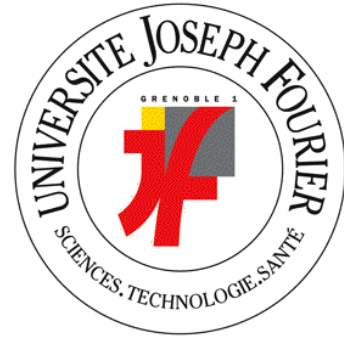




**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

**FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES
ÉCONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES**
Département de géographie



**Second CALL FOR PAPERS
BORDER REGIONS IN TRANSITION (BRIT) XI**

The Mobile Borders

September 6-9, 2011 Geneva, Switzerland/ Grenoble, France

**Co-hosted by the Geography Department, University of Geneva and
the Alpine Geography Institute, University Joseph Fourier-Grenoble I /
CNRS unit : UMR Pacte**

*The BRIT (Border Regions in transitions) network is a multidisciplinary project that
meets every 18 months to discuss border and geopolitical issues.*

With the scientific support of:



The Political Geography
French Committee



THE CONFERENCE

Contemporary borders undergo a permanent process of *de-territorialisation* / *re-territorialisation* but do not disappear, as had been predicted by some in the early 1990's. But the very location of the border is more and more open to question. This mobility will constitute the core issue/problem for our conference. Debordering / Rebordering processes involve selective and hierarchical processes on borderlands, and also multiply the forms and processes of materialization of the borders themselves. The material spatial inscription of borders and their growing *visibility* appear more and more difficult to define, as these become more fluid, open or fuzzy.

Firstly, the classical *significance* of fixed borders can be subject to a very real mobility when the natural discontinuities that ground it changes. The position of thalwegs, for instance, may evolve with the displacement of rivers bed. Climate change may also be responsible for topographical change, inducing for example the thaw of glaciers used to delimit boundaries, requiring a *renegotiation* based on the location of a summit point, a pass or a watershed.

But the notion of mobile border embodies a larger dimension when considering the evolution of border functions the location of which is no longer constrained to the limits of national sovereignty areas, but on the contrary tend to be pushed back and forth, projected, multiplied, diffused. The control function can notably be disseminated within a national territory, and no longer fixed at its entry point. Biometric, numeric, or smart borders illustrate that tendency. Borders are more and more organised as networks, therefore promoting the idea of reticular borders located within communication hubs. Whether in airports or train stations, of following mobile teams of customs officers, migrations and transactions are now controlled through "mobile borders".

Whether these changes erase borders or supplant strictly territorial dynamics with new reticular or network ones is subject to debate. The link between these new spaces and existing configurations such as extraterritoriality is another point of contention.

It therefore seems crucial to question the future of borderlands in this evolving context: some borders may appear break free of ancient constraints imposed by the boundary line, while others may loose the comparative advantages induced by the discontinuity. New dynamics emerge were borders tend to be pushed back and forth, where the linear limits tend to transform into an exchange zone or an area of collective projects. Border spaces play with the boundaries, transgressing, transcending, or moving them strategically.

Finally, numerous ephemeral spaces and territories come to light in the contemporary context, adding another dimension to the mobility of borders. Agricultural frontiers, temporary appropriations of public space constitute other power relationships with a society crossed by limits defined by a growing mobile nature.

The conference will therefore be dedicated to the comprehension of embedded and individualised, projected, fluctuating and ephemeral borders. But concentrating on the dissolution of borders only could appear cynical in *an* era which sees the multiplication of solid physical borders such as walls and fences. This is why we also wish to welcome communications which will analyse the link between the transformation of the border functions and the emergence of unseen barriers, considering these not only as resurgences of old military reflexes of national territory fortification. Walls themselves can be mobile, all expansionist move justifying their transfer.

Co-chaired by Dr. Anne-Laure Amilhat-Szary, Joseph Fourier University (Grenoble I) and Prof. Frédéric Giraut, University of Geneva, the conference will bring together around 200 international scholars who have been researching borderlands and de/rebordering dynamics around the world. The meeting is conceived as a unique occasion for those scholars to

contribute to a conceptualisation of the Mobile border.

Following the Xth edition of BRIT which, for the first time in its history, met the Southern hemisphere (in South America, in Arica, Chile / Tacna, Peru). The goal of broadening the network membership beyond Europe and North America is pursued through the association with the ABORNE network (African Borderlands Research Network: <http://www.aborne.org/>) and will result in the important presence of African borders specialists and stakeholders. The BRIT meetings bear the specificity of bringing together, on one set border, analysts and practitioners, thus setting the basis for very fertile exchanges.

A particular emphasis with dedicated lectures and field trip will be on the Alpine experiences in dealing with and going beyond inherited borders.

SUGGESTED SUBJECT AREAS

The sessions will therefore focus on the following topics, understood widely:

- Border theory - mobile borders
- Borderlands and blurred borders
- Materiality of borders vs Mobile functional borders
- Walls and closed borders
- The Alps as a field of rebordering

These themes will be accompanied by series of panels illustrating the local case, one of remarkable cross-boundary cooperation and links (labour migration) in a complex European context that results from the complex political positioning of Switzerland within the EU and part of the Alpine range.

- Multi-scalar cooperation
- Cross-boundary politics: management and / or governance?
- Cross-boundary prospective
- European integration: Schengen or not Schengen ?
- Cross-Boundary agglomerations and their governance
- Labour migration in borderlands
- Social Vulnerability of borderlands
- Borders and Nature Conservation

Selected papers will be submitted for publication in special editions of either the *Journal of Borderland Studies* (JBS) or *Geopolitics* or *L'espace Géographique* or *The journal of Alpine Research*. Finally, due to the more general significance of the topic of mobile borders, the proceedings of the workshops especially dedicated to the conceptualisation of the expression Mobile border will be published as an edited volume *in a University press*.

NEXT STEPS

If you wish to submit a paper for this conference, please submit a one-page summary of your proposed paper (no more than two proposals per participant) together with a brief bio or CV to brit2011@unige.ch.

Proposals for complete panels consisting of three to four related papers and a discussant are also welcome. Those wishing to put up a special thematic session should put themselves rapidly in contact with the BRIT conferences organizers. Please submit us a brief description of your proposed panel so that we can confirm it. You will then be able to call for proposals and be able to send us jointly the summaries of all papers and bios/CVs for all participants on your panel.

If, in addition to submitting a paper, you are also interested in volunteering as a discussant on a panel, please indicate your willingness to do so along with your area of expertise. See below for suggested topics.

Poster sessions will be open to younger researchers and to other participants not selected for the panel sessions. Poster sessions will lead to an awards ceremony on the last day of the conference.

The deadline for submission of paper proposals and suggested panels is **March 15, 2011**. Notification of acceptance will be made by **April 30, 2011**.

Final papers will be due electronically by **August 15, 2011**. All papers should include a cover page indicating the conference name and date of presentation, the name of the author, institutional affiliation and detailed contact information.

REGISTRATION FEES AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

The BRIT XI registration fee is 180 € before **May 31** and 250 € after **May 31, 2011**. Ph. D. Candidates whose paper or poster has been accepted will be exempted from registration fees. However, if they wish to participate in the field trip, including the transport from Geneva to Grenoble, they will have to participate with a fare of 50€.

Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses to/from Geneva, CH and Grenoble, FR, **but transportation between the two venues is included in the registration fee (one-day field trip)**.

Participants can register online, following the links:

<http://www.pacte.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article2543> or <http://www.unige.ch/ses/geo/index.html>

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Dr. Amilhat-Szary	Anne-Laure	U. Joseph Fourier, Grenoble	France
Pr. Giraut	Frédéric	U. de Genève	Switzerland
Dr. Brambilla	Chiara	U. of Bergamo	Italy
Pr. Baudoui	Rémy	U. de Genève	Switzerland
Mr. Brun	Philippe	Genève	Switzerland
Pr. Brunet-Jailly	Emmanuel	U. of British Columbia-Victoria	Canada
Dr. Crivelli	Ruggero	U. de Genève	Suisse
Pr. Coplan	David	U. of Witwatersrand	South Africa
Pr. Coronado	Irasema	U. of Texas	United States
Pr. Fall	Juliet	U. de Genève	Switzerland
Pr. Foucher	Michel	Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris	France
Pr. Fourny	Marie-Christine	U. Joseph Fourier, Grenoble	France
Pr. Gonzalez	Sergio	U. Arturo Prat	Chile
Dr. Guyot	Sylvain	U. de Limoges	France
Pr. van Houtum	Henk	Radboud University Nijmegen	Netherlands
Pr. Klauser	Francisco	U. de Neuchatel	Suisse
Pr. Kramsch	Olivier	Radboud University Nijmegen	Netherlands
Pr. Leloup	Fabienne	Fac. U. Catholiques Mons	Belgium
Pr. Levrat	Nicolas	U. de Genève	Suisse
Pr. Levy	Jacques	Ec. Polytech Fed Lausanne	Suisse
Dr. Morieux	Renaud	U. Lille III	France
Pr. Newman	David	Ben Gurion U.	Israel
Pr. Retaillé	Denis	U. de Bordeaux III	France
Pr. Nugent	Paul	U. of Edinburgh, Chairman of ABORNE	Scotland, UK
Pr. Rosière	Stéphane	U. de Reims	France
Pr. Scott	James	U of Eastern Finland	Finlande
Dr. Sohn	Christophe	CEPS/INSTEAD	Luxembourg
Pr. Velasco	Hélène	U. Bordeaux III	France
Dr. Walther	Olivier	CEPS/INSTEAD	Luxembourg
Pr. Wastl-Walter	Doris	U. of Bern	Switzerland
Pr. Zeller	Wolfgang	U. of Edinburg	Scotland, UK

The mobile Borders

XIth International scientific meeting of the BRIT (Border Regions in Transition) network

September 6-9, 2011 Geneva, Switzerland/ Grenoble, France

First Conference Pre-Program

Key-note conferences are not all defined (more to come, especially on Africa), and panel titles are given indicatively

Tuesday 6th – Morning

- Opening lecture: Saskia Sassen, Columbia University : *Does Denationalization deny borders?*
- First round of sessions (plenary)

Tuesday 6th – Afternoon

- Two rounds of parallel sessions
- First Doctoral Workshop on the theory of borders

Wednesday 7th – Morning

- Art and borders: conference –performance by A. Litman, plastician artist
- Poster session number 1
- One round of parallel sessions

Wednesday 7th – Afternoon

- Two rounds of parallel sessions
- Dinner: welcoming reception at the Crossborder Metropolitan

Thursday 8th: Field trip in the border region where the congress will take place, encounter with local and regional stakeholders

Speech during the journey Valais-Grenoble: "*Does a mountain effect exist in crossborder cooperation?*"

Gala dinner

Friday 9th – Morning

- Lecture : Marie-Christine Fourny, Grenoble, *How can spatial planning address the question of flows and doors ?*
- Second poster session
- One round of parallel sessions
- Second Doctoral workshop on borderlands

Friday 9th – Afternoon

- Lecture : Eduardo Medeiros, Lisbon University, *Euro-Meso-Macro: The new regions in Iberian and European space*
- One round of parallel sessions
- Round Table on the Future of Border Studies : One representant of Durham University, One of the Nijmegen Centre, one the Queen University Belfast Center, one of BRIT, one of ABORNE

- Poster Award
- Closing Lecture: Michel Foucher, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

18-20 h : “wine and cheese” “Apéritif dinatoire”

Possibility of going back to Geneva by special buses.

Suggested sessions (alphabetical order):

(the panel titles are indicative. Sessions followed by a contact name are those which have been suggested to the scientific committee and which will give its final decision when all the papers have been collected)

- African Border Towns: Nodes of Trans-National Exchange and Site of Societal Innovation. Olivier Walther, Luxembourg, olivier.walther@ceps.lu/ Wolfgang Zeller, UK, wolfgang.zeller@ed.ac.uk
- Borders Theory - mobile borders
- Border Theory, Security, and the Changing Borderlines and Borderlands of North America. Victor Konrad: vkonrad@hotmail.com
- Borders in the Middle East, internal and external border re-ordering in Iraq and Palestine/Israel. Géraldine Chatelard, Jordanie, gchatelard@yahoo.com
- Borderlands Politics: governance or management ?
- Boundary exchange: Relations between "the core" and "wider Europe". Svyetlov Oleksandr, Ukraine : svyetlov@googlemail.com
- Bypassing the modern boundaries in spatial planning: Topologic logic of new territories and corridors
- Cross-boundary prospective of European integration: Schengen or not Schengen ?
- Debordering/rebordering in cross-border metropolitan regions. Christophe Sohn and Olivier Walther, Luxembourg : christophe.sohn@ceps.lu, olivier.walther@ceps.lu , Jen Nelles, Canada : jen.nelles@utoronto.ca
- "Eco-frontiers". Sylvain Guyot, France, sylvain.guyot@unilim.fr
- Materiality of borders vs Mobile functional borders
- Labour migration in borderlands
- Mobility and cross-boundary development. Patrick RERAT et Doris Wastl-Walter, Switzerland, patrick.rerat@unine.ch
- Multi-scalar cooperation
- New technologies of control and surveillance. Francisco Klauser, Switzerland, Francisco.klauser@unine.ch
- Prospective analysis of open borders: how to think a territorial system from its doors? Marie-Christine FOURNY, France, Marie-Christine.Fourny@ujf-grenoble.fr in collaboration with DATAR
- Social Vulnerability of borderlands
- Reconfiguring Post-Soviet Spaces: Borders, Migration and Neighbourhood, James Scott james.scott@uef.fi and Ilkka Liikanen ikka.liikanen@uef.fi
- The aesthetics of border inscriptions : landscape and art production on borders, Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary, France, anne-laure.amilhat@ujf-grenoble.fr
- Transboundary mapping. Aurélie Arnaud, France : aurelie.arnaud@univ-cezanne.fr
- Walls and closed borders. Elisabeth Vallet elisabethvallet@gmail.com and Stéphane Rosière, France, stephanerosiere@orange.fr