

Call for Participation

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BORDERLANDS STUDIES

April 4-7 • Hyatt Regency Riverwalk • San Antonio, TX



Colombia-Venezuela Border, 2016

Everyday Borders: The Ordinary Complexity of Borders and Bordering Processes

Abstract/Session Proposal Deadline: December 1, 2017

Border scholars usually approach borders as an abstraction located somewhere at the fuzzy intersection of power, society and territory. As a result, our conceptualizations of borders often stress their multifaceted, ever-changing, and contradictory nature and our work habitually results in complex and hyper-coded representations of border realities. We tend to forget that at the border, millions of people are just living their daily lives; dealing and coping with the ordinary complexity of borders and bordering. Every day, people cross borders to shop, play, study or work; and many even lose their lives in the attempt. And every day, many face scrutiny and even harassment, while others cross without even noticing the border. Some dream of bridging borders, while others simply strive to erect walls and stop cross-border intercourse. Numerous others endeavour for the formula to lessen the contradictory nature of borders and champion the creation of borderscapes where prosperity, justice, sovereignty, competitiveness, sustainability, or whatever overarching principle of their choosing could thrive. Daily life on the border is embedded in the everyday construction and deconstruction of borders through ideology, cultural mediation, discourses, institutions, attitudes and social practices. Bordering is a multilevel process manifested by physical borders and visa regimes, as well as in media debates over national identity, migration, gender, ethnic diversity, citizenship, cooperation, and other personal and collective ways of understanding, living and acting borders. Clearly, borders are not just abstractions, they are concrete realities where lives unfold and the daily routines of people, businesses, and institutions run their course.

In 2018, the ABS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas will focus on everyday borders and bordering processes. The aim is to stimulate an evidence-based and theoretically robust discussion on how borders shape and impact the daily life of border communities thereby addressing lived and experienced aspects of borders and bordering processes. The urgency of this discussion is evident amidst the resurgence of strong nationalist movements and the rebordering across the world. The impact of these shifts are readily apparent in the tension and adaptations that unfold in many border communities and warrant a harder look from scholars interested in understanding what social, economic, political, and cultural practices remain unchanged and what are changing as result of bordering. Who borders who and which borders, new and old, material and intangible, are being enforced/reinforced and where? What narratives are being wielded in the ongoing struggle to reborder/deborder the contemporary world? What conditions determine the resilience

of border communities and their agency? How can academic work inform policy effectively and how can scholars learn from those working in public, private and community organizations dealing with borders on a daily basis? How does border research remain theoretically relevant, while closely examining the concrete manifestations of bordering?

The conference committee invites papers, panels, roundtables, and poster sessions on all topics concerned with border studies, but the committee will particularly welcome proposals exploring everyday borders and bordering from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Presentations and full sessions are solicited on all aspects of this overarching theme, including, but not limited to:

- Everyday life and border experiences
- Gender, ethnic diversity, identity and subjectivity
- Discourse, history and memory
- Border politics, social movements and community mobilization
- Migrants, refugees, and migration policy and law
- Demographic change and population policy
- Health, education, and quality of life
- Culture, art, language, and communication technologies
- Water, energy, climate change and sustainability in border regions
- Border institutions, governance and cooperation
- Trade, economic integration, tourism, and development projects
- Border cities, metropolization, regional development, and spatial planning
- Security, securitization, geopolitics, and border enforcement

Please, submit proposals through the WSSA website at <http://www.wssaweb.com/sections.html> starting September 1, 2017. Papers, posters, and panel proposals should include name of all authors/participants, affiliations, emails, title of presentations/sessions, and abstract (\leq 250 words). Individuals are limited to participation (as presenter, speaker or moderator) in two sessions. There is no limit to the number of co-authored papers/posters. Persons in special panels can participate in one additional session. Acceptance or rejection notification will be sent by January 15, 2018.

Payment of the WSSA conference fee and ABS 2018 membership dues is required for publication of accepted papers in the official program of the conference and to receive certificate of participation.

For any additional information visit the <http://www.wssaweb.com> or contact the program chair at francisco.lara@asu.edu.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

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