
Globalization and Security: a perspective in *border studies*



The Green Line buffer zone – Nicosia/Cyprus – 2016 © Daniel Meier

Objectives and description

This course aims at understanding the current globalization processes through the emergence, spreading and management of borders. More specifically, it intends to provide the students with some of the theoretical tools to consider several issues at the heart of the current world balance.

The lecture will start with a general overview of the topic of borders and the interest of *border studies* and the various concepts to decipher the current mutations of contemporary borders, far from the classic border lines understood as a state container or simple lines of sovereignty.

The lecture is organized around eight topics that all are of key importance to understand what today's borders are. The emergence of the modern border state system will be discussed first in order to understand the shifts from the previous era of empires and their impact on the creation of new imposed borders on vast areas of the world in the 20th century. This initial theme should help us to frame the definition of the term border and the differences between borders, boundaries and frontiers. This leads to the interesting notion of borderlands, that stems from the spatial turn in social sciences which enables space to be viewed as a social construction. This will lead us to understand the role local inhabitants play in the co-construction and representations of borders. We will then focus on another component of this spatial turn: progressing from the static notion of border understood as a line, to the concept of "bordering" that reads borders as processes.

To embody these reflections, the lecture and readings will elaborate upon the impact globalization has on borders and more particularly their digitalization through the notion of "networked borders". Major technical shifts have also brought about a change in representation and the effects of borders on actors, migrants, travelers and more generally bodies. Another notion labelled "borderities" stemming from a more Foucauldian perspective will highlight the idea of mobile borders that span the literature describing the process of border individualization; we will explore it through passports and how they are obtained and through the management of the Channel tunnel.

Another dimension of the transformation of borders in the context of globalization stems from the securitization process we have seen spreading throughout the planet since 2001 and the growing walling and fencing of border lines. This testifies to a re-bordering of states, and a nationalist instrumentalization of borders to tackle another key issue, migration, that European states faced with a massive influx of migrants in 2015. To explore how border are transforming in a globalized world, and the inherent impact on migrants and migrations, we will discuss EU Thanatopolitics and the Frontex agency as an attempt to depoliticize the management of migration across the Mediterranean, a new deadly border between the global South and the North. The CM will end with a more bottom-up perspective on borders with the notion of 'borderscapes' that recently appeared to shed light on counter-narratives on borders from the perspective of borderlanders, be they migrants, local inhabitants or refugees.

Requirements and grading

The “conférence de méthode” (CM-INT) will be a discussion class. This implies mandatory diligence, personal commitment and regular work.

Active and well-prepared participation is expected. Readings are compulsory; every session we will discuss them together: take time at home to read and take notes. One of you, randomly selected, may be asked to present the assigned reading of the week orally.

To get ready for discussion, the following questions must be addressed for each text:

- What is the author’s main thesis?
- What arguments are developed to defend it?
- What sort of empirical material is used? Does it fit with the corresponding arguments?
- How does the text contribute to the field?
- What is your personal opinion of the text?

- 10 % of the overall grade reflects your participation grade in class throughout the semester.

• Oral presentation

- Each one of you will give a 15 minute-long oral presentation on an assigned topic. You will have to the outline of your presentation and your bibliography, presented according to international standards. Additionally, you can use a Powerpoint presentation.

When preparing an oral presentation, keep in mind the following methodological advice:

- An oral presentation must be built around a thesis. You are supposed to provide a demonstration, including arguments and examples to prove your assertions.
- You need to use academic sources for your presentation: books, articles of academic journals, newspapers or magazine articles if they are scholarly in nature. Online sources are OK, but again they need to be scholarly in nature: wikipedia.com does not count! However, you may use it, as well as movies, blogs, radio programs, in addition to academic sources. Remember the rules about plagiarism.

- 50% of the overall grade: Oral presentations based on readings (see below)

• Final assessment

- 40 % of the overall grade: Final written exam: this 1h30 exam will take place at the end of the semester on December 6th and will consist in a choice between two quotes to comment from the themes listed below.

Course schedule

1. Introduction

First hour: general presentation on borders in the age of globalization

Second hour: discussion of the first reading, here below:

Reading	Randy Widdis, "On Globalization, borders, and borderlands: A historical geographical perspective", <i>The Canadian Geographer</i> , Vol. 63, No 4, 2019, pp. 573-593
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2. Borders, boundaries and frontiers in the state system

Reading	Peter Taylor, "The state as container: territoriality in the modern world-system", <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> , Vol. 18, No 2, 1994, pp. 151-162.
Oral presentation 1	How does the state territoriality change in the context of globalization? (Anderson & O'Dowd, 1999)
Oral presentation 2	Is there any natural borders to deal with? (Fall, 2010)

3. Borderlands, the inhabitants' perspective

Reading	Oscar J. Martinez, "The dynamics of border interaction. New approach to border analysis" in Clive H. Schofield (ed), <i>Global Boundaries. World Boundaries</i> , Vol. 1, London, Routledge, 1994, pp. 1-15.
Oral presentation 1	How do borderlands shape a group identity? (Beaugrand, 2017)
Oral presentation 2	What does borders mean for borderlanders? (Newman, 2006)

4. Bordering, the border as a process

Reading	Anssi Paasi, "Boundaries as social processes: territoriality in the world of flows", <i>Geopolitics</i> , Vol. 3, No 1, 1998, pp. 69-88.
Oral presentation 1	How can everyday spatialisation of the state be observed from the border? (Reeves, 2011)
Oral presentation 2	What does it imply to consider bordering process beyond the state? (Van Houtum & Van Naersen, 2002)

5. Globalization: the networked borders

Reading	Didier Bigo, "The (in)securitization practices of the three universes of EU border control: Military/Navy – border guards/police – database analysts", <i>Security Dialogue</i> , Vol. 45, No 3, 2014, pp. 209-225
Oral presentation 1	What is at stake with the digitalization process of the border controls at the age of the war on terror? (Amoore, 2006)
Oral presentation 2	What kind of securitization process the EU borderwork in the Mediterranean is highlighting? (Bialasiewicz, 2012)

6. The mobile border

Reading	Anne-Laure Amilhat-Szary, Frédéric Giraut (eds), <i>Borderities: The Politics of Contemporary Mobile Border</i> , London, Palgrave, 2015, Chapter 1, pp. 1-19.
Oral presentation 1	How passports can be boundary objects? (Häkli, 2015)
Oral presentation 2	How does the governance of mobile borders illustrate well with the tunnel under the channel? (Zhang, 2019)

7. Walling/fencing: the securitization

Reading	Peter Andreas, "Redrawing the Line: borders and security in the Twenty-First Century", <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 28, No 2, 2003, pp. 78-111.
Oral presentation 1	How the securitization process did penetrate the human bodies with a long-ranging consequence (Popescu, 2015)
Oral presentation 2	What is the challenge in analysing the impact of a securitized border on borderlanders (Slesinger, 2016)

WEEK OFF

8. Migration and thanatopolitics

Reading	Henk Van Houtum, Rodrigo Bueno Lacy, "The autoimmunity of the EU's deadly B/Ordering regime; Overcoming its paradoxical Paper, Iron and Camp borders", <i>Geopolitics</i> , Vol. 25, Issue 3, 2020, pp. 706-733.
Oral presentation 1	How do the EU bordering norms impact the North African states? (Cassarino & Del Sarto, 2018)
Oral presentation 2	What can we learn from the perspective of the EU's management of the migrants' dead bodies? (Kovras & Robins, 2016)

9. Borderscapes

Reading	Chiara Brambilla, Reece Jones, "Rethinking borders violence, and conflict: From sovereign power to borderscapes as sites of struggles", <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> , Vol. 38, Issue 2, 2020, pp.1-15
Oral presentation 1	Why and how do the notion of borderscapes help to frame a reflection on counter-geography (Brambilla, 2014)
Oral presentation 2	Why refugee issue matters dearly to the borderscapes conceptualization? (Grundy-Warr & Rajaram, 2008)

Specific Bibliography

The following titles refer to the abovementioned references for oral presentations.
Additional references will be provided upon request.

Amoore Louise (2006), "Biometric borders. Governing mobilities in the war on terror", *Political Geography*, Vol. 25, pp. 336-351.

Anderson James, O'Dowd Liam (1999), "Borders, border regions and territoriality: contradictory meanings, changing significance", *Regional Studies*, Vol. 33, No 7, pp. 593-604

Beaugrand Claire (2017), "Borders and Spatial imaginaries in the Kuwaiti Identity", *Geopolitics* 23 (3): 544-564.

Bialasiewicz Luiza (2012), "Off-shoring and Out-sourcing the Borders of Europe: Libya and EU border work in the Mediterranean", *Geopolitics*, Vol.17, No 2, pp. 843-866.

Brambilla Chiara (2014), "Exploring the critical potential of the borderscapes concept", *Geopolitics*, DOI: 10.1080/14650045.2014.884561

Cassarino Jean-Pierre, Del Sarto Raffaella (2018), *The Governance of Migration and Border Controls in the European-North African Context*, Menara Working Papers, No 13.

Diener Alexander C. (2011), "The Borderland Existence of the Mongolian Kazakhs: Boundaries and the Construction of the Territorial Belonging", in Wastl-Walter D. (ed.), *The Ashgate research Companion to Border Studies*, Farnham: Ashgate, pp. 373-393.

Fall Juliet J. (2010), "Artificial states? On the enduring geographical myth of natural borders", *Political geography*, Vol 29, No 3, pp. 140-147.

Grundy Warr Carl, Rajaram Prem Kumar (2008), *Borderscapes. Hidden Geographies and Politics at Territory's Edge*. Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press.
(Introduction: ix-xl)

Häkli Junni (2015), "The border in the pocket: the passport as a boundary object", in Amilhat-Szary A.-L., Giraut, F. (eds), *Borderities: The Politics of Contemporary Mobile Border*, London, Palgrave, pp. 85-99.

Kovras Iosif, Robins Simon (2016), "Death as the border: Managing missing migrants and unidentified bodies at the EU's Mediterranean frontier", *Political Geography*, Vol. 55, pp. 40-49.

Newman, David. (2006), "The Lines That Continue to Separate Us: Borders in Our 'Borderless' World", *Progress in Human Geography*, Vol. 30, No 2, pp. 143-161.

Popescu Gabriel (2015), "Controlling Mobilities: Embodying Borders", in Amilhat-Szary A.-L., Giraut, F. (eds), *Borderities: The Politics of Contemporary Mobile Border*, London, Palgrave, pp. 100-115.

Selsinger Ian (2016), "Alterity, Security and Everyday Geopolitics at Israel's Border with Lebanon", *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, Vol. 31, Issue 1, pp. 129-139.

Van Houtum Henk, Van Naerssen Ton (2002), "Bordering, Ordering and Othering", *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*. Vol. 93, No 2, pp. 125-136.

Zhang Chenchen (2019), "Mobile Borders and Turbulent Mobilities: Mapping the Geopolitics of the channel Tunnel", *Geopolitics*, Vol. 24, No 3, pp. 728-755