

Transcending Borders – Redrawing Perspectives

International & Interdisciplinary Student Conference

May 4-6, 2018, University of Graz

On **May 4-6, 2018**, the *Center for Inter-American Studies* at the **University of Graz** is hosting a student conference with the aim of gathering students from different disciplines and backgrounds to exchange their research from an interdisciplinary, interregional and transnational perspective. Due to contemporary developments, such as migration and flight movements as well as consequent political debates that demand stricter border policies and surveillance, the topic of **borders** has recently (re-)gained political momentum.

We, however, want to transcend these narrow political definitions associated with the term and understand 'borders' in a broader sense as encompassing several meanings or layers of meaning. Thus, we encourage participants to develop new associations with and understandings of the term. 'Borders' can refer to any **dividing line**, including **national**, **political**, and **geographical** borders as well as boundaries between **ethnic**, **gender**, **national**, **class**, or **age identities**.

In order to transcend these borders, we will address the following questions: Why do borders exist? Why and how are they drawn? Who do they include and exclude? When, how, and why are borders transgressed, dissolved, or transformed? Additionally, our focus lies on the **human actors involved**, drawing attention to those who are affected by these processes as well as to those who have initiated them.

The papers presented will address the following topics from an interdisciplinary perspective:

- Gender/Body and the Construction of Borders
- Constructing Borders through Populisms
- Crossing Borders
- Negotiating Borders in Multiethnic Territories
- Border Formations
- Migration & Movemen
- Transgressing Borders

Keynote lectures are held by **Cheryl Lester** (American Studies, University of Kansas) and **Mirko Petrić** (Cultural Sociology, University of Zadar). **Silvia Schultermandl** (Department of American Studies, University of Graz) will present the Hostfilm Best Paper Award, sponsored by the ERASMUS+ Project Hospitality in Film. Additionally, a roundtable discussion will gather the expertise of **Roberta Maierhofer** (Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz), **Romedio Schmitz-Esser** (Medieval History, University of Graz), **Machteld Venken** (Association of Borderlands Studies, University of Vienna) and **Markus Wurzer** (International Research Center for Cultural Studies Vienna, University of Graz) on the broader topic of the conference and it will also provide advice for student researchers on how to deal with borders within academia.

Location: Meerscheinschlössl, Festsaal (Mozartgasse 3, 8010 Graz)

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