

International Scientific Conference

New Challenges for Borderlands Studies: Regional, European and Global Perspectives

Opole, September 8-10 2021

CEST Time

Venue: all sessions will take place at: University of Opole, Collegium Civitas building (Katowicka 89, Opole)

If it is not marked 'online' presentation will be held in person

All sessions and keynote lectures will be available online through Google Meet for registered conference participants

All sessions scheduled in **Central European Summer Time**

Program

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

14:00-18:00 – registration of participants (main hall)

18:00-18:30 – opening ceremony (room no. 20)

18:30-19:30 – keynote lecture (room no. 20)

Anssi Paasi, University of Oulu, Finland

Changing but not disappearing: The perseverance of borders and the progress of border studies - online

20:00 - historical guided tour through Opole city center (will start at the entrance to the Collegium Civitas building)

Thursday, September 9, 2021

09:00-11:00 – panel session 1 and 2

Room no. 20 – session 1	Room no. 112 – session 2
<p><u>Border regions as living spaces</u> (chair: Martin Klatt, University of Southern Denmark)</p> <p>Participants: Hynek Böhm, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic <i>Comparison of approaches of Polish minority in Czechia and German minority in Poland to the non-territorial autonomy with the special focus on education</i></p> <p>Martin Klatt, University of Southern Denmark <i>Borders under pressure: The Sars-CoV-2 crisis as a catalyst for re-bordering trends in Europe?</i></p> <p>Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland <i>Determinants of the cross-border cooperation development on the Polish-Czech-Slovak borderland - project approach</i></p> <p>Bianca Mitrica, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Romania <i>Northern and Eastern Romanian Border Counties - Socio-Economic Development at the Fringe of the European Union</i></p> <p>Juan-Manuel Trillo-Santamaría, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain <i>From Barriers to Bridges: European Border Areas in Discussion – online</i></p>	<p><u>Trespassing symbolic boundaries. Migrants and their personal borderlands</u> (chair: Michał Wanke; University of Opole; FORTHEM Alliance Diversity and Migration Lab, Poland)</p> <p>Participants: Ágnes Eröss, University of Opole/Geographical Institute RCAES, Poland/Hungary <i>Boundary making of Hungarian migrants from Serbia in Hungary. The case of Yugo parties</i></p> <p>Viktor Glied, University of Pecs, Hungary <i>Together but still separated - The V4 during the migration crisis</i></p>

11:00-11:15 – coffee break

11:15-13:00 – panel session 3 and 4

Room no. 20 – session 3	Room no. 112 – session 4
<p><u>Multi-level and participatory governance in the cross-border regions</u> (chairs: Wojciech Opióła; University of Opole, Poland; Peter Ulrich; Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany)</p> <p>Participants: Sylwia Dolzblasz, University of Wrocław, Poland <i>Changes in the nature of cooperation over time - cross-border cooperation projects in Poland</i></p> <p>Magdalena Katana Mendes, University of Opole, Poland <i>Regionalisation in the context of decentralising reforms in mainland Portugal. Review and evaluation of the proposals submitted by the Portuguese Independent Commission on Decentralisation – online</i></p>	<p><u>(Non)crossing borders: Experiences of borderlanders in times of Covid-19-pandemic</u> (chairs: Justyna Kajta; SWPS University, Natalia Niedźwiecka-Iwańczak; University of Wrocław, Poland)</p> <p>Participants: László Kákai, University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Political Science and International Studies, Hungary <i>Centralization process in the shadow of Covid-19 in Hungary.</i></p>

<p>Joanna Podgórska-Rykała, Pedagogical University of Kraków, Poland <i>First South East Europe Citizens' Assembly - City of Mostar. A case study</i></p> <p>Irina Tkeshelashvili, University of Opole, Poland <i>Diversified status of regions in Georgia. Status Quo of occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia – <u>online</u></i></p> <p>Peter Ulrich, Brandenburg State University Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany <i>Participatory governance in the Europe of cross-border regions</i></p>	<p>Andrea Schmidt, University of Pecs, Faculty of Humanities, Hungary <i>Border crossing and vaccine diplomacy, the Hungarian nonconformist strategy</i></p> <p>Gábor Szalkai, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary <i>Cross-border strategies in Hungary during the Covid period</i></p>
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13:00-14:00 dinner (room no. 15)

14:00-15:00 keynote lecture (room no 20)

Sara Svensson (Halmstad University, Sweden; Central European University, Hungary)

Research uptake, policy applicability and stakeholder engagement: old and new challenges for border studies scholars

15:00-16:45 – session 5 and 6

Room no. 20 – session 5	Room no. 112 – session 6
<p><u>European peripheral border regions: challenges and perspectives I</u> (chair: Bartosz Czepil, University of Opole; discussant: Ramona Țigănașu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <p>Deak Mate, University of Pecs, Hungary <i>Gibraltar at crossroads: a special case of Brexit in the Anglo-Spanish relations.</i></p> <p>Zoltán Vörös, University of Pecs, Hungary <i>European countries in the 17+1 scheme - Balancing between East and West?</i></p> <p>Zoltan Gal, University of Pecs, Hungary <i>Geoeconomics of transformation, economic dependencies and economic bordering of Central and Eastern Europe</i></p> <p>Peter Kacziba, Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Pécs, Hungary <i>Beyond the Sea: Greek-Turkish disputes along the Evros/Meriç River</i></p>	<p><u>Identity in Silesia</u> (chair: Ondřej Kolář; Silesian Museum in Opava, Czech Republic)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <p>Anežka Brožová, Charles University, Czech Republic <i>National Indifference in Upper Silesia with focus on the Hlučín Region</i></p> <p>Lubomír Hlavienka, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic <i>National Minorities in the Western Borderlands of Czech Silesia from the Perspective of State Security Corps in years 1946 – 1948</i></p> <p>Ondřej Kolář, Slezské zemské muzeum, Czech Republic <i>German cross-border cultural cooperation in interwar Silesia</i></p> <p>Lukáš Vomlela, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic <i>Development of the Silesian Identity in the Czech Republic after 1989</i></p>

16:45-17:00 – coffee break

17:00-19:00 – session 7, 8 and 9

Room no. 20 – session 7	Online session 8	Room no. 112 – session 9
<p><u>National and ethnic minorities as platform for cross-border cooperation</u> (chairs: Marek Mazurkiewicz; University of Opole Poland; Ágnes Eröss, Opole University/Geographical Institute RCAES, Hungary)</p> <p>Participants: Zsombor Csata, Institute for Minority Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary <i>An Institutional Perspective on the Ethno-linguistic Segregation in the Economy. The Case of Transylvania, Romania – online</i></p> <p>Ágnes Eröss, Opole University/Geographical Institute RCAES, Hungary <i>The effect of Hungary’s kin-state policies on the interethnic relation in Transcarpathia, Ukraine</i></p> <p>Béla Filep, Forum Ost-West, Switzerland <i>The Politics of Good Neighbourhood - within and across state borders – online</i></p> <p>Krystian Heffner, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland, Brygida Solga, Technical University in Opole, Poland <i>Depopulation and migration problems in the minorities regions in Poland</i></p> <p>Katalin Kovály, Loránd Eötvös Research Network, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Geographical Institute, Budapest, Hungary <i>The role of ethnic social capital in economic life of entrepreneurs in Transcarpathia, Ukraine</i></p>	<p><u>Research into Borderlands: Emerging Methods</u> (chairs: Małgorzata Bieńkowska, Janusz Mucha, Katarzyna Niziołek, University of Białystok, Poland)</p> <p>Participants: Małgorzata Bieńkowska, Institute of Sociology University of Białystok, Poland <i>Creativity for Multiculturalism. The artistic and educational work of the Borderland Foundation and the Centre “Borderland of Arts, Cultures and Nations” as examples of creative work developing borderland identity – online</i></p> <p>Hernando Blandón-Gómez, Polina Golovátina-Mora, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia <i>Sensorial walking as art-based methodology for visualising the urban invisible frontiers in Medellin, Colombia – online</i></p> <p>Clara Kleininger, University of Opole, Poland <i>Nosso Morro: Collaborative Ethnographic Filmmaking as a Tool for Communication across Borders – online</i></p> <p>Kelsey Weber, UCL, United Kingdom (discussant) - online</p>	<p><u>Borderlands, Biodiversity, and More-than-human Landscapes</u> (chair: Tracie Wilson; Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany)</p> <p>Participants: Deak Mate, University of Pecs, Hungary <i>Contemporary Chilean Security Challenges: Bolivia and the Antartic region in the 21. Century</i></p> <p>Iwa Kołodziejska, Instytut Sławistyki PAN, Poland <i>Foreign versus local in the plant lore of human inhabitants of Central Ukraine - online</i></p> <p>Giulia Mattalia, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy <i>Asymmetrical trajectories of ethnobotanical knowledge after border creation: insights from Hutsuls and Romanians of Bukovina - online</i></p>

20:00-22:00 – reception (Student’s Cultural Center SCK near the conference venue)

Friday, September 10, 2021

09:00-11:00 – session 10 and 11

Room no. 20 – session 10	Room no. 112 – session 11
<p><u>Covid-19, (Re)Bordering and (the End of) Borderless Europe? Towards New Myths and Paradigms</u> (Chair: Jarosław Jańczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland; European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany)</p> <p>Participants: Grzegorz Balawajder, University of Opole, Poland <i>European Border borders in the context of a pandemic threat</i></p> <p>Jarosław Jańczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland and European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany <i>(Re-)Bordering Tendencies in (Post-)Pandemic Europe. Covid-19, Borderless Europe and New Border Policies.</i></p> <p>Elżbieta Opilowska, University of Wrocław, Poland <i>Borders and Resilience: The impact of Covid-19 on the structures and strategies of cooperation in the German-Polish borderland</i></p> <p>Christof Roos, Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany <i>How to Handle the Exodus? Actor Responses to EU Freedom of Movement in Eastern Europe</i></p> <p>Ruairidh Tarvet, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, Martin Klatt, University of Southern Denmark <i>The Impact of the Corona Crisis on Borderland Living in the Danish-German Border Region – online</i></p> <p>Peter Ulrich, Brandenburg State University Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany <i>Territorial Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in the German-Polish borderlands: Towards cross-border post-pandemic public services</i></p>	<p><u>European peripheral border regions: challenges and perspectives II</u> (chair: Corina Turşie, West University of Timisoara, Romania; discussant: Anatolie Carbune, Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Centre of European Studies, Romania)</p> <p>Participants: Natalia Niedźwiecka-Iwańczak, Kamilla Dolińska, University of Wrocław, Poland <i>Frankfurt (Oder) – Słubice from periphery to double town centre in a crossborder region. On aspiration expressed in urban documents of Słubice and Frankfurt</i></p> <p>Corina Turşie, West University of Timisoara, Romania <i>Culture and cross-border cooperation</i></p> <p>Anatolie Carbune, Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, Romania <i>The role of civil society in transnational energy governance. The case of Eastern Partnership countries – online</i></p> <p>Alina Felder, University of Bamberg, Germany <i>European(ised) Universities and Cross-Border Cooperation – A Comparative Case Study at the Intersections of EU Regional and Higher Education Policy – online</i></p>

11:00-11:15 – coffee break

11:15-13:30 Kick-off meeting of **Border and Regional Studies CEEPUS Network** (room no. 20)

Meeting is open for all conference participants.

13:30-14:00 – Closing keynote (room no. 20)

Elżbieta Opilowska, University of Wrocław, The Centre for Regional and Borderlands Studies

14:00-15:00 – dinner (room no. 15)

List of abstracts:

Grzegorz Balawajder

European Union borders in the context of a pandemic threat

The coronavirus epidemic covid-19 crisis poses a new challenge to the security of the Countries of the European Union, on the one hand in the context of the health of the population and, on the other hand, to avoid disruption of the free movement of persons, goods and services throughout its territory. In its Communication adopted on 16 March 2020, the European Commission stressed that the Union's external border must act as a security zone for all Schengen countries. This is due to the common interest of those States and is an expression of shared responsibility. In a situation where the pandemic threat has spread throughout the European Union, the system of external borders provides for the possibility for Member States to take joint action to reduce the global spread of the virus. Therefore, in the Communication, the Commission commissioned the European Council to take action by the Heads of Member States of the Schengen area, together with their counterparts in the Schengen associated countries, in order to swiftly coordinate the decision to introduce a temporary restriction on travel from third countries to an area known as the European Union+ (EU+), other than necessary.

Małgorzata Bieńkowska

Creativity for Multiculturalism. The artistic and educational work of the Borderland Foundation and the Centre "Borderland of Arts, Cultures and Nations" as examples of creative work developing borderland identity

The purpose of this text is to showcase creativity in action, creativity that has been directed to fostering mutual understanding and cooperation in a culturally diverse environment - in a region that has seen ethnic conflict. The text is devoted to the analysis of the work of two interrelated organisations – the Borderland Foundation and the Centre "Borderland of Arts, Cultures and Nations" – which for decades have been working innovatively on a complex history, together with the local community. This is a history that includes nationally and religiously diverse groups. Experiences with the local community have provided the inspiration for the Borderland Foundation and the Centre "Borderland of Arts, Cultures and Nations" for further creative work in art, education and history focussed on the phenomenon of borderland identity.

Hernando Blandón-Gómez, Polina Golovátina-Mora

Sensorial walking as art-based methodology for visualising the urban invisible frontiers in Medellín, Colombia

Social fragmentation incorporated in the foundation for Colombian independence becomes more acute with the armed conflict and the country's socio-economic and political development. Forced homogenisation of social imaginary silence the existence of physical and mental borders. They are deep in the mentality and define the world views of different social groups, the frontiers that define them. The present paper focuses on the potential of the art-based research and specifically sensorial walking as a pedagogical and research exercise to reveal the multiple frontiers and to further problematise social and cultural analysis.

Hynek Böhm

Comparison of approaches of Polish minority in Czechia and German minority in Poland to the non-territorial autonomy with the special focus on education

Despite both Czechia and Poland belong among ethnically the most monogenous European countries, there are national minorities living in both countries – Polish minority in Czechia and German minority in Poland belong among those, who enjoy school education in their mother tongues. The contribution analyses comparison of approaches of both these minorities to the non-territorial autonomy with the special focus on approaches used in education, political representation and regional development. We do that by the means of analysis the behaviour of relevant actors, analysis of their principal activities, semi-structured interviews with them and media analysis. Moreover, the information will be complemented by the analysis of institutionalised relations of these minorities with their kin-states. The research comes to comparing the forms and intensity of effective participation of minorities in political, economic and cultural lives within their majority societies. The research is currently ongoing and does not have final findings yet. At the moment it seems that engagement of German minority within Polish society is mainly in the field of political life, whereas the Polish minority in Czechia has a prominent position in economic and cultural life. However, the research needs to be finished to state these conclusions with absolute certainty and provide more details.

Anežka Brožová

National Indifference in Upper Silesia with focus on the Hlučín Region

The paper will explore the concept of national indifference in the context of the Hlučín Region. The concept refers to populations without strictly bound ethnic identities, in other words, populations favoring no ethnic national movements. It is used by researchers dealing with autochthonous populations of Central Europe, especially the Habsburg monarchy, but also Upper Silesia. In the paper, literature dedicated to national indifference in Upper Silesia will be introduced and applied to the Hlučín Region. It is a small region in Czech Silesia, lying on the border with Poland, and was a part of Prussia between 1742 and 1920. The paper will analyse oral history interviews with people from the Hlučín Region born in the 1920s and 1930s with regard to the concept of national indifference and offer possible explanation of this phenomenon.

Anatolie Carbune

The role of civil society in transnational energy governance. The case of Eastern Partnership countries

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are key actors in promoting Eastern Partnership countries' legal approximation to the EU legislation. Considerable research about the role of CSOs from an EU angle can be found. Yet, the local dynamics surrounding the activity of CSOs received less attention. Building on the existing literature on transnational governance and conducting a content analysis, the paper seeks to examine how CSOs steer the network constituents in order to promote legal approximation to the EU in the field of energy. The main argument is that CSOs is using information-sharing and rule-setting as the main governance functions for steering.

Zsombor Csata

An Institutional Perspective on the Ethno-linguistic Segregation in the Economy. The Case of Transylvania, Romania

In Romanian public life, the problem of institutional parallelism and segregation based on ethnolinguistic criteria is one of the most persistent and controversial topics in the last three decades. In recent years there has been a significant shift from a strictly ethnopolitical conceptualization of the problem towards a broader institutionalist perspective. In my presentation, I will continue and nuance this initiative by focusing on a fundamentally economic/utilitarian approach. I bring examples of how ethnic parallelism looks like from a bottom-up perspective and how utilitarian considerations are inherently supporting the establishment and prevalence of ethnolinguistically homogeneous institutional solutions in the economy. I briefly address the welfare implications of ethnolinguistic parallelism, and I will highlight some possible long-term solutions.

Sylwia Dołbłasz

Changes in the nature of cooperation over time - cross-border cooperation projects in Poland

The aim of this study was to identify regularities in the formation of cross-border cooperation on the example of Polish borderlands. Their diverse character due to, inter alia, border attributes (e.g. related to the functions of the internal and external Schengen zone borders), natural and socio-economic features made it possible to identify the influence of conditions on the characteristics of cooperation. Particular attention was paid to the type structure of beneficiaries and projects. The analysis covered over 1500 projects and 2300 beneficiaries of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) cross-border cooperation programmes along Poland's land borders in two consecutive EU programming periods (2007-2012 and 2014-2020). It should be emphasized that the study covered borderlands understood as areas on both sides of the state border and included both Polish and neighbouring countries' actors involved in joint cross-border projects. The adopted research approach enabled both a comparative analysis of the shaping of cooperation in individual borderlands and its change over time.

Ágnes Erőss

Boundary making of Hungarian migrants from Serbia in Hungary. The case of Yugo parties

Present paper focuses on the topic of individual identity construction and narratives of intra-ethnic boundary making. We built on the research material derived from the Transmig project between 2010-2012. During our fieldwork we found that a great number of ethnic Hungarians who resettled from Vojvodina, Serbia visit the so-called Balkan or Yugo parties in Budapest. We became interested what these public occasions meant for the Vojvodinian Hungarians and how they connect to the memory and commemoration of Yugoslavia (for younger generations Serbia)? Based on interviews conducted with different generations of ethnic Hungarian migrants from Vojvodina, we outline possible ways of their identity creation, and how they position themselves in Hungary, among Hungarians in Hungary, their ethnic-kins. We also investigate the role and importance of music and Yugo parties in boundary making and narratives of intra-ethnic boundary making (Baily, Collyer 2006; Cohen 1995; Margolies 2009). We understand the importance of Yugo parties in Budapest in recreating and strengthening a special identity, which differentiates the Vojvodinian Hungarians from the Hungarians in Hungary.

Ágnes Erőss

The effect of Hungary's kin-state policies on the interethnic relation in Transcarpathia, Ukraine

Following 2010 Hungary prioritized kin-state policy, rearranged its organizational structure and launched new generations of programmes (Bárdi 2017, Waterbury 2021). Beside the introduction of simplified naturalization (dual citizenship), series of economic development programs have been launched to enhance the prosperity of the external kin communities in their homelands (i.e. in the territory of home state). Owing to the social and economic consequences of the Euromaidan and the Donbas conflict (out-migration of mainly active age population) Transcarpathia has received special attention in Hungary's kin-state policies. Since 2014 Hungary donated substantial amounts in forms of aids or charity. However the primary goal of the government was to help the minority Hungarian communities in Transcarathia, but the beneficiaries are not only and not exclusively members of Hungarian community (Tátrai et al. 2017). The main aim of this paper is to investigate how the interethnic relations are affected by the increased kin-state activity of Hungary and the launched financial aid and development programs? The impact is analysed on three levels: (inter)national, regional and local. We attempt to shed light on the locally invented strategies that would assist or ease the access to these founs and analyse how these dynamise interethnic relationships.

Alina Felder

European(ised) Universities and Cross-Border Cooperation – A Comparative Case Study at the Intersections of EU Regional and Higher Education Policy

This contribution consists in a systematic in-depth comparative analysis of two cases of cross-border cooperation in higher education to explore processes of both EU regional policy implementation and Europeanisation of higher education. The analysis is guided at the following question: How does the higher education dimension of EU regional policy influence cross-border cooperation among higher education institutions? To explore the assumed intersection of EU regional policy with higher education policy the choice of case is determined by European Territorial Cooperation programs based on structural funding, i.e. Interreg. To analyse the data gathered in two peripheral regions and at respective EU institutions in November 2019 and March 2020 an interactive Europeanisation perspective accommodating insights from policy feedback thinking is adopted.

Béla Filep

The Politics of Good Neighbourhood - within and across state borders

Distinct from a concept of *bon voisinage* by Alan Henrikson, who defined good neighbourliness for the inter-state level (or on what basis states shall maintain good-neighbourly relations with each other), this paper presents a concept of good neighbourhood around ethno-cultural boundaries rather than state borders. The latter rarely coincide, thus the relations between people of different ethno-cultural affiliation or between cultural nations often have a greater importance than simply the struggle between neighbouring states. East Central Europe offers particularly telling examples in this regard. In Slovakia and Serbia, for instance, relations between the majority population and the Hungarian minority cannot be grasped without considering Hungary as the latter's kin state. Based on empirical research in border regions of these three countries, this paper argues that different forms of cultural capital - intercultural capital, cross-cultural social capital, and multicultural capital - represent the basis of a *good*

neighborhood. As this research has shown, cross-border cooperation and cross-border everyday regionalization can contribute to building good-neighbourly relations within and across state borders.

Zoltan Gal

Geoeconomics of transformation, economic dependencies and economic bordering of Central and Eastern Europe

This paper focuses on the process of economic bordering and economic dependencies of Central Europe's post-socialist integration process. The major geoeconomic pattern that emerges is a high dependency on FDI, foreign multinational firms, European Union funds and exports to Western Europe. An innovative aspect of this contribution is the argument that the long-term problems of capital accumulation in the context of centre-periphery dependency (and world systemic models) reflect bordering processes that are both structural as well as political in nature. The economic transition of Central Europe was fuelled by neoliberal ideologies and political agendas of "East-West convergence" that involved marketization and privatization. Both of these created a moral, legal and structural environment that rapidly cemented new modes of dependent integration into the EU and the global division of labour. At the same time, the most important historical dependencies of the CEE region, such as financial, technological and market ones, have remained constant. This not only further strengthens the external vulnerability of the region, but also makes re-interpretable the geopolitical and geoeconomic features of Central Europe as a 'buffer zone' situated between German and Russian spheres of interest. We will first examine the geo-economic features of the externally managed and financed integration of post-socialist transition countries of CEE into the global economy and the European Union. In conclusion, we suggest that such economic bordering processes within the EU could have long-term consequences for political and economic cohesion in the EU as a whole.

Viktor Glied

Together but still separated - The V4 during the migration crisis

The migration policies of the V4 countries present many similarities, but also a number of characteristics that are determining the position on migration. During the migration crisis in 2015-2016, the Visegrad states partially coordinated their political communication, using the same communication panels that had a strong impact on domestic politics. The V4's approach basically refused the open-door policy, moreover the European solutions in general. The presentation focuses on the changes in V4 migration policy since 2015, highlighting the crucial developments in the negotiations with the European Union, and foreign and domestic effects of the migration crisis.

Krystian Heffner, Brygida Solga

Depopulation and migration problems in the minorities regions in Poland

Poland after the 2nd World War, is a country with the uniform ethnic structure. However, there are regions (voivodships) in Poland with a significant share of national minorities. Ethnic minorities play an important role in the development of such regions in the political, socio-demographic and economic sense. Studies have shown that the trends of demographic development in regions with national minorities differ significantly from the direction of changes in other regions. Characteristic is the decline

in the population representing a national minority in the region, caused by permanent emigration and its demographic consequences in residential areas of minorities. The migration outflow affects all spheres related to the functioning of the minorities in the region, but most of all seriously weakens its political representation at the local, regional and national level.

Lubomír Hlavienka

National Minorities in the Western Borderlands of Czech Silesia from the Perspective of State Security Corps in years 1946 – 1948

The paper are focused on the problem of new and old national minorities in the perspective of czechoslovak state security corps in the region of western part of Silesia. The aim of the paper is to show how the state security corps to noticed the members of national groups in the region and show the differences in perception of individual nationalities.

Jarosław Jańczak

(Re-)Bordering Tendencies in (Post-)Pandemic Europe. Covid-19, Borderless Europe and New Border Policies

Borders are in never-ending motion and are the objects of permanent ordering. As the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated, this applies also to internal and external borders of the EU. The recent (re-)bordering (again) put into question most of the already dominating paradigms framing border processes' perception. This applies especially to the "borderless Europe" concept. This paper will try to critically approach it, showing the main tendencies in developing new paradigms that describe border dynamics in contemporary Europe.

Peter Kacziba

Beyond the Sea: Greek-Turkish disputes along the Evros/Meriç River

In recent years, the most dramatic episodes of the Greek-Turkish conflict have been taking place in the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean. In addition to the maritime frontier, a tense situation has emerged along the Evros/Meriç River, which serves as a natural but unstable borderline between Greece and Turkey. Complex disputes associated with the river include both historical and contemporary issues. Among the historical grievances, the 1926 Athens Protocol designating the river as a state border is the most challenging example as it had ignored the riverbed's natural dispositioning and caused permanent disagreement between the two countries. More recent debates can be linked to water pollution, dam constructions, climate change challenges, and migration influxes. In all cases, the Evros/Meriç River plays a central role: it serves as a vital water source, a link connecting neighbouring communities, but also a division line that is securitised and utilised for defensive and political purposes. The presentation seeks to explore the river's role in the Greek-Turkish bilateral relations. It outlines unsettled issues undermining cooperation, analyse defensive properties and securitisation of controlled floodings, while also describes political communication techniques related to minority disputes, migration and environmental challenges.

László Kákai

Centralization process in the shadow of Covid-19 in Hungary.

How did the relationships of the centre and the municipalities change from the transition until 2010, when the government considerably transformed this system of relations and even the municipality level itself (in a historical way and at a scale similar to that implemented at the dawn of the transition)? Thus, in this study, the interrelation of centralisation and decentralisation is basically determined by the question of which public services were provided at the central or governmental level and which ones were implemented at the regional or local level? How did the COVID epidemic affect the relationship between the state and local government?

Magdalena Katana-Mendes

Regionalisation in the context of decentralising reforms in mainland Portugal. Review and evaluation of the proposals submitted by the Portuguese Independent Commission on Decentralisation

Portugal has been resisting the process of regionalisation of the mainland for 45 years. Unsuccessful regionalisation referendum in 1998 postponed the process indefinitely. Only two decades after this event, in 2018 an Independent Commission on Decentralisation was established to assess the situation and propose possible solutions to the situation. The report, published in 2019, includes possible scenarios for further decentralisation of the mainland, including the regionalisation process. The purpose of this paper is a concise diagnosis of the situation, review and assessment of the Commission's works, with particular emphasis on the proposed solutions for further regionalisation.

Martin Klatt

Borders under pressure: The Sars-CoV-2 crisis as a catalyst for re-bordering trends in Europe?

Spring 2020 appeared to be the end of Borderless Europe – suddenly, uncoordinated and against WHO advice, European borders were closed again as a measure to contain the Sars-CoV-2 virus. Since then, we have experienced a pandemic border regime of semi-permeability, bureaucratic rules and quarantine de-facto abolishing free movement in Europe for most citizens. This approach of Securitization rather than Public Health challenges a core principle of EU-ropean integration. It did not come out of the blue, though, as migration and terror already had challenged open borders before, not only in Europe. Technology, furthermore, indicates a new paradigm of Smart Borders: with smooth permeability for the “good”, but absolute control of movement. On the background of these trends, my paper will focus on the impact in border regions as living spaces, especially concerning cross-border mobility and regional imaginaries of functionally integrated cross-border regions.

Clara Kleininger

Nosso Morro: Collaborative Ethnographic Filmmaking as a Tool for Communication across Borders

I will present a research based on collaborative ethnographic filmmaking. In this case the research concerns a symbolic borderland, which separate one of the very affluent neighbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro- Gávea- from one of the biggest favelas of Latin America, Rocinha. Connected by the same street, the areas are in close geographical proximity, but segregated socially. The research, carried out

by the anthropological collective Big Tree, aimed to bring together youth from both areas for discussion and the common creation of a film about this space. Both practical film-making workshops as well as reflections on visual representation resulted in a film called *Nosso Morro - Our Mountain*.

Iwa Kołodziejska

Foreign versus local in the plant lore of human inhabitants of Central Ukraine

Invasive species are listed among 5 most important threats to biodiversity, they change landscapes and influence local biodiversity. Obviously invasive is not a neutral term, it is deeply embedded in the military terminology and the notion of geographical borders. Nevertheless from the local point of view invasive more-than-human actors are not always seen as foreign. For example incorporation of them into local plant lore makes them important for local culture and “domesticates” them, they are no longer foreign. It is especially true for long established invasive plants communities. I’ll explore the blurred borders of foreign and local on the example of the relations of two American plant species and human inhabitants of Central Podolia. I’ll show the local importance of foreign species in medicinal plants lore of the inhabitants of Central Ukraine. I’ll look at the complex entanglements between local human and more-than-human actors in the context of biodiversity change.

Katalin Kovály

The role of ethnic social capital in economic life of entrepreneurs in Transcarpathia, Ukraine

Owing to its geographical position, the history of shifting borders and multiethnic-multilingual population, Transcarpathia provides a perfect laboratory to study how ethnicity interplays with economy. The aim of present research is to examine the role of formal and informal ethnic social capital in the life of Transcarpathian enterprises. The results are based on semi-structured interviews conducted with foreign investors in Transcarpathia and with Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs. It was found that informal relationships are essential in the operation of the enterprises, however, these relationships are not always organized on an ethnic basis. We argue that the institutionalized relations did not play an important role in the case of foreign enterprises. However, among Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs the role of formal ethnic relations has increased owing to the financial support provided by Hungary.

Ondřej Kolář

German cross-border cultural cooperation in interwar Silesia

The paper focuses on relations of scholars, museums and artists in Prussian and Czech Silesia during the interwar period. The aim is to describe and analyse the role of cross-border cultural festivities, such as "Weeks of Silesian Culture" for "German-Silesian" identity. The paper also attempts to examine the relation between Silesian autonomism, state patriotism and ethnic nationalism on example of German cultural bodies.

Joanna Kurowska-Pysz

Determinants of the cross-border cooperation development on the Polish-Czech-Slovak borderland - project approach

The issue concerns the assessment of the development of cross-border cooperation in borderland based on projects co-financed by the INTERREG programme. The research goal is the identification of determinants of cross-border cooperation based on cross-border projects co-financed by the INTERREG programme. The research area is the Polish-Czech-Slovak borderland. Based on quantitative research conducted in 2019 among Polish beneficiaries of INTERREG programme and statistical analysis (exploratory factor analysis) the author define the key groups of factors determining : reasons of participation in cross-border projects, obstacles in cooperation in cross-border projects and benefits from cross-border projects realization. The author also identify determinants of strengthening of cross-border cooperation in 3-dimension model and define the recommendation concerning cross-border cooperation development based on the cross-border project life-cycle.

Deak Mate

Gibraltar at crossroads: a special case of Brexit in the Anglo-Spanish relations.

Gibraltar, a strategic territory perched on the strait between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, has been under British administration since 1713. The sovereignty of Gibraltar is a point of contention in the Anglo-Spanish relations because Spain asserts a claim to the territory. On the 31 of January 2020, the UK and Gibraltar left the European Union. In December 2020, the UK and Spain agreed in principle to a basis on which the UK and the EU might negotiate terms for Gibraltar to participate in aspects of the Schengen Agreement, to avoid a hard border with Spain. The arrangements have not entered into force but both sides aim to keep delays at the border at a minimum in the meantime. While Spain has made no secret of wanting Gibraltar back, most of the overt incursions into British waters and airspace have occurred over the past few years. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces a possible crisis in the soon future.

Deak Mate

Contemporary Chilean Security Challenges: Bolivia and the Antarctic region in the 21. Century

Chile has traditionally been one of the most stable and strongest state in Latin America. At the same time, partly for historical reasons, Chile is also involved in challenges to its national security, such as Bolivia's territorial claims for the recovery of a lost sea exit or the overlapping territorial demands that divide the surface of Antarctica. In the 21st century, both areas could mean a threat to national security for Chile, which could lead to a partial reorganization of the balance of power in the region, damage to Chilean positions of power and interests, or even their enforcement. With the ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague in 2018, the possibility of a diplomatic agreement between Chile and Bolivia was virtually closed, so the issue can only be resolved in the future by bilateral interstate negotiation or even with a new conflict, as Bolivia still does not give up the efforts to control the territory. Today, Antarctica is less of a real threat to Chile, but in the soon future, the regions value may rise due to its mineral resources and geopolitical significance and intensify the competition for already existing territorial claims. The presentation explores and presents the most important issues of the two regions.

Giulia Mattalia

Asymmetrical trajectories of ethnobotanical knowledge after border creation: insights from Hutsuls and Romanians of Bukovina

Bukovina is a historical region, united until 1940 and then split into the current territories of Romania and Ukraine dividing Hutsuls and Romanian communities. Those communities have evolved across the border adapting to the different socio-economic contexts. Thus, our main objective was to understand the implications of border creation for the dynamics of ethnobotanical knowledge. The 121 semi-structured interviews revealed that in Romania ethnobotanical knowledge is mainly orally transmitted within the same family, while in Ukraine interviewees reported several written sources. Knowledge from these sources could be a consequence of the policies implemented in the current Ukrainian Bukovina (but not on the Romanian side) during the Soviet era which may have hybridized the body of knowledge of the communities with foreign elements.

Bianca Mitrica

Northern and Eastern Romanian Border Counties - Socio-Economic Development at the Fringe of the European Union

Romania's borders span a length of 681.3 km with the Republic of Moldova and 649.4 km with Ukraine. The Northern and Eastern Romanian borders at the fringe of the EU (with Ukraine and with the Republic of Moldova) include 8 counties of different socio-economic development levels. The aim is to identify the current patterns of SED and their territorial inequalities at NUTS 3 level. 24 multiple indicator clusters will be used: housing; public utilities and artificial areas, health, labour market, demographics, education and local economy. The results show the influence that town and urbanization levels have on SEV level.

Natalia Niedźwiecka-Iwańczak, Kamilla Dolińska

Frankfurt (Oder) – Słubice from periphery to double town centre in a crossborder region. On aspiration expressed in urban documents of Słubice and Frankfurt

The aim of the submitted paper is to present the process of transformation of the towns by the border into towns on the border on an example of Słubice and Frankfurt (Oder), what is signed with the double town brand. The towns divided by the state border after time of separation are trying to build transborder community using potentials from across the river. It's worth analyzing the urban public documents (development strategies of both towns and common documents) and focus on narratives, which show the way from divided, separated peripheral towns into a double town – denominated as „a main axis of transborder region's crystallization”. We assume, that as a result of long term cross-border cooperation both towns with their resources and deficits had noticed their chance of development as a centre of transborder region. Using towns documents we're going to present the dynamic of this process situated in the European and state context.

Elżbieta Opiłowska

Borders and Resilience: The impact of Covid-19 on the structures and strategies of cooperation in the German-Polish borderland

The Covid 19 pandemic has had numerous social and political consequences for border regions. The temporary closure of borders has not only impacted the lives of borderlanders whose everyday practices are embedded in cross-border space, but also the functioning of institutional actors involved in cross-border activities. The aim of the paper is to investigate the reactions and (new) strategies of cross-border institutional actors in the context of (re)bordering. Applying the concept of resilience, I will explore new modes of adaptation and coping mechanisms as well as structures developed to adjust to new circumstances. Against this backdrop, the aim is to identify enhancing and hindering factors of the adaptation process. The German-Polish borderland will serve here as a case study, however it should be put in European perspective.

Joanna Podgórska-Rykała

First South East Europe Citizens' Assembly - City of Mostar. A case study

The aim of the paper is to present the elements of participatory governance in the deliberative version on the example of the tool that is the citizens' assembly. The author characterizes the panel based on the example of the process implemented in 2021 in the city of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina). It is the first panel that was organized in a country from South-Eastern Europe.

Christof Roos

How to Handle the Exodus? Actor Responses to EU Freedom of Movement in Eastern Europe

Faced with the effects of brain drain, youth drain, and general population loss on the economy and the welfare state, initially positive attitudes towards freedom of movement (FoM) in Central and Eastern European countries (CEE) appear to have changed. Against this background, the research is triggered by the following puzzle: How do political actors in Eastern Europe respond to the challenge that FoM facilitates large-scale emigration while EU membership limits room for policy reform?

Andrea Schmidt

Border crossing and vaccine diplomacy, the Hungarian nonconformist strategy

The COVID 19 pandemic resulted a general border closure in the borderless Europe. Although the European Union has developed a joint vaccination program, shortly after the first encouraging signs, a debate began over the introduction of individual Hungarian vaccine strategy, which also grew into a geopolitical game. This also affected border crossing, crisis and collapse of governments, and the appearance of new borders between citizens. It is our aim to find the relationship between the elimination and the appearance of borders on the basis of vaccine diplomacy and the new meaning of border crossing – for vaccination, taking Hungary into the core of investigation.

Gábor Szalkai

Cross-border strategies in Hungary during the Covid period

The Hungarian regulations related the border crossing were and are among the most restricting regulations. Employment related connections and transborder Hungarian ethnic connections were limited by it significantly, and for this reason the population should develop own strategies to survive and avoid the closing of the borders. The presentation gives picture about this processes.

Ruairidh Tarvet, Martin Klatt

The Impact of the Corona Crisis on Borderland Living in the Danish-German Border Region

The Sars-CoV-2 (also known as the COVID-19/Coronavirus) crisis resulted in the closure of most of Europe's borders, both external and internal. What consequences does this have for border regions as living spaces? This article uses the Danish-German border region as an example for the complex impact of the Sars-CoV-2 crisis on a European borderland. A special focus is placed on the region's reciprocal national minorities on either side of the border. This article shows that these groups have been most impacted by the nation state measures of restricting and controlling access across the border, as this has reduced their opportunities of kin-state contact and interaction.

Irina Tkeshelashvili

Diversified status of regions in Georgia. Status Quo of occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia

The question of regional diversity of Georgia has deep historical roots and at the same time represents a source of potential disturbances created by the Russian Federation as an instrument to make an impact on the entire South Caucasus since 1921. In 1989 Autonomous Republic of Adjara along with Javakheti region in Eastern Georgia demanded independence in 1989, but currently only Abkhazia and South Ossetia are having official status of occupied territories under Georgian law. Development of the entire country is directly dependent on the status of both breakaway regions as they are milestones on the way of Georgian integration into the European Union in NATO.

Juan-Manuel Trillo-Santamaria

From Barriers to Bridges: European Border Areas in Discussion

Since the creation of the first euroregion in Europe across the Dutch-German border in 1958, precisely called EUREGIO, the number of cross-border activities, projects and structures have increased in the continent. The Madrid Outline Convention of the Council of Europe (1980) facilitated this Europe-wide, while the launch of the EU Interreg program (1990) and further programmes at the external borders of the EU, and with candidate countries, multiplied cross-border cooperation (CBC) initiatives in the following decades, which also inspired CBC processes in other continents and new types of international decentralized cooperation for development. The adoption of further EU instruments, such as the EGTC Regulation (2006), accelerated the construction of CBC structures. The dream of building an integrated Europe found in (cross)border areas a perfect laboratory (at least within the Schengen Area): borders could then be re-signified from scars of history into pillars of a united Europe. In this regard, border

people can be conceived as the basis for this new integrated Europe, where daily life is developed in a normalised cross-border living space. However, specific events have tensioned this border life, fencing and re-bordering again these areas: terrorist attacks (11-S, 11-M, 7-J, and more), the GFC that impelled populisms and state-nationalism, the refugee crisis and migration phenomena and, currently, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has stimulated ‘covidfencing’ in European borders (actually, this has practically been a global effect). The effects of these re-bordering processes affect many citizens living in border areas, usually far away from where decisions are taken. The direct consequences of these processes add new layers of tension to “usual” border obstacles, as those identified, among other initiatives, by b-solutions.

This paper aims, firstly, to give a general framework of de-bordering and re-bordering processes of European areas from the point of view of border (and cross-border) regions, identifying border obstacles but also solutions that could facilitate daily life for border people, but also taking into account the importance of cross-border structures to guarantee a systematic, integrated and sustained approach to CBC. The experience of the Association of European Border Regions is key for this exercise. Secondly, some specific cross-border cooperation case studies will be mentioned as examples of projects seeking to remove on-going (physical and mental) barriers in order to achieve a real cross-border civic society. And last, but not least, some cases of CBC for development in other continents will be discussed to identify some common and specific elements which might drive further cooperation.

Corina Turşie

Culture and cross-border cooperation

The paper aims to examine the specific situation of culture as an investment priority of cross-border cooperation (CBC), part of the European territorial integration process. The research is focused on cross-border peripheral areas involving Romania, Hungary and Serbia, hosting two European Capitals of Culture - Timisoara 2023 and Novi Sad 2022. We produced a quantitative analysis of European Union’s INTERREG database (keep.eu), filtered for four CBC programmes: Intrerreg IV A 2007-2013 Hungary-Romania, Interreg V A 2014-2020 Romania-Hungary, Interreg IPA 2007-2013 Romania-Serbia and Interreg IPA 2014-2020 Romania-Serbia. Questions:

How important is culture for CBC in the two programme areas?

What is the intensity of CBC in the field of culture and who are the main actors?

Is the border an obstacle or an advantage for cultural cross-border projects?

Peter Ulrich

Participatory governance in the Europe of cross-border regions

This policy analysis examines geopolitical and sociocultural bordering practices in Europe’s cross-border regions and their impact on civil society participation and governance in state peripheries. The normative hope of democratisation and the legitimisation of European politics in European Union border regions are connected with a greater degree of cross-border citizen engagement in Euroregional institutions and politics. Using the example of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, this study analyses and compares four cross-border Euroregional case studies: Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino, Galicia–North Portugal, SaarMoselle and the planned German–Polish TransOderana EGTC.

Peter Ulrich

Territorial Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in the German-Polish borderlands: Towards cross-border post-pandemic public services

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the German-Polish borderlands is manifold: Political, societal and economic effects have affected cross-border regions and towns. Moreover, new mechanisms of cross-border public catastrophe and pandemic management have been discussed in the course of the crisis to tackle future pandemics more efficiently across borders. This contribution examines the territorial impact applying a TIA analytical model (and building on studies from summer 2020) and discusses how cross-border post-pandemic catastrophe and pandemic management and public services can look like in the future.

Lukáš Vomlela

Development of the Silesian Identity in the Czech Republic after 1989

The article analyses development changes of Silesian identity in the territory of nowadays Czech Republic after 1989. The aim of the article is to analyse Silesian regional identity in the Czech Republic, with respect of historical, political, social and administrative development. Although the aim is a perception of whole Czech part of Silesia as one region, there have been many major divisions in past centuries within last centuries and the local population has been affected by different factors in recent past. Paper analyses the support for Silesian identity based on Czech censuses from 1991, 2001 and 2011.

Zoltán Vörös

European countries in the 17+1 scheme - Balancing between East and West?

The presentation deals with the Chinese presence in Central and Eastern Europe, which region was among the first ones looking for extensive economic and trade cooperation with Beijing. But the financial crisis and the changing attitude of Western Europe rewrote these plans and by now China is already considered by many as a threat on the European integration where this region might function as a Trojan Horse – a term debated extensively in relation with the 17+1 scheme. Through comparisons and trade and investment data we will see, that the Chinese presence is by far more active in the Western part of Europe – and that maybe China in CEECs poses more threat to these Central and Eastern European countries and their economies than they believe or hope so. But, what we can see is that China, from time to time, considers this cooperation an important one and the threat of dividing the EU might be real – the first country to leave the cooperation is (going to be) Lithuania, for these reason. And there is a question about how the European Union can and should react on this scheme in order to (1) keep the integrity of the community and (2) keep the trade ties as well with China.