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Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the international and interdisciplinary student conference Transcending Borders – Redrawing Perspectives at the University of Graz.

Our conference, hosted by the Center for Inter-American Studies, has gathered students from different disciplines, backgrounds and levels to exchange their research from an interdisciplinary and transnational perspective. Due to contemporary developments, such as migration and flight movements as well as political debates that demand stricter border policies and surveillance, ‘borders’, the topic of this conference, has recently (re-)gained political momentum.

In this conference, we will, however, transcend narrow political definitions associated with the term. We understand ‘borders’ in a broader sense as encompassing several meanings or layers of meaning, and our participants will develop new associations with and understandings of the term. In this context, ‘borders’ can refer to any dividing line, including national, political, and geographical borders as well as boundaries between, for instance, ethnic, gender, sexual, national, class, or age identities. In order to transcend these borders, we will address the following questions: Why do borders exist? Why and how are they drawn? Who do they include and exclude? When, how, and why are borders transgressed, dissolved, or transformed?

The papers and posters presented by our student participants will draw our attention to the topics of gender and body, populisms, multiethnic societies, migration and movement in relation to borders as well as to the transgression of borders, practices of border crossing, and processes of border formation. In their keynote lectures, Cheryl Lester will address experiences of border crossing within family systems, and Mirko Petrić will play devil’s advocate to challenge our perceptions of borders. In our roundtable discussion, hosted by Barbara Ratzenböck, Roberta Maierhofer, Romedio Schmitz-Esser, Machteld Venken, and Markus Wurzer will re-think borders in academia.

We are immensely grateful to all those who supported us in organizing this conference. We would like to sincerely thank Roberta Maierhofer, our guardian angel, who was there for us whenever we needed something, Isabella Schwab, who gave her best to introduce us to the world of finance and administration, and everyone else at the Center for Inter-American Studies. We would also like to express our gratitude to our designer Petra Kostevc for her amazing artwork and incredible patience in working with us. Additionally, we would like to thank our keynote speakers Cheryl Lester and Mirko Petrić, our roundtable discussants Roberta Maierhofer, Romedio Schmitz-Esser, Machteld Venken and Markus Wurzer, our host Barbara Ratzenböck, our chairs, our student helpers, and, of course, our student presenters for their willingness to participate in and support our conference. Finally, we would like to thank our sponsors, without whom this conference would not have been possible.

Enjoy the conference!

Marlene Fößl
Rosa Hergan
Lennart Oschgan
Maria Sonnleithner
Vanessa Tautter
Keynote

Cheryl Lester (English and American Studies/Jewish Studies, University of Kansas)

Crossing Borders/Redrawing Perspectives: Immigration and Family Systems

This conference is dedicated to the idea of transcending borders and redrawing perspectives. In my presentation, I discuss my efforts to track the lived experience of individuals in my large, multigenerational family system who were forced by the capital flows and labor demands of modernity in the late 19th and early 20th century to cross borders, relocate, and attempt to survive and thrive in new and unfamiliar settings. The goal of these efforts is to develop a new perspective on my family system as an evolutionary emotional inheritance, whose material history was transmitted with varying degrees of specificity over the course of repeated border crossings within and across national, linguistic, and cultural borders. Many descendants of these family systems have little knowledge about the family systems of which they are a part and from which they have evolved. By way of introduction, I point to the appearance of migrating and immigrating families in the modernist novels of renowned American author William Faulkner (1897-1962), which I have studied as literary investigations of modernity, multigenerational family history, and individual cutoff from knowledge of the past. To provide more context for my research on my own family system, I introduce the concept of “emotional cutoff,” part of a broader theory of the family as an evolving emotional system developed after World War II by American psychiatrist Murray Bowen. My primary focus will be on the research of my family system, an endeavor that has taken me across disciplinary, linguistic, national, and cultural borders. By way of conclusion, I maintain that despite changing conditions of population movements in the late 20th and early 21st century, people like me, removed from the places and relationships that shaped them, benefit from seeking out relationships and information that enhance their knowledge and understanding of the family systems from which they evolve.

Cheryl Lester is Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor, Associate Professor of English and American Studies, and Courtesy Professor in Jewish Studies at the University of Kansas. Her main research interests and publications are in the field of the American novel, especially William Faulkner, with emphases on modernity, race and ethnicity, migration and immigration, family, and aging. She has published translations (with Philip Barnard) of French philosophers Jean-Luc Nancy and Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe and French author Philippe Sollers and created an anthology (with Alice Lieberman) of first-person narratives for social work education in diversity. She was President of the Mid-America American Studies Association, Chair of the American Studies Department, Acting Director of the Jewish Studies Program, and Interim Editor of the American Studies Journal. She participated in the Post-Graduate Program at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family in Washington, D.C., and researches and publishes on Bowen family systems theory and her own family of origin. She is currently on the Board of the Faulkner Society and the Executive Committee of the Family History Database Project at the Bowen Theory Academy.
Keynote

Mirko Petrić (Cultural Sociology, University of Zadar)

Playing Devil’s Advocate: Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?

The classic poem “Mending Wall” (1914), written by the US-American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) and reflecting on what happens when an apple farmer is told by his neighbor that the two of them must maintain the stone boundary between their orchards, contains a line that can be seen almost as a diagnosis of the current left-wing sentiment regarding the idea of borders. Sensing “something there is that doesn’t love a wall,” the apple farmer is not so sure that “good fences make good neighbors”, as his own neighbor is trying to convince him. In the contemporary context, the apple farmer’s initial reaction would correspond to that of those aiming to transcend borders, while a predilection for fences would suggest a fear of others and a fear of ambiguity indicating a right-wing agenda of social and cultural closure. But is this necessarily true in all cases? The lecture is an attempt to bring into question the automatic assumptions regarding the ideas of transcending or erecting borders, especially in the contexts where it is suggested to us that we are free to operate in seemingly borderless domains.

Mirko Petrić, Mr. Sc., is Senior Lecturer in Cultural Sociology, Cultural Studies and Qualitative Research Methods at the University of Zadar (Croatia). He has co-authored the curriculum of the International Joint Master’s Degree in Cultural Sociology (Graz-Zadar-Trento-Brno) and collaborates closely with the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz. Mirko has been an active voice in the public debates in his native country on the issues concerning civil society development. In addition to research of cultural participation and class, his recent research activity has been largely devoted to gender issues in transitional and post-transitional South-East European countries.
Panel 1: Gender/Body and the Construction of Borders

Chair: Maria Sonnleithner (University of Graz)

Kiran Sunar (University of British Columbia/Max Weber Kolleg Erfurt)

Enacting Margins and Adorning Women: The Question of Boundaries in Early Modern Punjab

How do we understand borders prior to contemporary Indian nation-state formations and how do we understand the mapping of the gendered body as a tool in its construction? For the region of Punjab, the 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan led to the splicing of the area across religious lines in one of the largest and most violent mass migrations in world history. In order to draw a different *punjabiyyat* (cross-border, collective Punjabi) imaginary of the possibilities that early boundary-making can offer, my paper examines how the gendering of space becomes a device in early Punjabi poetics. Building off the question of how the ‘foreign’ defines ‘place’ or how ‘there’ defines ‘here,’ this paper examines how poetic license can both produce the formation of place while also destabilizing it. Using the example of the female *sarāpā* (head-to-foot description) in the Punjabi *qissā Hir Waris*, written in the vernacular of Punjab, and its engagement with other circulating literary traditions, this paper takes a trans-regional reading, surveying how the female body becomes a site for playing out the tensions of trans-regionalism and regionalism in early modern Punjab.

The writing of the female body in vernacular early modern Punjabi allows for the ‘boundary-crossing’ of territorial space and, at its intersections, female beauty ideals. There is a groundedness or regionality in the *sarāpā* in *Hir* that has been previously gestured to, but also a continuous reference to other places, which I term the ‘elsewhere.’ Departing from the narrative traditions that circulated in the South Asian early modern, and out of which the Punjabi *qissā* was inspired, this is not an engagement with the fantastical, but rather a sense of the ‘abroad’ or the ‘foreign.’ I argue that in this abroad or foreign sentiment that is placed on the female body is the conscious mapping of religious, cultural, and aesthetic cosmopolitan continuities, which operate sometimes explicitly, and other times implicitly in the imagery. In doing so, the *sarāpā* in *Hir* succeeds in an aesthetically formed religious transformation done through the invocation of the cosmopolitan/foreign/‘elseworldly’ onto the female body. My analysis of the Punjabi *sarāpā* demonstrates that, in addition to the production of the regional, there is also a carving out of space that adds complexity to our contemporary engagements with “Punjab,” and, more widely, the cultivation of female beauty ideals in South Asia.

Kiran Sunar is a PhD student at the University of British Columbia in the Department of Asian Studies and a guest doctoral student at the Max Weber Kolleg for Advanced Social and Cultural Studies in Erfurt, Germany. Kiran received her BA from McGill University in Religious Studies and Gender Studies, and an MA from UBC in English Literature. Her PhD project attends to questions of gender, sexuality, and the fantastical in South Asian literatures with a focus on Punjabi literature in the early modern period (16th to 18th century). As an interdisciplinary scholar who is also involved in creative work on the complexity of Punjabi identity, Kiran is working on a novel entitled *Nerve*, a book of ghost stories, and is also involved, from time to time, in performance work.
Strengthening Tribal Sovereignty through a Gender-Specific Approach

Discussions about sexual violence against Native American women are often interwoven in discussions of tribal sovereignty. Native scholars like Sarah Deer (2015) argue that strengthening tribal sovereignty would improve the prosecution of crimes on Indian reservations and consequently reduce cases of sexual violence as a whole. Therefore, my paper will specifically focus on the colonised justice system operating on Indian reservations as it enables a concise understanding of the over-representation of crimes on Indian reservations. One in three Native women are estimated to be raped in their lifetime, rendering them the most vulnerable women’s group in the US. However, two-thirds of their cases are not prosecuted. On the one hand, this inefficiency can be attributed to an amalgam of tribal, federal and national jurisdictions which hinders sufficient prosecution on Indian reservations. On the other hand, on-going racist and colonial attitudes towards Native Americans also play a significant role in the rejection of cases involving Native women. Recent legal reforms like the Tribal Law and Order Act (2010) have already ensured more tribal sovereignty in cases of domestic violence. Yet, this reform proves insufficient since most rape cases involving Native women are perpetrated by non-Native strangers. Therefore, the demand for wide-ranging tribal sovereignty remains strong to this day. Tribal sovereignty has the potential of redefining social, political and legal boundaries that exist between the US-American nation and Native American nations.

Besides being a criminal concern, sexual violence against Native women must also be framed as a colonial issue. While Native women held egalitarian positions within their tribes before the colonisation of North America, colonialism introduced patriarchal structures to Native communities. It therefore exacerbated sexist and misogynist attitudes towards Native women in their tribes as well as American society. Due to colonial stereotypes, Native women are often considered “rapeable” (Andrea Smith 2005) nowadays. This degradation of Native women must be understood as a further reason accounting for the high number of rapes perpetrated against them. Therefore, the contemporary construction of Native femininity needs to be decolonised in order to ensure their safety. Decolonisation can be facilitated by, among others, revitalising traditional gender roles and rape laws.

Overall, my paper will discuss sexual violence against Native women by framing it not only as a jurisdictional, but also as a colonial issue. This polyphonic understanding of sexual violence against Native women enables a discussion of tribal sovereignty which takes into account critically the history of colonialism in North America. My paper will demonstrate that discussions about tribal sovereignty need to be shaped by a specific responsibility towards Native women.
Transcending Borders on Screen: Transgressive Structures in Contemporary Cinema

Film is one of the most influential media products of our time. Films appear as much affective and mind-forming as educational. They motivate to discover new perspectives and broaden people’s minds on individual levels. Films can deliberately be made to cross borders and break rules on one hand; on the other, they sometimes also substantiate them by connecting rule breaking behaviour with negative consequences. Due to this observation, the lecture tries to evaluate how border-crossing elements and transgressive structures in films can strengthen social and ethical taboos, which they are actually supposed to break. The evaluation focuses on cinematic representations of normative characters per se as well as on male and female body and gender images. It seems comprehensible that films are able to address alternative gender concepts and therefore break with common standards in representation.

I am going to exemplify my observations on three films: *The Danish Girl* (Tom Hooper, 2016), *Splice* (Vincenzo Natali, 2010) and *Orlando* (Sally Potter, 1992). In addition to general German film theory (Stiglegger 2006, 2017), I will refer to Bastille’s theory of Transgression (1986) as well as Judith Butler’s gender theory (1991, 1993). Foucault’s *History of Sexuality* (1987) is going to be involved to explain the connection between power structures and sexuality. For my lecture, film is depicted as art form and for this reason as cultural product. Therefore, I’m going to perform a critical discourse analysis, in which film sequences are used as primary sources for the analysis.

I want to point out that even if transgressive structures are meant to cross borders and break rules, they sometimes help to consolidate them. Especially if it comes to body political topics, transgression sometimes strengthens the taboo which it is supposed to break. Even if I do not expect my lecture to offer any accomplished solutions for this problem, I am convinced that becoming aware of these circumstances is a step in the right direction. In the words of Foucault (1978, 24): “One had to speak of sex; one had to speak publicly and in a manner that was not determined by the division between licit and illicit, […] one had to speak of it as of a thing to be not simply condemned or tolerated but managed, inserted into systems of utility, regulated for the greater good of all, made to function according to an optimum. Sex was not something one simply judged; it was a thing one administered.”

Lioba Schlösser (MA) is a PhD student at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. She studied Literary, Cultural and Media Studies (BA) and Media Culture (MA) at the University of Siegen. Her doctoral thesis is titled “Perspektiven filmischer Überwindung der bipolaren Geschlechternorm durch Rückgriffe auf mythisches Potenzial”. She works as a teacher for special tasks at DEKRA Hochschule für Medien in Berlin, where she also works in the corporate and social media marketing team. Moreover, she is part of the German association “Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft” and participates in their gender and film studies work groups. Her current main research subjects are androgyny in film and myth, gender and queer studies, body theory, and ritual studies.
Panel 2: Constructing Borders through Populisms

Chair: Vanessa Tautter (University of Graz)

Judith Jansma (University of Groningen)

Populist Borders: ‘us’ versus ‘them’ in French Far-Right Discourse

My project seeks to investigate the populist perspective on culture in a systematic way and to map the complexity of populism’s cultural policies. The results of this analysis – focusing on France and the Netherlands – will hopefully help us build an exportable model to better understand populism’s multi-layered relationship with culture.

Two questions are of main interest. Firstly, what images, cultural institutions and products do populists identify with or promote? Secondly, how did populist actors contribute to the public debate surrounding controversial works and authors? To illustrate this last aspect, the topic of my most recent paper (to be published in spring-summer 2018) is the reception and interpretation of Houellebecq’s novel Soumission (2015) by means of the populist dichotomy of ‘us’ versus ‘them’ (Mudde & Kaltwasser 2017).

In my presentation, I will explore the cultural borders of what defines ‘us’ and ‘them’, in other words, who can be part of the nation’s body and who cannot? I will address my two research questions, each of which I will illustrate with a case study. The first part should identify the (cultural) metaphors used during the presidential campaign of the Front National in 2017. The second part seeks to shed light on the way in which (far) right-wing actors appropriate cultural works for their own political agenda. I will use theories of discourse analysis (Van Dijk 1995, Wodak 2015) to analyse the debate surrounding the controversial novel Soumission by Michel Houellebecq. This novel seems – at first sight – compatible with populist narratives of ‘us’ and ‘them’, but is in reality much more complex and paradoxical.

I will finally conclude that: 1) cultural and historical references play a major role in defining ‘us’ and ‘them’ in the nationalist propaganda of the Front National, and 2) the novel Soumission was used by the Front National and other right-wing actors to support their political ideas, thus neglecting the literary complexity of the novel.

Judith Jansma is working at the Department of European Literature and Culture at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. She is currently in the first year of her PhD, that has the title “From Submission to Soumission: Populists Perspectives on Culture”. This interdisciplinary project includes aspects from political science, literary studies and cultural studies.

Before starting her PhD in September 2017, she did the bachelor Romance Languages and Cultures (2007-2009) with a specialization in French literature and linguistics. She then obtained a Master of Education in French language and culture in 2013. Since then, she has been working as a French language proficiency teacher within the programme of European Languages and Cultures at the University of Groningen.
In 2010, the party Fidesz began its second governmental period and a new populistic era began in Hungary. The highly modified, newly named “Eastern Constitution” of 2011 (Lendvay, 2016, 112) provides a definition of the concept of family for the first time in Hungarian history. This work aims to characterize the ideological concept of family, meaning the social beliefs and attitudes about it. They create and maintain a self-serving identity of the social group consisting of the Hungarian government and those who they represent and are appropriate instruments for social inclusion and exclusion (van Dijk, 1998). For that reason, I analyzed the metaphorical concepts in the political speeches of the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in 2011. According to my thesis, with the metaphorical conceptualization of family, new demarcation lines are drawn and legitimized within and beyond the country borders.

According to my findings, the ideological concept of family is morally and economically defined, which are aspects that are connected to each other: family is highly related to the concept of work, and both are connected and legitimized by the concept of Christian morality. The structure of the metaphorical concepts of the family show that the hierarchies within and between families are not organized along the traditional “up and down” opposites but made clear with the “center and periphery” differentiation.

Similar to family, also the Hungarian nation – that is according to the analysis of Balogh Laszlo Levente (2014), identified with God itself in the new constitution – gets the morally distinguished place of the center, as it is depicted as core. The country, in contrast, is pictured as a building, that the circumstances for the birth of the nation provides, as it is thorough agricultural, that is moral work fertilized. The nation as a morally defined group is a typical characteristic of populist politics (Müller, 2017).

Starting a family is defined as work in the speeches, and thus all those who have a family are considered as workers, even if they are unemployed on the job market: Starting a family is financially highly supported by the government. However, families need work to fulfill the Christian moral: Only those citizens are morally accepted who have a family and earn enough money to cover their needs and those who earn the money become the core members of the family. The speeches also address hierarchies within the family. Care work, provided mostly by women in Hungary, is not defined as work: Bodily needs are contrasted with intellectual and spiritual ones and condemned as symbols of the western consumer societies. These western consumer societies are Christian only in their traditions: “Europeans are Christians, because they were raised in a Christian culture” (l. 60). According to this quote, families provide a place for socialization that is without moral only an empty and superficial tradition. The core content of it comes only from work and moral. Families without them are only “empty buildings”.

The emphasis on the value of work implies the comeback of the ethics of the socialist era, combined with and hidden under the Christian religion which is reduced to the values of cooperation and work. The memories of the condemned socialist era call back the protesting, traditional middle-class gender roles of the era (Hadas, 2012). Cooperation, expressed in the pictures of building, country and vessel, is a synonym for care work which is mostly done by women in Hungary. Its main function is to provide a place for the economically praised work, seed, moral and nation that are connoted as the masculine core in the speeches.
For the past ten years, Turkey has been going through massive changes in its society, economy and state structure. By the hands of the firmly established Islamist government in power, promoting religious fundamentalism, these changes effectively harm certain people. The radicalization of every mainstream political ideology is easily noticeable. Our presentation will mainly be about the political change, the borders forming along with the change and the challenges of the oppressed groups in Turkey. Keeping in mind that the Republic of Turkey is the successor of the Ottoman Empire which used to be a theocratic monarchy overthrown by a set of secularist revolutions, it is necessary to take a look at its political history and to understand that some recent events might be the legacy of the past.

We have chosen to focus on Turkey because we would like to inform a larger audience about our country’s current situation and our historical reasoning for that. As two members of the restless youth of our country, it is our responsibility to speak up about violations of human rights, the improper transformation of society and the state structure, public reaction towards it and how it is oppressed by force. At present, Turkey is more polarized than it has ever been in its history. Borders between different political ideologies, genders and economic classes have been deepening as violence becomes prevalent. Aiming to analyze this in the right way, we have planned two chapters that will make up our presentation. The first chapter will be about the evolution of the Turkish foreign policy and how different approaches dominated foreign policy decisions during different time periods. The second chapter will focus on domestic politics and our ideological borders. Explaining this matter, we will often mention important events of the past years including Gezi Park resistance of 2013, the attempt of a military coup and the constitutional referendum of 2016, keeping in mind that these are the milestones for profound separations among people. The main political clash of today’s Turkey will be discussed and explained according to our perception. Our main arguments and information will further be analyzed and associated with our main subject ‘borders’ in our presentation.

Nilgün Aysel Yılmazarslan was born in Istanbul in 1995 and is currently studying for her bachelor’s degree at Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of International Relations. She would like to do her further studies on Human Rights and Migration Issues.

Ramazan Sercan Sarı was born in Antalya in 1994 and is currently studying for his bachelor’s degree at Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of International Relations. He would like to do his further studies on International Law.
The title “Entanglement of Border Narratives: Border Narratives and Border Politics as Power Relations in the German ‘Migration Crisis’” tries to hint at the dynamic dimension of border narratives and their importance as a means to articulate a populist discourse in Germany. This discourse is tightly connected to the topic of migration and has been an essential factor in the growth of the German right wing party ‘Alternative für Deutschland’ (AfD).

Among others, this party has laid strong emphasis on scandalizing the so-called ‘Flüchtlingskrise’ as a crisis of border protection and (national) identity. The party, as well as some of its members, have a considerable influence on German public discourse and have created ‘strong’ border narratives. This development is evidence for a shift in power relations in the political field in Germany. It became possible not only to articulate but also to occupy dominant positions in the public discourse by emphasizing anti-migration beliefs. Since a first analysis showed that the rhetoric in this discourse often includes a strong border narrative, the paper turns to border studies in order to unfold the complexity and the function of these narratives. Therefore, some notions and concepts of border studies will be introduced that will help to analyze these discourses and to offer some critical approaches. In addition, the presentation will offer some quotes as examples of said narratives. Furthermore, the notions of denormalization and normalization (Link 2013) will be taken into consideration since they help to understand certain conjunctures of the migration discourse as a way and attempt to regulate or to mobilize the public interest in these topics. This argument will lead to a further discussion on the production of differences, as one of the most important factors in order to (re-)produce exclusion. Although some coherent thought will be presented, the paper itself remains an ongoing project. The aim of the presentation is to offer some theses that are open for discussion.

David Meier-Arendt has studied Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Technology in Darmstadt since 2015, where he is working as a student assistant at the Institute for Sociology. His main research interests lie in the sociology of knowledge, populism and feminist constructivist approaches.

He is furthermore responsible for the “Ringvorlesung” and working as civic education speaker for the general students’ committee at the University of Technology in Darmstadt. David Meier-Arendt has been a member of the ‘Studierendenparlament’ since 2017 and was an elected representative from 2016 till 2017.
Panel 3: Crossing Borders

Chair: Lennart Oschgan (University of Graz)

Cătălin Constantinescu & Ionuț Mircea Marcu (University of Bucharest)

Controlling the Border(s) of Socialist Romania (1965-1989):
A Centre-Periphery Approach

Imposing and controlling territorial frontiers is one of the most important attributes of the modern state. The broader aim of our project is to discuss the extent to which the borders of socialist Romania were absolute, they extent to which they were permeable, and what this means for the national, regional and transnational framework. For our research, we will use a centre-periphery approach on the topic of border control in order to discuss aspects related to issues such as administration during communism, political crimes, transnational economic activities and the impact of all these on individual and collective biographies. Our main hypothesis is that there was an important difference between, firstly, how the political centre (Bucharest) viewed the topic of border control and how the local administrative apparatus understood and applied the norms created by the centre. Secondly, our point is that, in order to comprehend the issue of socialist administration, one must look not only at what the centre decided, but at how those decisions were implemented locally. Methodologically, our approach is made of analytical instruments from disciplines such as history, law and administration studies.

We will structure our paper in two sections. The first one will analyse the point of view of the centre, including laws, internal documents of the state and the Romanian Communist Party, and propaganda. This part will describe the official and unofficial point of view regarding frontiers. The second perspective will be the periphery-orientated one. This will include mainly three subsections: the local and regional actors that had border-related powers, individuals who crossed the borders of socialist Romania for whatever reasons (we will look at both those who ran from Romania and those who crossed the border in order to do contraband), and the issue of crimes on the border and how those were instrumentalised and justified by the political regime. Using the archival materials available now for research in Romania, we will try to reconstruct the local administration’s perspective on border control and those who crossed it. Using those two frameworks of analysis, we will be able to propose an understanding of the tensions between centre and periphery in socialist Romania and the consequences on how borders were defined, imposed, controlled and, in the end, transgressed.

Cătălin Constantinescu is a PhD candidate in criminal law at the University of Bucharest, where he is also a Teaching Assistant in General Theory of the Law. He works as a legal adviser for the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER). Prior to that he worked for the Centre for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania and coordinated various projects on similar topics. His domains of interest include domestic and international criminal law, human rights and transitional justice.

Ionuț Mircea Marcu is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Bucharest, where he is also a Teaching Assistant in Postwar Romanian History. He works as a researcher at the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER). Since January 2018, he is a fellow of L’École Doctorale francophone en Sciences Sociales (EDSS) at his University. Prior to that he has received scholarships/fellowships from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and IICCMER.
Early debates often read globalization as a powerful tendency destined to make borders obsolete. Recent research challenged this view by suggesting that globalization is accompanied by a reassertion of territoriality and proliferation of border forms and functions. Somewhat neglected in this recent wave of research is how these changes are perceived by people who are involved in these processes. Focusing on narratives of Serbian and Bosnian customs guards, this research aims at partially redressing this oversight. This research focuses on what kind of meanings customs guards attach to their actions of policing the border. Specifically, it focuses on their understanding of what the border is, how they perceive changes of borders and the purpose of these borders. Although “territorialist epistemology”, which privileges the concept of border linked with the territory of the state, is prevalent in the ways customs officers imagine the border, their actual material experience of the border is different. The analysis shows that making and defining a new border was not something that authorities entirely controlled. More than being sites where sovereignty expresses its power, borders are spaces where we can witness significant reworking of state sovereignty. Additionally, the process of joining the EU entails regulatory changes in customs work and subsuming practices of customs work under regulations of the EU. In the process of assimilation of Serbian and Bosnian customs work into regulations of the EU, border controls are increasingly moved into the interior of state territories.

Dejana Kostic holds two master’s degrees, one in Ethnology and Anthropology (University of Belgrade) and one in Migration Studies (joint diploma issued by the University of Amsterdam, Deusto University, and the University of Osnabruck). Her MA thesis in Ethnology and Anthropology at the University of Belgrade focused on the everyday experiences of migration of international students, with a particular focus on their narratives about home, food, and nostalgia. Her second master thesis research investigated how customs officers explicated their work of policing borders. Ms Kostic’s research interests include migration, borders, state, securitization, policing, law, and Southern Europe. She is Senior Associate at Petnica Science Center (an institution for extra-curricular scientific education of high school students); her duties include leading workshops on various social science topics, lecturing, and supervising high-school students’ anthropology research projects.
Iurii Budiak (Lomonosov Moscow State University)

The Czech-Austrian Transborder Region

The paper is based on an internship at Charles University Prague and focuses on the development of the Czech-Austrian transborder region. The region was formed several centuries ago on the basis of state, economic and ethno-cultural unity, but this unity was broken after a series of occasions, beginning with the dissolution of Austria-Hungary and finishing with the division of Europe into two different systems after WWII. At the turn of the 20th century, Central European states, including the Czech Republic, were involved in the process of transborder regionalization due to their accession to the EU.

Penetrability of the border has created the preconditions for the development of the Czech-Austrian transborder region. Due to the fact that the transborder cooperation has been recovering, the principles of Kant's "cosmopolitan hospitality" are implemented in the form of transborder flows including free movement of goods and people. These have already resulted in the increase of foreign trade and tourist flows. However, can we argue that transborder cooperation is not hindered by anything else?

We examined the causes hindering the development of transborder cooperation and identified four main factors including the expulsion of the German-speaking citizens, the fall of the Iron Curtain, the socio-economic backwardness of the borderlands and the geographical obstacles. These factors led to the formation of mental borders (in terms of V. Kolosov) in the minds of people on both sides of the border.

Studies of American and European scientists (C. G. Vélez-Ibáñez, J. Heyman, M. Perkmann, J. W. Scott, M. Hampl, etc.) show that the formation of stable interaction between local communities located on different sides of a border is a required condition for a transition of borderlands to a transborder region. The field survey points to an underdevelopment of local interaction. About 60% of the respondents of the Euroregion Šumava crossing the Austrian-Czech border state that they make 1 to 3 visits per year to a neighboring country. Also, most of the respondents do not associate themselves with a transborder region. Consequently, in the context of integration, the mental border acts as a barrier to transborder interaction.

The paper shows the relevance of the study of factors of the transborder cooperation development and the reasons why special attention should be paid to the historical, social and cultural factors of such cooperation. The mental borders refer to the group of these factors. The author plans to continue an examination of the mental borders’ properties and the interrelation between mental borders and spatial practices of local communities.

Iurii Budiak has been studying Geography at Lomonosov Moscow State University since 2012 and is currently working on his MS thesis on world development. It deals with spatial patterns of seasonal and annual changes in the world agricultural market. Additionally, his main interests include human, historical and economic geography, agroeconomics, area studies, and studies of regional policy. He is a member of the European Geography Association for students and young geographers (EGEA). Last summer, he attended the international seminar on the socio-economic development of Poland in the border areas and participated in research on the borderlands between the Czech Republic and its neighboring countries during an internship at the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development of Charles University in Prague. This experience furthered his interest in border studies. Currently, he is working on a project on the impact of mental and other borders on transborder cooperation and borderlands development. In his recent papers and reports, he focused on the Austrian-Czech transborder region. Additionally, he has taken part in archaeological and geographical expeditions, has regularly organized university events, and has won sports and intellectual competitions.
Panel 4: Negotiating Borders in Multiethnic Territories (EV1)

Chair: Markus Wurzer (IFK Vienna/University of Graz)

Adrianna Jakóbczyk (University of Warsaw)

The Liminal Character:
On the Identity at the Crossroads of Cultures

This paper will focus on the figures of Germans brought up in the Polish territories, in the areas that can be considered a borderland. Of particular interest to me are issues such as the identity of these literary characters – the way in which they are perceived both by others and by themselves, as well as their attitude to Germanness and Polishness. This is undoubtedly an unusual way of presenting the western neighbours in the Polish prose written between 1945 and 1989 (which is the time frame of my paper), as one can only find three such examples. I will refer to the novels A Chronicle of Amorous Accidents (Kronika wypadków miłosnych, 1974) by Tadeusz Konwicki, Homunculus z tryptyku (1977) by Britta Wuttke and The Beautiful Mrs. Seidenman (Początek, 1986) by Andrzej Szczypiorski.

Living in multicultural areas in a predominantly Polish community (the Vilnius Region in the interwar period, Międzyzdroje just after the Second World War, and Łódź at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries), German characters either identify as Poles (which is the first, naive stage of describing their identity), or realise that a full identification with any of the two nations is impossible for them (which I define as the second stage: it usually signifies that the characters travelled to Germany or are about to). Since their experience of being permanently in-between carries characteristics of a liminal position, I describe those literary figures as liminal characters. The vital factors I distinguish in describing a literary character as liminal are as follows: 1) exposure during adolescence to at least two cultures which are perceived as unequal; 2) aspiration to the dominant culture, linked to the promise of a social gain; 3) full alienation – permanent status of the Other in both cultures; 4) uniqueness of experience – absence of a community of people in the same situation, lack of understanding from representatives of both cultures.

Especially significant is the manner in which the families of the characters are presented: they are either unlikable or satirical. For a long time, the relatives are the only representation of Germanness available for the characters, who equate it with toxic relationships, pettiness and narrow mental or moral horizons. The native culture also cannot be valuable because it is almost absent or has been discredited by the events of the Second World War. Therefore, aspiring to Polishness is not truly a result of one’s own choice and fascination (although this is how the aspiration is characterized in all the novels), but rather a result of a lack of an alternative – since Germanness is almost always valorized negatively. Hence, the turn towards Polishness is inseparably connected with turning against Germanness.

Although each character finds themselves in a different situation, there is one thing they have in common: the identity dilemmas. Their identity is not, as one might suppose, double, hybrid or transcultural. It is rather a transition from the negative identity to – using the term introduced by Aleksanders Fiut – an empty identity. As the author states, it is “the effect of complete detachment, ultimate uprooting, a sense of total non-affiliation and a fundamental impossibility of self-determination” (Fiut 2012). This peculiar situation deems characters doomed to be lonely and leaves them in a state of permanent crisis.

Adrianna Jakóbczyk graduated from the University of Warsaw with degrees in Polish Philology and in Cultural Studies and is a PhD candidate in the Section of Comparative Studies, Institute of Polish Literature, University of Warsaw. She is a former beneficiary of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) and the Polish-German Science Foundation scholarships. Currently, Adrianna is preparing a doctoral dissertation on the construct of German characters in the prose of the Polish People’s Republic.
Drawing the Austrian-Czechoslovak Borders after World War I: How Brno City Did Not Become a Part of the Austrian Republic

This paper deals with the debate on determining the Austrian-Czechoslovak border during the years 1918 and 1919 in Brno City. Since this regional centre was a German language island at that time, the representatives of the German population in Bohemia and Moravia claimed it as a part of their national territory which should have been accessed to the Austrian Republic. However, their conception contradicted the notion of the Czechs who understood Brno as an integral constituent of the new Czechoslovak Republic. Even though the accession of Brno to Austria could not have been feasible because of the political situation after World War I, the debate on this option affected the development of identity among Brno’s Germans in the state of the Czechs (and Slovaks) in the interwar period. Therefore, the study is dealing with the issue of how the German politicians in Brno reacted to the disintegration of the Habsburg Monarchy and what stance they took on the option that their city could have become an Austrian enclave in the Czechoslovak Republic. Specifically, I am concentrating on the argumentation of the local German Social Democrats and the German Conservatives which represented the two most influential political groups in the city. The analysis focuses on the statements and comments of both parties in two local journals, the social-democratic Volksfreund and the conservative-liberal Tagesbote aus Mähren und Schlesien, during the peace talks from autumn 1918 to summer 1919. I argue that the way in which the Brno local representatives defined the status of their city in the negotiation of the Czech-Austrian borders is essential for the clarification of their attitude to remaining in the Czechoslovak Republic. Since Brno’s Germans recognised that they could not have succeeded in separating the city and its surroundings by a state border shortly after the empire’s fall, they were motivated to accept the new state of affairs and look for possibilities to participate in the Czechoslovak political system.

Šárka Navrátilová studied Area Studies focusing on the territory of German-speaking countries at Charles University Prague and the University of Regensburg. Among her fields of interest rank the history of the German population in Central Europe and the development of Czech-German relations. Since 2016, she has been a PhD student in Modern History and is researching the co-existence of Germans and Czechs in the city Brno in the interwar period.
Before the Second World War, Czechoslovakia was inhabited by a multiethnic population (including, inter alia, Czechs, Slovaks, Jews, Germans, Russians and Roma). It is said that in Czechoslovakia, the ethnic borders were fluctuating. In this study, I would like to examine how contemporary Czech and Slovak writers portray this multiethnic Czechoslovak population. I argue that the concept of ‘border’ is more complex than its geographical meaning. Even if the country’s borders have changed, that does not imply that memories are settled in the same fashion as reshuffled geographic borders. In *Slepá mapa*, Alena Mornštajnová (2014) shows a story of three generations of women and also portrays German-Czech relations before and during the Second World War. Pavol Rankov, in his *Stalo sa prvého septembra (alebo inokedy)* (2010), characterizes the multiethnic society in the Slovak part of Czechoslovakia. I would like to analyze the way in which writers of the third postwar generation characterize the ethnic borders, or a lack thereof, in interwar Czechoslovakia, especially in the context of postwar deportations, confiscations of property and the restrictions which affected the German and Hungarian minority.

This paper sheds light on the portrayal of Germans and Hungarians in the aforementioned novels. In the case of Germans, I would like to answer the question whether there are still some myths which concern Germans. In Slovak contemporary literature, there is a quite evident myth about the multiethnicity of the country before the Second World War. This tradition can be observed in novels such as *Ema a smrtihlav* (Krištúfek 2014) and also partly in *Stalo sa prvého septembra (alebo inokedy)* (Rankov 2010). Mostly, the main characters communicate with each other in three languages (i.e. German, Slovak, Hungarian), which creates the impression of a smoothly coexisting multiethnic society. On the other hand, in Slovak fiction, there are no books focusing mainly on the Hungarian minority, which is probably caused by the current geopolitical situation of Slovakia.

Based on the analysis of *Slepá mapa* and *Stalo sa prvého septembra (alebo inokedy)*, we can observe that even if a country’s borders have changed that does not imply that memories are settled in the same fashion as reshuffled geographic borders. The results show that in the case of Czech and Slovak literature there are still some myths which influence the image of interwar ethnic borders.

In 2016, Agnieszka Słowikowska received her MA degree at the Institute of History at the University of Warsaw. The subject of her thesis was “Czech liberalism in the years 1846-1874 on the basis of press articles by František Palacký, Karel Havlíčk Borovský and Franťíšek Ladislav Rieger”. During her history studies, the main area of interest in her research was the evolution of national identity and nationalism on the lands of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy in the 19th century, especially in the case of Czech and Slovak nationalism. In 2016, she started her PhD studies at the Institute of Western and Southern Slavic Studies at the University of Warsaw. In her PhD project, she wants to analyse the ways in which Czech and Slovak contemporary literature deals with the war past. Her main research interest is the history of national minorities in contemporary Czech and Slovak territories (especially the impact of the Beneš decrees on the situation of German and Hungarian minorities in Czechoslovakia after the Second World War).
Most current theories about the ‘nature of borders’ accept the notion that borders represent non-permanent elements of social life rather than that they are permanent features of human society. On one hand, in most cases, this opinion tends to be right. On the other hand, this paper will try to research the case when some borders (such as those created by the natural-geographical characteristics of one’s region) are more durable and more stable. Thus, through the example of the city of Kumanovo, it can be concluded that the administrative borders of the Kumanovo kaaza formed in the sixth decade of the 19th century, with minor changes, remained stable after the collapse of the Ottoman rule in Ottoman Macedonia after the First Balkan War (1912) and through all Yugoslav state formations until today. The principle of respecting the natural and geographical features of the region in connection with the changeable political borders also resulted with the visible progress of the city of Kumanovo in its economic, demographic and social sphere.

Stefan Ilievski was born in 1991 in the city of Kumanovo, Republic of Macedonia. He finished high school in his hometown. In 2010, he enrolled at St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. In 2014, with the defensio of his BA thesis “Eastern Crisis”, Ilievski successfully completed his history studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, Institute for History. In 2015, he enrolled in post-graduate studies at the Institute of National History in Skopje in the group “The Balkans during the era of creating national states”. In 2018, under the mentorship of Prof. Makedonka Mitrova PhD, he acquired his master’s degree with the master thesis: “Kumanovo kaaza in the last decades of the XIX century: between the urban and the rural”. So far, his contributions have been published in the scholarly journals Herald of the Institute for National History and History, as well as in several daily newspapers and internet portals. His central field of research is the history of the ‘Long 19th Century’, more closely specializing in the research of the formation of the Balkan nations and nationalisms, the intellectual and socio-economic history of Europe in the 19th century, the geopolitical and diplomatic relations in the modern era, etc.
“Power Along the Confluence: Reevaluating American Southwestern Borderlands through Quechan Agency” illustrates how power dynamics were and should be evaluated in a borderlands region. Many conflicts since the early-colonial periods between Quechan Natives of Southern California and Western Arizona and Anglo settlers produced outcomes that should be taken into account when evaluating the more contemporary bordered land of the American Southwest. Ultimately, power and control play a monumental role in hegemonic societies’ dominance over subjugated cultures, thus are crucial concepts to understand past and contemporary borderland and bordered land analyses.

Christopher Sudol is an MA candidate in history at the University of Wyoming Department of History and American Studies. He is also a 2015 Seggau Summer School participant. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a minor in business from Montclair State University in New Jersey. He received multiple awards and scholarships while there, such as the MSU Foundation Scholarship and the MSU History Department Service Award. At the University of Wyoming, Christopher is a Teaching Assistant for the course, “History of Wyoming.” His current thesis work focuses on using settler colonialism to further understand the various impacts of the Yuma Reclamation Project of the United States Reclamation Service on the Quechan Nation of the American Southwest. For his research, Christopher has received the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Grant and the Larson and Steckel and McGee Grant from the University of Wyoming. His primary academic focuses are early 20th century environmental and Native American histories.
Before the First World War, the region of Moravia was a self-governing political entity within the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Containing several large urban centres as well as bureaucratic structures that matched those of Bohemia in both age and efficiency, the region had little administrative ties with its western neighbour and, besides sharing its ruler – the Habsburg Emperor – and to a certain extent its language, practiced altogether independent politics. Despite this undeniable potential for the development of a unique modern national and political identity, Moravia was consumed by Czech nationalism and, in 1918, disappeared from the political map of Europe. This paper seeks to argue that the dissolution of the border separating the two polities originated with the grand historical narrative *Dějiny Národu Českého v Čechách na Moravě* [The History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia]. Written by the official Bohemian historiographer and leader of the Czech revival movement František Palacký (1798-1876), the narrative transcended the scope of the concurrent ideology of *Landespatriotismus* and advanced an amalgamating story of origin that has ever since dominated the national understanding of the Czech territory. Tracing Palacký’s discursive erosion of the pre-modern border, it can thus be argued that *Dějiny Národu* fostered a definite ‘space of experience’ and laid a conceptual framework for the territorial outlook of the eventually established republic that included Moravia as an organic part of the Czech homeland.

Zora Piskačová is a master’s student of Modern Eastern European History at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Her main research interests include the history and sociology of nationalism and regionalism, processes of identity construction, the history of the interwar period and modern Jewish history. In the past, she has gained teaching experience as an Academic Mentor at Franklin University Switzerland and worked as a Research Assistant at the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society at the University of Haifa. She has also been an active participant of several seminars of the International Students of History Association (ISHA) and founded a section of the organization in Lugano, Switzerland. Currently, she works as a Research Assistant at the Collegium Carolinum, the Research Institute for the History of the Czech Lands and Slovakia.
Panel 6: Migration & Movement

Chair: Rosa Hergan (University of Graz)

Erzsébet Árvay (Central European University Budapest)

Movement of Conflicting Memories:
The Hungarian Diaspora in Chile, 1945-1990

The presentation aims at analysing what borderlines can be identified in diasporic communities and how these borderlines influence the work of historians in understanding diasporic activities. The presentation focuses on the memory processes of the Hungarian diaspora in Chile during the Cold War, with specific emphasis on the 1970s.

After the Second World War, hundreds of thousands of refugees left Hungary for a better life in the West. Although most of the refugees settled down in Western Europe or in North America, hundreds of them started a new life in Chile. My presentation is an attempt to explore how the settlement processes of the Hungarian emigration took place and how the former experience of the totalitarian regimes, war, occupation and the events of 1956 affected émigrés' understanding of the political systems of the 1970s and 1980s in Chile, and hence the formation of diasporic borderlines.

Though secondary literature on the history of Hungarian emigration often discusses the Hungarian diaspora as one entity, diasporic communities are not homogeneous; one ethnic group can constitute several different diasporas in the recipient country. The recognition of these various diasporic communities by historians is often based on migrants' motivation for leaving the home country. The fragmentation of the Hungarian diaspora in Chile can be traced by analysing their reactions towards the internal political affairs of the recipient society. In 1970, Salvador Allende, leader of Unidad Popular, won the Chilean presidential election, which was considered by many members of diasporic communities as if communism would threaten them once again. In my presentation, an interdisciplinary approach is applied to examine émigrés' reaction to the political shifts in Chile, thus reflecting on the different diasporic communities that were present in the country and on the borderlines that were separating these communities from each other.

Erzsébet Árvay is a graduate student at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English and American Studies from Pázmány Péter Catholic University, and a master’s degree in Teacher Education also from PPCU. She is currently an MA student of Comparative History at Central European University. Her research interest primarily focuses on the memory processes of the Hungarian diaspora, with specific emphasis on the interdisciplinary approaches of trauma and motivated forgetting.
The globalized world of contemporary professional sports simultaneously demolishes and reinforces the role of geographic borders between countries. On the one hand, frontiers have increasingly ceased to be actual physical barriers for sportsmen and sports lovers. On the other hand, we can see that athletes marching under their countries’ flag at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games and world champions are being celebrated with their national anthems. Professional sport is an ideological system in so many ways, in the sense of Geertz, that creates the feeling of national cohesion along symbols. In this practice, borders do function as important symbolic barriers in the representation of sports.

My presentation gives a narrative analysis of the autobiographies of two successful athletes, the five-time Grand Slam champion Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova and the three-time Olympic champion Hungarian swimmer Katinka Hosszú. It identifies two different narrative strategies on how they reflect on their nationality in their identity constructions as athletes. In their books, they represent themselves as successful embodiments of the ‘American Dream’ even though they are both from the Eastern Block. The United States of America as a (potential) second home plays an important role in both of their professional careers. It makes them deal more with their European nationality, their cultural roots and it also forces them to choose whether they want to represent their homeland or the USA.

Flóra Dóra Csatári is a PhD Student of the Film, Media, and Cultural Theory programme at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. She also works as a sports journalist at a Hungarian sports magazine called Hosszabbitás. Her main interests include cultural and media studies, gender studies and sports sociology. Her research focuses on the self-presentational opportunities and mediated identification of women in sports, dealing with autobiographies and self-narratives of female athletes. During her MA studies, she completed a one-term scholarship at Lund University on this topic in the field of cultural and gender studies in 2016. She attended the Hungarian National Scientific Students’ Associations Conference (paper title: Sportsman as an identity construction in the self-narratives of female athletes) and the Body (Hi)stories international conference at Eötvös Loránd University (paper title: The role of the (female) body in the narration of the athletic identity) in 2017.
Second-Hand Objects in Romania: How Re-Used Objects Transcend the Socio-Cultural Border Between Their First Life in a Modern Country and Their Second Life in a Post-Socialist Country

As the title suggests, the current study aims to present the life-stories of the products sold on the Romanian second-hand market, considering both the travel from their provenience countries1 – which are modern countries in Western Europe – to Romania – a post-socialist country in Eastern Europe (and the implicit passing of the socio-cultural borders between the states that are part of this travel), and the relationship developed between these products and their new owners (accepting the idea that we can talk about a mutual influence of the two elements composing this relationship: objects and humans act equally on each other2). The purpose of this presentation is to shed light on a series of observations referring to the reasons for which people choose to buy this type of objects going beyond obvious motivations such as price or quality3. The first part of the paper contains a panorama of the political, economic and socio-cultural setting of Romania before and after the Revolution, in order to facilitate the understanding of the context in which second-hand businesses have blossomed in Romania. Going further, questions like ‘Who are the people who shop from these stores (to which social category do they belong) and how do they report themselves to the products they buy? Are these objects purchased only for pragmatic reasons or are they fulfilling some more subtle human needs? If so, then what are these needs? What are the cultural remains of their “first life” inherent to the second-hand goods and what do they activate in their current owners?’ are progressively answered. Whereas these answers have different shades in function of the category to which the objects belong, the paper is divided into two subsections dedicated to clothes and furniture/household items.

Catalina Suditu is a bachelor’s student at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University from Iasi, Romania. Her field of study is Romanian-English literature and language, but, as she had an ethnology and folklore course in the second semester of the first year of her studies, she soon became interested in anthropology and cultural studies. Although she has not participated in many conferences yet (she has only had a paper presentation until now, at BucharEst STudent BEST Letters Colloquia 2017 about the new valences and meanings of the devil image, as they are constructed by the use of this image in the marketing industry), Catalina is looking for new experiences in the academic field, so she can enrich both her knowledge and her communication skills.

1 This refers to the country where they were used for the first time and not to the place they were produced.
2 This statement places my study in the line of research which consider that objects possess the capacity of acting – they have what specialized literature call “agency”. See: Hoskins, Janet, 2006. Agency, biography and objects, in Handbook of Material Culture: http://sk.sagepub.com/reference/hdbk_matculture/n6.xml
3 Without ignoring their influence.
WFYS (World Festival of Youth and Students):
A Way to Rid the World of Borders or to Draw New Ones

The article reveals the role of the World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in the interaction and mixing of cultures and traditions as a part of a process of globalization in the modern world. The author considered what borders the festival has transcended and will transcend, the borders it has and creates, their manifestation now and earlier, and their initiators.

The research is based on theoretical and methodological approaches such as an interdisciplinary approach, an axiological approach and a retrospective analysis, and on methods of dialectics and synergetics.

The main thesis of this paper is that WFYS is a prospective way to abolish national and cultural borders that at the same time has its own borders. The study presents WFYS as a small space of globalization that promotes dialogue and real exchange among an international youth.

The article points out that during global festivals, it becomes easier to enter the host country from third world countries, which helps to lower discrimination in participation. The author also noticed that WFYS breaks down intellectual barriers through the opportunity of exchanging experience, entering into contact and creating joint projects, and that the actions of many participants, who are migrants, become the basis for common progress all over the world.

The research proved that the priorities of the festivals have changed but the main goal, the fight against imperialism, is still the same.

The author also traced a connection between the terms and kinds of hospitality of J. Derrida and their manifestation in the WFYS.

The author used scientific literature, articles in periodicals, the final declaration of the 19th WFYS, books researching migration and hospitality, and information from news agencies such as RT and TASS.

Anna Kamenskikh has been studying Political Science at Saint Petersburg State University at bachelor’s level since 2016. She is the author of articles about the application and correlation of territorial integrity and the right of peoples to self-determination, the evolution of the US electoral process and the illusion of the fight against global terrorism in 21st century, recently published in international and Russian editions. Her main interests include international terrorism, world politics, international law, reforming the UN, and international and regional political processes. Not only does she have experience in organizing conferences through her studying at SPbU, but she also constantly volunteers at international educational events such as the International Cultural Forum, the International Labor Forum and the World Festival of Youth and Students.
Panel 7: Transgressing Borders

Chair: Julia Prochinig (University of Graz)

Julia Prochinig is a student assistant at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz. She is currently studying English and Biology/Ecology on the teacher training program as well as pursuing a degree in molecular biology. Her areas of interest include American and Inter-American Studies with a special focus on postmodern literature.

Kajetan Stobiecki (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Cultural Divisions as Temporal Barriers and How to Overcome Them: A Case Study of an Industrial Metropolis

Since the seminal works by E. P. Thompson were published in the 1960s, many historians have studied time regimes and their influence on social landscapes. But most of their work on 19th century capitalism was limited to the Western nation states. In my work, I would like to focus on the temporal boundaries dividing the community of the Eastern European industrial city of Łódź, where the ethnic and religious divisions created an even more interesting landscape. A new type of border emerged – the border between different temporalities experienced by groups and individuals. The fast industrial capitalist time regime, official state holidays imposed by the colonising minority, religious holidays of four different denominations and the introduction of universal time were temporal realities inhabitants of Łódź faced every day at the turn of the 20th century. The ethnic and religious landscape of the city deeply influenced its temporalities. In my presentation, I would like to analyse a few calendars issued by the city’s Polish and German newspapers between 1900 and 1914. In most cases, these sources resemble today’s guidebooks and business manuals with additional newspaper articles rather than what we would call calendars. My aim is to show how they enabled businessmen to manoeuvre between different temporalities, and to trace discussions about time and the calendar going on within the multicultural society of the industrial metropolis. I would like to challenge the conviction that globalization necessarily meant unification and to show how it was possible for the capitalist time regime to adapt to ‘pre-modern’ ones and to overcome temporal barriers.

Kajetan Stobiecki is an MA Global History student at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin. He obtained BA degrees in History and Philosophy at the University of Warsaw in 2017. His main research interests are the religious and urban history of Central-Eastern Europe as well as the history of ideas.
The terms ‘Other’, ‘boundaries’ and ‘borders’ are still central to many academic discussions, especially since discrimination of all sorts keeps making headlines around the world. As long as society insists on thinking in terms of binary oppositions and focuses on differences instead of actively promoting tolerance and open-mindedness, instances of ‘Other-ness’ and the effects of socially imposed boundaries are also depicted in literature. In order to illustrate such barriers in a literary text and a way in which they can be surmounted, I have selected Ana Castillo’s novel *Peel My Love Like an Onion*. I will focus on the main character Carmen and on the numerous confines and inequities she has to overcome as an impaired flamenco dancer on her way to success and acknowledgment. The aim of my presentation is to prove that the ‘Other’ is able to transgress both social and personal boundaries in *Peel My Love Like an Onion* through self-confidence, resilience, professional preparation, open-mindedness and a strong will to stay true to herself despite external pressure.

Carmen is the ‘Other’ from various points of view: she is physically disabled in a profession that requires a good fitness level and considerable dancing skills, she is a promiscuous woman who defies traditions and is judged by her conservative family and her community, she is part of an ethnic minority (Mexican-American), and also adopts the customs of her dance group (Romani). Consequently, her boundaries are both of a social and a personal kind, and they are the product of discrimination. Now that I have identified the boundaries faced by the main character in *Peel My Love Like an Onion*, I will continue with my research questions and main arguments. Firstly, I will analyze the foundation of the above-mentioned boundaries and how they are still promoted. Secondly, I will investigate who are affected most by these boundaries and who are those who benefit from them. In this, several binary oppositions are quite helpful in determining who is negatively affected (first term in the pair) and who benefits (the second term): women/men, gay/heterosexual, minority/majority etc. Thirdly, I will analyze how boundaries can be transgressed. For this purpose, I will look at Carmen’s characteristics, her circumstances and her actions, as well as her interactions with other characters.

In conclusion, Carmen is a great example of how the transgression of various boundaries can be illustrated in literature, raising awareness about recurrent discrimination and injustice. Based on this novel, I will indicate what causes these barriers and who perpetuates them, I will show who is most affected by them and who benefits, and I will specify how boundaries can be overcome by the ‘Other’.

Rafaela Iacobescu-Dumitru is doing a PhD in American Literature and Culture at the University of Graz. The title of her dissertation is “Female Choices of Self-Expression in Contemporary Latino/a Literature and Culture”. Her main areas of academic interest are Latino/a literature and culture, Latina feminism, and gender studies. Previously, she graduated from the West University of Timișoara, Romania, where she got both her bachelor’s degree in English and German Studies, as well as her master’s degree in American Studies. Since 2015, she has been teaching English, German and Spanish for several language schools. During the winter semester 2017/2018, she taught a Cultural Studies seminar at the University of Graz.
For the past few years, the political situation in Europe as well as in the U.S. consists of persistent anti-refugee and anti-immigration intimations. The discourse on the ‘refugee’, the ‘immigrant’, as well as the notion of the ‘border’ have become topics of interest and contested by not only politicians and academic scholars, but also the media and social media; which, inevitably, generated a sense of discontentment and fear. On the other hand, there is also “a rallying call for refugees and their advocates” who give voice and presence to these marginalized people; i.e. the refugees and the immigrants (Bausells and Shearlaw 2015). Quotes extracted from poems written by a Kenyan-born Somali poet, who is based in London, Warsan Shire, were used in banners in protests and demonstrations held in various parts of the world. Her poems became prominent in providing more voice and presence to draw attention to their plights and concerns.

This paper aims to demonstrate how poetry appeals to the public’s notion of hospitality for more understanding. Using the notions of hospitality, the ‘other’ and the ‘face’ from Emmanuel Levinas, this paper addresses how the poems function as a medium to appeal to the public, and the poetic strategies that are employed in portraying the conditions, memory and experience from the point of view of the refugees and/or immigrants. I argue that the face-to-face encounter is utilized as a rhetorical strategy in Warsan Shire’s poems through the vivid portrayals of refugees and immigrants: giving voice and presence to the marginalized people in society through the juxtaposition of contrasting symbols and metaphors as well as using stylistic figures such as oxymorons and repetitions.

Marilyn Lim (University of Graz)

“You Have to Understand”:
The Appeal to Hospitality in Warsan Shire’s Poems

Marilyn is a Malaysian student currently pursuing her MA in English and American Studies at the University of Graz. After completing her BA in Music from Middlesex University, London, her interest in reading has encouraged her to further her studies in both literature and cultural studies. Her research interests include not only poetry, but also life writing, and science fiction; and especially literature written by marginalized authors and poets.
Posters

Nora Grohs (University of Vienna)

The Prague Spring and Its Influence on Literature in the GDR

On August 21, 1968, troops of the Warsaw Pact crossed the borders of the ČSSR to eliminate the political changes called “Prague Spring” happening there that allowed more freedom of speech. The GDR politically supported this act of repression, but many people living there experienced the end of the “Prague Spring” as their end of political hope.

I want to do research on how this day influenced the borders of the sayable inside the GDR. To do so, I will look at the development of cultural politics influencing the freedom of speech in the GDR at the time during the “Prague Spring”. My thesis is that the political development in the ČSSR facilitated fear in the GDR’s politicians; they reacted with repression.

As an example, I will show the story of Christa Wolf’s book Nachdenken über Christa T. It was finished in March 1967 and announced to be published in the GDR, but censorship prolonged this process until spring 1969, when the book appeared in a very small edition, officially published in 1968. Which themes in that book caused the troubles between announcing it and then extending its publication? Which specific political factors caused this change of mind in censorship? How did the book change through censorship until it could appear? Did Wolf use a specific kind of language or strategy to get contents published that the reader could understand, but not the censor?

To answer these questions, I will work, after giving a short historical overview, with comparing discourse analysis following the linguist Ruth Wodak, which means that I will basically ‘compare’ historical details happening in the ČSSR influencing the GDR’s politics to the language used in Wolf’s book and the circumstances around its publishing.

Nora Grohs is currently writing her master thesis about the “Prague Spring” and its influences on the GDR. She finished her diploma degree in German philology with a master thesis on silence in the literature of dictatorships. One of her main interests covers the field of language and politics, especially the role of language in dictatorship mechanisms. Historically, her main interests lie in contemporary history, with a special focus on Eastern and Central Europe. She is a member of the “under.docs – Fachtagung für Kommunikation” team that organizes annual student conferences.
Storytelling without Words: Material Culture as a Constructor of Prehistorical Social Networks

The appearance of spoken language did certainly change social interactions and experiences and had an enormous impact on the life of early societies. However, in comparison to the undoubtful antiquity of material culture, it has very shallow depth. Therefore, could the prehistorical relationships and networks be possibly looked at in a way that proposes material culture as a main constructor of these relationships?

The thesis that will be presented in this poster is that material culture may be understood as a tool of communication when it is thought about as being a provider of metaphorical understanding of relationships between the hominis with each other and objects. The technological improvements that followed, one of which was speech itself, may possibly be an unintended consequence of the relationships mentioned above. Metaphor, as a tool for establishing a common understanding between two objects, has the special power of providing conceptual connections between, in some cases, largely different categories. This power to relate, being based on everyday experience and personal observation, is achieved by virtue of our body and its senses. Its usage is therefore inevitable when analyzing the hidden, inner being that makes up the whole system of prehistorical human relationships.

The historical outlook on the meaning of prehistorical objects will be provided with an accent on the physical properties of materials that may be interpreted in various ways, and that may carry with them many untold stories. The main idea of the metaphorical concept and approach that will be represented is how the body becomes something else and how it transforms in a wide process where objects become symbols with widely shared meanings that coordinate human action. Right next to the metaphorical concept, the concept of symbolic force is serving as a helpful tool for unveiling prehistoric life, where the symbols are being ground out in the experience of the real world and having the body as a main point.

Leaning on, among others, the works of the British archaeologist and anthropologist Clive Gamble, the main goal is to present a thesis of material culture with the role of a constructor of prehistorical social networks and explain the ways in which it can be interpreted, using the concept of metaphorical approach and symbolic force as the basic tools for discovering hidden prehistorical stories.

Dunja Tomić has been studying History and Pedagogy at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek since 2016. She is an active member and vice-president of ISHA (International Students of History Association) Osijek. Her main interests include prehistorical culture groups on the territory of eastern Europe (especially the Vučedol culture group) as well as bioarchaeology and prehistorical archaeology. In her spare time, she plays bass guitar and volunteers in sustainable education projects.
Lea Valentin (Europa Universität Viadrina)

Mapping a Parallel Society: Territorial Borders and Social Boundaries in Frankfurt (Oder)

My research investigates everyday borders and boundaries, their constitution, their relationships to each other as well as their situatedness in the German city Frankfurt (Oder). How are spatial borders and social boundaries interlinked, what are their reciprocal effects and how are people engaged with both? Based on the geographic method of mental mapping and accompanying narrative interviews conducted with eight students and trainees in Frankfurt (Oder), borders and social boundaries are identified and made visible in the spatial cityscape.

Frankfurt (Oder) is located at the national border between Germany and Poland. It seems likely that the territorial and political border between Germany and Poland has a significant influence on the perception and (re-)constitution of borders within the city. However, the central recurring themes within the research are social boundaries linked to the distinctions and demarcations between students and non-student inhabitants in the city. Mental maps embed the phenomenon of parallel societies within spaces in the city and the university, boundaries have been drawn through everyday spaces such as the supermarket, the city tower and the railroad station. Social phenomena are linked to places or locations and made visible there. At the same time, the perception of spatial constitutions shapes these boundaries. A correlation between social structures and identities as well as the city as a common space becomes visible in mental maps and conversations. The simultaneous interaction of social relationships, practices, identifications and spatial structures creates a distinctive arrangement of borders and boundaries. Despite its micro-perspectives, which investigate individual perceptions, the emerged mosaic is not a series of individual positions but a shared image that has developed from the overlapping and collective perceptions of the participants. It captures the perspective of students and young people, placing the phenomenon of parallel societies at its centre. At the same time, diverging perspectives and perceptions are considered by deliberately leaving blank spaces and raising new questions. The poster portrays the assemblage of borders and boundaries, their entanglements and relationships.

Lea Valentin is following the master’s programme European Studies at the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). Moreover, she supports the research group Border & Boundary Studies at the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION as a research assistant. She obtained her Bachelor of European Studies at The Hague University of Applied Sciences. Her research interests are directed primarily at the everyday borders and boundaries that she encounters during walks through the city, during a conversation or in her own biography. She is interested in bordering practices and perceptions of borders from an intersectional perspective. How can social structures be explored from the viewpoint of the border? Which structural (in)equalities and which exclusions or inclusions are negotiated at borders, (re-)produced by them or understood as transgressions of boundaries?
Roundtable Discussion: Re-Thinking Borders in Academia

Host: Barbara Ratzenböck (University of Graz)

Barbara Ratzenböck studied sociology at the University of Graz and at Hendrix College, Arkansas. Currently, she is conducting research as a PhD candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz. Her PhD project focuses on women aged 60+ and their use of information and communication technologies in everyday life. Since October 2015, she has been executive director of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS). Additional roles in the field of Aging Studies include serving as student advisor of the Canadian research project Ageing+Communication+Technologies. In addition, she is also a founding and steering committee member of the PhD platform Evidence & Imagination at the University of Graz, a network promoting exchange among emerging researchers in the humanities and social sciences.


Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz)

Roberta Maierhofer is Professor at the Department of American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, and Adjunct Professor at Binghamton University, New York. Her research focuses on American Literature and Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Transatlantic Cooperation in Education, Inter-American Studies, and Age/Aging Studies. She holds a master’s and a doctoral degree from the University of Graz, as well as an MA degree in Comparative Literature from SUNY Binghamton. In her publication, *Salty Old Women: Gender and Aging in American Culture*, she developed a theoretical approach to gender and aging (anocriticism). She was elected Vice Rector for International Relations in 1999, and then served as Vice Rector for International Relations and Affirmative Action for Women (2003-2007), and as Vice Rector for International Relations and Interdisciplinary Cooperation (2007-2011). Since 2007, she has been directing the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz.

Romedio Schmitz-Esser (Medieval History, University of Graz)

Romedio Schmitz-Esser is a medievalist with a focus on Cultural Studies and the History of Mentality. His research interests include the material culture of the Middle Ages, the knowledge transfer between Asia and Europe, and the history of the corpse. His habilitation on this topic was published in 2014 (*Der Leichnam im Mittelalter. Einbalsamierung, Verbrennung und die kulturelle Konstruktion des toten Körpers*, Ostfildern: Thorbecke). He studied history and art history at Innsbruck University (PhD in 2005) and worked at Munich’s LMU University (until 2014). He had longer research stays in London, Paris (École des hautes études en sciences sociales) and at Duke University, Durham/NC, USA, and taught in Guangzhou, China. From 2014 to 2016, he was director of the Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani at Venice, Italy. Since 2017, Romedio Schmitz-Esser is professor of Medieval History at the University of Graz, Austria.
Machteld Venken (Association of Borderlands Studies, University of Vienna)

While learning to play the violin, I was intrigued by the mysterious letters beside the stave in my scores. When somebody told me it was Russian, I picked up a Russian travel guide and deciphered the alphabet. Soon after, I borrowed a book on Poland, and there has hardly been a moment ever since that I did not have Central European books and music lying around. These two passions brought me to the Catholic University in Leuven, where I graduated in Slavic studies and received a PhD in History. During my many years exploring East-Central Europe, I became aware of the historical parallels between what are still often conceived as the worlds on either side of the Iron Curtain. My aim has been to contribute to a multi-perspective historiography, not by means of a teleological unifying European History, but by critically comparing similarities and differences in the practices of people from different parts of Europe. After having worked in Belgium and Poland, I moved to Austria. I am currently an Elise Richter Fellow (2014-2018), named after the first Austrian female professor.

Markus Wurzer (International Research Center for Cultural Studies Vienna, University of Graz)

Between 2009–2014, Markus Wurzer studied History and German Philology at the Universities of Graz and Bologna. In his MA thesis, he investigated colonial narratives of otherness, violence and self in the personal testimony of a German-speaking soldier in the Italian-Abyssinian War (1935-41). Since 2015, Wurzer has been pursuing his PhD at the Department of History in Graz, with a dissertation about Colonial Wars in visual cultures and family memories. Between 2015-2016, he served as a research assistant at the Department of History in Graz, and from 2016-2017 as a university assistant at the Institute of Modern and Contemporary History in Linz. During that time, he spent several months at the Historical Institute in Rome as an ÖAW fellow. Currently, he is an IFK_Junior Fellow. His research interests include visual culture studies, (post-)colonial studies, memory studies, social history, Italian colonial history, WWI, and NS students in Austria during the 1930s.
Organizers

Marlene Fößl (University of Graz)

Marlene has been studying history at the University of Graz since 2012 and is currently working on her MA thesis on animals in medieval cartography. She is also employed as a student assistant at the Department for Medieval History. Her main research interests include medieval history, the history of mentalities, memory studies, cultural studies, gender and queer studies. She has gained experience in organizing conferences through her work in the International Students of History Association as well as while volunteering at the Aging Graz 2017 conference and while organizing the 1st ACIPSS Student Conference in 2017.

Rosa Hergan (University of Graz)

Rosa is presently in her first semester of the master’s degree in Global Studies; focusing on environmental law, transitional justice, gender and conflict studies at the University of Graz. As a student assistant at the Faculty of Public Law and Political Sciences, she applies her academic interests to her work, co-managing the policy blog of the Peace, Democracy and Conflict Cluster at the Uni Graz. She embraces a transdisciplinary approach and enjoys drawing on pop culture in her research projects.

Lennart Oschgan (University of Graz)

Lennart has been studying German and English philology in Graz since 2011 and is getting his teaching degree as well. His main interests include postcolonial studies, cultural studies, identity studies, regional studies, religious studies, ancient Roman history, contemporary history, and political sciences. He is currently working on a diploma thesis dealing with political music, especially in a German-language Hip-Hop context. Lennart has gained valuable experience while staying abroad and attending various international academic conferences and summer schools.

Maria Sonnleithner (University of Graz)

Maria is currently studying History and English as part of the teaching program in Graz. She is in her last year and is currently writing her master thesis. It deals with the process of how the state of Austria recognized the Methodist church. So, right now, she is sitting in a small church archive in Vienna and feeling like a small child surrounded by candy. Her other interests include, but are not limited to, food studies, gender and queer studies, postcolonial studies, cultural studies, interpretation and translation and of course memory studies. Additionally, she has gained a reputation at her local university for being very good at organizing conferences and thoroughly enjoys hosting them. In the past, she has helped to organize the ISHA Autumn Seminar 2015, Zeitgeschichtetage 2016, EVI PhD Conference 2016, ACIPSS Student Conference 2016, AGING Conference 2017, and the GYPC 2018.

Vanessa Tautter (University of Graz)

Vanessa studied History and English at the University of Graz, at Maynooth University and at West Virginia University. She completed the diploma program in Graz with a thesis on memory negotiation processes in Northern Irish history education, building on research she conducted while working at the Centre for the Study of Ethnic Conflict at Queen’s University Belfast. During her studies, she worked with the Austrian NGO Südwind on approaches to global learning in history education, and from 2016 to 2017, she worked as an
English and History teacher at Graz International Bilingual School. Currently, she is a PhD student at the University of Graz, working on victimization in right-wing memory. Her research interests include memory studies, contemporary history, cultural studies, politics as well as gender, queer and postcolonial studies.

**Design**

**Petra Kostevc** (University of Ljubljana)

Petra is in her final year of postgraduate studies at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design at the University of Ljubljana. She is currently working on her MA thesis on improving the working environment for people with mental disabilities. Petra also studied at Maynooth University, Ireland, and worked at several companies in Slovenia and abroad, e.g. at Red Dot Award: Product Design at Design Zentrum NRW. She is one of the winners of the Graphis New Talent Annual 2018 Silver Award. Additionally, she has organized and contributed to numerous exhibitions, such as the LGBTIQ exhibition “Homo Familyus” that accompanied the Ljubljana Pride in 2015, the exhibition “Darilo slovenske arhitekture: Edvard Ravnikar” (“The gift of Slovenian architecture: Edvard Ravnikar”) in 2017 and various student exhibitions of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana. So far, she has done everything from illustrating books to designing kitchen blocks for motorhomes.
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