



Message from the President

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Dear ABS members:

In the spring of 2011, at the annual Board of Director's Meeting, a motion was adopted to create a visioning committee for ABS leadership. The idea was to consider where we might want to go, as an organization, over the next five to ten years. This motion came about after several very successful years for the ABS as a scholarly organization. We have seen real gains in membership recruitment, conference attendance, and journal development. We want to keep up the momentum.

Why do we need a vision for the future? The ABS executive has been struck not only by the steady growth in membership and journal subscriptions over the past few years, but also the internationalization of its membership. In 2011, for example, half of the ABS membership lives in one of thirty different countries outside of the United States. As the ABS grows to meet the challenge of accommodating the internationalization of its membership, it is clear that we need to revisit some of our traditional logistical and organizational practices. But we will need to reach consensus about how to respond to these challenges in an open forum, and the visioning committee's goal is to provide the ABS membership with a discussion paper from which a new consensus can be developed. This document will be posted on the website and circulated on the ABS listserve prior to our annual meetings in April, 2012.

At this point, even though the work of the committee is preliminary, I would like to share with you some of the interest-

ing discussions we have held over the past four months. The committee agreed that the priority for the ABS must be first, to continue to accommodate the growing diversity of our membership, while continuing to retain and meet the needs of our south-western US and Mexican membership base; and second, to identify our growth opportunities in order to position ourselves as *the* premier global border studies organization. This means we need to identify and work with competing institutions and organizations, as well as identify opportunities for new membership.

Recruiting new membership is easier said than done, however. It requires some strategic thinking, and raises questions like where are our growth opportunities? Are they simply geographical, drawing on scholars from non-traditional regions, or are there also opportunities with respect to recruiting new scholars, policy-makers and academics in non-traditional disciplines or inter-disciplinary studies? Apart from relying upon existing venues, workshops and regional conferences, could we heighten recruitment from other regions by forging links with international institutions? Can we imagine international programs, initiatives and committees held in partnership with existing organizations? In fact, this has become a rather pressing problem for the contemporary ABS leadership, since we are now more and more frequently co-organizing and sponsoring conferences with partner organizations in different countries. We have indeed helped to sponsor two conferences outside of the United States since our





Message from the President continued

annual meetings in April. But do we want to make regional conferences part of a better-planned and larger recruitment strategy, rather than simply responding to requests for partnership and sponsorship as they emerge? Should we be holding more regional meetings, or work with regional co-ordinators to create a second tier of regional conferences, as well as our annual meetings? Could we sustain a World Conference every fourth year or so? Could World conferences be co-ordinated through regional contact points and leadership networks outside of the U.S. or indeed, could there be a position on the ABS Board for World Conference leadership or co-ordination? For those who have questioned the need for a continuing relationship between the ABS and the WSSA, a model which involves having three tiers of conference organization, at three different scales might resolve some of the issues surrounding the limitations of holding annual meetings in affiliation with the WSSA.

Last but not least, is a key issue of outreach and connectivity with other organizations. Can we improve? Many new and young scholars, or scholars living outside of North America, for example, have a perception of the ABS a regionally-focused organization, which is not facilitative to recruitment. For those living outside of the U.S., it needs to be made clearer to young scholars that there is value-added by attending the ABS meetings, which can be expensive and require considerable travel. This might be organized cheaply, and would bring enormous gains for the ABS. Can we think about encouraging new members and from non-traditional disciplines. What opportunities are out there that we need to identify and take advantage of? Do we want to think about 'going bigger' institutionally, as well as in terms of conference organization? Can we solidify the relationship with BRIT to an even greater degree than it already is?

Or, even more ambitiously, do we want to create a new type of initiative? For example, do we want to create, with other organizations, a global Consortium/Federation of Border Studies, either under the leadership of the ABS, or with the ABS as one of the founding institutions? Can one imagine different options within a consortium which would encourage new levels of recruitment and ABS membership, perhaps through discounts on embedded ABS/consortium membership? To do so, however, it is clear that we need to work on our own structure, organization and image as well as trying to enhance membership by becoming more proactive.

All of these are questions and ideas which we think the membership needs to consider, but we also look forward to hearing your perspectives. As one of the visioning committee members rightly observed: "We need to think carefully what it is that the ABS offers, not just about how to get more people to join. Various awards and initiatives, are nice, but there is a need to focus on the actual content – what is the essence of the ABS? It should be something more than just the annual meeting."

Determining what this something is, will be our collective task at the 2012 ABS meetings in Houston, and I hope you will join us there.

Heather Nicol
ABS President 2011-12





The Association for Borderlands Studies Annual Meeting Houston, Texas, USA April 11-14, 2012

The ABS extends an invitation to current members and future members to participate in the annual meeting of the Association for Borderlands Studies, a multidisciplinary conference dedicated to the study of borders in all parts of the world. The upcoming conference will take place in Houston, Texas April 11-14, 2012. While we welcome papers on *all* topics and areas related to border studies, the special conference theme will be **Borders and Energy**.

Papers and panels addressing this theme will develop the concept of borders as sites for transnational flows of human energies, geophysical energy and power sources, and negotiation energies needed navigate border issues.

Physical sciences define energy as the capacity of a physical system to perform work. Energy exists in several forms such as heat, kinetic or mechanical energy, light, potential energy, electrical, or other forms. Papers on physical energy (oil, water, etc.) across borderlands are encouraged. We also desire to extend this concept into social sciences, with papers which may consider the social and institutional systems that do the work of navigating border policy issues as well as the human energy expended in transnational migration and immigration across the borderlands and the implications for both the sending and receiving countries. Humanities papers might explore the historical, anthropogenic, and literary representations of **Borders and Energy**.

The 2012 Association of Borderlands Studies program panels offer opportunities to use multiple lenses from local to global as well as

cross-disciplinary approaches to constitute an exciting and intellectually stimulating conference.

Papers which address this theme will be considered for publication in a special issue of the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*.

In order to take part in our **conference you must register and pay dues for 2012 for the ASSOCIATION FOR BORDERLANDS STUDIES as well as pay the WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION conference fee.**

Sign up for a membership with the Association for Borderlands Studies on our website at <http://www.absborderlands.org/member/index.html>.

All participants must be paid members of the ABS at the time of their presentation.

Register for the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) conference on their website <http://wssa.asu.edu/conferences/> Doing this early will save you money, since onsite registration is generally more expensive.

If you have further questions, please contact:

Christine Thurlow Brenner,
President Elect and 2012 Conference Chair,
Association for Borderlands Studies
Christine.brenner@umb.edu





La Asociación de Estudios Fronterizos Conferencia Anual Houston, Texas, USA Abril 11-14, 2012

La Asociación de Estudios Fronterizos (**ABS**) convoca a sus integrantes así como a las personas interesadas a presentar documentos de investigación sobre la temática de la frontera. La conferencia tendrá lugar en Houston, entre el 11 y 14 de abril del próximo año. El tema para esta conferencia es Fronteras y Energía aunque se abordarán otros que estén relacionados con el estudio de las fronteras.

Tema de la Conferencia: Fronteras y Energía

Los documentos que se presenten y aborden el tema de fronteras y energía, deberán desarrollar el concepto de la frontera como un espacio transnacional en donde se da el intercambio de recursos humanos, geofísicos y de energía. Asimismo, se prestará atención a las herramientas de negociación que se necesitan para incidir en la temática.

Las ciencias físicas definen energía como la capacidad de poner en movimiento o de transformar algo. La energía se puede manifestar de formas distintas, en movimiento o cinética y de posición o potencial como el calor, la electricidad, entre otras. Se busca preferentemente que se presenten documentos que aborden el tema de la energía física como el agua y el petróleo, entre otros y su relación con las fronteras. Asimismo, se busca extender el concepto de energía a las ciencias sociales por consiguiente los documentos que se presenten en este campo deben colocar en la discusión los ámbitos institucional y social que están relacionados con las políticas fronterizas, los recursos humanos involucrados en la migración y emigración en las fronteras; y las implicaciones para los países receptores y expulsores. Aquellos documentos que se enfoquen en el área de humanidades deberán explorar las representaciones, históricas, antropogénicas, y literarias de las fronteras y la energía.

La **ABS** ofrece este año la oportunidad de contar con un programa multidisciplinario que aborda diferentes perspectivas, desde lo local hasta lo global. Se espera que esta conferencia sea una experiencia intelectualmente estimulante.

Los documentos que aborden el tema central de la conferencia serán considerados para ser publicados en una edición especial de la revista de *Estudios Fronterizos*.

Requisitos para participar en la Conferencia como presentador(a) y participante:

Todas las personas que deseen participar con una presentación o asistir a la Conferencia deberán primero registrarse como miembros de la **ASSOCIATION FOR BORDERLANDS STUDIES**. El registro está abierto para formar parte y ser integrante en la página de internet: <http://www.absborderlands.org/member/index.html>.

Todas las personas que participen deberán cubrir la cuota para ser integrante de la Asociación.

El registro para participar en la Conferencia será a través de la **WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION** a través de su página de internet

Página de internet: <http://wssa.asu.edu/conferences/>

Recomendamos que ambos registros los realice de manera puntual a través de la página web para ahorrar dinero y tiempo.

Informes

Para mayor información favor de contactar a:

Christine Thurlow Brenner,
President Elect and 2012 Conference Chair,
Association for Borderlands Studies
Christine.Brenner@umb.edu



The Karelian Institute

Dear ABS members and friends,

During recent years, the Karelian Institute at the University of Eastern Finland (www.uef.fi/kti) has invested heavily in its border and Russian related expertise. Much of our research is influenced by the physical location of the Institute at the edge of sparsely populated Northern Europe, close to the Russian border. It is however, this very location and the practical experience and scientific knowledge gained from cooperating across the border, that has enabled the Karelian Institute to play a key role in various international projects and research networks.

The Karelian Institute engages in basic and applied multi-disciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences concerning the intellectual and material development of Eastern Finland, Karelia and Northwest Russia. Within the framework of its project activities it supports the supervision of postgraduate studies and researcher training, and participates in undergraduate teaching. One of the three thematic research priorities of the Karelian Institute focuses on borders and Russia. The Institute is a leading expert unit investigating political and social change in Northwest Russia and has a long tradition in the study of the history, culture and society of the region. This tradition is the basis for internationally recognized comparative research into borders and border regions, and the practical challenges of interactions across borders.

At the Karelian Institute, the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies (www.uef.fi/kti/vera) coordinates and promotes research and education programmes on Russian and border studies at the University of Eastern Finland. It strengthens the strategy of the University and corresponds to the need for increasing multi-disciplinary research on borders and border areas in Russia and European contexts. The Centre strengthens knowledge sharing between the University, administration and regional actors by supporting established project co-operation funded by, e.g. the EU Commission, Finnish ministries and Regional Councils, but also by creating initiatives for promoting co-operation with regional economic actors and enterprises, as well as with civil society. The Centre also actively promotes international networking, publishing and project co-operation.

The Karelian Institute also coordinates the multi-disciplinary “Russia in Europe” national cross-border postgraduate school in Border Studies. Research at the doctoral programme cover themes from early state formation, nation building, inter-ethnic relations and Europeanization to post-Soviet social, political and cultural changes with topics related to minorities, gender and civil society, Russia-EU relations and, especially, present-day construction of borders and cross-border interaction. Further information: www.uef.fi/russiaineurop

A good example of the networking is provided by the “European Regions, EU External Borders and the Immediate Neighbors. Analyzing Regional Development Options through Policies and Practices of Cross-Border Co-operation (EUBORDERREGIONS)” project funded through the Seventh Framework Programme of The European Union (Contract no SSH-2010-2.2-1- 266920). EUBORDERREGIONS is a four-year project that takes its international team to a number of places located at the European Union’s “outer edge”. Regions on both sides of the EU’s new external borders are generally far from large economic centers and lack many of the employment opportunities available elsewhere. A major reason for this situation can be traced to borders and the historical divisions they have created within Europe. This legacy of division has been difficult to overcome. Regions at the EU’s outer borders will be directly affected – both positively and negatively – by increasing interaction with neighboring states. However, economic disadvantages should not obscure the fact that these border regions are rich in history and therefore key to understanding many of the challenges facing European societies both within and outside the EU.





The Karelian Institute continued

One question that looms large is whether cross-border co-operation can emerge as a regional development resource as well as promote greater social interaction between the EU and its neighbors. A major challenge in this respect is that of strengthening an enlarged EU while avoiding new divisions that security policies, visas and restrictive border regimes could impose. EUBORDERREGIONS investigates the manifold consequences of increasing cross-border interaction for the development of regions at the EU's external borders and, in this way, contributes to scientific and policy debate on the future of economic, social and territorial cohesion within the EU. You can follow the project and learn about the upcoming events via our website:

www.euborderregions.eu.

The project "Borders, Migration and Regional Stability" is based on the Wider Europe Initiative launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The target countries of the project are Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova in the immediate neighborhood of the European Union, and Azerbaijan and Tajikistan in the South Caucasus and Central Asia respectively. The aim of the Research Network Project is to study the neighborhood policy of the EU, status of minorities, borders and migrations, and the to create a network of researchers and researcher networks within the Wider Europe Initiative by organizing broadly-based expert meetings, mutual researcher exchange, as well as promoting research co-operation. Further information:

<http://www.uef.fi/ktl/etusivu1>.

The "Unfamiliarity as signs of European times: scrutinizing historical representations of otherness and contemporary daily practices in border regions" project aims to unravel how mental barriers for mobility are constructed and deconstructed in the minds of EU inhabitants, how historical commonalities and fractures have an impact on their representations of borders and 'otherness' and what influence political plans and media campaigns may have to change representations and create cohesive cross-border regions. The project aims to find out what cross-border unfamiliarity means, how its experience changed during the course of time, how this experience still influences contemporary cross-border behavior and why – uncovering historical explanations – experiences have changed and behavior is influenced. The project will focus on an analysis of daily life practices of inhabitants in different 'old' and 'new' inner, as well as 'new' outer, cross-border regions across the EU. Their daily life is seen as expressing representations of cross-border unfamiliarity and (re)producing mental borders – generating either international mobility or immobility. Such a focus will also open insights to promote more international interaction and regional cohesion. The Unfamiliarity project is a part of the EUROCORES (European Collaborative Research) framework offered by the European Science Foundation (ESF). The Finnish-Russian and the Finnish-Estonian case studies are funded by the Academy of Finland. Further information: www.unfamiliarity.eu.

You can find more examples of the projects from www.uef.fi/ktl/tutkimus-ja-hankkeet or from www.border-research.eu.

As part of its current development strategy the University of Eastern Finland is actively promoting research and education in the field of border and Russian studies. The Karelian Institute is looking forward to participating in the work of ABS in advancing international research cooperation, networking and graduate training in the field.

Kind Regards,
Jussi Laine





New ABS Officer and Directors

Recently, ABS members voted for their Second Vice President who will take over the position of Vice President next April 2012 at the ABS Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.

The candidates were; Dr. Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary, Associate Professor in the Geography Department at Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble and Dr. Martin van der Velde, Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, Planning and Environmental Sciences at the Radboud University in Nijmegen.

Martin van der Velde was declared the winner. 65 votes were received from 232 eligible members. This indicates a 28% response rate.

There are three new members of the ABS Board of Directors for the 2011-2014 term.

Dr. Sandra Bustillos-Durán joins us from the Department of Humanities at Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

Dr. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera joins us from the Government Department at the University of Texas at Brownsville

Dr. Benjamin Muller joins us from the Department of Political Science with King's University College at the University of Western Ontario

Past Presidents' Book Award

Gold Award 2011

Nick Vaughan-Williams (2008) [*Border Politics: The Limits of Sovereign Power.*](#)
Edinburgh University Press.

Silver Award 2011

Daniel M. Sabet (2008) [*Nonprofits and Their Networks: Cleaning the Waters Along Mexico's Northern Border.*](#)
University of Arizona Press.

Bronze Award 2011

Nicholas De Genova and Nathalie Peutz, editors (2008) [*The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement.*](#)
Duke University Press.

The ABS book award consists of a plaque, a certificate and a year's free membership in ABS for the Gold Award winner. Also, the Gold Award winner for 2011 chairs the book award committee for 2012.

2011 Book award committee members:

Chris Rumford (University of London/Chair),
Stephen Mumme (Colorado State University),
David Molina (University of North Texas) and
Manuel Chavez (Michigan State University).





Report on Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) XI

La 11ème conférence du réseau BRIT (Border Regions In Transition) s'est tenue entre Genève et à Grenoble du 6 au 9 septembre derniers. Cet événement de grande ampleur, organisé tous les deux ans sur un continent différent, de part et d'autre d'une frontière, s'est déroulé pour la première fois en France et en Suisse. Il a réuni plus de 280 participants : chercheurs, professionnels, étudiants.

Le BRIT est un réseau scientifique international interdisciplinaire qui réunit régulièrement les meilleurs spécialistes mondiaux de questions frontalières et géopolitiques, avec la particularité de regrouper analystes et praticiens au d'une frontière traversée ensemble, condition d'échanges très fertiles.

L'objectif de ce colloque, co-présidé par Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary de l'Université Joseph Fourier-PACTE/Institut Universitaire de France et Frédéric Giraut de l'Université de Genève, était de réfléchir au concept de "**frontières mobiles**", une formulation provocante questionnant le statut de ces espaces que la globalisation a transformés : les frontières ne sont plus linéaires et désormais les linéaires et désormais les fonctions de contrôle attribuées à ces lignes arbitraires sont souvent dissociées de la limite matérielle entre deux pays. Dès lors que les fonctions frontalières diffusent loin de la ligne frontière, on peut se demander si la ligne conventionnelle garde un sens et si ces dernières sont délacées ailleurs dans l'espace, peut-on encore les qualifier de frontalières?

Au-delà des conférences plénières, ce sont plus de 180 communications, regroupées en en une quarantaine de sessions, qui s'offraient au public. Cette année, l'Afrique était à l'honneur : Michel Foucher, expert auprès de l'Union Africaine et *Maano Ramuntsindela*, professeur en Afrique du Sud, ont conclu la conférence dont

l'invitée d'honneur était Mme Saskia Sassen, professeur de sociologie à l'université de Columbia aux Etats-Unis. Les participants ont également pris plaisir à découvrir la présentation-performance de l'artiste Ariane Littman (www.ariane-littman.com/) et suivi avec grand intérêt la conférence d'Olivier Clochard, représentant le Réseau d'ONG Migreurop.

Le bilan scientifique du colloque est très riche. Il a permis d'analyser les nombreuses acceptions du concept de "frontières" en montrant que celles-ci sont marquées par des processus constants d'ouverture («debordering») et de fermeture d'une part («rebordering») d'autre part), qui les rendent très diverses dans leurs formes et leurs matérialisations. Leur inscription spatiale, de plus en plus difficile à définir, produit des frontières mouvantes, plus ouvertes et plus floues.

Au-delà du renouvellement des connaissances sur l'état des frontières du monde, les conférenciers du BRIT ont exploré les formes contemporaines de «rebordering» selon différentes modalités post modernes. Cela a notamment permis de mettre en évidence:

- la sélectivité des frontières elles-mêmes comme de leurs fonctions re-hiérarchisantes;
- l'émergence de nouvelles frontières créées par des instances privées ou publiques;
- l'importance de la frontière embarquée avec des droits ou des non-droits attribués aux migrants porteurs de franchises ou d'exclusions;
- le poids croissant des technologies de contrôle et d'assujettissement.

Le site de la prochaine édition a été décidé peu après la clôture de la manifestation: le BRIT XII aura lieu entre le Japon et la Corée du Sud!





Report on BRIT XI continued

The XIth conference of the BRIT (Border Regions In Transition) network was held in Geneva and in Grenoble from 6 to 9 September 2011. This major event, organized every two years on a different continent, on both sides of a border, took place for the first time in France and in Switzerland. It was attended by more than 280 participants, including researchers, professionals and students. The BRIT is an international and interdisciplinary scientific network which regularly holds meetings attended by the world's leading specialists on border and geopolitical issues, with the particular feature of gathering analysts and practitioners around a border which they cross together, a condition for very fruitful debates.

The aim of this conference, co-chaired by Anne Laure Amilhat Szary (Joseph Fourier University- PACTE/Institut Universitaire de France) and Frédéric Giraut (Geneva University), was to assess the concept of "**mobile borders**", a provocative expression questioning the status of these spaces which globalization has transformed. Borders are no longer linear and the control functions attributed to these arbitrary lines are now often dissociated from the physical boundary between the two countries. When border functions diffuse far from the boundary line, one can question the remaining meaning of the conventional line, and when displaced elsewhere, can these still be qualified as border functions?

In addition to the plenary addresses, more than 180 communications, grouped in some forty sessions, were programmed for the attendees. This year, Africa was in the place of honour, and Michel Foucher, expert with the African Union together with the South-African scholar *Maano Ramuntsindela*, concluded the conference which guest of honour was Dr. Saskia Sassen, sociology

professor at Columbia University, USA. The convenors were also pleased to discover the presentation-performance given by the artist Ariane Littman (www.ariane-littman.com/) and very interested in the conference given by Olivier Clochard, president of the Migreurop NGO network.

The scientific results of the conference are wide-ranging. It was an opportunity to analyze the many meanings of the concept of "borders" by showing that borders undergo constant processes of opening ("debordering") and closing ("rebordering"), which make them very diverse in their forms and in their manifestations. Their spatial inscription, increasingly difficult to define, produces more fluid, open or fuzzy borders.

Beyond the renewal of knowledge on the state of world borders, the BRIT attendees have variously explored post-modern modalities of contemporary "rebordering", thus evidencing:

- the selectivity of borders themselves, as that their functions;
- the emergence of new borders, created by private or public agencies;
- the importance of boarded borders, with the existence or non-existence of rights attributed to migrants who become holders of franchises or exclusions;
- the growing weight of control and subjection technologies.

The location of the next edition was decided shortly after the end of this event : BRIT XII will be held between Japan and South Korea.





Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) XII: Fukuoka-Busan Call for Papers

“Borderland Voices: Shaping a New World Order”

The BRIT (Border Regions in Transition) XII: Fukuoka-Busan 2012
The First Conference in East Asia
November 13-16, 2012
Fukuoka (Japan) & Busan (Korea)

The BRIT XII (Fukuoka-Busan 2012) Organizing Committee invites all academic researchers and practitioners working on borderlands policy and border studies to participate in the BRIT XII conference, a multi-disciplinary/area studies scientific meeting dedicated to the study of borders in all parts of the world. The conference will include an opportunity to participate in a special tour of the fascinating Tsushima Island which lies between Fukuoka and Busan.

While papers on all topics and geographical areas related to border studies are welcome, the theme of BRIT XII is “Borderland Voices: Shaping a New World Order”. Papers addressing this theme will examine how those living in borderlands have been affected by the “bordering” processes of the state and central authority; how the voices of borderland communities can challenge the prevailing nation-state order; and the strategies and initiatives that people in the borderlands have devised in order to seize opportunities and overcome the difficulties associated with life on the border.

Views from the borderlands give us fresh insights into the dynamic relationship between state and society; center and periphery; security and insecurity; politics and identity; territory and belonging. The theme of BRIT XII comes as a timely reminder that it is border communities (often marginalized, overlooked and powerless) who are most sharply affected by the global shifts represented by the terms “de-bordering” and “re-bordering.”

BRIT XII offers opportunities to use multiple lenses (from local to global) as well as cross-disciplinary approaches to refocus on the border in new and

innovative ways. Amongst other topics, we are particularly interested in accepting papers and panels on the following topics:

- Local initiatives and borderland interest groups
- Maritime border studies: conflict and cooperation
- Comparative studies on land and sea boundary issues
- Re-framing border discourses
- Non-state dialogue across boundaries
- Borders and the reconfiguration of geopolitics in Northeast Asia
- “Mobile” and “hyper” borders
- Natural environment and shifting borders
- Borders in a world of supra-state organizations
- Borders as a global-local nexus
- Spaces beyond the state
- Borderland Identities
- Locating and defining contemporary borderlands
- Borders, migration and diasporas
- Gender divisions on and across borders

The final deadline for proposals is April 10, 2012. The panel or individual proposal must include the title of the presentation, the name of the presenter(s), affiliation, e-mail address of the author(s), contact number and audiovisual needs. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words. Proposals should be submitted to: brit2012@borderstudies.jp

If you have further questions, please contact:
Akihiro Iwashita, Coordinator of the BRIT XII (Fukuoka-Busan 2011) at iwasi@slav.hokudai.ac.jp
or Paul Richardson, Special Assistant to the Coordinator of the BRIT XII at paulrichardson@borderstudies.jp.



2012 European ABS Conference Lisbon “Borders and Borderlands”

“Today’s Challenges and Tomorrow’s Prospects”

September 12-15, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal

On behalf of the Organising Committee we are glad to invite you to take part in the European ABS Conference that will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from the 12th to 15th of September 2012.

The focus of this conference is to bring together researchers and academics who work on the issues of borders and borderlands as well as social actors and institutions that are directly (and daily) involved in cross-border cooperation, implementing projects and solving problems, providing therefore a broad and multidisciplinary discussion.

We invite you to submit an abstract with reference to the following gateways:

- A. Borderless Europe and the Borders of Comfort
- B. Cross-Border Cooperation and Territorial Cohesion Governance
- C. Borderlands Development
- D. Challenging Borders
- E. Experiences learned from Cross-Border Cooperation

The deadline for abstracts submission is **January 15th, 2012**.

You find all relevant information on the website for the conference www.bordersandborderlands2012.weebly.com. For any questions do not hesitate to email: borderlisbon2012@gmail.com or Iva Pires at: im.pires@fcsh.unl.pt.

METROLUX CONFERENCE 2012 “Unpacking cross-border governance”

September 6-7, 2012, Luxembourg City

By foregrounding the idea of “unpacking” the concept of cross-border governance, this conference aims to deepen our understanding and knowledge within the context of two particular perspectives. First, the aim is to examine the conceptual and theoretical foundations which underlie the analysis of cross-border governance. With a determined focus on explanation, this perspective aims to make sense of the multiplicity of case studies and the diversity of initiatives that have been witnessed over the past two decades, especially in Europe. Second, it is important to pay particular attention to critical perspectives which question ready-made institutional ideas based on normative or positive attitudes. The regulation of relations between actors located on either side of national borders is never “neutral” and never solely a technical or managerial matter; rather, it accounts for conflict and power struggles. It is thus important to expose the power issues at stake and the interests which often remain obscured in official discourse, if one is to fully understand the logics at work and their political and ethical significance.

On the basis of this twofold theoretical and critical requirement, this multidisciplinary conference intends to debate three specific research issues of interest to geographers, political scientists, historians, sociologists and economists :

- Debordering/rebordering: how to understand the changing reality of borders in a non-binary way?
- Between cooperation and competition: which articulations within a cross-border governance in search of meaning?
- Scales, territories, networks: which understandings of transborder regionalisation and its modes of governance?

The first call for papers was issued in November 2011. The conference will be hosted by the Department of Geography at the Centre for Population, Poverty and Public Policy Studies (CEPS/INSTEAD) and with the support of the National Research Fund of Luxembourg (FNR).

For additional information on the conference, please contact: Christophe Sohn, CEPS Luxembourg, christophe.sohn@ceps.lu





Report on Crossbordina Conference

Crossbordina

Cruzando Fronteras en Norteamérica: Movilidades, Gubernamentalidades e Identidades/Crossing Borders in North America: Mobilities, Governmentalities and Identities

International Seminar at Universidad de las Américas Puebla (UDLAP), October 17-19, 2011

Some seminars achieve a level of interaction among participants, and an elevation of new understanding for audience and participants, that extends beyond most scholarly gatherings. The 'Crossing Borders' seminar at UDLAP in Puebla, Mexico, was an engaging event that raised awareness of current border issues and dynamics among acknowledged border scholars, government representatives, NGO participants and students alike.

The event was organized and hosted by UDLAP's Department of International Relations and Political Science and its Canadian Studies Program. Key organizers were Marianne Marchand, Professor of International Relations, Leandro Rodríguez Medina, Associate Professor of International Relations, Roman López Villicana, Chair, and Alejandro José Ramírez López, Dean of Social Sciences. The comfortable setting was the Aula Magna of the Colegio Gao on the UDLAP campus.

The objective of the seminar was to convene an exchange of views and research among scholars from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico about current border dynamics in North America through comparative analysis in the areas of mobility, governance and cross-border and regional identities. North American "borders are very complex legal, political, economic and social systems. Since the introduction of the NAFTA and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), border governance in North America has aimed at striking a balance between, on the one hand, the mobility of goods, services and, to a lesser extent, people and, on the other, the security of the region (and individual states). How have border governance and mobility evolved since 2001? What is the potential impact of the recent focus on "perimeter security" by Canada and the U.S., the 21st Century Border Man-

agement agreement between the U.S. and Mexico, and the ongoing War on Organized Crime (Mexico) on these mobilities, governmentalities and identities?

The opening speaker, David Morgan, (Embassy of Canada, Mexico City) outlined the current Canadian policy on the border with the U.S. Ernesto Rodríguez Chávez (Instituto Nacional de Migración, Mexico) provided a thorough analysis of the migration issues facing Mexico. These keynote addresses were followed by sessions on various aspects related to the theme featuring speakers from all three countries. The papers and abstracts may be found at <https://sites.google.com/crossbordina/> or by contacting the Department of International Relations and Political Science at UDLAP. The seminar also featured a keynote presentation by William Straw (McGill Institute for the Study of Canada) on "Canadian Cities as Border Cultures" and video presentations "I am American: Video Portraits of Post-9/11 US Citizens" (Cynthia Weber, University of Sussex, UK) and "Which Way Home" (Tricia Swartz, National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children, US).

Borders in North America now concern and engage everyone who lives in, travels between and comes to the countries on our continent. Borderlands are no longer merely areas of interest for those who occupy these transitional territories, but rather the concern of people from all parts of the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The University community at UDLAP is engaged in studying and contemplating what borders in a post-9/11 North America mean for the future of our mobility, governance and identity as North Americans and global citizens. In this regard, the faculty and students of this institutional community have set a high standard for exploring borders for communities elsewhere in North America, whether they are situated in the borderlands or in the heartlands of their countries.

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Conferences

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Metrolux Conference 2012

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Non-State Actors and Human Security: Revolt, Relief and Reconstruction

Workshop, Brookes University, Oxford, UK

September 2011

4th Annual Workshop for Women In International Security: International Security and The Law: New Challenges Since 9/11

The Gregg Centre and the Law Faculty, University of New
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May 2011

Non-State Actor in International Law

Third Seminar, Non-State Actor Committee,

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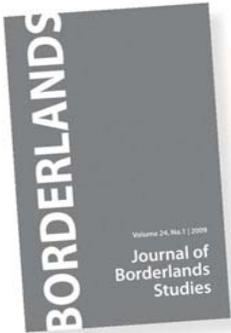
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