

**- Call for Proposals -**  
**Association of Borderlands Studies World Conference 2022**

The Executive Officers and the Board of Directors of the Association for Borderlands Studies invite interested institutions to submit proposals to organize the next ABS World Conference scheduled for 2022.

The ABS membership has grown year after year and, above all, it has become increasingly more international. Today, more than half of the ABS membership lives outside of the United States, the birthplace of the association. As the ABS grows to meet the challenge of accommodating its ever more international and diverse membership, it has become necessary to renew some of the traditional logistical and organizational practices in order to match the new circumstances.

The Association for Borderlands Studies aims to provide important linkages among scholars around the globe. The ABS World Conference is a practical example of working towards this goal. Having a broader conference not tied to any specific country or continent is expected to bring new possibilities to those living outside the United States, where the ABS Annual Meetings are held. While these meetings, held in conjunction with the Western Social Science Association's annual conference, will remain as the main gathering of the association, a broader forum for global border dialogue circulating in various locations all around the world is very much needed. 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.

Within the ABS, the debate has focused on ways to identify and tap into growth opportunities for the ABS to take the lead and to maintain its position as the premier global organization in the field of border studies. It has been concluded that what we needed was cooperation, not competition, with other relevant border studies networks. We wish to foster greater linkages and more intensive dialogue between various networks and organizations focusing on border issues, and would like to see the ABS play a key role in facilitating this dialogue. As a practical manifestation of this pursuit, the initiative to launch ABS world conferences every fourth year was accepted at the 2012 ABS annual meeting in Houston. The first ABS WORLD CONFERENCE was held at the University of Eastern Finland in partnership with St. Petersburg University, Russia, in the summer of 2014. The second conference was held at the University of Vienna, Austria, in collaboration with Central European University in Budapest, Hungary in July 2018.

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 Conference helps structure the field of borders studies, and helps facilitate the development of more thematically and/or geographically specific meetings and conferences and thus, strengthens the overall profile of border studies internationally.

**The deadline for submitting a statement of interest: April 3, 2020**

**The deadline for submitting a full proposal: July 30, 2020**

**ABS WORLD CONFERENCE 2022**  
**FULL PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

Preamble: *The ABS vision is that the ABS WORLD brings together many different border networks and societies together to engage in scientific, social scientific and professional issues concerned with borders, boundaries, frontiers and borderlands and border-regions; This vision should be reflected to anyone proposal and in particular should be reflected in the composition of the ABS World Scientific committee. Indeed, note that the ABS is fully committed to working with representatives of such organizations as the ABORNE and BRIT and other regional or thematic scientific communities, and specific research programs, interested in border studies.*

The full proposal document must include the following aspects:

Motivation

Prospective organizer may describe freely the motivation to organize the next ABS World Conference. Organizers should commit to the ABS vision outlined in the *preamble* of this guideline.

Location

All geographical locations will be considered. Locations, where any type of a border crossing experience can be included in the program, are favored. Ideally, the location of the ABS World Conference should alternate between different continents, but the ABS Board sees this as one of many desirable aspects of a bid rather than a strict rule. The location needs to be sufficiently well accessible as to allow broad participation and relatively inexpensive travel. Should the proposed location not be in the vicinity of an airport, the organizers are expected to organize transportation to the actual venue.

Dates, facilities and local context

Dates for the conference are not pre-set. The date should not conflict with other important meetings, major holidays, etc. Organizers must agree to reserve/organize an adequate number of meeting rooms for conference activities that can accommodate a large enough number of people (430 in 2014), that include rooms for diverse activities (panels, plenaries, roundtables, posters, etc.), and that have good transportation links to the housing solutions proposed. Proposals should include a description of the local context (town specificities, typical climate in target dates, closest international airport, typical international travel costs, local transportation, etc.).

Organizing institution(s) and proposal Committee

The organizing committee should propose at least:

- one general conference chair
- one general scientific (program) chair
- an indicative list of members for the program committee
- at least four members of the previous ABS World organizing and scientific committees with active ABS memberships to provide advice and continuity

To facilitate communication with the ABS, at least some of the ABS Officers and/or the Board members must be included in the organizing and scientific committees. The proposal does not have to nominate the ABS members in question; these may be appointed as appropriate in consultation with the organizers.

### Housing aspects

In their proposal to host the next ABS World Conference, interested institutions must agree to either reserve a large number of rooms, or provide evidence that a large number of rooms will be available to participants in a suitable venue (hotel or other) and at a reasonable rate.

### A timeline of the organization

An indicative timeline should be provided, covering the whole period between the date of proposal to target dates of the conference, and including milestones such as dates for:

- Communication schedule with ABS Officers and the Board
- Establishment of conference web site
- Schedule of calls for papers, sessions, etc.
- Submission deadlines
- All important steps of the reviewing workflow
- Registrations (early, late), etc.

### Budget

- The organizers bear the main financial responsibility of the ABS World Conference and manage its budget.
- ABS will allocate a modest amount in support of the event.
- The conference is intended to be accessible and affordable both to organizers (in terms of organization complexity and financial burden) and to participants. ABS membership must be made available during the registration process, the gains from which must be transferred to the ABS after the conference.
- Proposals should also include estimates of registration fees (early, late, student) and a sponsorship plan.
- Although the objective is for the organizers to reach financial break-even, post-conference financial balance may show a small loss or profit. In the case of a profit, the organizers will transfer at least 20% of it to the ABS, in addition to the amount corresponding to the membership fees (see above).
- Proposals should describe how student participation will be encouraged (e.g. by means of travel grants, affordable housing, low registration fees).

### Website and promotional aspects

- The Conference website may be built under the organizing institutions already existing website or a completely new URL can be created for this purpose. In either case, the site must be linked to the ABS website (<http://absborderlands.org/>). Website hosting, content edition and management is the responsibility of the organizers.
- A detailed, informative conference booklet must be prepared and made available to the participants in good time before the conference.

- The ABS logo should be displayed prominently on the conference web site, proceedings, program booklets, and any other ABS World Conference-related document.
- The ABS secretariat will assist in promotional aspects of the Conference.

#### Activities and topics

- Proposals should include an indicative list of scheduled activities (subject to change) and an indicative theme. Theme should be broad enough as to allow maximum participation and not limited to any certain discipline, narrow topic, or a geographical setting.
- The conference program should include between 3 to 5 keynote or invited speakers.
- Finding an appropriate and relevant keynote speaker often takes a long time, so it should be started early. Conference organizers must cover the travel and housing expenses of the keynote and invited speakers, and provide complimentary conference registrations. If an honorarium is paid (which has not been the norm at ABS), it should be symbolic, to avoid increasing the registration fees.

#### Papers and Proceedings-related aspects

- As one of the main goals of the ABS World Conference is to bring maximum number of interested scholars, students, practitioners and other stakeholder together, submitting full-length papers should not be made compulsory, though it may certainly be highly encouraged.
- Submitted abstracts and papers must be made accessible and linked on the conference website, on the latest 10 days before the conference.
- Printed copies may be provided as an option to participants, but are no longer compulsory as electronic proceedings are supplied.
- Organizers must agree that for each accepted paper, at least one author must register for the conference, and that papers with no registered author on the author registration deadline will be removed from the conference program and will not appear in the proceedings nor on the conference website.
- Organizers must agree to provide, at the latest 2 months after the end of the conference, a free form final conference report to the ABS Executive Secretary.

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.

Both the statement of interests (deadline April 3rd 2020) and the full proposals (deadline July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020) should be submitted by to the Executive Secretary of the Association for Borderlands Studies electronically: [absborderlands@asu.edu](mailto:absborderlands@asu.edu)

#### **Selection Committee Members of the ABS World Conference 2020**

Chair: Irasema Coronado, Arizona State University, United States

Edward Boyle, University of Kyushu, Japan

Adriana Dorfman, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Naomi Chi, University of Hokkaido, Japan,

Willie Eselebor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

James Gerber, San Diego State University, United States

Todd Hataley Sandford Fleming College, Canada

Akihiro Iwashita, University of Hokkaido, Japan, ex-officio

Jussi Laine, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Francisco Lara Valencia, Arizona State University, United States

Sergio Peña Medina, El Colegio de la Frontera, Mexico

Katarzyna Stoklosa, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Élisabeth Vallet, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Machteld Venken; University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, ex-officio