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**CBRS-Workshop**

**European borderlands as hot spots of crises in the 21st century**

Center for Regional and Borderlands Studies, Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław

in cooperation with

Institute of Political Science and Administration, University of Opole

& Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań

**13-14 June 2022**

At the end of the 20th century, after the collapse of the Communist regime in Central Eastern European Countries, the vision of the *end of history* and a *borderless Europe* became widespread in academic and public discourses. The nation state seemed to lose its importance in favour of transnational corporations, international organisations or transnational social movements. Free mobility within the Schengen area contributed to the transfer of culture across national borders, which became increasingly visible with the abolition of border controls. In borderlands studies, the concept of borderscapes, which emphasises the complexity and fluidity of borders rather than their function as a line separating national territories, has been coined. Cross-border cooperation has become a key objective of the European Union.

However, the 21st century and the successive crises - economic, migration, Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Polish-Belarusian border crisis or the recent war in Ukraine - have changed the lenses through which borders and borderlands are viewed. The revival of a border as a separating line between sovereign states, the rise of nationalist movements, new social divisions, ethnic or religious exclusions, etc. - problems that seemed to fade in the optimistic vision of European development at the beginning of the 21st century, have returned with redoubled force. These new processes pose a challenge not only for political authorities but also for researchers who are trying to grasp the dynamically changing social reality.

Thus, the aim of our workshop is to discuss the changes that have taken place in Europe in recent years and their implications for borderlands studies: What new theoretical approaches can be applied to explore the changing reality? How to revise existing research findings? What new themes need to be explored?

We would like to reflect on these and other questions during the planned workshop. By taking both the theoretical as well the empirical perspective, we focus on the following themes:

1) *Covidfencing* - and its implications for cross-border cooperation (multi-level governance, role of local actors, state of social integration);

2) New discourses and narratives around borders in Europe (the end of a Europe without borders, unilateralism, the return of the nation-state, reterritorialization);

3) Multiculturalism vs. (new) nationalisms (redefinition of national identity, citizenship, minorities, social in-/exclusion, migration and refugee crises; relations between low and high politics);

4) Practices of (in)hospitality and (lack of) transborder European solidarity in the context of war, pandemic, and human rights violations.

**Programme**

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| *Monday, 13 June 2022**Institute of Sociology, ul. Koszarowa 3, building 20, room 203* |
| 12.00-13.30 | Opening of the workshop and presentation of new objectives and development plans of CBRS |
| 13.30-14.00 | *coffee break* |
| 14-15.30 | **Panel I:** *Covidfencing* - implications for cross-border cooperation Chair: **Jarosław Jańczak****David Newman:** Whatever happened to the Borderless World? Reflections on European borders post-Covid and post-Ukraine**Hynek Böhm & Wojciech Opioła**: Euroregions as political actors: managing border policies in the time of Covid-19 in Polish borderlands**Elżbieta Opiłowska:** Resilience of European border regions facing the Covid-19 re-bordering crisis |
| 15.30-16.00 | *coffee break* |
| 16.00-17.30 | **Panel II:** New discourses and narratives on borders in EuropeChair: **Justyna Kajta****Łukasz Moll:** Introduction to postructuralist theory of borders of Europe**Jarosław Jańczak:** The (final) end of the borderless world? Borders, territoriality and renaissance of geopolitics in post-post-Cold War Europe**Kira Kosnick:** The shifting moral terrains of German refugee discourses in light of Russia’s war against Ukraine |
| *Tuesday, 14 June 2022**Institute of Sociology, ul. Koszarowa 3, building 20, room 203* |
| 9.30-11.00 | **Panel III:** Multiculturalism vs. (new) nationalismsChair: **Hynek Böhm****Gideon Biger:** National or political border in 2022 Europe **Dariusz Wojakowski:** Images of borderlands in the context of refugee challenges: some reflections in the light of the Russian-Ukrainian war**Marcin Dębicki & Wojciech Opioła:** Transcarpathia as a space of multiculturalism and an area for potential geopolitical reconfiguration |
| 11.00-11.30 | *coffee break*  |
| 11.30-13.00 | **Panel IV:** Practices of (in)hospitality and (lack of) cross-border European solidarity in the context of war, pandemic, human rights violationsChair: **Natalia Niedźwiecka-Iwańczak****Nina Sahraoui:** Externalized within, Fortress Europe and its transforming implications for life in the enclaves of Ceuta & Melilla**Anna Moraczewska**: Discrepancy in the perception of refugees on the eastern border of Poland**Karolina Radłowska:** Polish Tatars on the Polish-Belarusian Borderland |
| 13.00-14.00 | *lunch* |
| 14.00-15.00 | Summary & discussion on the 1st Polish Congress of Borders & Borderlands Studies |

Organising team:

**CRBS/University of Wrocław:** Marcin Dębicki, Kamilla Dolińska, Julita Makaro, Łukasz Moll, Natalia Niedźwiecka-Iwańczak & Elżbieta Opiłowska

**Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań:** Jarosław Jańczak

**University of Opole:** Wojciech Opioła, Hynek Böhm

**SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw**: Justyna Kajta

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