

Project BRIDGE
Conceptual Workshop:

Theorizing Borders through Analyses of Power Relationships

Relais Europe Schengen/Centre Touristique Régional Schengen, 29-30 April 2009

Conference Synopsis:

The comparative literature on borders is rich within specific fields. However, little dialogue exists between scientific disciplines. This is the primary weakness of the body of works that aim to “theorize borders.” In studies focusing on political relationships, border integration is analyzed in terms of either multi-level governance or national policy barriers that divide border communities. In geographical or economic studies, space is usually theorized as a point of contact or an area of exchange, which often contradicts the above-mentioned work being conducted by political scientists. In the social/cultural spheres, authors generally examine the existence/creation of cross-border identities as unified or holistic phenomena without necessarily delving into the mechanisms of cross-border social cohesion. Finally, environmental studies generally discuss border policies in terms of their inability to protect cross-border landscapes/resources.

This conference, organized by the interdisciplinary IPSE (Identités, Politiques, Sociétés, Espaces) Research Unit at the University of Luxembourg aims to address this weakness of the border literature through two types of comparisons. First, it compares border regions across geographic areas. Instead of focusing only on case explanation, which is the strength of the field of borderland studies, geographic comparison is utilized as a means to promote theory-building. Second, the conference attempts to link works being conducted in different fields in order to isolate and recognize mechanisms that affect decision-making in different arenas and at different levels (i.e. individual citizens, spatial planners, political elites, etc. The conference asks the following questions:

What is the nature of power in different fields of borderland studies and how is it exercised?

What impacts do power symmetries and asymmetries have on border communities?

Has border integration affected the nature of power relationships in border communities or has it merely changed the incentive structures of actors?

These questions will be examined in four panels focusing on border integration processes in different academic disciplines and policy arenas. The four panels will have uniform structures that include: a theoretical paper that addresses conceptual approaches to border integration within the specific discipline, two empirical papers that present field research on one or more border areas, and one comparative paper that examines border integration across geographic regions within the specific theme of the panel. Following the meeting, the conference organizers (Peter Gilles, Harlan Koff, Carmen Maganda, Christian Schulz) will edit a volume entitled *Theorizing Borders Through Analyses of Power Relationships* to be published in the book series entitled, *Regional Integration and Social Cohesion* (Brussels: P.I.E. Peter Lang).

Preliminary Program:
29 April 2009

- 9:00-9:15 Welcome
Peter Gilles, Harlan Koff, Carmen Maganda, Christian Schulz
- 9:15-10:00 Keynote Address
John Agnew, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- 10:00-13:00 Panel I: Politics, Governance and Power in Border Communities
Chair: Harlan Koff, Political Science Institute, University of Luxembourg
- Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, University of Victoria, Canada
Politics and Governance of Borderlands - the structure and agency of power
- Daniel Sabet, Georgetown University, USA
A tough place to be a local government: Complex security challenges in Mexican border communities.
- Cathal McCall, Queen's University Belfast, UK
Good Friday governance on the island of Ireland: The significance of the cross-border dimension
- Harlan Koff, University of Luxembourg
The Impact of Regional Integration on Power Relationships in European and American Border Communities
- 13:00- 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30-17:30 Panel II: Power Relationships in Cross-Border Spatial Development
Chair: Christian Schulz, Geography and Spatial Planning Institute, University of Luxembourg
- David Newman, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
Reversing the Trend in Cross-Border Relations: Closing Borders in an Era of Securitization
- Judith Miggelbrink, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde - IfL), Leipzig, Germany
Gaining a Living on the Edges of a Security Border: Everyday Tactics and Strategies at the Eastern Border of the European Union
- Christophe Sohn / Olivier Walther, CEPS/INSTEAD, Luxembourg
The construction of cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe: a comparative perspective
- Christian Schulz, University of Luxembourg
Power Topographies in Cross-Border Spatial Development Policies

17:30 Wine reception offered by the Mayor of Schengen

20.00 Conference Dinner at Restaurant Schloss Ziegelberg, Mettlach, Germany

30 April 2009

9:00- 12:00 Panel III: Power Relationships and Language Practices in Border Communities
Chair: Peter Gilles, Luxembourgish Languages and Literatures Institute, University of Luxembourg

Peter Auer, University of Freiburg, Germany

State borders and language change: the (non-) effects of political border permeability on language

Göz Kaufmann, University of Freiburg, Germany

Rivers, Size, Power, Culture, Gender: Some factors molding the (non-)linguistic behavior on the Southern Brazilian borders

Charlotte Giesbers, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Dialects on the border of two languages

Peter Gilles / Julia de Bres, University of Luxembourg

Languages and power in the Luxembourg border region

12:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-17:00 Panel IV: Fluid Power: Water Management in Border Communities
Chair: Carmen Maganda, Political Science Institute, University of Luxembourg

Stephen Mumme, Colorado State University, USA

Power and Cooperation in Mexico-U.S. Water Management since NAFTA

Casey Walsh, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

Borders, Infrastructures and Power: Lessons from Anthropological Political Economy

Ofelia Tujchneider, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina

Transboundary Water Resources in Latin America: an Opportunity for Friendship and Cooperation towards Sustainability

Carmen Maganda, Université du Luxembourg

Water in the PITs: Power, Information and Transparency in Different regional Contexts

17:00- 18:00 Concluding Discussion

19.00 Dinner Cruise on Moselle River

Study Tour 1st May 2009

Economic restructuring and environmental issues in a cross border industrial region

Guided by: Christian Schulz

Preliminary program:

09:00	Departure from Hotel, Bus transfer to Völklingen (Germany)
10:00	Introductory presentation on economic restructuring in the Saar-Lorraine-area Followed by: Visit of the UNESCO Heritage Site “Völklinger Hütte”
12:00	Lunch Visit of the Rosselle Valley (cross-border water and air pollution issues)
15:00	Visit of the La Mine, Musée du Carreau Wendel, Petite-Rosselle (France)
16:30 – 18:00	Return to Manderen / Luxembourg