ABS members as well as in the interest of increasing our membership base. We wish to develop the ABS increasingly into an association of its members. This means, inter alia, more openness and transparency. Even if small, this newsletter serves an example of this. With it, we hope to bring all the main decisions in to the membership’s attention and we also urge the membership to send us feedback. The discussion between the ABS Officers and the general membership need not – and should not – be limited to the Annual Meetings only.

We have also sought to develop this newsletter more in terms substance. In the last issue we introduced a new feature: op-eds. These brief, yet opinionated, articles bring up topical issues that we expect to be of interest to the La Frontera readership. We warmly welcome your proposals as well as other information that you may wish to announce to the ABS members and others interested in borders and border studies. La Frontera is sent out to everyone on the ABS list – it already has 1350 subscribers! In addition, it is also made publicly available on the ABS website.

Lastly, we would like to say a special thanks to ABS President Victor Konrad, with whom we have had a great pleasure to work with during this year. We also look forward to working with Martin van der Velde who will assume the presidency in Albuquerque. Martin has put together an excellent program for us, which is not only full of fascinating panels and presentations, but is also – to the best of my knowledge – the largest program we have had in terms of the number of participants. This is simply marvelous given that the ongoing year seems to be filled with numerous highly interesting border studies conferences – one of them of course being the first ABS World Conference to be organized in Finland and Russia in June. We take the fact that we received more than 500 paper proposals from 64 different countries as a sign that we must be doing at least something right.

- Jussi Laine and James Scott -
ABS Welcomes

New Board Members

Dr. Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary
Université Joseph Fourier
Specialist of Political Geographer, Professor at Université Joseph Fourier and researcher at PACTE Research Unit, CNRS-UMR 5194.

After studies in Paris, she completed a Ph.D in Geography in the Latin American Research center of Toulouse University in 1999. Since 2000, she has been an Associate Professor in the Geography Department, linked to the PACTE Research Unit, UMR 5194. Her work has been recognized through her nomination at the renowned Institut Universitaire de France. She co-chaired the XIth BRIT conference in 2011, dedicated to the analysis provocative formulation of “mobile borders”, which brought together over 250 international scholars and stakeholders.

She is Head of the Editorial board of the Revue de Géographie Alpine / Journal of Alpine Research and member of the boards of Geopolitics, Journal of Borderland Studies, L’espace Politique, Si Somos Americanos (Chile). She represents the French Commission of Political Geography at the IGU since 2013, and has been elected at the board of the Association of American Geographers’ Political Geography Specialty Group.

After having spent many years analyzing the border dynamics in Latin America and in Europe, which led her to formulate the notion of “mobile border”, her latest research concerns the interrelations between art and culture in and about contested places, analyzed through various projects on artists’ interventions on borders.

Dr. Paul B. Richardson
University of Manchester
Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures at the University of Manchester.

He is a political geographer with degrees from University College London (BA), University of California Los Angeles (MA), and the University of Birmingham (PhD). His recent research interests include Russia’s national development strategy in the Far East; the Eurasian Union and the reconfiguration of borders in post-Soviet space; and the rise of nationalism and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Richardson has previously been a Visiting Associate Professor at the School of Regional and International Studies at the Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok and prior to this was a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Post Doctoral Fellow at the Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University.

He recently co-edited the first English language collection on border studies published in Russia, entitled Borders and Transborder Processes in Eurasia (Vladivostok: Dalnauka). He is co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal Eurasia Border Review and has also published papers and reviews in Politics, Russian Analytical Digest, Political Reflection, Asia-Pacific Bulletin, Modern Language Review, European Urban and Regional Studies, the Scottish Geographical Journal and Canadian Slavonic Papers.

Dr. T. Mark Montoya
Northern Arizona University
Lecturer in the Ethnic Studies Program and Co-Chair of the Commission on Ethnic Diversity at Northern Arizona University (NAU).

Dr. Montoya regularly teaches “Intro to Ethnic Studies,” “Intro to Chicana/o Studies,” and “Race, Identity, and Film.” He is currently in the process of regularizing a new Ethnic Studies course entitled “The Roots of Hip Hop,” and expanding NAU’s Immigration Action Research Team, all while serving as the faculty advisor to four student organizations, and in various academic and student affairs roles. Mark has been active in the ABS since 2004.

Dr. Kathleen Staudt has been appointed to fill in for Dr. Jussi Laine for the remaining years of his term as a result of Dr. Laine having been elected to an executive position.

Kathleen (Kathy) Staudt, PhD (University of Wisconsin 1976), is Professor of Political Science and Endowed Professor of Western Hemispheric Trade Policy Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. Among her books and edited volumes, eight have focused on the U.S.-Mexico border. With T. Payan and T. Kruzewski, she coedited A War that Can’t be Won: Binational Perspectives on the War on Drugs (U. of Arizona Press, 2013). Kathy and Z. Méndez co-authored Courage, Resistance, and Women in Ciudad Juárez: Challenges to Militarization (forthcoming, U. of Texas Press, fall, 2014). She teaches courses on border politics at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels.
Russia, Crimea, and the New Border Order

Russia’s acceptance of Crimea’s vote to leave Ukraine and join the Russian Federation has led to the most significant redrawing of international borders in Europe since the early 1990s.

— Jeremy Smith

Russia has torn up a number of old certainties, starting with the borders that were created with the break-up of the Soviet Union. Russian President Vladimir Putin’s comment, reportedly made to the Crimean Tatar deputy Mustafa Jemilev, that Ukraine’s 1991 proclamation of independence ‘did not altogether conform with Soviet procedures’ appears to shed doubt on the legal status of all post-Soviet borders, from Russia’s point of view.

After the break-up of the USSR and Yugoslavia in the early 1990s the principle of ‘territorial integrity’ became preeminent in international discourses: borders as they now existed were not to be tampered with, except by mutual agreement. In the post-Soviet states what had previously been internal and more or less open borders of the USSR became international borders overnight. In legislation passed in all fifteen post-Soviet states in 1992-93 an extremely hard conception of borders generally prevailed – borders were there to be defended and anything or anyone crossing them needed to be carefully monitored. These borders also played an important role in national consciousness – the territories delimited by them defined the new-found independent statehood, and were inviolable. Given this shared conception of borders among the fifteen successor states, the understandings on territory reached at the end of 1991 between the former Soviet states have rarely been challenged, with only the region of Nagorno Karabakh the subject of significant dispute between two of them, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Russia, faced with attempts of its own secessionist region, Chechnya, to break away, has until recently been as vocal as anyone in support of the principle of territorial integrity. Recognition of the independence of Kosovo by the West and of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Russia in 2008 were seen in both cases as exceptional and unlikely to set clear precedents or alter the international order. At first glance then, Russia’s decision to not only support Crimea’s right to self-determination but also to commit itself militarily and suffer a serious breakdown in relations with the West as a consequence, appears to be a complete about-turn. One conclusion could be that Russian foreign policy is purely self-seeking, that any adherence to international norms and principles is contingent on Russia’s own interests.

“...respect for the borders established with the collapse of the USSR can no longer be taken for granted”
A certain continuity between these two policies can be seen in the Russian presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russia officially took up a peacekeeping role there in line with the doctrine that Russia was responsible for security within the borders of the former Soviet Union, and was formally invited by international agreement to constitute a peacekeeping force on behalf of the CIS. But by the time Georgian forces launched an assault on the South Ossetian town of Tskhinvali in August 2008, the Russian response was claimed to be in defence of Russian citizens. By liberally issuing Russian passports to Abkhaz and Ossetians, Russia was able to justify its continued presence in both regions on this basis.

This shift in a concept of borders from one of common security needs ratified by agreements between former Soviet states, to one of borders defined by the nationality of inhabitants, is of enormous significance. This conception of borders related to population has long-established roots in Russia. But it has only now had practical consequences. And it may not stop there – Putin’s curious statement in his March 18th speech to Russia’s parliament, referring to the end of the Soviet Union, ran ‘the Russian nation became one of the biggest, if not the biggest ethnic group in the world to be divided by borders’. The speech is littered with such ominous remarks, and also refers to the common roots of the Russian, Ukrainian and Belorussian nations. Although the speech dwelt in detail on the very special place of Crimea in Russian history, the implication that there may be other ‘historical injustices’ in need of correction with regard to borders is clear.

The concept of borders based on nationality is a necessary precondition for Russia’s intervention in Crimea, but does not in itself explain it. Most close observers of the Kremlin agree that, far from being a carefully premeditated plan or one stage of a broader project of annexations, Putin’s actions in Crimea were a petulant reaction to the overthrow of Ukraine’s President Yanukovich. Russia’s foreign policy in the past few years has increasingly been directed at consolidating Russia’s leading role in its immediate neighbourhood, notably through the extension and strengthening of the Eurasian Customs Union. In November 2013 it looked like Putin had won the ultimate prize for this project – Ukraine – only to have it snatched away from him in February 2014 by the Maidan movement. The fall of Yanukovich has left Putin’s foreign policy and a big chunk of his domestic ideology in tatters. Combined with his longstanding distaste for governments being brought down by mass action, it prompted the takeover of Crimea as a punitive land-grab.

In reacting as he did, however, Putin has opened up the legitimacy of all post-Soviet borders. Pro-Russians in Eastern Ukraine and Transnistria have already taken their cue and are demanding referenda on joining Russia, while a number of Russia’s neighbours, including important allies like Kazakhstan, are looking nervously at their own borders. China has also signalled disapproval, while minorities within Russia may also revive their own claims. The strident Russian nationalism which has been on the rise for the past couple of years and was evident in the Sochi celebrations has moved up several gears over the past few weeks, and may leave Russia isolated not only from the West, but from traditional allies. By referring simultaneously to the specificities of the Crimean case and to the broader issue of Russians abroad, Putin is keeping his options open. But the linkage of boundaries with ethnicity rather than statehood will promote new claims and discourses and may have reshaped understandings of borders for a long time, at least in this part of the world.
Crimea, the West Bank and the rule of international law

— David Newman

The international community doesn’t recognize Israeli occupation of the West Bank, it does not recognize the Russian occupation of Crimea.

The ethnic Russian population constitutes approximately 36 percent of the population of Crimea, with Ukrainians making up a further 24%. The Palestinian population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip constitute over 90% of the population, with the Jewish settler population making up less than 10%.

The Crimea has been governed by Ukraine since 1954, a period of just under 50 years. The West Bank and Gaza Strip have been under Israeli control since 1967, a period of almost 50 years.

Russia illegally invaded the Crimea in January, following the Ukrainian revolution against the pro-Russian government. Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Six Day War of 1967.

Just as no one consulted the Palestinians prior to the Israeli conquest of the territory, so too no one consulted the ethnic Russians of the Crimea prior to the decision of Soviet Union President Nikita Khrushchev to transfer the region to Ukraine in 1954.

The international community does not recognize the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. The international community does not recognize the Russian occupation of Crimea.

It does not accept the results of the referendum held this week which showed that a majority of the Crimean population want to secede from the Ukraine and become part of Russia. Even if the results of the 90% yes vote were falsified, the majority Russian population of the region clearly prefer to retain their links with the “motherland.”

The international community does recognize the rights of Palestinian self-determination and the eventual establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Since the West Bank and Gaza have never been part of a sovereign state (neither Jordan prior to 1967, or Israel since that date) there is no legal problem of secession involved, an almost unique situation on the face of the contemporary globe.

Crimea and the West Bank are but two of a number of ethno-territorial regions in the world where questions of secession and independence have re-emerged, even in some of the world’s most stable political regions, such as in Western Europe or North America.

Catalonia and the Basques would like to secede from Spain, but no referendum will be offered to them. The Basques have, for the moment, stepped back from violence against the state, but this could ostensibly return if their ethno-national rights continue to take second place to those of Spain.

By contrast, Scotland will be holding a referendum this year to decide on its future. If it votes in favor of secession from the United Kingdom, the decision will be recognized by the international community, even if it does not guarantee them automatic continued membership of the European Union.

Every few years, the issue of independence for the French-speaking province of Quebec in Canada rears its head. Twenty years ago, the emergence of the Bloc Quebeccois party raised the very real specter of an independent Quebec, with thousands of English speakers leaving the province for Ontario or Western Canada.

The Balkans have reverted to a region of ethnically homogeneous states (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia) in what had previously been the multi-ethnic federation of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Kosovo with its dominant Albanian population demands independence, while the reconstituted State of Serbia refuses to recognize the right of succession.

The Kurds remain stateless. Distributed across Turkey, Iraq and Iran, in regions which are only separated from each other by the artificially constructed post World War I borders, they remain the largest single ethnic population lacking independence. During the past decade, the Kurdish region of Northern Iraq has gained significant autonomy as Iraq has fragmented from within, but here too the international community has not granted the region any form of independence or the right to formally secede from the ethnically heterogeneous State of Iraq.

When is secession from the state and the establishment of a new independent political entity acceptable to the international community – and when does it stand back from granting such a request? There seems to be no clear rhyme or pattern to this process. Based on the universal principle of the right of self-determination for ethnic and national groups, each and every one of the cases mentioned should have the right to establish their own independent states.

But the United Nations does not look favorably on an increase in the number of small, ethnically homogeneous states. It is only too well aware that what happens in the state of their neighbor today, could well boomerang and happen in their own state 10 years down the road.


It is ironic that the era of globalization, which has given rise to the (now largely discredited) theories of a networked, borderless world, in place of the Wespahlian state system, should also have given rise to a growth, rather than decline, in the number of ethnic and national groups who now demand greater local autonomy, devolution of power and eventual secession and independence. The critical social theorists were telling us, not 20 years ago, that the impact of globalization would bring about a post-modern world in which traditional notions of statehood and sovereignty would become obsolete.

But what they conveniently forgot to mention was that as borders became easier to cross and states became more interconnected and dependent on each other, as groups became less afraid to express their indigenous rights, so too there would be a growth of local ethnic self-government and a demand for autonomy.

At the end of the day it doesn’t have much to do with a sophisticated geopolitical or international relations theory. It comes down to what is convenient for states as they examine their own realpolitik and self-interest.

A “yes” vote in Scotland could potentially lead to a domino effect, with many other national groups demanding the holding of referenda. Clearly, there are many governments, including some in Western Europe, who are none too happy at the British governments’ decision to allow the referendum to be held.

The world may oppose Crimean secession from the Ukraine, but if Russia remains determined to regain direct control of the region and to leave its troops there, then there is not much that the international community can do about it. They will not intervene militarily while any attempt to impose economic sanctions or embargos will have a very limited effect.

Russia is too important a player in contemporary global politics for the world to exclude it, and President Putin is well aware of this reality. And it still remains in the interests of the international community to have Russia on board. Crimea will not be the reason for a return to the Cold War.

And if Israel continues to refuse to relinquish ultimate control over the Palestinians and fails to withdraw from the West Bank (the fault for which will respectively be laid by each side at the door of the other), attempts at sanctions, BDS and boycotts will have a limited impact.

There will be individual cases of economic or academic boycotts, there will be a great deal of media headlines, but at the end of the day, such action does not enjoy global support in North America, Russia, China and India – or for that matter much of Western Europe.

For the foreseeable future, Russia will extend its control over Crimea, and Israel will retain its control over the West Bank. The two situations may be incomparable in many respects, but they nevertheless reflect the weakness of the international system (the United Nations) in determining any form of standard of world governance. Power relations and realpolitik will determine who will, or will not have, the right to transform their dreams of independence and self-government into a reality.

The writer is dean of the faculty of humanities and social sciences at Ben-Gurion University and editor of The International Journal of Geopolitics.

The views expressed are his alone.

Published originally by the Jerusalem Post
antiAtlas of Borders

— Cedric Parizot

The antiAtlas of Borders is an art science research program on the mutations of control at land, sea, air and virtual State borders. Launched in 2011 at the Mediterranean Institute of Advanced Studies (Aix Marseille University), it is co-produced by the Higher School of Art (Aix-en-Provence), PACTE laboratory (University of Grenoble-CNRS), Isabelle Arvers and La compagnie. Since then, it has gathered researchers (social and hard scientists), artists (web artists, tactical geographers, hackers, filmmakers, etc.) and professionals (customs, industry, military, etc.). The confrontation of these different fields of knowledge and practice aims to create a radical shift of perspective in the way we apprehend both 21st century borders and the boundaries separating fields of knowledge, art and practice.

We aim to bypass cartography. While maps remain today the main, and may be only, tool we have to document the history of territory, they are not the most acceptable and desirable way of understanding borders. We do not contest their usefulness as scientific tools, but challenge the very idea that they can provide a sufficient and adequate knowledge. We need more dynamic modes of representation and intervention in order to document the changing orders at borders.

This is why we also critically reappraise the ways we construct our fields of research as well as the tools and devices through which scholars analyze, decipher and discuss ongoing border processes. We believe that it is not sufficient for geographers, political scientists, anthropologists, and sociologists to give up fixed and conventional approaches to territory, borders and control mechanisms in order to grasp their dynamic and processual nature. Due to the historical and contemporary complexity of borders, scholars need to think out of their disciplines, to become “undisciplined” by confronting their research with other academic disciplines and, beyond, by working with professionals and artists. Such a de-compartmentalization is all the more needed in the context of the increasing use of sophisticated control technologies at borders (integrated surveillance systems, robots, biometry, etc.). Social scientists do not have the relevant training and the knowledge to understand the functioning and limitations of these technologies. Hence, they often overlook or exaggerate the impact of these technologies on borders and within societies.

Constructive exchanges with artists and border professionals fill this gap of knowledge and understanding. The twelve research seminars, the international symposium and the two art-science exhibitions we have organized over the last three years in Marseille have engaged creatively with the increasing complexity of border and effectively problematized border changes. Transdisciplinarity does not mean promoting a new ‘doxa’ for border studies. It generates new knowledge through new links, quotations, transfers and exemplifications. In a transdisciplinary perspective any discipline can function as a vehicle for another one and thus foster new experiments, with all the limits and benefits this may induce. The antiAtlas challenges existing disciplinary boundaries by pushing everyone for experimentation and taking completely different backgrounds into account.

The transdisciplinary approach of the antiAtlas has also proven to be fruitful in producing new ways to represent borders. Together with artists and practitioners, the researchers involved in the programme have explored new means to represent or simulate the processes and phenomena they observe at 21st century borders. The works they produced ranged between a participative cartography of migrants trajectories (Amilhat Szary & Mekgdian 2013), an ethnography of migrants’ embodied border experiences (Mai 2013), an interactive internet site on detention camps (MIGREUROP 2013), and a video game on the informal economy of border crossing (Parizot, Stanley 2013). The publication of an edited volume in 2015 will present these works together with those of other scholars and artists.

In order to perpetuate this dynamic, other arts-science events will be organized. A conference-exhibition is already planned in Rome at the MAXXI (October 2014). It will address the impact of the financial crisis on migration and border control at EU Mediterranean borders. Moreover, we have decided to launch an online (with i-pad and @-tablets interactive versions) journal which will welcome experimental publications based on innovative expressions, representations or simulations, thus opening a new kind of forum for cross-border concepts, ideas, objects. The first issue this journal should be released by the end of 2015. In relation to it, the www.antiatlas.net website will gather and highlight events, publications, articles, news and artworks addressing the mutations of 21st century borders, functioning as a plateform between art and research.

Scientific and artistic committee:
Cedric Parizot - Project Coordinator, anthropologist of politics, Institute for Research and Study of the Arab and Muslim World (IREMAM), CNRS, Aix Marseille University.
Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary - geographer, PACTE-CNRS, University J. Fourier, Grenoble
Isabelle Arvers – curator, Marseille
Thomas Cantens – anthropologist & customs officer, Norbert Elias Center (Aix Marseille Université, EHESS), World Customs Organization
Jean Cristofol - philosopher, Higher School of Arts, Aix-en-Provence (ESAA)
Nicola Mai – filmmaker, anthropologist, London Metropolitan University and Mediterranean Laboratory for Sociology, Aix-Marseille University
Joana Moll – design and web design, artist, Barcelona
Paul-Emmanuel Odin - art critic, Higher School of Arts, La compagnie (Marseille)
Gabriel Popescu – geographer, Indiana University, South Bend
Antoine Vion - sociologist, economist, Institute of Labour Economics and Industrial Sociology (LEST), Aix-Marseille University

Partners: Aix-Marseille University ; National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) ; Régional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur ; French Network of the Institutes of Advanced Studies ; Institute for Research and Study of the Arab and Muslim World (IREMAM) ; Mediterranean Laboratory of Sociology (LAMES) ; Institute of Labour Economics and Industrial Sociology (LEST) ; Mediterranean House for Humanities (MMSH) ; Norbert Elias Center ; LabexMed ; Labex+: Euborderscapes (European Union, FP7) ; World Customs Organization ; Journal of Borderlands Studies

Internet site: http://www.antiatlas.net/en
Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/antiAtlastesfrontieres
Twitter: @anti_atlas
Kashmir in South Asia is known as a conflict zone, not as a zone with potential for commerce and cooperation. Volumes speak about the dangers that it poses to stability in South Asia. The literature on the line that divides Kashmir, legally termed line of control (LOC) is scarce. I argue that the border discourse in Kashmir needs to be prioritized. It will serve two purposes. First, it will focus the potentials that the LOC has for conflict resolution, and second, it will draw the focus away from conflict to development.

Since its emergence as a conflict hotspot in South Asia in 1940s, Kashmir’s story is essentially a story of violence, militancy, religious extremism and terrorism. Once termed ‘Switzerland of the East’ and ‘paradise on earth,’ Kashmir descended to chaos and earned the sobriquet ‘the most dangerous place on earth.’ India and Pakistan, the two major players in the conflict, fought wars and mixed religion with politics and territorial ambitions. The result has been disastrous socially, economically and politically. The conservative estimates put the death toll at 47,000; other estimates put it beyond one hundred thousand.

The emergence of border within Kashmir is as spectacular as the conflict. The conflict drew much of its legacy to the British rule in the Indian subcontinent, so also the border. There is debate as to whether the LOC is a de jure border, marking legal jurisdiction of India and Pakistan over Kashmir, or it is a de facto line of control, marking control of India and Pakistan over the territory of Kashmir.

The ceasefire line in Kashmir was erected in 1949 after the United Nations stopped the first Indo-Pak war. The ceasefire line was later rechristened LOC after the third war, under the Shima agreement in 1972. The border in Kashmir is one the most militarized borders in the world. The observation towers on the border, the fences, heavy presence of security personnel, and tanks and mines seem to fortify the state power over the border. The border appeared indomitable, sacrosanct, while people living on the border, or borderlanders, lived a life of perpetual torment and frustration. The border divided the people, their houses, villages, agricultural fields. It separated families. Border remained sacrosanct, borderlanders suffered.

The rigid border started becoming soft in 2000s and afterwards. Four factors effected this change. The end of the cold war ended ideological hostilities and peace. The emergence of border within South Asia and China crossed the Berlin Wall and subsequent rise of the European Union had its impact on South Asia. Second, globalization and its effects in terms of free trade, flexible borders, and information and communication technologies impacted the South Asian politics. Third, the civil society and grassroots movement in Kashmir pressured respective governments to search for alternate ways for conflict resolution than war. Fourth, India and Pakistan were already battle weary, fighting three full wars and one limited war, searching ways for alternate means of conflict resolution.

What could have been a better means than to soften the LOC? The rigid LOC had closed many roads in Kashmir that were operational for centuries. A closer look at the undivided Kashmir’s geography reveals that it is well connected within than with India and Pakistan, particularly with India. Not only that, many branches of the Silk Road (the old road network that crisscrossed South and Central Asia and China) crossed the LOC.

The leaders of both the countries started dialogue to make the LOC soft. In 1999 a bus rolled from Delhi (capital of India) to Lahore (cultural capital of Pakistan) with India’s prime minister on board. In 2005 both the governments agreed to open the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road through the LOC. In 2006 another cross-LOC road, Poonch-Rawalakote road, opened. The chief minister of the state called the opening ‘mother of all confidence building measures,’ and leaders of India and Pakistan pledged to open more cross-LOC roads. The roads opened for meeting of divided families. Trade commenced on the two roads in 2008.

The border opening has impacted the conflict. Thousands of divided families have met on these two roads. The peace constituency in Kashmir has increased significantly. Though the radical organizations in the region denounce the opening and advocate for violent means of conflict resolution, their numbers have shrunk. The trade has impacted the local economy. There are no doubt problems in the functioning of these two roads. There are issues like the cumbersome application process for potential visitors, disagreement on number of days of stay, lack of coordination on quantity and items of trade. These obstacles, however, do not prove drags on the opening of the border rather India and Pakistan need to coordinate their policies to sort out these and related issues. In a recent statement Pakistan’s prime minister indicated that his government is interested to make border more flexible. In a meeting this month Indian and Pakistani officials deliberated on these issues.

The line of control in Kashmir can transform into line of commerce and cooperation. There are positive developments in this regard. The transformation will not only change the discourse on conflict and peace in Kashmir and South Asia, it will also restore to the battered region its pristine status ‘paradise on earth’ and ‘Switzerland of the East’.
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.

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.


We are exited to announce that the organizing committee received more than 500 proposal from 64 different countries!

Thank you for making this a truly global conference!

**Keynote Speakers**

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

**Special Plenary**

Prof. Anssi Paasi (University of Oulu, Finland) & Prof. David Newman (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)
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
Of Interest...

New Centre for Russian and Border Studies established at the University of Eastern Finland

The new VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies, established at the University of Eastern Finland, seeks to promote research and research training in the field. Approximately 20 professors and 30 doctoral-level researchers, representing a variety of fields, are involved in the activities of the centre. VERA also coordinates the UEF’s doctoral programme in Russian and Border Studies, and is in charge of the field’s research training at the university.

VERA brings together the research expertise of various faculties and academic departments of the University of Eastern Finland. Already at its establishment, VERA is among the largest European research centres focusing on Russia and Eastern Europe.

Besides Russia and Eastern Europe, VERA’s expertise also covers borders and border areas. In this field, the University of Eastern Finland is one of the most internationally well-known institutions. Its research consortia have been highly successful in competing for project funding at the highest levels. The experts of the VERA Centre run several Framework Programme Projects of the EU, as well as projects funded by the Academy of Finland. VERA is the first European research centre to host the secretariat of the Association for Borderland Studies, the main international scholarly association focusing exclusively on border issues.

VERA promotes and advances the establishment of five multidisciplinary research communities to address the following themes: Russia and the areas of the former Soviet Union; European borders; development of border areas; cross-border cultural interaction; and tourism.

The VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies enhances cooperation and the transfer of knowledge between the UEF and other stakeholders. The centre participates in the development of study paths at the UEF leading to specialisation in Russian and border issues and promotion of skills needed for cooperation with Russia.

The establishment of the VERA Centre has been supported by an EU Structural Funds Project starting in April 2011. The project has been funded by the University of Eastern Finland, the Regional Council of North Karelia, and the European Social Fund.

The VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies is located in the Karelian Institute at the Joensuu Campus of the University of Eastern Finland.

For further information, please contact:
Director of the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies, Professor Ilkka Liikanen, tel. +358 50 439 4477
Head of Research Joni Virkkunen, tel. +358 50 442 4469
Head of Education Minna Piipponen, tel. +358 50 442 3347

New Centre ‘B/ORDERS IN MOTION’ established at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

The Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION of European University Frankfurt (Oder) combines and promotes analyses in the social and cultural sciences, business administration and economics as well as law. Its scientific work focuses on processes of demarcating, transcending, overcoming and re-establishing borders, boundaries, frontiers and limits. As a joint project of the university’s three faculties, the Center consolidates several main research interests of Viadrina scholars. It aims at fostering academic networks and at augmenting transdisciplinary approaches to Border Studies.

With a multitude of international scientific cooperations and the digital research portal B/ORDER STUDIES, the Viadrina Center aspires to establish itself as a major hub for the study of border processes.

Flyer in English

Director: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Schoor
Contact: Scientific Coordinator Dr. Andrea Meissner meissner@europa-uni.de
Tel.: +49 (0)335 5534 2880
The Centre for Global Studies welcomed the new Borders in Globalization (BIG) project over the summer. Borders in Globalization (BIG) is a 7-year international research collaboration led by Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly. The project will explore the understanding of borders—real, remote and virtual—in the 21st century. BIG creates a partnership involving 23 universities and 34 non-academic partners from Canada, the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It is funded through a $2.3-million Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), as well as $1.4 million from project partners.

The partnership will promote excellence in border studies, create new policy and foster knowledge transfer in order to address globalizing forces of security, trade and migration flows, and to understand the challenges of technologies, self-determination and regionalization around the world that are affecting borders and borderlands.

Roundtables between policy makers and academics will serve as a platform to launch research that will in turn support policy forums, summer schools, and conferences. The resulting outputs will include policy reports, briefs, and books informing both theory and practice related to borders. The project will provide opportunities for graduate students in the research and outreach activities at UVic, and it will also bring leading border experts to UVic as visiting scholars.

For more information on the project, please contact the Project Manager, Nicole Bates-Eamer: nbeamer@uvic.ca.

ABS offered a major plenary at the November Biennial Meeting held in Tampa, Florida last Fall. A main focus of the Biennial was a Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of NAFTA. Border Studies was also featured. The Plenary, sponsored by ABS, had the title, North American Borders, Cross-Border Flows, and the Twentieth Anniversary of NAFTA. The excellent presenters included Professor Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly of the University of Victoria, Professor Tony Payan, of the University of Texas El Paso and the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, Irisima Coronado, Executive Director of the NAFTA initiated Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and Victor Konrad, President, Association for Borderlands Studies. Participants were very enthusiastic about this presentation which added greatly to the core of the ACSUS Biennial.

This ACSUS Biennial had two Academic Sponsors, Mexico and Canada, which made it possible for the three countries of NAFTA to meet and discuss the past, present and future of this important trade agreement. Professor Ricardo Cortez, President of the Mexican Association of Canadian Studies, and Profs. Colin Coates and Crystal Verdyn, President and Vice-President of the Canadian Studies Network, attended a special meeting at this conference to discuss future collaboration with all three of the North American countries.

There were hundreds of participants at the ACSUS Biennial, many from different parts of the world, including Sweden, Israel, France, India, Mexico, Canada, South America and Asia, giving an international importance to the meeting.

The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) is a multi-disciplinary membership based organization committed to raising awareness and understanding of Canada and the bilateral relationship. ACSUS supports research and academic activity through its publications, conferences, and grant programs; promotes the academy through active advocacy and outreach; and positions the community by profiling the scope and diversity of research undertaken by the ACSUS membership in the humanities and social sciences.
Reenvío una interesante convocatoria para presentar trabajos y participar en un Simposio Internacional que tendrá lugar el próximo mes de noviembre en la frontera franco-belga, organizado por cuatro universidades belgas y francesas.

Podéis descargar el programa en el siguiente link: http://www.brit2014.org/index.php/sessions/?lang=en

Conforme se indica en el e-mail de difusión de la convocatoria, la frontera será presentada y estudiada desde la perspectiva de la innovación y desde una amplia variedad de escalas, de la local a la internacional, así como en sus distintas dimensiones (las materias objeto de los tratados; su gobernanza y cuestiones migratorias; así como su organización espacial, los flujos que las atraviesan y las percepciones que dichos flujos inducen.

El simposio está abierto tanto a geógrafos como historiadores, así como a políticos, economistas, sociólogos e investigadores en materia de comunicación y gestión directiva.

El plazo final para la presentación de trabajos acaba el 15 de abril, habiéndose postpuesto el plazo inicialmente previsto hasta dicha fecha.

La inscripción incluye la participación en una visita de campo, las comidas y los desplazamientos a las distintas universidades.

Existen condiciones especiales para los estudiantes de doctorado que presenten comunicación.

Next November, on the Franco-Belgian border, an international symposium will be held, organized by four universities, Belgian and French. As the list of sessions shows, http://www.brit2014.org/index.php/sessions/?lang=en, the border will be presented and studied as an innovation on a variety of scales, from local to international, and on a variety of dimensions – from its representation to the issues of treaties, from its governance to its migration issues, from its spatial organization, to the movements which flow through it and to the perceptions it induces.

This international symposium is therefore open to both geographers and historians, as well as political scientists, economists, sociologists and researchers in communication and management.

The call for papers has been postponed to April 15.

The registration to the symposium includes your participation in a field day "from the Vimy Memorial to Square Delors", the meals and logistics, including transportation between the universities.

Scholarship opportunities are specifically dedicated to PhD students who are making a communication.

Thank you in advance for circulating the information below in your institutes and networks!

www.brit2014.org
In its geopolitical context, Israel is located at the interface of three major regions – Europe, Asia (the Middle East part of Asia) and Africa. The region itself is the interface of regions, cultures and the worlds great monotheistic religions, partly explaining the fact that it continues to be one of the world’s geopolitical shatterbelts and the focus for ethnic, religious and territorial conflict.

As well as being an interface, it is also a transition region, where cultures and peoples have mixed as they cross from one area to another. It is as much as cross-border region as it is a border, and this is reflected in culture, language and food. Hybridity and mixing is reflected in notions of Eurasia and Mediterranean as alternative places for cultural mixing along with political conflict.

In cooperation with the FP7 consortium on Euroborderscapes, the newly founded Geopolitics Chair at Ben-Gurion University, along with three dynamic research centers, the Herzog center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Center for the Study of European Politics and Society (CSEPS) and the Tamar Golan center for African Studies invite scholars with an interest in borders and in any one of the relevant regions to submit papers for an international workshop aimed focusing on the interface between the three regions. This will take place as part of the ever growing community of border scholars worldwide, ranging across the borders of the academic disciplines and examining the changing significances and functions of borders as they cross cultures.

**Tentative Itinerary**

Dec 7-8: FP7 Workshop and Meetings
Dec 8-9: Conference Sessions, Ben-Gurion University
Dec 10: Field Trip – Borders and Geopolitics in Israel / Palestine
Dec 11: AM – Field Trip - Borders, Territory and Conflict in Jerusalem
Dec 11: PM – Conference Sessions, Jerusalem.

The conference will start in Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheba, will include two geopolitical field trips in areas of cultural and political contestation within Israel/Palestine and Jerusalem, and will conclude its final sessions in Jerusalem.

Scholars are invited to submit abstracts on the conference themes to the following email address: reeny@post.bgu.ac.il no later than April 30, 2014.

There will be a small conference fee of $65 to cover the main organizational costs and conference dinner. The field trips will be covered by the conference organisers. Participants will cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

Final technical details will be sent in a second circular in June 2014.

**ABSTRACT REGISTRATION:**

Name:  
Affiliation:  
Email:  
Title of Abstract:  
Abstract:

EUBORDERSCAPES, financed through the EU’s 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, is an international research project that tracks and interprets conceptual change in the study of borders. The total budget of the project, which will run until May 2016, is 6.9 Million Euros. It is thus a large-scale project and the consortium includes 22 partner institutions from 17 different states, including several non-EU countries. The EUBORDERSCAPES project studies conceptual change in relation to fundamental social, economic, cultural and geopolitical transformations that have taken place in the past decades. In addition, major paradigmatic shifts in scientific debate, and in the social sciences in particular, are also considered. [http://www.euborderscapes.eu/](http://www.euborderscapes.eu/)
The research project Border Aesthetics, led by Johan Schimanski and Stephen Wolfe at the University of Tromso, has now ended. Financed by the Research Council of Norway as part of a programme on “Assigning Cultural Values” (KILVER), the project involved researchers at the university and at eight partner institutions, in Kirkenes, Bergen, Amsterdam, Düsseldorf, Nijmegen, Joensuu and Bergamo. It included literary scholars, media scholars, a political geographer, a folklorist, an urban planner and a social anthropologist.

Results

The project confirmed the its main premise: that borders, including national borders, have a dense aesthetic dimension, often involving works of literature, art and cinema. In one of its focus regions, the Barents region, cultural production has had an important role in the formation of a “soft” geopolitics and cultural-political mobilization in the borderlands. In its Mediterranean focus region, aesthetic bordering today primarily concerns migration.

Specific themes and terms, such as relation and visibility, emerged as ways of analysing the aesthetic dimension of borders. An emergent term in border studies, the borderscape, became a way of mapping the relations of the border to power, resistance and connection. The borderscape, with its suggestion of a topography defined through perspective, connects power directly to visibility in a way directly comparable to postcolonial theory and the modernity of the postcolony.

Changing border concepts were also shown to be connected to aesthetic forms of evaluation in such everyday practices as violence, colonization, migration, surveillance, control, language and exclusion. The ethics of such issues have become incorporated in the academic practices themselves, as was demonstrated within the project through interdisciplinary cooperation, “critical” analyses and “artsci” collaboration. An unplanned focal point for this thinking were certain key texts by the literary author Franz Kafka.

A collaborative book project, which has been the main activity during the last period of the project, has allowed six operative concepts to crystallize.

Ecology, giving space to the mobility of people and art in provides an alternative to naturalizing concepts of borders. Sovereignty posits the limits of political control, but borders open for indeterminate spaces in which art and literature can express the experiences of refugees and migrants. Waiting at the border, which decides who can pass and who must wait outside, defines hierarchical relations between border-crossers and border guards, who together desire both order and freedom within a play of the real and the aesthetic. The imaginary refers to the symbols, images, perceptions and myths of borders which hold society together, but also hide uncanny memories and alternative futures; especially in art and literature which help us see traditional concepts of borders from a remove. The palimpsest (texts which have been erased to make room for new texts) helps us describe the collage of territorial, economic, administrative, historical and culture layers in the borderscape and the way in which culture can influence political process through this assemblage. Invisibility raises the question of how the line between the visible and the invisible is so easily taken as expressing political relevance.

Case studies

In the first phase of the project, a number of case studies were developed, resulting in 19 published and forthcoming articles. Within the Barents region focus studies were made of women’s border writing in a circumpolar context, postcolonial aspects of Sámi poetry, cultural mobilization in the Tornedalian borderlands, artistic and literary sublimes in the Norwegian-Russian borderscape, North Norwegian artistic imaginary, liminality in the border films of Knut Erik Jensen, the photographic aesthetics of Karelian borderlands, place identities in the Barents Region and the road movie form of cross-border trips to Russia from Norway. Within the Mediterranean focus a longer historical perspective was allowed for, involving the influence of classical terminology and literature on Romantic and contemporary literature and theory, transatlantic connections in Barbary Coast captivity narratives, the Italian/Libyan borderscape and European migrant cinema. Additional studies have looked at American-Russian borders and Franz Kafka’s “Before the Law”. An university-financed doctoral grant led to a dissertation on liminality in war movies and games, and a 2-year postdoc focused on architectural symbolism in the NW Russian borderlands and other post-Soviet centre-periphery contexts.
Early in the project, the project created a conference panel on literature and coastal borders which has resulted in chapters in a forthcoming book. The project contributed articles and an interview to a special issue of Folklore. The “Border Aesthetics” conference in Tromsø in 2012 (reported on previously here) resulted in a forthcoming special issue of the open access journal Nordlit.

Impact

In very concrete terms, the project feeds into a work package on border-crossing and cultural production within the EU FP7 research project EUBORDERSCAPES (2012-2016). Our partner, the cultural production group Pikene på broen based in Kirkenes on the Russian border, were instrumental in creating a collaboration with the critical artist collective Chto delat?, based in St. Petersburg, who during the project conceptualized and created a 49 min border art musical focusing on migration across the Russian-Norwegian border. Various lectures and events were held for regional stakeholders.

In 2011, the project won a public dissemination award from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at its host university. Among other activities, the project arranged the public film and debate series “Filmborders” in cooperation with the Verdensteatret Cinematek in Tromsø for three years running. This series has now been transferred to Joensuu in Finland under the coordination of the research project Writing Cultures and Traditions at Borders (WTCB), the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies, and the North Karelian Regional Film Association. In the last year of the project, the group worked with Chto Delat? on producing a Chto Delat newspaper theme issue on “Language at/of the Border”.

The project website at http://uit.no/hsl/borderaesthetics provides information on and detailed documentation of project activities, and several lectures by project guest researchers are streamed as videos on the website. The associated website http://uit.no/borderpoetics provides extensive resources for research and teaching. The project has had a social media presence through the Border Aesthetics facebook group and the @bordaesth twitter-feed.

Johan Schimanski and Stephen Wolfe

Selected academic publications


✦ Special Issue of Nordlit with 11 papers from the Border Aesthetics conference, including articles by Anne Heith, Ruben Moi, Mari Ristolainen, and Urban Wråkberg, and an introduction by Stephen Wolfe, forthcoming in 2014. - Nordlit (open access)


✦ Articles on aesthetic borderings by Anne Heith and Holger Pöttsch and interview with Stephen Wolfe, for the “Borders and Life-Stories” special issue of Folklore, 2013/03, eds. Tuulikki Kurki and Kirsi Laurén. - texts on-line (open access)


✦ Two published research interviews, one with Stephen Wolfe in Folklore as mentioned above, and one by Holger Pöttsch with the filmmaker Knut Erik Jensen (see full publication list for references). - text on-line (open access)

The Research Programme on Assigning Cultural Values (KULVER) is the Research Council of Norway’s programme for cultural research for the period 2008 to 2012. Border Aesthetics project code: 194581
ABS World
Making a Worldwide Border Studies Community
— Jussi Laine

During the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS), organized in Salt Lake City, a motion was adopted at the Board of Director's Meeting to create a visioning committee for ABS leadership. The underlying idea behind this endeavor was to consider how the association would develop over the next five to ten years. This motion came about after several very successful years for the ABS as a scholarly association. The ABS membership had grown year after year and, above all, it had become increasingly more international. Conference attendance was up, and the primary publication of the ABS, the Journal of Borderlands Studies, had distinguished itself as a leading forum for borderlands research.

Today, more than half of the ABS membership lives in one of thirty countries outside of the United States. As the ABS grows to meet the challenge of accommodating its ever more international and diverse membership, it has become necessary to renew some of the traditional logistical and organizational practices in order to match the new circumstances. At the same time, it was considered equally important that this was not to be done at the expense of the original Southwestern U.S. and Mexican founding membership of the ABS. Despite its internationalization, it was fully agreed in the visioning committee that the ABS needs to continue to retain its original emphasis on the study of the United States-Mexico borderlands region as one of its key focal areas.

In the visioning committee the debate then focused on ways to identify and tap into growth opportunities in order for the ABS to take the lead and seek to become the premier global organization in the field of border studies. It was quickly concluded that what we needed was cooperation, not competition, with other relevant border studies networks. We wanted to foster greater linkages and more intensive dialogue between various networks and organizations focusing on border issues. We would like to see the ABS play a key role in facilitating this dialogue.

As a practical manifestation of this pursuit, the initiative to launch ABS world conferences every fourth or fifth year was accepted at the 2012 ABS annual meeting in Houston. It was here, where the University of Eastern Finland offered to take charge of organizing the first ever ABS World Conference in Joensuu, Finland, and St. Petersburg, Russia, in the summer of 2014.

The ABS World Conference does not aim to initiate another competing border conference series among dozens of established and high-profile events. On the contrary, the idea is that by offering a forum for a regular global gathering of border scholars, it will help structure the field and facilitate the development of more thematically and/or geographically specific meetings and conferences and, in this way, strengthen the overall profile of border studies internationally.

The Association for Borderlands Studies aims to provide important linkages among scholars around the globe. The ABS World Conference is a practical example of working towards this goal. Having a broader conference not tied to any specific country or continent is expected to bring new possibilities to those living outside the United States, where the ABS Annual Meetings are held. While the ABS Annual Meetings held in conjunction with the Western Social Science Association's annual conference will remain as the main gathering of the association, having a broader forum for border dialogue circulating in various locations all around the world is very much needed in order to broaden both the traditional geographical and disciplinary borders of the association itself; to foster its global reach by encouraging participation from all corners of the world and, in pushing forward twenty-first-century scholarship on borders and borderlands. The ABS World Conference aims to bring together various border studies networks to discuss issues of common concern. Its welcome is by no means limited to academics only; the world conference, as well as the association as a whole, is open to policymakers, diplomats, law enforcement agencies, non-state actors, artists, and many others alike.

This first ever ABS World Conference will include a fascinating field trip to the historical borderland of Karelia, and will be the first truly globally oriented event sponsored by the Association for Borderlands Studies. As of now, participants from 47 countries have already sent in their proposals for presentations and panels. The conference is organized by the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies at the University of Eastern Finland in cooperation with the Centre for Independent Social Research and the European University at St. Petersburg, Russia. Significant financial and scientific contribution has also been received from the African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE); the Finnish Association for Russian and East European Studies (VIETS); and the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. Among other interesting side events is a pre-conference Round Table “Co-operation between the research community and regional actors in Cross-border Cooperation (CBC),” which will also be organized in cooperation with the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR).

The organizing theme for the 2014 World Conference is: Post-Cold War Borders: Global Trends and Regional Responses. The issue of borders, their changing significance and symbolism presently looms larger than at any time since the end of the Cold War. Common understandings of global de-bordering, supported by optimistic notions of globalization and a new post-Cold War world order, has arguably succumbed to the reality of ethnic and cultural juxtaposition and increasing complexity and instability in the world system. We can recognize global megatrends that are changing the nature of borders while, at the same time, there are obviously different regional responses to these trends.

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. As a result, borders appear to be very much on cultural, social, scientific and political agendas. However, 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 continues to dominate policymaking. This current era of heightened globalization requires that we pay more attention to the tendency of increased governance of borders and border regions, and – at the same time – at the regional responses to such developments.
Dear ABS members and friends,

The UEF team is now concluding its first year as Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS). The Executive Secretary is responsible e.g. for the following activities:

- running annual elections;
- managing the annual membership campaign;
- maintaining the ABS membership database and e-mail listserve;
- Producing the bi-annual newsletter La Frontera;
- Managing the annual award process;
- Maintaining the ABS website;
- Managing finances

Elections and nominations

The ABS secretariat organized the elections for the 2nd Vice President after the nomination committee headed by Vice President Dr. Akihiro Iwashita, had first nominated two candidates for the position. Dr. Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda, Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez Ciudad Juárez, and Dr. Francisco Lara-Valencia, Arizona State University were nominated and agreed to stand for election. Dr. Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda was elected to become our new Second Vice President, and will therefore serve on the executive for the next four years in various functions.

We assisted Dr. Evan Ward and Dr. Jose P. Villalobos, who were responsible for the nomination of three new board members.

- Dr. Paul B. Richardson, University of Manchester, UK
- Dr. Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary, Université Joseph Fourier, France
- Dr. T. Mark Montoya, Northern Arizona University, USA

were nominated to join our Board and will serve until 2016.

Memberships as of Dec 31, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular paid memberships</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student paid memberships</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-OECD members</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS Book Award Winner</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Members for life</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2013 memberships</strong></td>
<td><strong>233</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of whom, 133 (59 %) are male and 92 (41%) female.

Members represent 29 different countries.

The ABS listserve was updated to facilitate communication amongst our members and other scholars interested in the border studies. Invalid address were removed from the list and a mailman user interface was opened to all listserve members. This also meant that members were now able to unsubscribe themselves freely from the list without contacting the ABS Exec. Since then, 324 new members have subscribed to the list and 19 have unsubscribed themselves from the list. As a whole, the listserve now has 1364 members with valid email addresses.

Finances (see the following page for details)

Due to the transfer of the ABS Executive Secretary and Treasurer from Uvic to UEF, the report of last fiscal year (2013) does not give a complete picture of the financial situation of the ABS.

While most the practicalities related to the transfer were completed during August and September 2013, the funds of the association were not transferred to UEF until December 2, 2013. This is because it was deemed as necessary to first process all the pending payments and obligations related to the termination of the ABS activities at Uvic. Hence, the first table on the next page summarizes that the finances at Uvic account, from the beginning of January until the end of November 2013.

On December 2, 2013 UEF received a wire transfer of $32,000 CAD, equal to 22,003, 71 EUR, and a new ABS UEF account was created.

As the new UEF based online payment system was not operational until January 7, 2014, no payments were made to the ABS UEF account during the rest of the fiscal year (Dec 2-Dec 31). The only revenue from that time period was the accumulated interest (5,46 EUR). The total account balance on Dec 31, 2013 was thus 22,009, 17 EUR.

As Uvic continued to process the membership fees until the UEF system was operational, but after the ABS funds had been already transferred to UEF (Nov 27, 2013-Jan 7, 2014), a total of 211,384 CAD of ABS funds remains on the Uvic account. When all the pending payments have been made from this sum, the left over will be transferred to UEF and merged with the rest of the ABS funds.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial assistance provided to us by the Rector Perttu Vartiainen of the University of Eastern Finland as well as by Professor Harri Siiskonen, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland. This funding has been crucial in establishing the ABS secretariat in Finland.
Financial Summary 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account Balance at January 1, 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$28,609,52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues received by UVic</td>
<td>10,845,68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit card commissions</td>
<td>(700,76)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routledge Journals 2013 contribution</td>
<td>8,858,00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment to T&amp;F for ABS 2012 membership</td>
<td></td>
<td>93,55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment to contractor for website update/re-do</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of new website template</td>
<td></td>
<td>51,29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal of ABS domain name for a further 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>217,92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment to WSSA for April meeting ($2200 USD)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,268,04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS grad student best paper award ($250 USD)</td>
<td></td>
<td>260,42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS/RISC best paper award (250 Euro = $333.20 USD)</td>
<td></td>
<td>347,08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation to ACSUS Nov 2013 conference ($1000 USD)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,041,67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVic Library online-journal hosting fee for 2012/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>800,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 Contribution to Secretariat (at UVic)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies (Book award plaque &amp; certificate holders)</td>
<td></td>
<td>200,18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courier and Mail services</td>
<td></td>
<td>124,77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopy charges</td>
<td></td>
<td>93,68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>19,002,92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,498,60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial transfer of funds to UEF</td>
<td></td>
<td>32,000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Balance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,113,84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 2012 financial report stated that the payment to T&F for 2012 memberships was $5,670 when in actual fact, the UVic Accounting Department included the GST charge (less the standard rebate) for a total of $5,763.55

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 2013 balance</td>
<td>2,113,84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan &amp; Feb 2014 transactions</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Debits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2014 membership dues received at UVic</td>
<td>270,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit card commissions</td>
<td>(58,77)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVic Library online-journal hosting fee for 2013/14</td>
<td>800,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28, 2014 balance</td>
<td>1,525,07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Association for Borderlands Studies December 2013

Financial Summary - UEF ABS account

All funds reported in Euro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from University of Victoria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22,003,71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank account interest rate</td>
<td>5,46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Balance at December 31, 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22,009,17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>5,46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Account Balance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22,009,17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABS Website Performance Statistics

Visits by country of origin

- United States: 27.39%
- Finland: 7.66%
- Mexico: 7.45%
- France: 4.88%
- Canada: 4.62%
- Germany: 4.59%
- United Kingdom: 4.55%
- Netherlands: 3.24%
- India: 2.85%

Visits by city

- Ciudad Juarez: 3.97%
- Helsinki: 3.92%
- El Paso: 3.34%
- Joensuu: 2.3%
- London: 1.50%
- Paris: 1.33%
- New Delhi: 1.31%
- Nijmegen: 1.31%
- Albuquerque: 1.31%

Acquisition

- Organic Search: 49.0%
- Direct: 33.3%
- Referral: 15.8%
- Social: 1.8%

Device

- Desktop/laptop: 92.1%
- Mobile: 4.7%
- Tablet: 3.3%
**Publications**


Fichter-Wolf, Heidi & Marek Kwiek (2013). German-Polish Transborder Universities. Człowiek i Społeczeństwo XXXV: 1


The primary publication of the Association for Borderlands Studies 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. Widely consulted by educators, practitioners, and researchers, the journal encourages the submission of articles from disciplines across the humanities and social sciences as well as from allied fields. All published manuscripts are peer reviewed.

Since 2011, the Association for Borderlands Studies’s Journal is published in the UK by Routledge Journals, Taylor & Francis Group, Informa UK Limited. Libraries and institutional subscribers are asked to please contact their Customer Services at: subscriptions@tandf.co.uk for pricing information.

SUBMIT ONLINE
SOCIETY FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY 2014 ANNUAL MEETING
March 18-22, 2014
Albuquerque, New Mexico

PROMOTING DUAL LANGUAGE AND LITERACY: MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR A COMPLEX SOCIETY
March 28-29, 2014
Arizona State University

CROSSING BORDERS THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS ANNUAL MEETING
April 10-13, 2014
Atlanta, GA, USA

May 31, 2014
Niagara Falls, NY.
Contact CCUSBorder@kent.ac.uk.

ABS WORLD CONFERENCE: POST-COLD WAR BORDERS: GLOBAL TRENDS AND REGIONAL RESPONSES
June 9-13, 2014
Joensuu, Finland – St. Petersburg, Russia

XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY: FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD: CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY
July 13-19, 2014
Yokohama, Japan

GEOPOLITICS IN CHANGING SOUTHEAST ASIA: BOUNDARIES AND BORDERLANDS
July 20-23, 2014
Yunnan Normal University, Kunming, China

BRIDGING NORTH AMERICA: CONNECTIONS AND DIVIDES
August 28-30, 2014
University of Turku, Finland
Contact:jmc@utu.fi

EAST - WEST BORDERSCAPES: IMPRINTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER LANDSCAPES
October 2 – 4, 2014
Trieste, Italy / Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia
Contact: anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si and/or zillis@units.it

CONTEXTUALIZING CHANGES: MIGRATIONS, SHIFTING BORDERS AND NEW IDENTITIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
October 8-10, 2014
Sofia, Bulgaria
Contact: hristov_p@yahoo.com or hristova.mina90@gmail.com

LIVING IN EUROPEAN BORDERLANDS
November 20-22, 2014
University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

BORDER REGIONS IN TRANSITION (BRIT) XIV THE BORDER – A SOURCE OF INNOVATION
November 4-7, 2014
Lille (France) & Mons (Belgium)

UIT The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, has a PhD position vacant for applicants who wish to obtain the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD). Please see: http://ui.no/ansatte/organisasjon/artikkeldetail.php?p_menu=28713&p_document_id=133396&p_dimension_id=88147

The position’s affiliation The position is attached to the Department of Culture and Literature and to the research group Border Culture / Border Poetics: http://en.uit.no/forskning/forskningsgrupper/medlemmer?p_document_id=344750

For further information, please contact Associate Professor Stephen Wolfe, tel. +47 77 64 42 72, e-mail: stephen.wolfe@uit.no, Postdoctoral Research Fellow Holger Potzsch, tlf. +47 77 64 53 80 (e-mail: holger.potzsch@uit.no) or head of the Department of Culture and Literature Ketil Zachariassen tel. +47 77 64 4258, e-mail: ketil.zachariassen@uit.no

The following reference number must be quoted in your application: 2014/33 and the application form must be completed by 17.04.2014: http://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/100736/research fellow-within-the-project-borders-memories-and diasporic-communities
La Frontera

The Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) is the leading international scholarly association dedicated exclusively to the systematic interchange of ideas and information relating to international border areas. Founded in 1976 with the original emphasis on the study of the United States-Mexico borderlands region, the Association has grown steadily. It now encompasses an interdisciplinary membership of scholars at more than one hundred academic, governmental institutions, and NGOs representing the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe. The Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) es la principal entidad internacional y académica que se dedica exclusivamente al intercambio constante de ideas e información relacionadas con las áreas fronterizas internacionales. Fundada en 1976 con el original énfasis en el estudio de la región fronteriza entre Estados Unidos y México, la asociación ha estado en constante crecimiento. A día de hoy, abarca la sociedad interdisciplinaria de miembros académicos para más de cien instituciones gubernamentales y académicas, y para ONG presentes en América, Asia, África y Europa.

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.

ABS Welcomes New Lifetime Members
Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary, Joseph Fourier University, CNRS-PACTE Patrick Scharfe, Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness, University of Texas at El Paso

We would like to express our sincere thanks if you have already renewed your ABS membership for 2014. Your membership is very important to us, as it plays a major part in our collective efforts to keep our association dynamic and in order for us to provide you further services and benefits.

All paid members of the ABS are now able access, read and download all the issues of the Journal of Borderlands Studies online! You can now access the brand new articles immediate after they are published and browse the online database of past volumes.

You may pay your membership fee and access the journal through the ABS Self Care system. Just log in with your email address (which you have in our files) and your password. Then click the link “Journal of Borderlands Studies” on the left.

If you have not used this system before or have forgotten your password, please enter your email address and click the “Have you forgotten your password?” link. A new password will be emailed to you.

New Members: Please contact the ABS secretariat (absexec@uef.fi) to obtain your username and password.

ABS Officers
Dr. Victor Konrad — President
Dr. Martin van der Velde — President Elect & 2014 Conference Chair
Dr. Akihiro lwashita — Vice President
Dr. Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda — 2nd Vice President
Dr. Christine Thrulow Brenner — Past President
Dr. James W. Scott — Executive Secretary
Dr. Jussi P. Laine — Treasurer & Vice Executive Secretary

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 // Kathleen Staudt 2014-2015
Dr. Naomi H. Chi

2013-2016 Term
Dr. Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary
Dr. Paul P. Richardson
Dr. T. Mark Montoya

Board of Directors

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 co-operation 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.