Dear ABS colleagues,

Welcome to Portland, “City of Roses”, brewpubs and good coffee. A truly nice place to hold our yearly legacy meeting. First of all we have to thank Akihiro Iwashita for offering us another exciting program. Yet another year we have to say that this might be one of the best ever meetings. The program is available on the web site. Being the program-chair and president-elect Akihiro will probably point us at some of the outstanding aspects of the program. What I would like to mention already is the plenary session in which we will honour Ellwyn Stoddard with the ABS Lifetime Achievement Award. As one of the founders of the ABS he has been instrumental for our beloved organization and it is great that he will able to join us and share some thoughts on the history of the ABS.

This year has been a year of further global outreach of the ABS. June last year we gathered in Joensuu and St. Petersburg for the first ever ABS-World Meeting. With 450 participants from over 60 countries it has been a true global meeting. It will surely be the start of another great ABS tradition. During the meeting in Portland we will discuss the location of the next meeting in 2018.

Furthermore early March a delegation of ABS-members together with local participants gathered in the Northeast of India and Delhi, for the first regional ABS-meeting in India. The ABS has to thank the local organisers, and in particular Mirza Zulfiquar Rahman and Krisnendra Meena, for their efforts to make this a success.

For the near future plans are being developed for an ABS-meeting in Mexican-Guatemalan border region. And the next ABS-Europe meeting will be organized in the fall of 2016 inLuxemburg. Slowly the ABS develops into the global player it wants to be.

Another important on-going issue is the revision of our bylaws to accommodate the growth of the ABS both in members as well as geographically. Christopher Brown is chairing the committee dealing that took on this task. He will report on the progress in the Board and Business Meeting during the meeting and linked to this we will also continue our discussion on the future of our association. I would like to invite you all to join the plenary roundtable discussion on Saturday, where amongst other things also the visioning committee headed by Victor Konrad will report on their activities.

A word of thanks of course has to be extended to all executive and board members for their efforts this year. A special thanks goes to Jussi Laine as the executive secretary and treasurer and the Joensuu team. The past year has shown that the association is in capable hands. Emmanuel Brunet Faily and his team continue to be of great importance as editors of the JBS. And of course we have to thank all the members of the different nominating committees. As these kinds of efforts are making the association what it is now I would like to encourage you to consider participating in these committees or engage actively with the ABS in other ways.

Like last year I would like to emphasise that the future of the ABS is depending very much on involving and engaging students to present and be 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.

As I will pass on the presidency to Akihiro Iwashita during this meeting I would like to wish him all the success he needs for the coming year. Knowing his engagement with the ABS and border studies, I am sure that the coming year will be another successful one for our organization.

With the warmest regards

Martin van der Velde, President
MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Dear ABS Colleagues,

We are gathering in Portland for the next ABS-meeting and this year our theme is “Border Studies and the New World (Dis)order: Relating Theories and Practice.” We have 53 panels confirmed and you can already view the program on our ABS website: http://absborderlands.org/studies/annual-meetings/. I invite you to browse the program and choose your panel from an impressive breadth and depth of knowledge and expertise in the ABS. This year we have a particularly diverse mix, including panels and papers drawing out functional and theoretical innovations that have application beyond specific area-based research. We also maintain the rich tradition of the ABS-meeting, with a wealth of in-depth area-studies centered research, including many fascinating papers on the latest research from the US-Mexico borderlands. In addition, the coming meeting involves many colleagues from Asia, showing how researchers from further afield are increasingly contributing to the next generation of the ABS community.

Aside from the regular sessions, several special and plenary panels have been scheduled. On Thursday and Saturday, Brown Bag lunch meetings will take place where you can enjoy a talk on the book “Borders” with its author, as well as a documentary on Japan’s maritime borders. On Thursday afternoon, Ellwyn Stoddard, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Texas El Paso, will receive an ABS Lifetime Achievement Award and will give a talk on the “The Multidisciplinary ABS: Reminiscences of a Borderline Scholar.” On Friday afternoon, a special panel has been arranged on Borders, Walls, and Resistance. Saturday afternoon will see us continue the dialogue of the ABS Visioning Committee under Martin van der Velde, where all ABS members are welcome to join and speak freely. All of the members are also encouraged to join three, FREE receptions (sponsored by the WSSA on Wednesday and Saturday, and organized by the ABS on Friday), where we will enjoy discussing the future plans of the ABS over nice food and drink.

Finally, I fully express my gratitude to the ABS program Advisory Committee members, secretaries, and all those who have supported this meeting. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you in Portland!

Akihiro Iwashita
President Elect and 2015 ABS Program Chair
Hokkaido University, Japan
There are Many Indias (and Many Borders): A Call for Collaborations and Comparative Research
— Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman & Kathleen Staudt

From March 1-5, 2015, the Institute of Chinese Studies (Delhi) and the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) co-sponsored an international workshop in far Northeast India, beginning in Guwahati, Assam, entitled “Living between the Rolling Hills and the High Himalayas: Understanding Borders and Spaces in Northeast India.”

After interactions with presenters on five panels on March 2, the entire group traveled through Shillong in the province of Meghalaya to Dawki, at the border with Tamabil, Bangladesh. The road leading to Dawki is one of the most beautiful hill roads in this part of the world, but as one approaches the border, one can spot hundreds of diesel fuming trucks ferrying limestone, coal and boulder stones, a major part of the cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh. On March 5, participants interacted at two half-day conferences in New Delhi: the Centre for Policy Research, “Encountering Borders,” and the Centre for International Politics at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), “Border Studies in India.”

Many fruitful discussions occurred that will likely move border theories and empirical studies from Euro- and North American-centric approaches in the ‘North’ to include ‘South’ Asian perspectives in a more comprehensive global and comparative border studies. Here we analyze some of the insights gained and the opportunities for collaborative research.

The Region, a fixed place in India

India, with the second largest population in the world of 1.3 billion people, hosts an economy with 2014 economic growth rates of 7-8%, far surpassing European and North American rates. Its post-colonial history resonated with non-aligned, soft-socialist rhetoric on domestic policies, though a practice that permitted uneven development and glaring inequalities in class and gender terms. In recent decades, and under the electoral victory of the Bharatya Janata Party (BJP), India’s economic policies have more vigorously embraced neoliberalism than what the Congress-led party pushed. Minimum wages range a ten-fold difference by state from the equivalence of US$2 to US$20 per day.

India, like the US, seems obsessed with ‘national security.’ Reece Jones (2012), in Border Walls, with comparative perspectives (Israel-Palestine and U.S.-Mexico), analyzes India’s fences with various borders. Each border offers differing contextual nuances, as we learned from conference presentations. Visiting scholars (like Kathleen) experienced securitization in many forms, from health-oriented temperature taking and surprised unannounced disinfection sprayed in airplanes before landing in India to the expected hyper-security practices at airplanes that include universal pat-downs in gender-separate lines (‘ladies’ and ‘gents’) plus the usual technological surveillance. Visitors also noticed privatized securitization: hotels that scanned passports and ran bomb-detection devices under vehicles upon entry; at shopping malls, car checks—trunk and hood—plus metal-detector walk-throughs. Yet ‘street-level bureaucrats’ prevail as well, with discretion applied based on whimsy or snap judgments.
Presentation Highlights

We heard scholars say “there are many Indias.” Likewise, we learned about many borders, not only within India, but also and especially the varying border contexts of India’s northeastern eight state borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (Tibet), Myanmar (Burma), and Nepal. Northeast India is connected to the rest of mainstream India by a thread-like 22 km (13.6 miles) land corridor, also known as the Chicken’s Neck, thanks to British Judge Radcliffe whose commissioners drew boundaries in 1947 Delhi without much regard for maintaining the integrity of ethnic and linguistic groups. Dr. Sanjeeb Kakoty from IIM Shillong referred to the “illogical way borders were drawn” and the “sheer madness of borders in this part of the world.” Dr. Yengkhom Jilangamba from TISS Guwahati said, “borders are absolutely ridiculous,” with “farmers accused of smuggling their own rice” and a borderline post in the middle of a school. We also heard presentations on India’s northern and western borders (with Pakistan) and the contested Kashmir. About the border with Pakistan, Dr. Krishmendra Meena conducted research with farmers whose land was divided by the border. Some needed permits to enter their fields, suffered injuries from land mines, and could not irrigate fields at night, among other challenges. Yet in interviews, farmers acquiesced to everyday barriers and costs, saying “I love India first.” The tension between trade and security emerged in multiple presentations, though the budgetary burdens of militarized borders do not seem to generate civil society activism as is more common in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

The conference jolted many participants to rethink the historical theoretical constructions that began with Westphalia and colonial cartography into broader pre-British occupation (1857) fluid, mobile empires of borderlessness or unfixed borders (Drs Devika Sharma, Nimmi Kurian). Historically, one might characterize the region as “co-existent civilizations” rather than a “clash of civilizations” (Dr. Jabin Jacob). Renowned political anthropologist James C. Scott provides historical perspectives on the hill peoples who resisted state affiliation for long periods in The Art of Not Being Governed (1999). Dutch scholar and ABS President Martin van der Velde discussed the post-border world within European ‘continentalism’ that aims to level the economic differences between both sides. Such insights raise questions about territorialism: who claims the territory, then who exercises power to control it and how (once constructed by scholars as “nation-building”). We also heard about the entrapment of Bangladeshi people in Bengal. Dr. Uttam Lal from Sikkim University analyzed the nomadic herder Yak people of Sikkim, some of whom are trapped in India, unable to return to Bhutan or Nepal, because a border security post controlled the area through a sacred lake (his power point contained stunning pictures).

India’s physical borders have been actively contested by China, once deemed a menace due to its 1962 invasion of the (contested on maps) province of Arunachal Pradesh, which the Chinese claimed, was part of Southern Tibet (itself invaded by China). In later decades, the relatively autonomous Yunnan provincial officials reached out to facilitate cross-border trade, though recently Chinese capital city officials overwhelmed these regional economic initiatives with its re-centralizing Silk Road initiative (Jacob), partly aimed to overcome its image as a “flaming red Chinese dragon.” In informal conversations at JNU, we learned that many people in Arunachal Pradesh, despite its historical linguistic ties and centuries old tribute paid to Tibet, have embraced India’s nation-building project, which synchronizes the national with Hindi language in their school instruction. In so doing, places and people undergo renaming and local narratives gradually lose their meanings. Residents may embrace these impostions to defend against possible future Chinese incursions.

Sanjib Baruah’s scholarly analysis (see Durable Disorder… 2005) advances understandings of northeastern India’s politics, where a “democracy deficit” coexists with insurgent militias (ethnic and multi-ethnic) with an electoral, developmental state and its “two-tiered citizenship”. In half of northeastern states, says Baruah, “the lion’s share of public employment, business and trade licenses, and even the right to contest for elected office are reserved for Scheduled Tribes legally considered indigenous to those states” (2005: 10). Some people mobilize indigenousness to “claim tribal status,” even advocating the imposition of state border checks to protect against internal migrants. Nuances like these remind us of internal borders of identity and language, or what some of the Europeans referred to as ‘mental borders.’

The intellectual discussions and exchanges at the conference put multiple issues on our research maps, hopefully to address in collaborative research and partnerships. We list the following below.

Border theories and typologies: State theorizing has frequently been Euro-centric, yet India contains three major world religions and uses symbolic discourse like the “sacred state” within which sacred rivers, lakes,
and shrines exist. Parts of India contain people who historically have not sought affiliation with a state. Dr. Akihiro Iwashita presented illustrious maps of changing, expanding maritime borders in Asia.

Environmental issues: With state neighbors, India shares river basins, flood and seismic zones, and residents affected therefrom. Pollution and other climate changes pose health security risks. For example, by 2050, half of Bangladesh’s land could be under water. Will refugees be a global or India issue? The US-Mexico border’s Rio Grande and associated pollution, with export-processing industries that use the ten-fold wage differences, face similar problems. Dr. Paul Ganster analyzed how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provided space for environmental researchers and border voices to be heard in the national capital cities. Dr. Inasema Coronado analyzed how a NAFTA amendment mandated the Commission on Environment Cooperation with Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. each contributing equal budgetary resources to its operations and opportunities for civil society activists’ voices. Mirza presented an analysis which questioned the role of provinces in Northeast India towards the shaping of the bilateral transboundary water sharing negotiations/responses with Bangladesh, Bhutan and China with respect to the river Brahmaputra, and presenting the Eastern Himalayan region as an ecological whole, and not divided along sovereign national boundaries.

Women and gender: Like Scheduled Tribes, the underrepresentation of women in political institutions and higher education remains an issue, partly addressed through “deprivation points” and “quotas.” Gendered violence is a chronic problem, like elsewhere in the world. Dr. Patricia Uboezi called for research on the potential displacement of small-scale women traders who crossed borders, along with matrilineal land inheritance in some Scheduled Tribes, as commercialization and large-scale commerce proceeds.

Civil society at borders, including commerce, large and small. Border people often share common interests, but repression of their movement and voices (as many said, “Delhi doesn’t understand us,” a refrain heard about Washington, D.C., and Mexico City). National security agendas may overwhelm traders, both big and small. Big business and global capitalism exercise powerful voices that advantage their interests over others. Informal traders cross borders to trade in the still-porous borderlands of various world regions. Alok Ranjan analyzed several cross-border haats (open border markets) along with severe restrictions and controls imposed by the state.

Securitization preoccupies the state and politics, thus deserving research in its own right. Illegal trade in animal parts and human trafficking produces “hardened” policing at borders (Kurian, Laine). In sum, the ICS-ABS-CPR-JNU conference offers a model for collaboration and comparative border research. As a start, thematic journals with co-authored articles from scholars based in India and Europe and/or North America would begin to disseminate comparative knowledge on borders. (Those interested should contact kstaudt@utep.edu with a proposed title and abstract by May 1.)

Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman is a PhD Candidate at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Assam, India. Kathleens Staudt, PhD, works at the University of Texas at El Paso.

ABS India Outreach Workshop on Border Studies in Northeast India was organised jointly by the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) & the Border Studies Programme, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi (ICS).

Organizing Committee:
Martin van der Velde, President
Akihiro Iwashita, Vice President
Jussi Laine, Executive Secretary and Treasurer
Jabin T. Jacob, Institute of Chinese Studies
Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman, IIT Guwahati, on behalf of the Institute of Chinese Studies
Imagined Regions: The ASU Simon Burrow Transborder Maps Collection

The Program for Transborder Communities at Arizona State University is pleased to announce Imagined Regions, an exhibition of historic maps from the Simon Burrow Transborder Map Collection.

The exhibit, which will be inaugurated in Phoenix, Arizona on February 19th, highlights the different ways the Americas have been conceptualized by mapmakers and reflect the evolution of the United States and Mexico from the sixteenth century onwards. The maps displayed tell many stories about the inventive nature of cartography: the early exploration of uncharted territories in the Americas; the land claims and disputes and struggles of nation building, and the changing social landscape of the continent. Most importantly, the maps included in this exhibit showcase how territory and space have been and continue to be imagined, and how imagined regions have had the power to shape the evolution of United States-Mexico borderlands.

The ASU Simon Burrow Transborder Maps Collection will be available on the School of Transborder Studies’ website soon (https://sts.asu.edu/ptc).

John Wesley Powell, LINGUISTIC STOCKS OF AMERICAN INDIANS NORTH OF MEXICO, 1891 (U.S.)
II World Conference 2018

Call for Proposals

The Executive Officers and the Board of the Association for Borderlands Studies invite interested institutions to submit proposals to organize the next ABS World Conference scheduled for 2018.

The deadline for submitting a statement of interest: April 4, 2015
The deadline for submitting a full proposal: September 30, 2015

This forum will broaden both the traditional geographical and disciplinary borders of the association itself, and the forum will foster the ABS global reach by encouraging participation from all corners of the world. The forum will advance 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. The ABS World Conference also welcomes colleagues outside the academic world: 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 interested in the study of borders.

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, ABS World helps 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.

Proposals should also include a letter of support signed by the President of the hosting institution(s), expressing the appropriate commitments and a plan of action to fulfill these duties.

To download the full call, please go to: http://absborderlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/ABS-World-Call.pdf

Both the statement of interests (deadline April 4, 2015) and the full proposals (deadline September 15, 2015) should be submitted in a single PDF file with all supporting documents via email to Dr. Jussi Laine, Executive Secretary of the Association for Borderlands Studies at absexec@uef.fi

All the statements of interest received by the deadline will be assessed during the ABS Board Meeting on April 9, 2015.

Questions? Contact the Executive Secretariat | e-mail: absexec@uef.fi
Of Interest...

Guest Lectures on European Borders and Regional Integration at the University of Southern Denmark

In the Fall 2015, the Department of Border Region Studies at SDU in Denmark organizes a series of five guest lectures exploring the new forms and functions of borders and their consequences for regional integration in Europe. The guest lecturers are: David Newman (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Cathal McCall (Queen’s University Belfast), Birte Wassenberg (University of Strasbourg), Høgni Kalsø Hansen (University of Copenhagen), and Jörg Knieling (HafenCity University Hamburg). More information can be found at:
http://www.sdu.dk/en/Om_SDU/Institutter_centre/I_Graenseforskning/Events/Guestlecturers

BRIT XV conference

From 17-20 May 2016, the Department of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark, the Hafen City University Hamburg and the University of Hamburg will host the “Cities, States and Borders – From the Local to the Global” in Hamburg and Sønderborg.

A call for papers will be available in the late summer 2015.

New publication “Writing at Borders” has been published

“Writing at Borders” examines texts, talk and writing at Finnish, Estonian and Russian territorial and symbolic borderlands. The publication and its nine articles stress the importance of cultural studies and the humanist point of view on borders and border crossings in the multidisciplinary field of border studies.

The authors of the publication represent cultural research, literature research and linguistics in the Universities of Eastern Finland, Helsinki, Tartu, Tallinn and Greifswald. The publication is part of the research project “Writing Cultures and Traditions at Borders” funded by Academy of Finland (2010–2014, http://www.uef.fi/fi/wctb).


Link to the publication: http://www.cultureunbound.ep.liu.se/v6/cul14v6_Writing_at_Borders.pdf

Link to the project’s website: www.uef.fi/wctb

New Book: Contested Territories: Mixed Identity Constructs and Hybrid Culture in San Diego (California) 1770-1920

Focusing on the regional culture of San Diego, California, this volume addresses the various manifestations, mechanisms and changes that both shape and define the local population from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. From its role as an active colonial seaport to being a focal point of the US-Mexican border, this work analyzes the confrontation and blending of peoples, ideas and influences that have contributed to San Diego culture.

Drawing from multiple disciplines, this work discusses the evolution of population and society as seen from archival and historical sources as well as through the representations found in literary, sociological, or archeological studies. This unique approach allows the questioning of canonic positions and recognizes the complexity of regional borderland studies in an effort to better define the mechanisms and manifestations of local California culture.

The resulting text, focused on the people living in San Diego and the physical and social environment in which they circulated, seeks to contribute to the scholarship and understanding of this unique place.

338 p, paper version.
ISBN: 9782858924387
Publisher: MSHA (Maison de Sciences de l’Homme d’Aquitaine)
http://www.msha.fr/msha/publi/ouvrage/affiche_publication.php?code=P400

New books in Ashgate Border Regions Series

Borderscaping: Imaginations and Practices of Border Making

Edited by Chiara Brambilla, University of Bergamo, Italy, Jussi Laine, University of Eastern Finland, Finland, James W. Scott, University of Eastern Finland, Finland and Gianluca Bocchi, University of Bergamo, Italy

Mobility and Migration Choices

Edited by Martin van der Velde and Ton van Naerssen, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Israelis and Palestinians in the Shadows of the Wall

Edited by Stéphanie Latte Abdallah, French Institute of the Near East, CNRS, Palestinian Territories and Cédric Parizot, IREMAM, CNRS, Aix Marseille Université, Aix en Provence, France

New Book

Association for Borderland Studies
2016 European Conference
Differences and Discontinuities in a ‘Europe without Borders’

4–7 October 2016, Luxembourg

University of Luxembourg
In cooperation with UniGR-Center for Border Studies (UniGR-CBS)

Every two years the European conference of the Association for Borderland Studies (ABS) is organized and offers a platform to scientists in the field of Border Studies. After the ABS World Conference in Finland and Russia (2014) that also served as a European conference, the University of Luxembourg will host the ABS European conference in 2016.

Borders play a particular role in Luxembourg. The Luxembourgish village Schengen gained international celebrity due to the signed treaties for open borders. In 2015 this agreement celebrates its 30th anniversary. Luxembourg shares its national borders with three other states (Belgium, Germany and France). Opening the borders had large impacts on the state’s economic, social and political development. Besides the opening of the European internal borders due to the Schengen Agreement, a hardening of the European external borders can be observed.

Illegal flows of refugees and the European organization FRONTEX display only two potential consequences of this hardening of external borders. However, Luxembourg also offers other borders. Among others there exist e.g. regional and local borders, language borders, cultural, political and economic borders. Here, the Greater region “SaarLorLux” assumes important relevance. Aside from Luxembourg this also includes Wallonia, the German speaking community of Belgium, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Lorraine.

The conference will take place in the young University of Luxembourg: the new university location Belval, in cooperation with the University of the Greater Region (alliance of six universities of the Greater Region SaarLorLux). This university location is also situated close to the French-Luxembourgish border.

The ABS Europe 2016-conference in Luxembourg wants to highlight the topic “Differences and discontinuities in a “Europe without borders””. The sessions are divided into the following subtopics:

- Mobility and multilocality
- Multilingualism and diversity
- Growth and sustainability
- Instability and change

We would be delighted to obtain contributions from different disciplines of the Border Studies as well as an interested expert audience. Furthermore we would like to encourage professional exchanges and to bring of course Luxembourg and the Greater Region closer to you.

The University of Luxembourg and the organisation team looks forward to welcoming you!

The call for papers will be launched soon.

Save the Date
## Financial Overview

### Association for Borderlands Studies - 2014

**Financial Summary - UEF ABS Account**

*All funds reported in Euro (€)*

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We wish to thank Professor Perttu Vartiainen, the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland as well as Professor Harri Siiskonen, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland for their heartfelt support and generous financial assistance to the ABS Secretariat. The provided funding (separate from the associations' own funds detailed above) has been crucial for the effective management of the association.

The ABS secretariat organized the elections for the 2nd Vice President after the nomination committee headed by Vice President Dr. Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda, Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez Ciudad Juárez, had first nominated two candidates for the position. The nominations were approved by the President of the ABS, Dr. Martin van der Velde. Dr. Correa-Cabrera was declared the winner after having received 52.2% of the eligible votes - see previous issue of La Frontera (35:1) for details.

We assisted Dr. Francisco Lara-Valencia and his committee in the search of three new board members. Dr. Christophe Sohn CEPS, Luxembourg, Dr. Adriana Dorfman Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and Dr. Joan B. Anderson University of San Diego were nominated to join our Board and will serve until 2017.

We assisted the 2014 Past Presidents’ Book Award Committee in the book review process. The Gold Award went to Jenna M. Loyd, Matt Mitchelson and Andrew Burridge (eds) ‘Beyond Walls and Cages: Prisons, Borders and Global Crisis’ (Georgia University Press, 2013). The editors of the book will deliver a keynote presentation in the upcoming Annual Meeting in Portland.

The ABS World Conference became a success also in terms of member recruitment: 111 new members joined the association during the conference! See the next page for membership overview. Full member directory will be published again in the fall issue.
Membership overview

Total 2013 memberships 233

Total 2014 memberships 371
Regular paid memberships 261
Student paid memberships 87
Non-OECD members 14
ABS Book Award Winner 3
Honorary Members 2
Lifetime Members 4

ABS listserv: 1.672 members

The Executive Secretary is responsible for the following activities:
• Running annual elections;
• Managing the annual membership campaign;
• Maintaining the ABS membership database and e-mail listserv;
• Producing the bi-annual newsletter La Frontera;
• Managing the annual book award process;
• Maintaining the ABS website;
• Managing finances

Readership of La Frontera
We wish to hear from you before or at the ABS meeting in Portland!

ABS Visioning Plenary Session: Saturday April 11, 2:45-4:15pm

— Victor Konrad
victor.konrad@carleton.ca

At the 2014 ABS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, the Visioning Committee was enlarged to welcome members who volunteered to serve on the committee, and expanded to include a wider representation of the ABS membership. Late in the summer the committee members were requested to share their suggestions for the future of the ABS. These suggestions have been grouped and compiled by Past President Victor Konrad, who chairs the committee. Members of the ABS Visioning Committee suggested a variety of possible directions, improvements and adjustments for the organization in its period of rapid growth. These suggestions range from comments on opportunity, ideas for advancement, and plans for integration, to imperatives for maintaining traditions and established procedures. The Visioning Committee did not address ABS Bylaw changes because these are being considered by Past President Chris Brown and his committee.

The suggestions received from the committee members are organized below under four headings: 1) scholars and scholarship, 2) organization, 3) representation, and 4) communications.

Scholars and Scholarship
- Develop a plan for attracting scholars to border studies
- Recruit established border scholars who are not yet ABS members to join the Association
- Establish a process to ensure diversity (disciplinary, geographical, gender, ethnicity) in border studies scholarship
- Enhance incentives to engage, support and retain young scholars in border studies
- Develop an ABS role in international cooperation in graduate student training
- Consider a forum for discussing standards for border studies scholarship and training
- Initiate a publication series in either the JBS, or in some other venue to discuss and recognize the “Foundations of Border Studies”

Communications
- The ABS language policy needs to be reviewed and aligned with changing membership communication needs: we need to communicate Spanish language ‘parcels’ to broader audiences; we need to find a way of accommodating yet ‘mainstreaming’ our Spanish language membership; we need abstracts in Spanish as well as perhaps a few other languages in our journal and other publications
- We need to encourage our members to write editorials, op ed pieces and other communications in order to broaden our readership base and provide a forum for border issues and concerns
- The ABS should consider declarations to counter state rhetorics
- Should the ABS consider advocacy set in core values of human rights and social justice?

Representation
- The ABS needs a travel grant process to encourage internationalization particularly if the membership extends to Africa, Asia and South America
- We need to consider ABS chapters or ‘franchises’ outside of North America and Europe
- Representation on the ABS Board and Executive needs to be balanced with the internationalization of the organization: should regional seats be allocated on the ABS Board?
- Young scholars should be allocated a voice and position on the ABS Board

Organization
- Should the ABS separate from the WSSA? Committee members had opinions in support of this suggestion and also in opposition to the suggestion.
- The ABS is now growing rapidly and many suggestions for change and development are being offered. How do we prioritize these suggestions?
- ABS sections could be organized by theme to formalize groupings that are emerging as interest clusters in the Association.
- The ABS needs to establish a core set of values as other academic organizations have done.
- The ABS could establish a cycle of annual meetings with four consecutive meetings in North America and the fifth meeting abroad.

Please consider these suggestions and then please share your ideas and opinions about these or other suggestions with the Chair or any member of the ABS Visioning Committee. The Committee welcomes your participation in charting the future of our organization. We will assemble all of the responses for our discussion at the 2015 ABS Annual Meeting in Portland. Thanks!

The Memory of the Sea: 
Objects Migrating within the Mediterranean
— Anna Chiara Cimoli

While in Europe many migration museums are being born every year, there are no migration museums in Maghreb, nor along the Asiatic coast of the Mediterranean. Those who leave from these countries have very little with them. Those poor things are gathered and carried by the sea current. That’s how the Sea Memory Museum’s collection (Zarzis, Tunisia) was born: outside of the canonic museums’ circle, but deeply rooted inside the logic of conservation, research, communication and exhibition that lies at the basis of every museum.

The museum is located in the private garden of Mohsen Lihidheb, who calls himself an “eco-artist”, and who has been walking the seashore for many years, collecting and rescuing all that he finds there: fish skeletons, pieces of clothing, bottles, shoes. And, after a long waiting, even the corpse of a migrant. Mohsen called him “Mamadou”, buried him, and hasn’t been able to stop thinking about him, as journalist Gabriele Del Grande reminds in his book Mamadou va a morire.

Over the years, Mohsen’s painstaking efforts have grasped the historic and epic dimension of migration, starting from objects which just don’t want to leave Africa. His museum tells this story to the African people, in Africa, which makes it an important collection not just for its material and artistic value. In a divided, conflicting Mediterranean, who will tell the story of the migrants? And how?

The museum is described in the photographs taken by Alessandro Brasile (2007) and Mattia Insolera (2010). On the occasion of the exhibition, the short film Il postino del Mediterraneo (The Mediterranean’s Postman), by Giulia Ardizzone and Kami Fares, will be shown as well.

The initiative, curated by Anna Chiara Cimoli and promoted within the MeLa* Project—European Museums in an age of Migrations (Field 05), in this step is also supported by the EU funded Research Project EUBORDERSCAPES. Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World. The exhibition is organized during the European Border Studies Conference ‘Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders’ (July 3-5, 2013, Sede Universitaria di S. Agostino e Pignolo), promoted by Centro di Ricerca sulla Complessità (Ce.R.Co.) and Università degli Studi di Bergamo in cooperation with the University of Eastern Finland.

Info on the conference: http://www.unibg.it/dati/bacheca/2/63600.pdf

GAMeC – Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo
Via San Tomaso, 53 - Bergamo
Tel. + 39 035 270272
En los últimos años, el tema de la reforma migratoria integral se ha ubicado en el centro del debate público en los Estados Unidos. De acuerdo con diversas estimaciones, el número de inmigrantes sin autorización en este país oscila alrededor de los 11 millones. En los últimos años, se ha discutido con especial ahínco la necesidad de aprobar una reforma de gran alcance a objeto de mejorar un sistema migratorio que es claramente disfuncional. Dicha discusión se ha centrado, por razones políticas, en el tema de la seguridad fronteriza y actualmente ocupa un lugar central en la contienda político-electoral de la Unión Americana con miras a la elección presidencial del 2016.

El debate sobre la necesidad de realizar una reforma migratoria integral en los Estados Unidos no es nuevo, ni ha sido planteado de forma exclusiva por el partido demócrata o por la administración del presidente Barak Obama. En realidad, el reconocimiento de la problemática en general y el diseño de propuestas alternativas han involucrado a miembros de los dos principales partidos políticos en el país. Un ejemplo, fue la propuesta de ley sobre “Inmigración Ordenada y una América Segura” introducida en mayo de 2005 por los senadores John McCain (R-AZ) y Ted Kennedy (D-MA). La propuesta consideraba, desde entonces, la posibilidad de amnistía o legalización de una parte de la población inmigrante sin autorización. No obstante el reconocimiento de la necesidad de una reforma integral para subsanar las grandes limitaciones del actual sistema migratorio estadounidense, el debate con respecto a este tema se ha politizado y polarizado considerablemente. Asimismo, se ha manejado una retórica apoyada por información imprecisa que ha limitado el consenso y el diseño de una solución efectiva a esta problemática.

En fechas recientes, y principalmente a partir de los atentados terroristas del 11 de septiembre de 2001, el debate sobre la reforma migratoria se ha vinculado directamente al tema de la seguridad fronteriza con el argumento de que la migración “ilegal” contribuye al crimen y a la violencia y constituye un riesgo importante a la seguridad nacional. Se ha llegado a hablar del posible vínculo entre la migración indocumentada, la delincuencia organizada y grupos terroristas como Al-Qaeda, o inclusive el Estado Islámico. Así, en los últimos años, las principales propuestas de reforma migratoria han colocado a la seguridad fronteriza como su prioridad. Considerense, por ejemplo, iniciativas como la ley de “Seguridad a través de la Regularización de la Inmigración y una Economía Dinámica” de 2007 o la “Reforma Migratoria Integral para la Seguridad en América y la Prosperidad” de 2009, y más recientemente (en junio 27 de 2013) la aprobación en el Senado estadounidense—más no en la Cámara de Representantes—de la legislación sobre “Seguridad Fronteriza, Oportunidad Económica y Modernización de la Inmigración”.

En años recientes—y coincidiendo con la elección del primer presidente de color en la historia de los Estados Unidos—la opinión pública se ha polarizado significativamente y pareciera ser que las posturas racistas y anti-inmigrantes se han manifestado de manera más abierta. En este contexto, el tema de la seguridad fronteriza ha ido desplazando al de la reforma migratoria integral y la propuesta del presidente Obama sobre el tema no ha podido progresar. El ala conservadora en el Congreso, representada en su mayoría por el Partido Republicano, ha sido bastante efectiva para detener cualquier avance en la materia. La propuesta de amnistía es el punto que ha enfrentado mayor oposición—principalmente por parte de aquellos vinculados al Partido del Té (Tea Party). Asimismo, en un posible intento por conciliar las posturas antagónicas, el presidente y aquellos afines a la reforma han
accedido al reforzamiento de la seguridad fronteriza y han apoyado las deportaciones masivas. Cabe destacar que en la administración de Obama se han llevado a cabo el mayor número de deportaciones en la historia del país.

Los intentos por conciliar las diferentes posturas y alcanzar un consenso no han brindado los frutos esperados. Los grupos antagonistas a la reforma migratoria y a la inmigración indocumentada han resultado ser mucho más efectivos. Además, los gastos gubernamentales destinados a proteger la frontera se han incrementado exponencialmente- En los últimos 8 años, el gasto en seguridad fronteriza ha excedido los 100 billones de dólares, y desde 2004 el número de efectivos de la Patrulla Fronteriza se ha más que duplicado. El Congreso ha expandido en forma masiva su gasto en infraestructura y tecnología para proteger la frontera, lo que incluye la construcción de un muro que divide a las dos naciones vecinas. Asimismo, se detuvo recientemente el avance artificialmente, economías en los estados fronterizos mediante incrementos en la demanda agregada. Es importante destacar que el crecimiento derivado de un mayor gasto gubernamental en seguridad, podría ser únicamente de corto plazo, pues no estamos hablando de inversión productiva. Al mismo tiempo, es preciso recordar la ley de los rendimientos decrecientes que explicaría las pocas ventajas potenciales de incrementar aún más el gasto en seguridad fronteriza —como lo proponen autoridades tejanas.

Considerando los últimos debates sobre reforma migratoria y seguridad fronteriza, así como el especial énfasis que se puso en estos temas en las elecciones intermedias del año pasado, se espera que en la contienda presidencial de 2016 la frontera vuelva a ocupar un lugar central. Sin embargo, en un proceso tan importante y complejo como este, es preciso que el electorado cuente con información que represente la realidad de la frontera. La migración indocumentada parece representar más beneficios que costos a la Unión Americana y el argumento de la frontera insegura pareciera ser falaz. Los estadounidenses preferirían quizás que sus impuestos se gasten más eficientemente, en sectores como el educativo y en la generación de infraestructura productiva. De otro modo, quienes se beneficien en realidad son los contratistas privados de la seguridad que llegan a desplazar inversión productiva y podrían limitar el crecimiento sustentable a largo plazo.

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**Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera**

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**Photos by Sergio Chapa**
Bordered Lives: Women from Bangladesh behind bars in India

— Sucharita Sengupta, Calcutta Research Group, India

A world without boundaries is impossible to imagine, especially when marking and securitizing boundaries constitute the heart of international relations and politics. People living on the margins or migrants cannot be ignored as they are important to understand the core of nation formation in South Asia. So, ‘governing the mobile’, messy flow of population, determining the legality of it and separating the alien from the citizen have become the centre of our political understanding. To stress on the bit of exception following Agamben would therefore mean ignoring concrete colonial and post-colonial conditions in countries like India where conditions of exception are integral to the socio-political history of this region. In studying the continuous flow of cross border migration between India and Bangladesh, specifically across the West Bengal-Bangladesh or Bengal Borderland, it becomes very difficult to draw boundary between coercion and volition. There is always some kind of a force either in form of ethnic violence, domestic tensions or sheer economic compulsions that propel continuous movement of people through this border.

Prison as a space in this piece is used as a prism through which I try to understand the porous, precarious, mobile and dynamic nature of the Bengal borderland and the flows - both human and goods across it. The paper also dwells on the inadequacy of the law to address the heterogeneity of the influx. There are two ways of coping with the borders – one living on it and the other living along or with it. The second part is relevant for the present exercise as the snippets of narratives discussed in my paper are of women who do not live on the borders but for whom borders are central to their existence. For many of them the Border is not a demarcating line, rather it spells hope and promises freedom on the other side of the fence. Out 58 Correctional Homes in West Bengal four have been studied for the present exercise as these have the maximum number of inmates who are from Bangladesh.

The Illegal Migrant

Apart from economic reasons, there are mainly four types of flows or reasons for which trans border migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal occur – a) To visit relatives b) For medical purposes c) For political disturbances; and particularly for women- d) Trafficked in name of work or marriage. There is a lack of uniformity or adhocism as to the charges leveled against ‘illegal’ migrants from Bangladesh. They are mostly booked under the Foreigner’s Act and Passports Act- 14 (a) or (b) respectively. The stipulated period of imprisonment under these acts are normally two years. However there are exceptions too. Yasmin, an inmate of the Dum Dum Central Correctional Home was brought to India by her friend who works as a sex worker in a brothel in Hyderabad. Till landing in India by using the Bongaon-Basirhat border in South 24 Parganas, Yasmin was unaware of her destination. Once she started seeing through the truth, she confided to the officials at the Border Security Post of the Benapole border, but instead of a shelter, she was processed under the Foreigners Act and sent to jail custody. On the other hand, Lisa Begum ageing 21 along with her two sisters at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home were also trafficked. They were booked under the IPC 363, 365 and 366 B along with 14(a) and 14(b) of the Foreigners Act. The IPC 363,365 and 366b convicts whoever is charged with kidnapping, abducting and trafficking girls below 18 yrs. So a clear difference of policy is evident. Flow of goods and smuggling is also rampant in the border, in particular Cattle smuggling as cows are illegally being stolen to Bangladesh. The cross-border flow of capital and illicit trade is facilitated by a strong network of agencies or middle men operating at the border. The smuggling of Phensedyl, is also a popular item of smuggling. The usual suspects are the Border Security Forces (BSF) interrogate or harass the people there. Testimonies of violence are many, countless in fact.

It is difficult to get the exact figures of illegal immigration from Bangladesh to India. While the figure of prison inmates in 2013 was roughly 23,000 inmates including the Bangladeshi Nationals, in 2014 from June to Dec, only Bangladeshi inmates sum up to a total of 25,501 persons. As a result there is acute space crisis in the prisons, further aggravated by the fact that the released prisoners of Bangladesh are not being repatriated in time and hence even after release.
many are staying back for an indefinite period. The annual figures of deportation of Bangladeshi nationals received from the Jail Directorate of West Bengal in 2013 was 3127 and 2014-2024. These are even less than the monthly figure of influx that I have detailed in a longer version of my paper. So where are the others disappearing? Either they are not being repatriated or they are being pushed back unofficially, the records of which are not available at the Correctional Home Directorate. The common practice is that, by the time the term of conviction for a Bangladeshi national is announced by the court; the person concerned has already spent that period in prison or is nearing the completion of the term. Therefore, for most Bangladeshi nationals, the status of ‘under trial’ changes to ‘released prisoner’ directly instead of ‘convict’. Once a person becomes a released prisoner, i.e., his/her period of confinement comes to an end, the process of repatriation starts which is again a long, tedious and lengthy process.

According to the West Bengal Correctional Service ACT 1992, “Rehabilitation assistance” means financial or any other assistance given to a released prisoner for the purpose of his rehabilitation into the society as an ordinary citizen“4 – For Women inmates of Bangladesh this rarely takes place. Rather the fate of a released prisoner of Bangladesh is full of uncertainty. There is confusion even among jail authorities regarding the exact process of repatriation of the inmates. The myth is, ‘Push back’- a colloquial term used to define the process of literally pushing back people of Bangladesh back to their home from the Indian Territory does not exist anymore. Reality is however otherwise, and extremely harsh. In course of my various rounds of discussion with the prison authorities in all the four homes that we visited, everyone admitted that Repatriation, i.e., the official procedure to send back a person back to Bangladesh takes place rarely and instead what takes place is deportation or pushback.

The vulnerability of the Bengal-Bangladesh Border gets even clearer with a visit to the Balurghat Correctional Home in South Dinajpur of West Bengal, a place very low in development, poor transportation and remote in terms of accessibility. South Dinajpur is basically a part of the West Dinajpur district which has been created out of the erstwhile Dinajpur District during the partition of India in 1947. The rest of the Dinajpur District is now in Bangladesh. With the partition suddenly the region was divided into two countries but the socio-cultural similarities across the border could hardly be over emphasized. The region is surrounded from three sides by Bangladesh, one side by Malda and one by North Dinajpur. As a result, the nearest border point of South Dinajpur – Hilli- is an important point of trade between the two countries and the crux of the story is that the Rohingya Muslims enter through this border apart from regular Bangladeshis. The Rohingyas are basically inhabitants of the Arakan province of Myanmar and were compelled to flee their home following a series of civil wars and are now a stateless community within Myanmar as per a citizenship law in 1982. Although the UNHCR has been issuing Refugee Cards to the Rohingyas in order to give them the Refugee Status, they are being arrested and put behind bars in both India and Bangladesh for illegal infiltration. At the time of this research in Dec 2014, Balurghat Correctional Home had 8 Rohingya Women officially. The eight women had come together in a group of 20 from Fanshi, Quarbil, Bali Bazar, Bugrishaw and Bohbazar areas of Rakhine District, Myanmar. All of them said they were compelled to flee for mass violence that was unleashed on them from a long time. Repatriating them is difficult as it is not clear where they should be sent back. Therefore even after a Rohingya becomes a Jaan khalash, he/she suffers in prisons till a decision is reached on repatriation.

The multifarious problems of the Bengal borderland therefore make it difficult to arrive at any decision especially distinguishing between immigrants and trafficked victims or to facilitate a speedy deportation. The precariousness of the Bengal borderland with vested interests has actually normalized the flow of persons and smuggling of goods. Half of the times women who are caught for trespassing through the border are denied justice simply because they do not tell the truth. What is interesting for these women however are the constant negotiations that most of them do in order to cross the borders either while entering or while being repatriating. They are no longer victims but through different names and forged identities they have found out ways to normalize the abnormal in their lives.

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1 Ranabir Samaddar, ‘the spectre facing the nation’ in The Marginal Nation: Transborder Migration From Bangladesh to West Bengal, New Delhi: Sage, 1999, p.44.

2 Ranabir Samaddar, “Returning to the Histories” in Economic and Political Weekly, 10 January 2015, p.49.

3 This has been borrowed from Professor Van der Velde, President, ABS and Associate Professor, Nijmegen Centre of Border Studies, Netherlands, at a conference organized by the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi and Association of Borderland Studies (ABS) at Guwahati on 2nd March 2015.


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There is something satisfying in seeing a border zone decay. Trees and bushes grow in unoccupied spaces. Wildlife thrives. A disturbing history is captured in space and time, yet it seems less threatening as it weathers gracefully. The relics and reminders of a confrontation that caught international attention and response for decades now capture mainly the attention of tourists and photographers. Their videos and photos are shared widely on the internet. Images of confrontation become art. Young Cypriots, too young to have experienced the trouble and conflict of the painful bordering, approach and cross the buffer zone littered with poignant reminders of war and loss, without a second glance, mindful only of their cellphone conversations.

One of the most disputed borders in Europe appears to be naturalizing and normalizing. Once patrolled intensively by United Nations forces and closely monitored by both Greek and Turkish militaries, the buffer zone between North and South, the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, is showing its age. Some of the barriers and barbed wire fences have come down, watchtowers are manned by cardboard silhouettes of soldiers, and anti-tank ditches have filled-in. The UN is still there but with a diminished presence and visibility. The buffer zone, or 'Green Line', established by the UN in 1974 has ironically become one of the most naturalized parts of the island. Winding just over 180 kilometres across Cyprus from Kato Pyrgos in the west to Famagusta in the east, the buffer zone is between 3.3 metres and 7.4 kilometres wide. It has an area of 346 square kilometres, or 3 percent of the area of the island. More than 10,000 people live in the zone, mainly in villages and agricultural areas that straddle the borderlands.

After 30 years, the ban on crossing was eased in 2003, and crossing areas were opened to some Cypriots and foreigners. Now both Greek and Turkish Cypriots cross with relative ease if they hold the proper documentation. Foreigners need a passport and obtain a visa at the border crossings. Then, they can travel freely once they enter the other side. Cars rented in the south may be taken into the north although there is a fee for extra “insurance”. Cars rented in the north may not be taken into the south, although foreigners who live in the north may drive into the south. Border crossing on Cyprus is easing up.

The Roughguide provides ‘crossing tips’ and details for the seven points now open. Beginning in the west, there is the most recently opened crossing of Limnitis/Yesilirmak which is likely the most picturesque with approaches that wind through the hills above Kato Pyrgos. While we stood in line to have our visas issued, and pay our car insurance fee, businessmen from the south, local area Cypriots and British ex-patriots crossed with ease. In the mountains to the east, and open to cars only, is the crossing of Agios Dometios/Metehan provides the quickest route from the south coast to the north coast congested central Nicosia (Lefkosa). We chose this crossing for our return to the south after
...spending four days with our friends in a mountainside village near Girne (Kyrenia) on the north coast. One of our friends was the former Canadian commander of UN troops in Cyprus. In the old city of Nicosia are found the two pedestrian crossings of Ledra Palace/Lefkosia and Ledra Street/Lefkosia. Then, moving east beyond the capital city is Pyla/Beyarmudu which is on the most direct route north from the international airport at Larnaka. Finally, there is Strovilia linking the south to the easternmost part of the island. This is the best access point for Famagusta.

One of seven border crossings now open along the ‘Green Line’: crossing into Yesilirmak, Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (photo by Aili Kurtis)

Although the buffer zone still “cuts across the island like a scar” (Neil Hall, April 10, 2014, Lost in Time—The Cyprus Buffer Zone, Reuters), and Cyprus remains physically and symbolically divided, this bordering is now most visible and emphatic in Nicosia. Here, the border appears “frozen in time” with long established barriers in place, abandoned buildings vacant for almost 50 years, signs to establish Greek and Turkish identity, and the pale blue and white markings of the UN presence. The former International Airport just west of the capital is abandoned and in ruins within the buffer zone. In and around Nicosia, the signs of contestation are most evident. Here the Occupy Buffer Zone movement of 2011-2012 held most of its demonstrations. Here we find the most overt sentiment for demilitarization of the buffer zone. Yet, here we find also the greatest concentration of the older generation of Greek and Turkish Cypriots who don’t cross the line.

The decaying Buffer Zone in Nicosia (Neil Hall, Reuters)

Elsewhere along the border, cooperation and co-existence are increasingly evident. In the village of Pyla astride the ‘Green Line’ church and mosque stand next to each other. There is a Greek Cypriot mayor and a Turkish Cypriot deputy mayor. The community appears to work. A British university is building a Cyprus campus in the area for both Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot students.

Meanwhile, economic and political currents offshore are having a profound impact on Cypriots. As Greek Cypriots try to deal with an economic disaster linked to the Greek ‘homeland’, and swallow the implications of the 10 Billion Euro bailout package for Greek Cyprus, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, once the much poorer part of the island, is experiencing a revival of tourism, foreign home buyers, and the promise of oil and water pipeline links to Turkey. The tensions from the economic crisis in Greece may have sensitized northerners and southerners about their differences but these tensions also have engaged Cypriots in dialogue about common problems. One of these is how to deal with asylum seekers using the increasingly porous Buffer Zone to enter the European Union. Although re-unification remains a dream for some and a nightmare for others in Cyprus, it is clear that the space between Cypriots is changing. The ‘greening’ of the ‘Green Line’ has contributed to this change.

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Victor Konrad, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
Chinese Interests in Inter-Modal Transport in Northwest Baja California

— David Stea

OP-ED

This article explores aspects of the incorporation of Northwest Mexico into international networks through “intermodal transport”, which services the process of economic globalization. Considered here are projects to connect the western United States with the ports of Asia through present and proposed ports of Baja California. After the Second World War, oil, nationalized in 1938 in Mexico, became indispensable for industrial production, resulting the construction of more enormous tankers: this is now complemented by increased numbers and sizes of container ships. With burgeoning global trade, some countries, notably the USA and China, plan to expand intermodal routes.

Ensenada. Mega-port possibilities are seen for the extended border region of Northwest Baja California – up to 150 miles from the border itself -- including rail links to Arizona and California. Officials in Baja California, together with two major transportation firms, are exploring development of a commercial port south of Ensenada that could handle mega-tankers, thus gaining a bigger share of the Pacific Rim’s expanding trade. Officials in Baja California also conceive of a major container facility eventually absorbing traffic from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, where ships now wait five days or more to unload.

As envisioned, the port would be connected to the United States by a rail line through Mexicali to Yuma, Ariz., which would allow cargo to be shipped to the interior of Mexico and the United States. The Ensenada International Terminal, a subsidiary of Hutchison Port Holdings (Hong Kong-based Hutchinson Wampoa Ltd), operates commercial and cruise ship port facilities: it and the Union Pacific Railroad are jointly investigating the feasibility of such a project. State officials in Baja California say they have been helping Hutchison conduct its study. Hutchison, with 206 berths in 35 ports, is the world’s leading port developer and operator, and Union Pacific is North America’s largest rail operator.

Mexico privatized the Ensenada port in 1997, selling a 35-year operating concession to International Container Terminal Service of the Philippines, which later sold it to Hutchison. Dredging is underway to expand the capacity of the Ensenada port: the proposed port could accept the largest commercial vessels, including mega-tankers and container vessels. Another port, south of Ensenada, would serve not only as a commercial bridge to the United States but as a way to facilitate shipments to Baja California’s maquiladora industry and other businesses, including development of a “high technology corridor” linking California’s Silicon Valley with Tecate and Ensenada. Container traffic is increasingly important and while some estimates have put the price of a port and rail line at $1.2 billion, the port is envisioned to have a capacity of up to 1.5 million containers per year.

In Baja California, the project, once approved, would take a decade to complete, said Sen. Héctor Osuna Jaime, once a federal senator from Baja California. San Diego, across the border, knows of plans for a new Baja port, but its harbor cannot accommodate the mega-ships with 50-foot drafts the Ensenada port would hope to attract, nor handle the growth of cargo in North America that is expected in the next decade or two, when the traffic overload is projected to double at the Long Beach and Los Angeles ports.

This is also a project of the Chinese company Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd, owned by Chinese billionaire Li Ka-Shing, a firm that has controlling interest in 35 ports world-wide, including the four most important ports of Mexico. In Ensenada, less than 150 km from San Diego, California, the same Chinese company is expanding port facilities to achieve the capacity to handle large intermodal container vessels. Additionally, an agreement between the Chinese company and the government of the State of Baja California Norte will involve the construction of a railway over 200 km long connecting Ensenada with the border city of Mexicali.
**Colonet.** A project for the village of Colonet is now an open secret, but one unknown to most Mexicans and Norteamericanos. The current population consists of an ejido of less than three thousand inhabitants. The plan is to convert Colonet Bay, a cove with very few inhabitants, into a port capable of receiving some of the largest ships in the world port. The mega-port, costing billions of dollars, will cover a land area equivalent to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach together. When (and if) the work is completed, the international port of Punta Colonet will be is the largest port in Mexico and third largest in the world after Singapore and Hong Kong. The operation of the port will require a city of almost 200,000 people, connected with the US through a railway line over 300 km long. And again, construction proposals are likely to involve Chinese companies: Hutchison Whampoa and a company called “Marine Terminals”, which is based in California and is owned by Evergreen, Yang Ming, Hanjin and China Shipping. Other stakeholders include the company “DP World” in Dubai...and Carlos Slim.

**Conclusions.** The most important Baja California trade consists of cargo between US and Asia, mainly the People’s Republic of China. Approximately 30 million containers crossed the Pacific Ocean in 2012, an increase of about 10% per year for over a decade. The main objectives in Mexico are not the improvement of the national economy: they are first, to provide alternatives to congested ports of southern California, primarily Los Angeles and Long Beach; second, to lower costs of materials handling at ports; and third, to reduce the power of unions of port workers, who are among the most powerful in the USA. Container traffic between China and Los Angeles / Long Beach is increasing at a rate of 15% per year, worsening the congestion problem, which makes the ports of Mexico the best solution. Initially, there are likely to be more job opportunities during the construction phase of expanding existing facilities and implementing new ones. In the second phase, when construction is complete, a much smaller number of workers will be needed for the maintenance of ports and other activities associated with intermodal freight transfer between modes of transport. Other workers needed only for initial construction work will have to look elsewhere: perhaps national migrant port workers will again have to become international.

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**Panel Announcement: Borders on the Move: From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?**

22nd International Conference of Europeanists
Paris, France, July 8-10, 2015

The events in Ukraine and Russia since November 2013, and the subsequent incorporation of Crimea to the Russian state in March 2014, with the support of the majority of inhabitants of the Peninsula, demonstrate that the desire to belong to the Western part of the European continent is not necessarily always the case. In some instances, people do prefer to belong to the Eastern part of Europe. This development in Crimea was proof that the reason for the desire to be a part of either Western or Eastern Europe always lies in the knowledge and experience one has already gained. Most of the inhabitants of Crimea hadn’t had the opportunity to experience the European Union personally; they only knew Eastern Europe, primarily Russia. This experience resulted in a sense of confidence in Russia, and distrust regarding the European Union. In the panel the shifting of borders from East into West and vice versa will be analysed using the examples of Russia and Ukraine. The goal is to show that borders are never a stable phenomenon, but they can change very quickly, and so the national belonging of a region can shift, too.

**Chair:**
- Ganna Gerasymenko, Institute for Demography and Social Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

**Speakers:**
- James Wesley Scott (Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland): Territorial and Ideational Notions of European Neighbourhood: Observations from the Eastern ‘Front’
- Jussi Laine (Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland): Shifting borders: Unpredictability and Strategic Distrust at the Finnish-Russian Border
- Katarzyna Stoklosa (Department of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark): Ukraine and Russia in Crisis – A Polish View
- Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute Dresden): Expanding Religious Borders? The New Influence of the Orthodox Church in Russia
As a response to Kofi Annan’s 1999 challenge to the global community to reconcile the “twin principles of sovereignty…and fundamental human rights,” the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine is based upon the rethinking of the sovereignty principle as a responsibility of the state to protect its citizens from human rights violations. Domestic authority is no longer absolute, but rather limited by both human rights principles and the responsibility of a state to protect its citizens.

The adoption of the R2P doctrine at the 2005 UN World Summit demonstrated an overwhelming consensus amongst nation-states to prevent and/or put a stop to mass human rights abuses such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity – with the use of military force when deemed necessary by a legitimate authority such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The R2P principle places an inherent duty to protect citizens irrespective of geopolitics or agreements between states. Under the doctrine, intervening states must protect citizens of a state suffering mass human rights abuses, rendering inaction of the international community in addition to the human rights abuses themselves, a violation of the R2P norm. Put simply, the international community does not have a choice whether to intervene or not; rather, it must do so when massive human rights violations occur.

The Rwandan genocide demonstrates the need for the codification of not the right to intervene, but rather a responsibility to intervene when faced with the evidence of mass human rights abuses. In the case of Rwanda, the great power interests of the United States and France undermined the mechanisms within the UN for mobilizing a coherent military force to prevent genocide and protect civilians. The UNSC was beset to great power interests and refused recognition of genocide in Rwanda, thereby relieving the international community of the responsibility to intervene under the Genocide Convention – the central purpose of the UNSC, to prevent future genocides, had been ignored.

This begs the question of not whether the international community should intervene when governments are deemed irresponsible, but rather how those processes determining state irresponsibility are established. While humanitarian intervention has been tainted by neoimperialist ambitions, the cost of non-intervention in situations of severe human rights abuses, war, or poverty is morally and intrinsically unjustifiable.

Given the climate of mistrust that surrounds military intervention, the ambiguity of the emerging R2P doctrine requires a more concrete and internationally agreeable mechanism to ensure consistent efficacy. This may involve the forfeiture of P5 veto power when the direct national interests of the UNSC P-5 are unaffected, as veto power remains the principal obstacle to effective and prompt responses by the international community.

To ensure that military intervention under R2P is justified, a strict demarcation of state interests and the decision-making process needs to become embedded within UN mechanisms. In the contemporary context, the legitimacy of R2P and human rights norms must be separated from the misappropriation of the intervention principle in the past to ensure that the international community is well equipped to respond to human atrocities on a mass scale. The international community must come to the realisation that they have a responsibility to intervene if states are unwilling or unable to protect their citizens from human rights abuses. To not respond when presented with unequivocal evidence of mass human rights abuses flies in the face of the R2P doctrine itself.

“Evil prospers when good men do nothing.”
Attributed to John Philpot Curran, 1750-1817

Alex Chung is a PhD Candidate at the University of Sydney, Australia, alex.chung@sydney.edu.au
As With the fall of the “Iron Curtain” and the advent of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, citizens, communities and regions along the external confines of the EU have chosen to open new avenues of communication with their counterparts across state borders. These initiatives reflect attempts to use borders as a resource for economic and cultural exchange as well as for building mutually supporting civil society networks. However, the majority of these regions must not only deal with high unemployment, limited economic diversification, de-population and demographic decline but also with considerable constraints generated by borders themselves. Among others, human trafficking, drugs smuggling and migration flows have elicited security and management policies that have made EU borders harder and often more violent.

EUBORDERREGIONS, a four-year research project funded by the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, ended in February 2015. Coordinated by the Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland, several active ABS members formed part of the 14-member consortium. EUBORDERREGIONS investigated possible impacts of cross-border interaction for the development of regions at the EU’s external borders and has thus contributed to scientific and policy debate on the future of economic, social and territorial cohesion within the EU as well. The project focused on regions at the EU’s external borders that extend from the Barents Sea Region in the far North to the Mediterranean in the South.

Furthermore, EUBORDERREGIONS has highlighted the specific relevance of regional development at the EU’s external borders for the conceptualisation and successful implementation of European Cohesion Policy. As part of this exercise, considerable attention has also been focused on the geopolitical contexts that influence (and that could potentially influence) both border regions themselves as well as processes of cross-border interaction. Presently, structural policies earmarked for regions of the EU’s 28 member states can be interpreted as a strategy of European consolidation without commensurate support of regional development co-operation with neighbouring non-EU regions.

EUBORDERREGIONS carried out fieldwork in 11 case study regions. Case study research has involved intensive interview sessions, stakeholder fora, media analyses, quantitative and qualitative “mapping” of actors, and their institutional networks. Research in the field was designed to provide a holistic picture of regional development situations at the external border as well as to involve local organisations and actors in elaborating potential scenarios of future development in conjunction with cross-border interaction.

As part of the overall research EUBORDERREGIONS has elaborated policy considerations, primarily in terms of exploring CBC as a potential resource for place-based development strategies. This idea of greater local involvement in the development of EU policies is in greater measure a response to a perceived lack of success in improving the economic prospects and social conditions of “lagging regions”. One of the suggestions that the project offers is new support structures for the present EU funding period (2014-2020) that might promote collaborative forms of policy formulation and delivery based on partnerships between the EU and its neighbours involving the state, the private sector, foundations as well as civil society at large. This would seem particularly important in more peripheral regions with limited prospects for short-term ‘returns’ on social investment and where multiple support mechanisms are needed in order to nurture entrepreneurial activity. This is all the more important in the case of regions along the EU’s external borders, where cross-border co-operation has been marginalised within the overall EU regional policy logic.

For more information on the project, please visit www.euborderregions.eu
El Seminario Permanente de Estudios Chicanos y de Fronteras (SPECHF), Dirección de Etnología y Antropología Social, Instituto Nacional de Antropología Historia (México, D. F., México); el Grupo de Estudios sobre Regionalismo, Integración Económica y Desarrollo, Universidad de Los Andes (Mérida, Venezuela); el Departamento de Trabajo Social, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas, Universidad de Antioquia (Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia); el Grupo de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias sobre Espacio Social (G2IES), Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral (Santa Cruz, Argentina); el Cuerpo Académico 83 Estudios Fronterizos, Departamento de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México); la Universidad de Finlandia Oriental (Joensuu, Finlandia); la Asociación de Estudios Fronterizos (Instituto de Carelia, Joensuu, Finlandia); y El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (Campeche, Campeche, México), extienden una atenta invitación a participar en el

**XV CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE INTEGRACIÓN REGIONAL, FRONTERAS Y GLOBALIZACIÓN EN EL CONTINENTE AMERICANO**

*a realizarse conjuntamente con el*

**IV CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE CIUDADES FRONTERIZAS**

28, 29 y 30 de octubre de 2015

Sede: Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Administración (Edificios V y X)

Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México

**JUSTIFICACIÓN**

El Congreso Internacional sobre Integración Regional, Fronteras y Globalización en el Continente Americano, históricamente se ha venido constituyendo desde 1996 como un espacio que, desde la filosofía de la praxis, nos permita avanzar en algunos aspectos de una reflexión crítica, para contribuir con ello a un mayor entendimiento de nuestra realidad, siempre marcada por la investigación para la acción y la construcción de una postura consecuente frente a nuestros problemas más apremiantes de la región y el continente.

En su XV edición este congreso se realizará conjuntamente, como lo ha hecho en otras ocasiones con otros eventos, con la IV edición del Congreso Internacional de Ciudades Fronterizas, el cual se ha llevado a cabo desde 2009 en la Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ).

La dinámica del Congreso busca integrar diversas formas de discusión y debate que han sido relevantes durante casi veinte años de trabajo colectivo en nuestro proyecto/programa general sobre Integración Regional, Fronteras y Globalización en el Continente Americano. Se trata de presentar no sólo resultados de análisis e investigaciones, sino de establecer nuevos mecanismos de trabajo colectivo interdisciplinario y, en lo posible, acercamientos a trabajos comparados. En esta ocasión, se trata de enfatizar una mirada crítica del concepto de frontera y sus manifestaciones económicas, políticas, sociales, psicológicas, culturales, legales y territoriales; y que además, se cuestione la propia existencia de las fronteras en un mundo globalizado, desde una perspectiva democratizadora.

Además de una visita a la ciudad fronteriza de El Paso, Texas (para aquellos interesados en participar en ella), la estructura del congreso permitirá la realización de talleres de análisis y discusión, mesas redondas, coloquios, paneles, presentaciones de libros, videoconferencias, exhibición de videodocumentales e intercambio académico con discusión abierta sobre los siguientes:

**EJES TEMÁTICOS**

1. LOS PROCESOS DE INTEGRACIÓN REGIONAL FRENTE A LA CRISIS GLOBAL
2. TRATADOS DE LIBRE COMERCIO Y PLANES GEOESTRATÉGICOS
3. MILITARIZACIÓN Y SEGURIDAD REGIONAL
4. MIGRACIONES, DESPLAZAMIENTOS FORZADOS Y REFUGIO
5. NUEVOS MOVIMIENTOS SOCIALES Y EXPERIENCIAS DE ORGANIZACIÓN
6. LAS FRONTERAS DE CARA A LA INTEGRACIÓN
7. SEGURIDAD Y MILITARIZACIÓN FRONTERIZA
8. TRASNCULTURACIÓN TRANSFRONTERIZA
9. CIUDADES FRONTERIZAS Y GOBIERNOS LOCALES
10. CONTRUYENDO UNA AGENDA DE LOS ESTUDIOS CRÍTICOS DE LA FRONTERAS

**OBJETIVOS:**

Exponer los impactos de la crisis económica global en los ámbitos económicos, políticos y sociales del Hemisferio Occidental.

Consolidar la reflexión colectiva y las formas de trabajo conjuntas sobre las temáticas a abordar.

Aportar herramientas metodológicas a procesos de resistencia y de reflexión sobre las alternativas de integración regional.

Fortalecer el vínculo movimientos sociales - academia.

Incentivar y promover las aproximaciones comparativas entre los países de la región para analizar problemáticas comunes.

Impulsar el estudio y la reflexión crítica a los conceptos de fronteras y límites. Así como el conocimiento de la realidad social de las ciudades fronterizas.

Dirigido a: Investigadores/es, docentes, estudiantes, activistas e integrantes de organizaciones sociales.

**INFORMACIÓN PRÁctica:**

Los gastos de transporte, alojamiento y alimentación correrán por cuenta de las y los participantes, de las instituciones, organizaciones, colectivos y movimientos de los cuales forman parte. Debido a que las instalaciones de la Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez se localizan en un zona donde los servicios alimenticios (restaurantes) no están cercanos a las mismas, el Comité Organizador local acordó contratar los servicios de una empresa de banquetes que lleve los alimentos a la propia Universidad con un costo de USD $30.00 (treinta dólares) o $400.00 (cuatrocientos pesos) por los tres días, los cuales deberán ser pagados al momento de la inscripción.

Al término del congreso, los días 31 de octubre y 1 de noviembre se realizará una visita a la ciudad fronteriza de El Paso, Texas. Los gastos correrán por parte de las y los interesados (favor de enviar una nota junto al resumen de la ponencia si está interesado/a en esta actividad). Se requiere visa vigente otorgada por los Estados Unidos para poder cruzar la frontera.
Fecha límite para recibir resúmenes: 15 de junio de 2015 (con extensión de una cuartilla como máximo, espacio y medio, letra Times New Roman 12, margen normal, tamaño carta)

Fecha límite para recibir ponencias de las personas interesadas en que sean integradas en una Memoria en versión CD, la cual se entregará durante el congreso: 30 de septiembre de 2015 (cuya extensión serán de 20 a 25 cuartillas a espacio y medio, letra Times New Roman 12, margen normal, tamaño carta, en formato Word para Windows).

Fecha límite para la entrega de ponencias al Comité Organizador para su dictamen y posible publicación en libro: 5 de diciembre de 2015 (lo cual permite la incorporación de las discusiones realizadas en el evento).

Favor de enviar los resúmenes y ponencias a las siguientes tres direcciones electrónicas: Dr. Juan Manuel Sandoval Palacios: jsandoval.deas@inah.gob.mx 
Dr. Hector Antonio Padilla Delgado: hpadilla@uacj.mx 
Dra. Consuelo Pequeño: congreso.ciudades fronterizas@gmail.com

Publicación de ponencias en libro: Las ponencias, serán sometidas a un Comité Dictaminador y las que sean seleccionadas serán publicadas. Para tal efecto, el Comité enviará posteriormente las normas editoriales detalladas que deberán incorporar. Dependiendo de la cantidad de los materiales seleccionados y de los recursos disponibles, se publicarán uno o varios libros temáticos los cuales serán coordinados por algunas de las instituciones convocantes.

INSTITUCIONES CONVOCANTES

Argentina
Grupo de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias sobre Espacio Social (GZIES), Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral (Santa Cruz)
Instituto Superior de Estudios Ambientales (ISEA), Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Córdoba)
Laboratorio de Desertificación y Ordenamiento Territorial (LABDOT), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) (Mendoza)
Centro de Estudios Urbanos y Regionales (CEUR), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) (Buenos Aires)
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Laboratório do Espaço Social (LABES), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre)
Laboratório Estado e Território (LABETER), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre)
Grupo de Pesquisas Espaço, Fronteira, Informação e Tecnologia (GREFIT), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre) (*)
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Geografia (POSEGA), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre) (*)
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Planejamento Urbano e Regional (PROPLUR), Faculdade de Arquitetura, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre) (*)
Grupo de Pesquisas “Integrações econômicas binacionais e desenvolvimento social em regiões de fronteiras, Universidade Federal do Pampa (Santana do Livramento)
Grupo RETIS, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Río de Janeiro)
Upcoming Conferences

2016

October 4–7 ABS Europe Conference: Differences and discontinuities in a “Europe without borders” University of Luxembourg, (Lux.)

May 17–20 BRIT XV conference “Cities, States and Borders – From the Local to the Global” University of Southern Denmark, Hafen City University Hamburg and the University of Hamburg, Hamburg (Germany) and Sønderborg (Denmark).

2015

November 6–7 The State in/of Borderlands History / El Estado en/de la Historia de la Región Fronteriza University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX, (USA)

October 28–30 XV Congreso Internacional Sobre Integración Regional, Fronteras y Globalización en el Continente Americano, a Realizarse Conjuntamente con el IV Congreso Internacional de Ciudades Fronterizas, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua (México).


October 1–2 North American In/Securities: A Local-Global Nexus. University of Turku, (Finland), jmc@utu.fi


September 25–26 “Interactive Borderland? Re-thinking Networks and Organisations in Europe”, Goethe Institute, Riga. Organised by IRTG “Baltic Borderlands” at the Universities in Lund (Sweden), Tartu (Estonia), Greifswald (Germany),

September 8–10 10th Annual WCO Picard Conference, Organized by The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Azerbaijan Customs Service, Baku, (Azerbaijan)

August 30–September 2 The fifth EUGEO Congress “Convergences and Divergences of Geography in Europe” Budapest, (Hungary).

August 17–21 IGU Commission on Political Geography at the International Geographical Union Regional Conference, Moscow, (Russia)

June 6–11 6th Urban Space and Social Life: Theory and Practice. City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong; Zuhuai City Polytechnic, Zuhuai; University of Macau, Macau

May 20–22 V Seminário de Estudos Fronteiriços Corumbá, Bolivia and Paraguay borders. (Brazil) Contact: Profa. Dra. Adriana Dôrfman, adriana.dorfman@ufrgs.br

May 7–8 Comparative Border Studies in North America, University of Texas at Brownsville; Brownsville, TX, (USA).


April 20 The 28th Annual PGSG Pre-conference for the AAG Chicago meeting. Contact: Reece Jones and Natalie Koch at aag.pgsg@gmail.com

April 8–11 57th ABS/WSSA Annual Conference Portland, Oregon, Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront.

IBRU Professional Training Workshops for 2015


Archive Research for Boundary Disputes Resolution, 21-23 September 2015, London, United Kingdom https://www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/workshops/2015/archiveresearch/

Defining, Delimiting and Managing the Outer Continental Shelf, 16-18 November 2015, Washington DC, USA in Partnership with Foley Hoag LLP https://www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/workshops/2015/continentalshelf/
Publications


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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 and become more global. It now encompasses an interdisciplinary membership of scholars and other stakeholders at close to three hundred academic, governmental institutions, and NGOs representing all continents.

ABS maintains relations with institutions and associations with similar interests globally. The annual meeting every April provides a forum for a wide range of topics on border regions around the world. The ABS also co-sponsors other meetings on border topics.

Benefits of ABS Membership

- A subscription to the Journal of Borderlands Studies (4 numbers annually)
- Access to an online database of archived volumes of the Journal of Borderlands Studies
- A window on our profession offered by the ABS newsletter La Frontera
- Access to participation at the Annual Conference
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Become a Member

- Please contact the ABS Executive Secretariat: absexec@uef.fi
- absborderlands.org

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2015 Member Directory will be published in the Fall issue (November 2015)
Border Regions Series

Series Editor: Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern, Switzerland

In recent years, borders have taken on an immense significance. Throughout the world they have shifted, been constructed and dismantled, and become physical barriers between socio-political ideologies. They may separate societies with very different cultures, histories, national identities or economic power, or divide people of the same ethnic or cultural identity.

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The journal publishes work from any discipline that illuminates border problems, characteristics, issues and realities in any part of the world; the border emphasis is global. Papers should deal in a substantive way with the border-related aspects of a topic. Submissions should not just be the results of a study in a region near a border without significant consideration of border or transborder influences and characteristics.

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Manuscript Submission
All submissions should be made online at the Journal of Borderlands Studies ScholarOne Manuscripts site. New users should first create an account. Once a user is logged onto the site submissions should be made via the Author Centre.

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Volume 29, Issue 4, 2014
Special Issue: The Multiple US–Mexico Borders

An Introduction to the Multiple US–Mexico Borders
Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera & Kathleen Staudt

Undocumented Families in Times of Deportation at the San Diego–Tijuana Border
Olivia T. Ruiz Marrojo

Politics, Process, Culture and Human Folly: Life among Arizonans and the Reality of a Transborder World
Carlos G. Velez-Ibanez & Elsie Szecsy

Violence on the “Forgotten” Border: Mexico’s Drug War, the State, and the Paramilitarization of Organized Crime in Tamaulipas in a “New Democratic Era”
Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera

Ciudad Juarez: A Perfect Storm on the US–Mexico Border
Tony Payan

Whither the Environmental Nongovernmental Organizations on Multiple Regions of the US–Mexico Border?
Irasema Coronado

The Border, Performed in Films: Produced in both Mexico and the US to “Bring Out the Worst in a Country”
Kathleen Staudt

A Tale of Two Mexican Border Cities: The Rise and Decline of Drug Violence in Juarez and Tijuana
David A. Shirk

“The antiAtlas of Borders, A Manifesto”
Cédric Parizot, Anne Laure Anilhat Szary, Gabriel Popescu, Isabelle Arvers, Thomas Cantens, Joan Cristofol, Nicola Mai, Joana Moll & Antoine Vian

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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.

La Frontera 35(2)

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 four 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 8-11, 2014 in Portland, Oregon.

FUTURE CONFERENCES
- 2016 Reno, Nevada – April 13 – 16
- 2017 San Francisco, California – April 12 – 15
- 2018 San Antonio, Texas – April 4 – 7
- 2019 San Diego, California – April 24 – 27

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 selected Borders Bibliography. The bibliography contains work on state borders, border regions, borderlands, cross-border cooperation and trans-national governance. It is available in sections corresponding to regional categories, or can be accessed as a single file ordered alphabetically by author.

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.

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