

## IGU-Commission on Political Geography (CPG) Newsletter 19, January 2015



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### Call for Application for CPG Travel Grant (**revised 15 January 2015**)

CPG will offer limited funding (two grants of \$500) to assist *two* postgraduate students and/or early career scientists from developing countries in attending the IGU 2015. The list of developing countries prepared by the local organizing committee of the IGU Moscow Regional Conference in 2015 can be found at:

<http://igu2015.ru/grants>

Applicants must first submit an abstract for participation in the IGU 2015. To be eligible for a CPG grant, the abstract must be reviewed, accepted and placed in a CPG-related session within the IGU 2015 Scientific Programme.

Applicants then need to submit a full paper to both of CPG Co-Chairs (Virginie Mamadouh and Takashi Yamazaki) via email by **31 March 2015**. The results of the review will be notified by the end of April.

Grants will be awarded in US dollar cash after the grantees' presentations at the IGU Moscow conference venue

For more details, please look at the CPG website and/or Facebook written on the left.



Website:

<http://www.igu-cpg.unimib.it/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456054597763023/?fref=ts>

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

### *Borderitis*

Borders are nowadays by far the sexiest topic in political geography. A century after the beginning of the Great War, 2014 has been especially prolific. In this respect, we could even speak of an epidemic of *borderitis*. This has not always been the case. When political geography reemerged as a vibrant sub-community of geography in the 1970s and 1980s, electoral geography was the hot topic. Nevertheless since the 1990s and the public debates on globalization and an allegedly borderless world, geographers have played a crucial role in the revival of a new brand of borders studies that have little in common with the older generation of international boundaries studies that focused on the border lines and border disputes.

Unlike the societal varieties, *borderitis* in academia is rather benign and has sorted many positive effects: the diversity of topics and approaches is amazing and fascinating (see Wastl-Walter 2011 or for a recent review of border studies Sidaway 2015). This prolific research has highlighted and scrutinized the different dimensions of borders, the disconnection between border functions and locations, the multiplication of the sites and locations where border functions are performed. To some extent it has contributed to the idea that borders are now everywhere and everything is bordering – which is not always helpful. Twenty years after the borderless world we seem to live in a world where borders are ubiquitous – borders fetishized both by those that want to construct or control them and those that want to deconstruct or remove them. Therefore *borderitis* might be a useful metaphor to question this popularity that at times borders deify.

The spatial turn in the social sciences and the humanities has been paralleled by a border turn and a raising attention paid to borders and bordering processes in social sciences and in literature studies. Still geographers – and more specifically political geographers – have remained key players in this increasingly multidisciplinary and to a certain extent transdisciplinary field. Othering and ordering are now established as the main function of bordering processes. The move of the researchers' gaze from border lines to border processes, from borders and boundaries to border regions, borderlands and borderscapes have shown the subtleties of contemporary debordering and rebordering processes. Engagement with artists, undocumented migrants and those guarding the borders have intensified.

As already underlined above, borders were particularly topical in 2014 both among academics and in the world they try to understand. In academic circles we could note the past year a proliferation of (large) conferences about borders (see reports in this *Newsletter* for details). The Association of Borderland Studies (ABS) convened its first World Conference in Joensuu (Finland) and St Petersburg (Russia) in June (Meanwhile the *Journal of Borderland Studies* has become an established journal – published by Taylor and Francis, with a higher frequency and

an impact factor). “Boundaries and Borderlands” were the topic of an international conference on Geopolitics in Changing Southeast Asia in Kunming (China) in July. “Transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage” was the theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lodz Political Geography Conference in Poland in August; a conference on the Art of bordering was convened in Rome (Italy) in October; “The border, a source of innovation” was the theme of the fourteenth Border Regions in Transition Conference (BRIT XIV ) in Arras and Lille (France) and Mons (Belgium) in November, “International borders between affirmation and contestation” was the theme of the first *Journée géopolitique de Reims* in November. December ended with a large border conference in Beer Sheva “Borders at the interface: bordering Europe, Africa and the Middle East”. In addition borders were always a topical issue addressed at numerous sessions at large general conferences such as the Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers in Tampa, Florida, the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, the Annual Conference at Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) in London and the First Brazilian Congress of Political Geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Management in Rio de Janeiro. Finally borders were a mighty ghost at the Dark tourism workshop organized in Slovenia in October that focused on tourism around the battlefields of World War 1.

But *borderitis* – in a different guise – is even more severe in the real world where it often has tragic consequences in term of human lives: the drawing of new borders, the securitization of existing ones, the attempts to transgress them and the representations of the border, remain hotly contested issues. The annexation/return of Crimea by/to Russia, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Kurdish territorial ambitions, Russian or Danish territorial claims on the North Pole, disputed islands are only the most salient attempts to redraw border lines on the ground or at sea. Teichopolitics (as Rosière and Jones 2012 have labelled the contemporary politics of walls and fences) reached new intensity in many borderlands, where migration flows are heavily regulated trying to keep unwanted migrants out while letting the others through. The death toll at the US- Mexican border or at the Southern EU border – especially the drowning of people attempting to cross the Mediterranean on small ships chartered by traffickers in human bodies – has raised in the thousands a year. The *refoulement* of asylum seekers is deeply institutionalized, preventing them to reach Australia or member states of the EU in the first place, and forcing neighbouring countries into the role of border guards and reception areas. The verticality of territory and territoriality has been tragically illustrated with the shooting of the commercial airliner MH17 in the air space above unruly Eastern Ukraine.

At the same time many of these conflicts also demonstrate the ongoing changes in territoriality and sovereignty regimes. The EU external border is quite a different beast than the conventional borders we still have in mind when we think of modern territorial states. The competition of the EU and Russia for influence in Ukraine is also very different from more traditional “great games” over territory. Europeanization –even if perceived by Russia as a threat to its interests in its Near Abroad– is not conceived as exclusionary by Brussels, that does not acknowledge the shadow of the projection of its hegemonic civilian power in its neighbourhood.

Likewise the role of Israel in the territories assigned to the Palestinian Authority creates new types of borders. But other mobilizations geared towards border control are more traditional. The call for closed borders has intensified in Western Europe, Northern America and Australia. The electoral success of UKIP in Britain and the Front National in France during the May 2014 EP elections is mainly based on a rhetoric of closed borders: but not the EU ones (the ones that preoccupied policy makers and border guards in the EU) but the national ones, targeting other EU citizens (especially Poles, Bulgarians, and Roma from different central European and southeastern European member states) as much as asylum seekers from Syria or migrants from Africa. In this respect there seems to be a huge disconnect between the ambitions, claims and mind sets of such paramilitary or populist movements and the academic fascination for postnational borders and for migration to the Western Europe, North America and Australia. While the *borderitis* in the (geo)political world does fuel the academic agenda, academics are generally much less successful in communicating their nuanced understanding of bordering processes and state territoriality to (geo)political actors.

The Commission on Political Geography has greatly contributed to the expansion of border studies. It will continue to do so, even if we had to let go our chair Elena dell'Agnese this summer, who has been elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the IGU. An established border scholar, she has organized the now legendary Borderscapes conferences in Trento (2006) Trapani (2009) and Trieste (2012) and the guest-editor with Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary a special issue on *Borderscapes: from border landscapes to border aesthetics* (*Geopolitics* 20(1) in 2015). Likewise a quick browse through the agenda in this Newsletter demonstrated the sustained engagement with borders, even if the fireworks of 2014 will remain unmatched (the next BRIT is scheduled in 2016, the next ABS World Conference in 2018): the theme of the 2015 *Géopolitiques de Brest* at the end of January is *Tracer, effacer, traverser: les frontières au XXIe siècle*; the seventh Festival de géopolitique de Grenoble (France) in March will be devoted to borders; as is (obviously) the annual conference of the Association for Borderland Studies in Portland (USA) in April, borders will be a key preoccupation at the Seventh International Conference of Critical Geography in Ramallah (Palestine) in July, and after the 2015 IGU Regional Conference in Moscow, the post-conference workshop in Svetlogorsk (Kaliningrad, Russia) will be devoted to Jean Gottmann, born 1915, one of the most transnational and cosmopolitan geographers ever.

Meetings form a rather rudimentary instrument to measure academic *borderitis*. Others include research programmes and research centres, like EUBorderscapes (a research programme financed by the European Commission, coordinated by the University of Eastern Finland) and RELATE, The relational and territorial politics of bordering, identities and transnationalization (a Centre of Excellence of the Finnish Academy of Science in Oulu and Tampere). Nevertheless academic gatherings remain important moments of academic life, beyond the memorable (border) fieldtrips (border) conferences generally encompass. Academic conferences – and that remains the very task of IGU Commissions too in a world where we can share our work with a mouse click – is to promote encounters and engagements across borders: disciplinary and subdisciplinary

borders but foremost across national borders that are, for all the talks about globalization and cosmopolitanism, still high barriers in the cultural economy of academic conversations and publications – and not only because of linguistic borders.

Virginie Mamadouh

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## **PAST EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE IGU**

### **Activities at the IGU Regional Conference**

**Krakow, Poland, 18-24 August 2014**

(Report by Virginie Mamadouh)

The 2014 Regional Conference organized in Krakow by the International Geographical Union was an enormous success. It brought 1372 geographers to Krakow and to the Jagiellonian University established in 1364 by King Casimir the Great (at the time Krakow was the capital of the Polish Kingdom). About 100 young researchers took part in the conference. The participants came to Krakow from 60 countries, including 416 persons from Poland. Polish geographers seized the opportunity to present the many geography departments and journals to a large and diverse group of participants. The main venue was the Campus of the 600th anniversary of the Jagiellonian University Revival.

The Commission on Political Geography (CPG) sponsored and cosponsored a large number of sessions so that there were parallel sessions all the time.

A highlight was the Thursday with a special lecture sponsored by the academic journal Political Geography featuring the Political Geography IGU 2014 lecture: Camps by Claudio Minca, (Wageningen University, The Netherlands), and interventions: Vladimir Kolossov, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences President of the IGU, and former chair of the Commission on Political Geography and Irit Katz, Cambridge University, UK). This section attracted the attention of geographers way beyond the Commission, and was followed by a regular panel about The Political Geographies of Camps organized by Irit Katz and James D. Sidaway.

Other sessions included:

- Political Geographies of Society and Nature, organized by Paul Reuber
- Transforming Political Geographies in the 21st century: Case Studies on Local, National and Global Scale, organized by Paul Reuber
- Contemporary Conflicts and New/Old Forms of Belligerence, organized by Elena dell'Agnese
- Here There Everywhere: Social Movements Spatializing Dissent, organized by Valeria Pecorelli

On Wednesday there were three sessions on the Political Geographies of Multilingualism convened by Virginie Mamadouh, grouping papers in three topical clusters: 1: Demographies and ethnicities, 2: Boundary making, 3 Politics and Policies.

On Thursday afternoon and Friday morning there were four sessions on European Integration (organized and chaired by Virginie Mamadouh, Anna Casaglia, Jussi Laine) that included themes such as "Territoriality and ENP" and "Processes of Europeanization."

The Commission collaborated with several other commissions for other sessions:

- With the Commission on the History of Geography for a session entitled What (Political) Geography Ought to Be? Theoretical Approaches to and Historical Perspectives on Geography and Geopolitics as Instruments of Peace, organized by Elena dell'Agnese and Toshiyuki Shimazu
- With the Commission on Gender and Geography for a session on Gender, Human Rights and Citizenship, organized by Inocent Moyo and Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg
- And with the Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change for two sessions: one on Tourism and Political Borders, organized by Marek Więckowski and Elena dell'Agnese and one on Dark Tourism, Heritage and War, organized by Carolin Funck, Tim Coles, and Elena dell'Agnese.

Next to the many panel sessions, the conference organizers offered a series of plenary lectures on Changes, Challenges, respectively Responsibility every early afternoon, an exhibition on the History of Geographical Thought in Poland at the Museum of the Jagiellonian University, several social events at the Auditorium Maximum, in Kazimierz, and at the Wieliczka Salt Mine and numerous academic excursions after the conference and short trips to Krakow Old Town and to Nowa Huta District.

Details about the programme and abstracts can be found at <http://www.igu2014.org/>

## **PAST EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE IGU-CPG**

### **The 14th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference/Pre-conference of the IGU Commission on Political Geography Lopuszna, Poland, 15-17 August 2014 (Report by Marek Sobczynski)**

The 14th International 'Lodz' Conference on Political Geography and International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography Workshop – Geographical-political aspects of the transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage was held in Lopuszna (Poland) between 15th and 17th August 2014.

The organizers were: Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies University of Lodz (Prof. Marek Sobczyński), Silesian Institute in Opole (Prof. Krystian Heffner) and Commission on Political and Historical Geography Polish Geographical Society. The conference was held under patronage of International Geographical Union Commission of Political Geography. The last session of the conference was organised jointly with IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change (Prof. Marek Więckowski).

65 participants from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand,

Norway, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, UK and USA, have 32 papers in 6 sessions.

The substantive aim of the conference was a discussion on the transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage all around the world. Most of all the following problems were considered:

- Integration vs peripherality – changes in border regions,
- Contemporary changes in border regions – new challenges for political geography,
- Geopolitics of borders and borderlands in globalised World,
- Transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage between the EU member and not-member countries,
- Contemporary practice in the field of the conservation of natural and cultural heritage all over the World,
- The role of Euroregions in the transborder heritage conservation.

During the conference two study tours were held: all-day long to the Slovak part of the historical region of Spis and half-day long tour to the Polish part of this region.

The national minorities on the borderlands were indicated as the necessary topic for the future conferences in this cycle. The proposal of the organizers to hold the next 15th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference in September 2016 at Kliczków Castle in Lower Silesia (Poland) and Bautzen (Upper Lusatia in Germany) on Borderlands of nations and nations of borderlands was accepted.

### **Dark Tourism Workshop: Post-WW1 Destinations of Human Tragedies and Opportunities for Tourism Development**

**Portoroz-Portorose/Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia, 2-4 October 2014**

(Report by Anton Gosar)

This workshop was organized by the Faculty of Tourism Studies TURISTICA, of the University of Primorska Università dell' Litorale, Koper-Capodistria. The workshop took place in Portoroz-Portorose and in Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia. There was a fieldtrip to the Isonzo Battlefields of the Great War and to the War Museum at Kobarid (Caporetto): Koper – Komen - Gorizia – Tolmin – Kobarid – Nova Gorica- Koper.

There were 16 papers with contributors from seven EU countries: the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Austria, Croatia and Slovenia, including two former chairs of the Commission on Political Geography : Anton Gosar and Elena dell'Agnese. In addition there were about sixty participants, students, teachers and interested individuals from the University of Primorska/ Università dell' Litorale, Koper-Capodistria.

The main conclusions of the workshop were:

1. Dark Tourism is 'alive and well' and constantly develops new and enriches old travel destinations;
2. The dark tourism research is relatively recent (1990's) and lacks international discussion
3. The naming of this tourism experience is from the marketing point of view criticized and needs to be changed. At the international workshop the following terms have been named: Memory Tourism, Peace Tourism, Tanatourism, Historical Tourism, Tourism of Reconciliation;
4. The experience of dark tourism has increasingly moved towards "Disneyfications", as it increases the number of "live shows" and re-enactments – much to the disappointment of historians and academicians; we all have a great responsibility in managing dark sites in a way that maintains the utmost respect for the people who were the victims of these vents. This extends to public sector agencies, the private sector and also to academics researching the phenomenon of dark tourism. This is a moral responsibility and we owe to the victims to ensure that dark sites are never over-commercialized.
5. Local residents and municipalities embrace dark tourism presented in any way; they appreciate the increase of working places, the increase of visitors and commodities related to culinary and other tourism related services;
6. Tourists visiting dark tourism destinations increasingly appreciate not only the educational part of the experience (museums, memorial sites, etc.) but in particular the tourism amenity complexity offered - which would include own, active participation in hiking around places of previous conflicts, disasters and places of macabre experiences (for example: overnight in trenches);
7. At present, in particular in the Italian-Slovenian borderland dark tourism tourist destinations lack tourist infrastructure, especially accommodation amenities; tourists also complain that some dark tourism sites are constantly closed and the interest to visit has to be announced well in advance at appropriate associations and/or municipalities;
8. The experience of dark tourism at dark tourism sites, if explained in adequate way - as history is understood in the 21<sup>st</sup> century - could help in understanding the complexity of the ethnic, national and world history; the one-sided interpretation, often inspired by the past and/or present politics of a nation-state, has to be omitted;
9. The WW1 tourism sites are in particular trendy not only due to the centennial (and this will last for another 5 years), but also because the war and disasters of that period are at a "safe historical distance" and on which historians have already made a consensual interpretation, and dark tourism can offer "neutral" perspectives, focusing on the tragedies of everyday people – military and others;
10. The WW1 tourism destinations in the Slovenian-Italian borderland is in particular popular, since for the first time in two centuries the

geopolitical situation is oriented towards re-conciliation and in a consensual interpretation of history; the Walk of Peace (from the Alps to the Adriatic) is a good example of bipartisan co-operation in the dark tourism destination development; cross-border co-operation still needs to be improved and markets outside the immediate neighborhood explored;

11. In particular the Karst and the Upper Soča/Isonzo area (Tolmin, Kobarid, Bovec) is - because of the increase of visits - in desperate need of hotel accommodations, whereas the restaurant amenities are already adequate.

The publication of the proceedings of the workshop is planned for early 2015.

### **Borders at the Interface: Bordering Europe, Africa, and the Middle East Beer Sheva, Israel, 8-11 December 2014**

(Report by Takashi Yamazaki)

International workshop "Borders at the Interface" was held in corporation with the EP7 EUROBORDERSCAPES Consortium at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva. Host organizers were David Newman as Professional Chair in Geopolitics and his two assistants: Renen Yeziarsky and Maya Golan. The workshop was a combination of plenary/parallel sessions and field trips with approximately 80 participants. On the first day, it began with an opening plenary session with papers by Vladimir Kolosov (Moscow Academy of Science, IGU President), Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (University of Victoria, Editor of the Journal of Borderland Studies), and Victor Konrad (Carleton University), followed by 6 parallel sessions focusing on Israel-Palestine, Africa, and Euro-Asia borders, cultural production of borders, and trans-border migration.

On the second day, participants made a full-day field trip to Israel-Jordan border. Experts from the Friends of the Earth Middle East introduced participants to the complex geopolitical and environmental issues that surround the region's transboundary water and other environmental resources through an in-depth look at the Jordan River Valley.

On the third day, back to the campus, six parallel sessions and two roundtable discussions focused on securitization, debates in border studies, Israel/Palestinian borders, urbanism, identities, internal borders, border cultures, and the future of human geography. At the end of the day, the last plenary session marked the establishment of the Professional Chair in Geopolitics at Ben-Gurion University. Under the theme of "A hundred years since the First World War: Reshaping the geopolitical map of the Middle East," papers were given by Shlomo Avineri (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Richard Schofield (King's Collage, University of London), and Dror Zeevi (Ben-Gurion University).

On the last day, participants again went on a full-day field trip to the West Bank and Jerusalem. The tour was given by Ir Amin, a non-profit organization founded in 2004 that focuses on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Jerusalem. Ir

Amin's study tour provided a ground level exposure to East Jerusalem, creating a platform for critically assessing the notion of Jerusalem as the "eternal, undivided capital of Israel" and understanding the city's fundamental role in Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Altogether, the workshop was extremely well organized and full of intriguing information about the history and current state of border issues. The combination of intensive sessions and stimulating field trips to contested areas made the workshop one of the most ideal arenas for understanding and sensing the complex realities of border issues.



Top left: Opening session at Ben-Gurion University

Top right: Session on Cultural Production at Ben-Gurion University

Bottom left: The Israel-Jordan border

Bottom right: Lunch time in the West Bank

(Pictures: Takashi Yamazaki)

## **OTHER PAST EVENTS**

### **The International Conference on Geopolitics in Changing Southeast Asia: Boundaries and Borderlands**

**Kunming/Xishuangbanna, China, 20-24 July 2014**

(Report by Virginie Mamadouh)

The Chinese province of Yunnan hosted the first international conference on geopolitics and borderlands in China on 20-24 July 2014 in two locations: Kunming and Xishuangbanna. The conference was organized by Yunnan Normal University, the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research and Beijing Normal University, and co-organized by the School of Tourism and Geographic Science of Yunnan Normal University and Xishuangbanna Vocational and Technical Institute.

A key player in the organization was Stan Brunn, who has been a visiting professor at Yunnan Normal University for the past year, teaching political geography. The conference brought together keynote speakers from North America, Europe, Southwest Asia and South Asia (Victor Konrad from Ottawa, Virginie Mamadouh from Amsterdam, David Newman from Beer Sheva, and James Sidaway from Singapore) and many scholars and PhD students from all over China, and from abroad, with participants from India, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Russia, the USA, Australia, Finland, Italy and the UK.

The Conference took place in Kunming the capital city of Yunnan, in southwest China then moved to Xishuangbanna, the prefecture at the southern border, where workshops took place in Jing Hong the main city and a fieldtrip took the participants to the Forest Park near Mengla and the border crossing with Laos in Mohan. Yunnan, once a periphery of China, where Yunnan Normal University was created in 1938 by academics fleeing China under Japanese occupation is now a booming city stimulated by the central state policies to stimulate development in the west and to strengthen crossborder ties with southeastern neighbours. The construction boom can be witnessed by dozens and dozens of high rise towers, new highways and cloverleaves (among which the highway to Bangkok), the new international airport near Kunming (the 4th largest one in China), the huge brand new suburban campus of Yunnan Normal University, and similar developments in Jung Hong. The region is particularly rich in terms of agriculture with endless greeneries, but even more famous for its tea, tobacco, aloe vera, and rubber plantation and a tropical destination for Chinese tourists.

After a series of complementary introductions to border studies by the keynote speakers, the many contributions presented in workshops at Yunnan Normal University in Kunming or at Xishuangbanna Vocational and Technical Institute in Jing Hong, addressed various aspects of China's foreign relations as well as cultural economic and political themes related to borderlands in China and to international relations in the region. Yunnan is known in China both for its rather harmonious arrangements with its ethnic minorities, and as a spearhead of the good neighbourhood policy of China.



Left: Conference venue at Kunming Normal University  
 Right: Field trip to the China-Myanmar border  
 (Pictures: Takashi Yamazaki)

### **First Brazilian Congress of Political Geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Management: Rationalities and Practices at Multiple Scales Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 7-10 October 2014**

(Report by Adriana Dorfman and André-Louis Sanguin)

In the history of political geography, it was probably the first time that a country organized a national congress devoted to this field of geography. In May 2013 at Manaus, a group of researchers decided to create REBRAGEO, namely the Brazilian Network of Political Geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Management. This network implemented this Congress which was held from 7 to 10 October 2014 at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro within its Gavea Campus located at the bottom of Corcovado. With the presence of 257 registered participants, the First Brazilian Congress of Political Geography offered a wide range of scientific activities. The meeting opened with the speech of Claudio Antonio Egler Brazil Through the Eyes of Bertha Becker which was a tribute to the memory of Bertha Koiffman Becker (1930-2013), the international reference of the Brazilian political geography and a former IGU Vice-President (1996-2000). The opening conference was made by Lia Osorio Machado, under the title Empire and the Decolonial Epistemological Turn.

During the first two mornings, twenty-four posters were proposed to the attention of the participants in one of the outdoor mall of the welcome institution. The three mornings were devoted to the presentation of 152 papers which were distributed among five general axes: 1/ Classical and contemporary political geography and geopolitics in the 20th and 21st centuries; 2/ (Geo)politics of environment, resources management and sustainabilities; 3/ Localism, nationalism, regionalism and globalism; 4/ Borders: an ongoing territorial challenge; 5/ The scales of management of territorial policies. The four afternoons were occupied by thematic round tables structured around the five general axes, with interventions by recognized scholars. A strong point was made by André Roberto Martin, from the University of São Paulo, on the theory of meridionalism:

this theory is not only an imaginary projection of the geopolitical power but also an explanatory model of the limits and feasibilities of Brazil and Southern Hemisphere countries within the international system. Meridionalism is a contemporary geopolitical theory which denies those of Atlantism and Eurasianism. Three foreign guest speakers were invited to deliver a speech: André-Louis Sanguin (France) scrutinized the evolution of political geography since the 1990s according to an international perspective. Mario Valero Martinez (Venezuela) analysed the cross-border situation between Venezuela and its neighbors when Yann Richard concluded the Congress with a speech devoted to the Ukraine Crisis.

The Brazilian school of political geography has at its disposal a critical mass which contributes to explain its development: it is a country of 200 million inhabitants, with a network of 186 universities, and an educational system where geography is an obligatory subject in seven school years, leading to the formation of more than five thousand professionals each year. Besides, Brazilian nationalism is deeply rooted in themes like the unity of Brazilian territory and its cornucopic natural resources. Furthermore, echoes of the geopolitical reasoning forwarded by the Doctrine of National Security central during dictatorship years can still be heard, at the same time as strong voices claiming time has come for epistemic disconnection and situated theories. The First Brazilian Congress of Political Geography was a significant testimony of this vitality and (post)modernity. Probably due to the linguistic partitioning (ignorance of the Portuguese language) and due to the French influence and Anglo-American intellectual hegemony, Brazilian political geography is little known out Iberian spheres, even if its scientific output is impressive. For a foreign observer, the Congress gave a good image of the practices and styles of the Brazilian political geography. An attention was paid to figureheads and historical concepts. A lot of papers emphasized the border issues between Brazil and its neighboring countries as well as the projection of Brazil to the Atlantic, Africa and the Antarctic, and the rise of a paradigmatic view on Brazilian borderlands studies can be perceived. The geography of public policy and



Top: A meridionalist view of the world, by André Martin (first from right)

Bottom: Augusto Cesar da Silva (chief-organizer of I CONGEO) and Lia Osório Machado (a "must read" of Brazilian Geography)

territorial management are part of the field of political geography in Brazil which is not really the case in other countries. Consequently, many papers focused on issues regarding land conflicts, territorial governance, federalism and decentralization. The small number of papers devoted to foreign countries outside Latin America was another key feature of the Congress. Proceedings are planned to be published and the Second Brazilian Congress of Political Geography is foreseen at Natal, in the Northeastern state of Rio Grande do Norte, in 2016.

(Pictures: Adriana Dorfman)

### **The Art of Bordering: Economies, Performances and Technologies of Migration Control**

**Rome, Italy, 24-26 October 2014**

(Report by Cédric Parizot)

Organizing Committee: Cédric Parizot, Filippo Celata, Raffaella Coletti, Heidrun Friese, Nicola Mai, Alessio Rosati, Benoit Tadié, Antoine Vion

Art Curator: Isabelle Arvers

The Art of Bordering is an art-science event merging an academic conference with an exhibition in order to discuss the material and symbolic construction of the Mediterranean as a border zone as well as the governance and politicization of migration control within the EU. During three days, Italian, French, German and British academics, journalists and artists have debated at Maxxi-Roma how technological innovation, geopolitical conflicts and socio-economic inequalities have transformed both migration flows and the material, political and symbolic dimensions of borders in the 21st century.

Research, art and technology are deeply involved in the representation and deconstruction of the dynamics and politics of migration management and control. They frame the strategies of adaptation, contestation and subversion of "Fortress Europe" developed by migrants and European citizens.

The working languages of the event were English and Italian. A French language report by Camille Schmoll (Université Paris VII Denis Diderot) is available at <http://www.antiatlas.net/blog/2014/12/09/compte-rendu-du-colloque-the-art-of-bordering/>

### **Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) XIV: The Border, a Source of Innovation/La frontière, source d'innovation**

**Arras and Lille, France/Mons, Belgium, 4-7 November 2014**

(Report by Stéphane Rosière)

The 14th Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) international conference was held in France and Belgium on November, 4 to 7, 2014 (in the tradition of BRIT conferences, this event is bi-national). The theme of this meeting was: "The Border, a Source of Innovation." As usual, this conference was the opportunity to meet a lot

of colleagues geographers but also many political scientists and law specialists, coming from more than 30 countries, although participants from North America and Europe were more numerous than those coming from Africa, Latin America and Asia. The participation of colleagues from the "South" is more difficult for financial reasons and that is true of all academic events organized in the "North".

The BRIT XIV (the fourteenth edition of the Border Regions in Transition series) remained true to the high standards set by the now established tradition. It was marked by its user-friendliness and overall scientific quality. 36 sessions were organized, featuring more than 170 papers. The variety of the subjects must be underlined. Innovation was discussed through various dimensions, including border management (border crossing, border control), but also the footprint of the border in the landscape and in societies and its impact on societies governments or the environment. In a "critical" way, sessions were dedicated to representations of boundaries and mental borders. In addition to regular sessions, more targeted sessions were organized, for instance by the Commission on Political geography of the IGU and the French CNFG who organized two successful sessions on "borders of war and peace"(coordinated by Amael Cattaruzza and Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary).

Interventions in the conference as the podcasts are visible on its website at <http://www.brit2014.org/?lang=en>

A fieldtrip "From World War I to crossborder cooperation" was organized on Wednesday November 5, 2014. The destination of this fieldtrip was the area of Calais. The participants were divided in three groups and visited the maritime security facilities at Cap Gris Nez on the strait of Dover, the Eurotunnel installations, or Calais harbour (connected to England with ferries). Such a region is a very informative spot to consider contemporary border management and illegal migrations (let's recall that the UK is not a member of the Schengen area which implies control for every crossing of this border). The spontaneous camps of immigrants were not visible (as undocumented migrants hide their camps from the French police), but it was not difficult to watch them roaming around the queues of lorries on the motorways waiting to board the Shuttle under the Channel. This image, shocking in its hardness, best summed up than a conference the toughness of the status of illegal immigrants in contemporary Europe.

Furthermore, the conference included three cultural exhibitions (in Arras, Lille and Mons), a cooperation with the MOT, the French national committee of geography and the Katholiek Universiteit van Leuven - Campus Kortrijk. This successful academic event confirms the dynamism of border studies in a world where borders still represent decisive ruptures that produce obstructions but also overflows and innovation.

**Journées géopolitiques de Reims**  
**Reims, France, 12 November 2014**  
(Report by Stéphane Rosière)

The First Journées géopolitiques de Reims were held 12 November 2014 at the Université Reims Champagne Ardenne (URCA) in France. The ambition of this conference is to become a regularly event (as it exists already in the French cities of Nantes and Grenoble) and it consists of a seminar for PhD students in the morning and a public conference in the afternoon. The theme of this first Conference was International borders between affirmation and contestation. With such a title, the conference wanted to highlight the beginning of a “post-debordering” era. After Prof. Stéphane Rosière opened the conference and introduced its main theme, the audience could listen (and ask questions) to Prof. Vladimir Kolosov (IGU/UGI President) and Prof. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly.

The next year conference (November 2015) will deal with internal borders and the administrative subdivisions of states. A hot topic in France.

### **Small Island Developing States: Global Dynamics and Local Processes Milan, 26 November 2014**

(Report by Stefano Malatesta)

On November 26, 2014, the Marine Research and High Education Center (MaRHE- [www.marhe.unimib.it](http://www.marhe.unimib.it)) of the University of Milan-Bicocca (UNIMIB) hosted a conference promoted by the IGU Commission on Political Geography and by the IGU Commission on Islands. The conference was an opportunity to celebrate the *2014 International Year of Small Island Developing States*. The main focus was the discussion of the role SIDS play within some environmental, social and political processes. SIDS are often described as vulnerable actors coping with a number of global changes (such as climate change or geopolitical conflicts), while, at the same time, they are a quite active voice within the international community. The speeches given by the invited scholars pointed out the geographical relevance of the dialectic among these two perspectives and, in spatial term, among global and local scales.

Elena dell’Agnese (IGU Vice-President) chaired the conference



Kurumba Time (Cocco Break) offered by MaRHE Center

that was kicked off by Vincenzo Russo and Marco Maggioli: Coordinators of EXPO2015 Cluster on Island, Sea and Food. While Paolo Galli (Director of MaRHE Center) gave an overview of the researches and training programs promoted by UNIMIB in the Maldives.

Godfrey Baldacchino (Executive Editor of *Island Studies Journal*, President of the *International Small Islands Studies Association* and member of the IGU Commission on Islands) gave a wide-ranging keynote speech on islands and Small States, discussing some interpretative categories social sciences adopt to analyze the political relevance of islands, archipelagos and island states.

Marco Grasso (University of Milano-Bicocca) resumed these categories while stressing the function of SIDS within the international negotiations on climate changes.

Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg (Vice-Director of MaRHE Center) closed the conference by presenting two project MaRHE Center has carried out in 2012-2014 working on the sense of place and on the social response to environmental, social and cultural changes in a Maldivian peripheral community.

(Picture: Stefano Malatesta)

## **IGU FUTURE EVENTS**

**(More detailed information about future events can be found on the IGU-CPG website)**

### **IGU Regional Conference**

**Moscow, Russia, 17-21 August 2015**

**(Conference website: <http://igu2015.ru/>)**

Under the theme of “Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth,” the conference will take place at Lomonosov Moscow State University (LMSU). The CPG will organize or support the following sessions:

#### CPG sessions

- Bordering Eurasia: Politics, power, and political geography
- For Kropotkin
- Regional integration in Southern Africa: Changing socioeconomic balances in Africa and prospects for continental integration
- Russian geopolitics and the former Soviet countries
- Borders and illegalities
- The critical geopolitics of food
- Political geographies of multilingualism
- Geopolitics of climate change

#### CPG-related joint sessions

- Defining priorities for the Antarctic Sustainability Science (with the Commission on Cold Region Environments)

- Gender Activisms in Asia: Peoples, places and politics (with the Commission on Gender & Geography)
- Rethinking what (political) geography ought to be: Theories, histories, and practices of geography and geopolitics as instruments of peace (with the Commission on the History of Geography)

Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2015

#### **OTHER FUTURE EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE IGU-CPG**

##### **9th Pan-European Conference on International Relations: The World of Violence, Sicily, Italy, 23-26 September 2015**

(Conference website: <http://www.paneuropeanconference.org/2015/>)

The 9th edition of the conference might prove to be the biggest ever in Europe, a clear indication that International Relations is a thriving discipline that with its own association in place is bound to grow. Hence, the conference will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the genealogies of the discipline as well as the balance between discipline and inter- or trans-disciplinarity. Theme-wise the conference focuses on the classic issue of violence yet (re-) presented with an innovative twist. At the same time, the 60+ sections mirror the amazing diversity and intellectual span of International Studies as it has developed during more than a century.

CPG sponsored session “Geographies of Violence”

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In carrying forward the ‘Violence and Space’ sessions that we organized for the AAG in Los Angeles in 2013, we wanted to bring more attention to geographical scholarship on violence by reaching out beyond the confines of human geography and encouraging a more interdisciplinary conversation. With this in mind we are assembling a 10 panel Section on the theme of ‘Geographies of Violence’ for the upcoming ‘The Worlds of Violence - 9th Pan-European Conference on International Relations’, which will be held 23-26 September 2015 in Giardini Naxos, Sicily, Italy. Studies on the geographies of violence have rapidly increased in number over the past decade, both within and outside the discipline of geography. Reflecting greater sensitivity to multiple forms of violence and their spatial dimensions, this growing interest has responded to renewed violent forms of imperialism, debates

about the trends of violence, and renewed methodological interest in spatial analysis.

Engaging this broad literature, this Section will consider the theoretical implications and empirical groundings of violence with the aim of more rigorously demonstrating the ways in which violence is woven through everyday lives, institutions, and structures. As such, the included themes range from a discussion of racism and genocide, sovereignty, neo-colonialism and development, gender inequalities, terror and territory, political ecology, war and militarism, displacement, geopolitics and subaltern resistance. Conceptually the Section will raise issues ranging from routinized performances and banal geographies of violence that serve conventional social, economic, and political norms that go largely unnoticed, through to the spectacular eruptions of 'exceptional' violence that capture public attention. By forwarding an agenda for the study of violence from a geographical perspective, we hope to demonstrate the myriad ways in which violence is relationally embedded within the human experience, a process that we envision will support greater understanding of pathways towards nonviolence and peace.

The 10 included Panels are as follows, each of which will include 5 speakers/papers:

1. Development, Neo-colonialism, and Violence
2. Race, Hate, and Genocidal Geographies
3. Geopolitical Violence and Subaltern Resistance
4. The Political Ecology of Violence
5. Sovereign Violence and Spaces of Exception
6. Geographies of Gender(ed) Violence
7. The Violence of Displacement
8. Geographies of Militarism and War
9. Terror, Terrorism and Geography
10. Peace and Nonviolent Geographies

We encourage submissions from scholars writing on any of the above named themes. In your submission, please identify which one of the identified 10 Panels you would like your paper to be considered for. Abstracts of approximately 200-250 words should be sent to both of the organizers at [springer@uvic.ca](mailto:springer@uvic.ca) and [philippe.lebillon@ubc.ca](mailto:philippe.lebillon@ubc.ca)

Please note that at the same time you email your abstracts to the organizers you will also need to register and submit your abstract through the conference's online system found here: <https://www.conftool.pro/paneuropean2015/>

More details about the conference, including travel, accommodation, venue, and location details can be found on the conference website here: <http://www.paneuropeanconference.org/2015/> The deadline for receiving abstracts is January 15th, 2015.

**OTHER FUTURE EVENTS****Géopolitiques de Brest (France)****Tracer, effacer, traverser: les frontières au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle,****29 - 30 Janvier à l'Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest.**

La notion même de frontière est par essence mouvante, en constante redéfinition, que l'on songe par exemple à celle qui existe entre réalité et mondes virtuels, par exemple, ou entre le vivant et la machine. Dans l'ordre géopolitique, la mondialisation n'est pas liquidatrice des frontières internationales, bien au contraire. Si les frontières gagnent par endroits en porosité, comme au sein de l'Union européenne, ailleurs, elles peuvent au contraire prendre la forme de véritables murs hermétiques et sécuritaires, résurgences du rideau de fer ou du mur de Berlin. C'est que la frontière peut jouer différents rôles, entre coupure et trait-d'union paradoxal. Produit d'un rapport de force politique, négocié ou militaire, la frontière n'est pas non plus une réalité figée : plus de 10 % des frontières internationales actuelles ont moins d'un quart de siècle d'existence. Des exemples récents, en Europe (Montenegro) comme en Afrique (Soudan du Sud) témoignent d'un processus qui se poursuit, ce que rappellent les crises géorgienne et ukrainienne. Afin d'examiner cette institution politique complexe, les Géopolitiques ont invité les meilleurs spécialistes de la question. Ceux-ci croiseront les regards de manière à mieux comprendre les enjeux qui se nouent autour des frontières.

Programme and information: <http://www.lesgeopolitiques.com/>

**7<sup>ème</sup> édition du Festival Géopolitique de Grenoble - A quoi servent les frontières?****Seventh Festival of Geopolitics of Grenoble "What purpose do borders serve?"****Grenoble, France, 12 au 15 mars 2015****(Conference website : <http://www.centregeopolitique.com/v2/fr/7eme-edition>)**

"A quoi servent les frontières ?"

Depuis le tracé du premier Pomerium romain, délimitant l'espace sacré et pacifié de l'Urbs romain, l'Occident, entre autre, a eu l'« Obsession des frontières », selon l'expression de Michel Foucher. Le monde devait dès lors être réparti en domaine de souveraineté, en espace de droit et de richesse pour les souverains et les peuples. Plus récemment, l'évolution technique (transports et communications) et l'idéologie de la Société des Nations ont amené à penser la fin des frontières. Mais malgré la mondialisation le concept de frontière n'est pas mort, que ce soit dans sa revendication nostalgique d'un espace mieux protégé d'un autre menaçant, ou dans sa réintroduction sous de nouvelles formes, car la rivalité économique et politique ne s'est pas arrêtée pour autant. Si les tracés changent peu, le sens du mot frontière a évolué, ainsi que sa symbolique et sa matérialisation. Nationales, administratives, numériques, sociales, technologiques ou spatiales, leur rôle et leur évolution interrogent, inquiètent parfois, stimulent la réflexion et la compétition

internationale. Le monde de demain se configurera par rapport à elles, même en leur absence, et nous ne pouvons pas ne pas rassembler les meilleurs spécialistes pour en parler à Grenoble à l'occasion du 7ème Festival de géopolitique de Grenoble.

What purpose do borders serve?"

Since Romulus laid out the first Roman Pomerium, which designated the limits of sacred areas and pacified the Roman Municipia, the West, among others, has had the obsession for "Borders", according to an expression by Michel Foucher. From then on, the world became divided into sovereign zones, areas of law and wealth for the rulers and the people. More recently, technological evolution (transport and communications) and the ideology of the Society of Nations have led many to declare the border an obsolete concept. But despite globalization, the idea of the border has not died - it remains in nostalgic demands for a space that is better protected from foreign ingerence, or it mutated, because political and economic rivalry has not yet ceased. Although the layouts seem to move very little, the meaning of the word 'border' has evolved into new concepts, as well as its symbolism and its materialisation. Whether national, administrative, digital, social, technological, or spatial - the role of boundaries and their development raise questions, sometimes disturb, stimulating reflection and international competition. The world of tomorrow will be designed around them, even in their absence, and we will therefore bring together the leading specialists to speak on this subject in Grenoble during the 7th Grenoble Festival of Geopolitics.

### **Association for Border Studies (ABS) Annual Conference**

**Portland, USA, 8-11 April 2015**

**(Conference website: <http://absborderlands.org/studies/annual-meetings/>)**

The Association for Borderlands Studies will hold its annual conference at Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, Portland, Oregon. Papers on all topics and areas concerned with border studies are invited but the conference particularly welcomes papers related to the theme for the 2015 annual conference: "Border Studies and the New World (Dis)order: Relating Theories and Practice." This theme seeks to encourage a debate on how border studies - as a subject of academic scholarship - engages and relates to the everyday lives of people all over the world. It hopes to stimulate a broad discussion on how various approaches to border studies - be it empirical or theoretical; historical or post-modern; realist or post-colonial - can contribute to solving and ameliorating contemporary world crises.

### **Association of American Geographers (AAG) and AAG Political Geography Speciality Group (PGSG) preconference, Chicago, USA, 20-25 April 2015**

**(Conference website: <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>)**

The PGSG and the Department of Geography at DePaul University will organize the 28th Annual PGSG Pre-conference for the AAG Chicago at DePaul's Lincoln Park campus on Monday, 20 April 2015. The paper sessions will take place during the day and the PGSG will host a group dinner for pre-conference participants during the evening. Immediately following the pre-conference, the annual AAG meeting will be held at Hyatt Regency and other facilities in Chicago. The conference will feature more than 5,000 presentations, posters, and workshops by leading scholars, researchers, and educators. Current themes for the AAG Annual Meeting include:

Radical Intra-Disciplinarity

Symposium on International Geospatial Health Research: Creating Synergies

Symposium on Physical Geography: Environmental Reconstruction -- A Nexus of Biogeography, Climatology and Geomorphology

Geography and Online Education

GeoHumanities

Chicago and the Great Lakes Region

The CPG will plan to sponsor sessions featuring subjects on political geography.

**The 7th International Conference of Critical Geography (ICCG)  
Ramallah, Palestine 26-30 July 2015  
(Conference website: <http://iccg2015.org/>)**

The aim of the 7th International Conference of Critical Geography (ICCG 2015) is to provide an inclusive venue for the discussion of these and other themes that examine the geographies of critical social theory and progressive political praxis. Despite the significance of the issues at stake, the organizers hope to create a fun, engaging and friendly atmosphere that welcomes a wide array of scholars, activists, artists, organizers and others interested in critical socio-spatial praxis. The ICCG 2015 will be organized around nine main themes (see below) that connect to and expand the conference underlying subject, that is 'Precarious Radicalism On Shifting Grounds: Towards a Politics of Possibility'.

1. Imperial, Colonial, Postcolonial and Anti-colonial geographies
2. Articulations and spaces of capitalism
3. Migration, Mobility and Displacement
4. Nature, Society and Environmental Change
5. Mapping Bodies, Corporeality and Violence
6. Critical "Development" Geographies: perspectives from the Global South
7. Geography and matter / materiality
8. Remaking Space through Ideology, Culture, and Arts
9. Knowledge Production, Education and Epistemic Agendas

**IGU Moscow Post-conference  
Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad , Russia, late August 2015**

Following the IGU Moscow conference, a workshop will be held at Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Jean Gottmann. (Mainly Russian) experts on Gottmann's legacy will be invited for panel sessions. More detail on the post-conference will be posted on the IGU-CPG website and Facebook.

**European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference  
Montreal, Canada, 26 - 29 August 2015**

**(Conference website:**

<http://www.ecpr.eu/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=94>)

The ECPR's General Conference will take place in Université de Montréal, - the ECPR's first ever event to be held outside of Europe. The academic programme takes the traditional format of Sections, organised around a common theme or major research question. Each Section then contain between three and eight Panels, each addressing a specific question. With a truly international attendance expected, which crosses all sub-disciplines of political science and indeed all career stages, presenting a Paper provides the opportunity to benefit from invaluable discussion and debate.

**The 5th EUGEO Congress  
Budapest, Hungary, 30 August - 2 September 2015  
(Conference website: <http://eugeo2015.com/>)**

The fifth EUGEO Congress will take place at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. Congress themes are "Changes in Space and Time," "Geography, Politics and Policy-making," "GIScience," "Hazards, Vulnerability, Risk Mitigation," and "Landscape and Environment."

**Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and Institute of British Geographers (IBG)  
Annual International Conference  
Exeter, UK, 2-4 September 2015**

**(Conference website:**

<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm>)

The theme of the conference is "Geographies of the Anthropocene." The Anthropocene has been claimed to herald a new geological epoch in which human society is acknowledged as having become the greatest force shaping planet earth.

Although its recognition as a new age in geological history remains provisional, the idea of the Anthropocene has already captured the public imagination and that of scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars variously advancing new projects, agendas and critiques in its wake. For example, it has given rise to the 'post-disciplinary' ambitions of an Earth Systems Science that presents the integrative role of geography with new challenges; it marks a radical geo-political moment in which the earth shapes new concerns and forms of public engaged in the contestation of planetary governance; and it heralds new demands on our habits of thought in which 'post-human' or 'more-than-human' modes of theorising and analysis are stretching familiar models of historical, cultural and economic analysis in new directions. The Political Geography Research Group (PolGRG) of the RGS-IBG will sponsor sessions at the Annual International Conference. The full guidelines for submitting sessions proposals can be found at <http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Call+for+sessions+papers+and+posters/Call+for+sessions+papers+and+posters.htm>

**Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) XV Conference  
Hamburg, Germany and Sønderborg, Denmark , late May or early June 2016**

The objective of the XV Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) 2016 Conference co-organized by the University of Southern Denmark, the University of Hamburg and the Hafencity University Hamburg is to rethink the complicated relationships that bind cities, urban development and state borders. The conference will offer a unique opportunity to explore the collaborative or competitive strategies of this odd couple under the current circumstances of globalization. The conference will serve as a global forum for border scholars engaged in research dealing with cities, state and borders, irrespective of their disciplinary backgrounds, methodological approaches, or geographical scope.

Although organized in the larger Danish-German border region, BRIT 2016 is open to contributions from all over the world, and not exclusively to those dedicated to Western European or North American borders which historically have been strongly represented in border studies. Particular attention will be paid to the conceptual and empirical contributions that explore, from the global to the local, the globalized cross-border metropolis and its flows, the reunited city and its scars, the divided city and its walls, the securitized city and its border controls, the small city and its relative indifference to borders, or the border markets and its overflowing activity.

**15th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference,  
Kliczków Castle in Lower Silesia (Poland) and Bautzen (Upper Lusatia in  
Germany), September 2016**

Theme: Borderlands of nations and nations of borderlands

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The **Newsletter #19** was edited by Takashi Yamazaki and Virginie Mamadouh, Chairs of the IGU Commission on Political Geography Amsterdam/Osaka, January 2015  
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