DOSSIER

The transboundary landscape of the Eu-Schengen borders
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Tatiana Isachenko, Department of Geography & Geocology, University of St. Petersburg
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Abstract: The goal of the current efforts to establish Palestinian industrial parks is to boost the peace process through fulfilling the border’s potential as the contact zone of Israeli and Palestinian civilian societies. This analysis of Israeli-Palestinian economic enterprises during the years 1998-2000 distinguishes three types of economic initiatives focused on the border region; road markets, industrial parks and the Oasis Casino. The border dynamics of each presented varying degrees of contribution to the potential of conflict management and transformation and reflected the ongoing conflict, the asymmetric economic relations and the societal differences.

The study of cross-border interactions in regions of conflict is somewhat compromised by ongoing dynamics and sometimes dramatic developments. The study of these enterprises presents an opportunity to better understand their characteristics throughout their life span, including their cessation and to better realize the potential of any future Israeli-Palestinian cross-border interaction.

Key Words: conflict management, conflict transformation, cross-border interaction
Transboundary Conservation: Security, Civil Society and Cross-Border Collaboration

Lorna Stefanick, PhD

Abstract: This paper examines transboundary conservation initiatives in the Rocky Mountains of North America with a particular focus on the world’s first peace park, located on the Alberta-Montana border. The peace park concept envisions the free migration of animals and humans within a select area by removing artificial boundaries and seeks to encourage harmonious relations between countries through co-management of shared ecosystems. As such, Rocky Mountain conservation initiatives are significant because they are a symbol of bilateral cooperation between two countries that claim the world’s longest shared border. The so-called “ecosystem approach” to managing a portion of the northern border of the U.S. stands in sharp contrast to other American initiatives that seek to promote national security on its southern frontier by sealing borders, and as a result, dividing ecosystems. More pointedly, the post 9-11 U.S. security focus on illegal immigration and terrorism could cause irreparable damage to the concept of using transborder conservation to foster peace between contiguous nations in other parts of the world. The best hope for success in overcoming these challenges likely rests within civil society, specifically conservationists and their allies on both sides of the border for whom wilderness integrity is the highest priority.

Key Words: transboundary conservation, peace park, ecosystem approach, border security
Cross-Border Commuting in the Danish-German Border Region - Integration, Institutions and Cross-Border Interaction

Tanja Buch¹, Torben Dall Schmidt² and Annekatrin Niebuhr³

Acknowledgements⁴

Abstract Although the process of European integration has facilitated labour mobility in the EU to a considerable extent, cross-border commuting is still at a low level. We provide evidence on labour mobility in the Danish-German border region. The objective of this paper is to investigate the recent development of cross-border commuting in the region and whether this reflects increasing labour market integration. We re-late the development to different theories on cross-border labour mobility. Our results suggest that much of the pronounced growth of cross-border commuting is caused by labour market disparities and a proceeding integration of labour markets on both sides of the border. However, an analysis of structural characteristics of cross-border commuters and their working places indicates that the cross-border labour market still has specific features. There are significant differences between cross-border commuters on both sides of the border with respect to income and main branches of employment. Moreover, the analysis points to a pronounced sectoral concentration of cross-border workers. Due to this “specialisation” there are distinct differences be-tween the sectoral distribution of cross-border commuters and the corresponding structure of total employment in the region.

Key Words: Integration, labour mobility, cross-border commuting, Danish-German border region

Introduction Free movement of workers is one of the basic economic freedoms in the European Union (EU). Labour mobility is supposed to promote a flexible and efficient European labour market. The EU Commission aims at facilitating migration and commuting since this is seen as a way to reduce labour market disparities and to improve the matching of labour supply and demand. However, although free movement of EU workers was implemented already in the late 1960’s mobility levels have remained comparatively low. Less than 2% of EU citizens live in another EU member state (European Commission 2006). The existence of transaction costs in the form of administrative, cultural and linguistic barriers, mobility costs, inefficient housing markets, the limited portability of pension rights, problems with the international recognition of professional qualifications and the lack of transparency of job openings are blamed for the low cross-border mobility (Heinz and Ward-Warmedinger 2006).

This analysis focuses on a specific form of international labour mobility, on cross-border commuting. This kind of mobility implies that employees work in another member state without moving their residence to that country, which may be expected to reduce some of the transaction costs. Because of their particular employment situation these workers do though face a number of specific problems. Janssen (2000) notes that problems concerning taxation and social security are more severe for commuters than for migrants because the former have to deal with two different national systems.

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The Transboundary Landscape of the Eu-Schengen Border

Maunu Häyrynen1, Guest Editor

The theme of this dossier of the Journal of Borderlands Studies is the transboundary landscape of the Schengen border. The Schengen border refers to the common external border of those European countries that signed the Schengen Agreement (1985/1990), which in 1999 became integrated in European Union (EU) legislation. The aim of the agreement is to create a zone of free movement, the so-called Schengen area, between the signatories and to harmonize the area’s external border-control arrangements. It now comprises most of the EU member countries, excluding the United Kingdom, Ireland, Romania, and Bulgaria but including the non-members Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland. Besides Romania and Bulgaria, the Schengen area currently borders with Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia (FYROM), and Albania outside the EU. Russia had become a neighbor of the area in 2001, when Finland joined the agreement. A more dramatic shift took place with the extension of the land area that occurred with the addition of new member states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia) in December 2007 (see DeBardeleben 2005, 6–8).

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The Concept of Landscape Among Karelian Migrants in Finland

Kirsi Niukko

Abstract: Karelian migrants were a new population group that emerged in Finland after the Second World War when their former home places were ceded to the Soviet Union. The evacuees adapted to their new areas, while maintaining the memory of their old homes and forging a nostalgic and ideal image of Karelia. In the culture of remembrance of the Karelian migrants, the image of Karelia was constructed above all through memories of family, kin, and local villages. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the physical reality of Karelia opened up and the new image of Karelia required the acceptance of historical facts. Key Words: conflict management, conflict transformation, cross-border interaction
Time Borders: Change of Practice and Experience through Time Layers

Hannes Palang1, Kadri Semm2, and Lies Verstraete3*

Abstract: This article explores how landscape practices and meanings have changed in the southeastern border region of Setumaa, in Estonia, during the last one hundred years. Geographers have treated landscapes as consisting of material and mental layers, as well as the driving forces behind them. The ways in which each socioeconomic formation creates its own landscape have also been part of their discussions. To those discussions, we add changing political borders that coincide with formation changes—processes that influence local participation and the open interpretation of the local everyday landscape. Based on this perspective, Setumaa offers a unique study area where a multitude of natural cultural landscape patches with different life trajectories can be found situated close to each other and bounded by formation borders from different time layers. Spatial practices in a landscape depend on time context, thereby creating time borders. We demonstrate how political formations have influenced the Setu region and culture across spatial and ideological borders.

Key Words: place, political formations, local actors, spatial and time borders, transition zones, cultural landscape.

Introduction

In this article, we define “landscape” as a collection of places that have relationships and interconnections with social formations, personal histories, and life-ways. In an attempt to understand how the landscape of Setumaa has changed through its different time stages, we analyzed these lived-in places from both a social-construction perspective and the perspective of the local dwellers.

The concept of cultural landscape is perhaps one of the most contested and (mis)understood concepts in (human) geography. The interpretations vary from Sauer’s (1925) old—and now rediscovered—notion that “culture is the agent, natural area is the medium, cultural landscape is the result” (p. 46) to Cosgrove and Daniels’s (1988) idea that landscape is just a cultural image. Somewhere in between these interpretations are understandings that cultural landscapes should be accepted as an area purposefully changed by man, as a palimpsest (Vervloet 1986), as text (Duncan 1990), and even as a set of interfaces between different approaches and understandings (Palang and Fry 2003).

One of the basic criteria of this article is the landscape model developed by Keisteri (1990), as it is best suited to holistic landscape research. She has divided the so-called total landscape into three parts, specifically: 1) material features in the landscape that are easy to measure and describe; 2) non-material features, such as cultural and scenic components, that are difficult to quantify; and 3) underlying processes, that is, all natural and human processes together with their interrelations, that determine the development of landscape. In this model, subjectivity and objectivity complement one another in the evaluation of landscapes, rather than being at opposite poles. And, as well as enabling researchers to distinguish between different hierarchical levels, the model can be used to study major regions on a global scale or to attempt to combine the examination of areas of different sizes into a multilevel hierarchy.
Determinants of Change in the Landscape of the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland as Exemplified by Rawa Roztocze

Ewa Skowronek¹ and Tomasz Furtak²

Abstract: This article concerns the development and present condition of the landscape of the southern part of Roztocze in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland. The area is divided by the state frontier and is sometimes called Rawa Roztocze. Due to its turbulent history, its unstable political situation, and the diverse ethnic composition of its population, a distinctive form of landscape has evolved in this area. The cultural landscape that evolved over the centuries in Rawa Roztocze was destroyed and transformed by World War II. The demarcation of a new border between Poland and the USSR in 1944 profoundly impacted the area’s landscape, particularly its population density, settlement arrangements, transportation network, and land-use structure. A further consequence of the demarcation was the division of its landscape, which was quite homogenous until the outbreak of World War II. Since then, the landscape has developed differently on the Polish and Ukrainian sides of the border.

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