

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Borders and Bordering Practices in World Politics

#### Instructor:

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Fall 2018  
MA 4 Credits (8 ECTS Credits), 2018-19

#### Course description:

This course engages with borders and bordering practices in world politics – that is, ways in which lines, boundaries, caesuras are drawn between geographical entities, populations, groups, identities and ultimately, *people* – demarcating self and other, establishing hierarchical relationships and moral categories, authorizing particular modes of action and violence between them. Drawing on insights from critical international relations theory, critical border studies, critical security studies, political geography and biopolitics, as well as reviewing a range of contemporary issues – such as migration, counter-terrorism, surveillance and everyday experiences of (in)security – it engages with how contemporary security practices and assemblages operate with modes of separation and classification ranging from physical walls to instruments of social sorting in the digital age. Ultimately, the course maps out vistas of engagement and everyday practices of resistance that seek to challenge, subvert or collapse such distinctions.

#### Aims

The main objectives of the course are:

- To develop a theoretically and critically informed understanding of contemporary security practices
- To assess and analyse contemporary debates around ‘borders’ on the basis of critical theory, case studies and lived experience
- To facilitate nuanced and holistic engagement with everyday experiences of (in)security by looking at a range of sites, actors, narrations and practices globally and in the European context

#### Learning outcomes

By the end of the module students will:

- Be able to navigate and critically assess various strands of theorizing regarding contemporary security issues and practices and understand their main stakes
- Be able to confidently work with interdisciplinary approaches in studying contemporary phenomena

- Understand some of the most important ways in which different modalities of power and resistance operate through the lens of ‘bordering practices’ broadly conceived
- Have engaged with and analysed a range of empirical cases, practical examples and cultural artefacts in developing an in-depth understanding of the complexities of meaning making and interpretation at various sites and registers of politics and society

## Course Requirements

Active participation in seminars: **10%**

Mid-term exam in Week 9: **25%**

Two short position papers for Week 10 and 11: **20%** (10% each - details to be discussed in the first seminar)

Term paper: **45%**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### PART I: LINES OF (IN)SECURITY

#### Week 1. Borders within and without

##### *Seminar 1. Inhabiting the line*

Trinh, T. Minh-Ha (2011) ‘Foreignness and the New Color of Fear’ in *Elsewhere, Within Here: Immigration, Refugeeism and the Boundary Event*, Abingdon: Routledge, pp 1-7.

Kumarakulasingam, Narendran (2011) ‘Stammers between silence and speech,’ in Naeem Inayatullah (ed.) *Autobiographical International Relations: I, IR*. London: Routledge, pp 31-40.

Doty, Roxanne Lynn (2010) “Autoethnography - Making Human Connections”. *Review of International Studies* 36, pp 1047-1050.

##### *Seminar 2. Borders and bordering practices*

Vaughan-Williams, N. (2016) ‘Borders’, in Ni Mhurchu, A. and Shindo, R. (eds.), *Critical Imaginations in International Relations*, London: Routledge, pp 11-27

Rumford, Chris (2012) ‘Towards a Multiperspectival Study of Borders’ *Geopolitics*, 17:4 pp 887-902

Mountz, A. (2015) ‘In/visibility and the Securitization of Migration: Shaping Publics through Border Enforcement on Islands’, *Cultural Politics*, Volume 11, Number 2: pp. 184-200.

## **Week 2. Sovereign Lines and Imagined Communities**

### *Seminar 3. Defining Self and Other*

Anderson, Benedict (2006), 'Introduction' in *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London: Verso, pp 1-7.

Edkins, Jenny and Veonique Pin-Fat (1999) 'The Subject of the Political' in Jenny Edkins, Nalini Persram and Veronique Pin-Fat (eds.) *Sovereignty and Subjectivity*, London: Lynne Rienner, pp 1-18.

El-Malik, Shiera (2016) 'Subjectivity' in Ni Mhurchu, A. and Shindo, R. (eds.), *Critical Imaginations in International Relations*, London: Routledge, pp. 212-227.

Campbell, David (1998) *Writing Security: United States Foreign Policy and the Politics of Identity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, Chapter 3 pp 53-72

### *Seminar 4. 'Community' in the making*

Breen-Smyth, Marie (2014) 'Theorising the "suspect community": counterterrorism, security practices and the public imagination', *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, Volume 7, Issue 2, pp 223-240.

Shindo, Reiko (2012) 'Rethinking Community: Translation Space as a Departure from Political Community' *International Political Sociology*, 6, 149–164

Weber, Cynthia (2011) *I am an American – Filming the Fear of Difference*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters TBC

### Recommended reading:

IPS Forum on Cynthia Weber's Multi-media Project, "I Am an American", *International Political Sociology*, Volume 4, Issue 1, March 2010

Brace, L. (2016) 'Community' In Ni Mhurchu, A. and Shindo, R. (eds.), *Critical Imaginations in International Relations*, Routledge, 2014

## **PART II: BODY-POLITICS**

### **Week 3. Biopolitics via Foucault**

#### *Seminar 5. Life-politics*

Foucault, Michel (2003) Lecture Eleven in *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the College de France, 1975-76*, edited by Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontana. New York: Picador, pp 239-263.

Commentary:

Lemke, Thomas. *Biopolitics: An Advanced Introduction*, New York: New York University Press, 2011. Chapter 3: The Government of Living Being: Michael Foucault, pp. 33-52

#### *Seminar 6. Population-politics*

Selmezi, Anna (2009) “... we are being left to burn because we do not count”: Biopolitics, Abandonment, and Resistance’, *Global Society*, Volume 23 Issue 4: Michel Foucault: New Directions in Theorising World Politics, pp. 519 –38.

Mbembe, Achille (2003) ‘Necropolitics’ *Public Culture* 15.1 11-40.

Reid, Julian (2006) “Life Struggles – War, Discipline and Biopolitics in the Thought of Michael Foucault”. *Social Text* 24, 127-152.

Duffield, M. (2005) ‘Getting Savages to fight Barbarians: Development, security and the colonial present’, *Conflict, Security and Development* 5:2, 141-59.

### **Week 4. Biopolitics via Agamben**

#### *Seminar 7. States of exception*

Agamben, G, *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford: Calif. Univ. Press, 1998. Chapters: “The Paradox of Sovereignty” and “Homo Sacer”

Commentary:

Lemke, T. *Biopolitics: An Advanced Introduction*, New York: New York University Press, 2011. Chapter 4: Sovereign Power and Bare Life: Giorgio Agamben, pp. 53-64.

#### *Seminar 8. Life on the threshold*

Johns, Fleur, ‘Guantanamo Bay and the Annihilation of the Exception’, *European Journal of International Law*, Vol. 16 no.4, 2005, pp 613-635.

Aradau, C. ‘Law Transformed: Guantanamo and the ‘Other’ Exception’, *Third World Quarterly* 28:3 (2007), 489-501.

Edkins, J. and Pin-Fat, V. “Through the Wire: Relations of Power and Relations of Violence”, *Millennium*, 34:1, (2005):1-24.

### **Week 5. Enactments of Sovereignty**

*Seminar 9. Bureaucrats*

D. Bigo, 'Globalised (In)Security: The Field and the Ban-Opticon', in Bigo, D. and Tsoukala, A. (eds.), *Terror, Insecurity, and Liberty: Illiberal Practices of Liberal Regimes after 9/11* (Routledge, 2008), 10-48.

Butler, Judith, 'Indefinite Detention' in *Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence*, New York: Verso, 2004. Pp 50-100.

*Seminar 10. Experts and citizens*

Doty, R. L. (2007) 'States of Exception on the Mexico–US Border: Security, "Decisions", and Civilian Border Patrols', *International Political Sociology*, 1, pp.113–127.

Kennedy, David (2006) *Of War and Law*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1: War as a Legal Institution, pp. 13-41.

Tyler, Imogen (2010) 'Designed to fail: a biopolitics of British Citizenship', *Citizenship Studies*, 14 (1) pp. 61-74.

**Week 6. Security Governance**

*Seminar 11. Governing mobility*

Amoore, L. (2009) 'Algorithmic war: everyday geographies of the war on terror.' *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*, 41, pp 49-69.

Salter, Mark B. (2006) 'The Global Visa Regime and the Political Technologies of the International Self: Borders, Bodies, Biopolitics', *Alternatives*, 31, pp.167–189.

Agamben, Giorgio (2011) 'Identity without the person' in *Nudities*, Stanford: Stanford University Press pp. 46-54

*Seminar 12. Governing bodies*

Vaughan-Williams, Nick (2015) '"We are not animals!" Humanitarian Border Security and Zoopolitical Spaces in Europe', *Political Geography*, 45 (March), pp. 1-10.

Puumala, Eeva and Samu Pehkonen (2010) 'Corporeal Choreographies between Politics and the Political: Failed Asylum Seekers Moving from Body Politics to Bodyspaces' *International Political Sociology*, Volume 4, Issue 1, 1 March 2010, Pp 50–65.

Nieuwenhuis, Marijn (2018) 'Atmospheric governance: Gassing as law for the protection and killing of life' *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* Vol. 36(1) pp. 78–95.

## **Week 7. Borders and bordering practices in Europe**

### *Seminar 13 Europe's border crisis*

Vaughan-Williams, Nick *Europe's Border Crisis: Biopolitical Security and Beyond*, Oxford: OUP, 2015. Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, pp 1-59.

### *Seminar 14. Cases and experiences*

Tyler, Imogen (2018) 'The hieroglyphics of the border: racial stigma in neoliberal Europe,' *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol 41 Issue 10, pp. 1783-1801.

Raffaella Puggioni, 'Against Camps' Violence: Some Voices on Italian Holding Centres', *Political Studies*, Volume 62, Issue 4 December 2014, Pages 945–960.

Johnson, H. (2013) 'The Other Side of the Fence: Reconceptualizing the "Camp" and Migration Zones at the Borders of Spain', *International Political Sociology*, 7, pp.75-91.

### Recommended reading:

Tazzioli, M. Which Europe? Migrants' uneven geographies and counter-mapping at the limits of representation, *Movements*, 2015, <http://movements-journal.org/issues/02.kaempfe/04.tazzioli--europe-migrants-geographies-counter-mapping-representation.html>

New Crisis Collective, Europe/Crisis: New Keywords of "the Crisis" in and of "Europe", [http://nearfuturesonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/New-Keywords-Collective\\_12.pdf](http://nearfuturesonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/New-Keywords-Collective_12.pdf)

A collection of papers in Antipode 'Migration and the Refugee Crisis' <https://antipodefoundation.org/2015/10/13/migration-and-the-refugee-crisis/>

## **Week 8. Lines of Knowledge**

### *Seminar 15. Screening asylum*

Jubany, Olga (2017) *Screening Asylum in a Culture of Disbelief: Truths, Denials and Skeptical Borders*, Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 4 'Trained to Spot the Truth' 111-143, Chapter 5 'Deconstructing Asylum Seekers' Narratives,' 145-189

### *Seminar 16. Spotting signs of radicalisation*

Health-Kelly, Charlotte and Erzsébet Strausz (2018) The banality of counterterrorism “after, after 9/11”? Perspectives on the Prevent duty from the UK health care sector, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, DOI: [10.1080/17539153.2018.1494123](https://doi.org/10.1080/17539153.2018.1494123)

### **Week 9. Mid-term exam**

*Seminar 17. No class*

*Seminar 18. Mid-term exam*

## **PART III: PRACTICE**

### **Week 10. Dissent**

*Seminar 19. NGO Activism*

Invited speaker: Andras Lederer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee (TBC)

*Seminar 20. Citizen Activism*

Invited speaker: TBC

#### Background reading:

Kallius, A, Montereescu, D., Rajaram P. K. (2016) Immobilizing mobility: Border ethnography, illiberal democracy, and the politics of the “refugee crisis” in Hungary, *American Ethnologist*, Volume 43 Number 1 February, pp. 25–37.

Stierl, M. (2016) ‘A Sea of Struggle – Activist Border Interventions in the Mediterranean Sea’, *Citizenship Studies*, 20:5, 561-578.

Stierl, M., Rygiel, K., and Ataç, I., ‘The Contentious Politics of Refugee and Migrant Protest and Solidarity Movements: Remaking Citizenship from the Margins’, *Citizenship Studies*, 20:5 (2016), 527-544.

### **Week 11. Border Art**

*Seminars 21 & 22:*

Film to be screened:

Francis Alys (2004) *The Green Line*

Heath Bunting (2002-2003) *borderxing*

#### Background reading:

Amoore, Louise and Alexandra Hall (2010) 'Border theatre: on the arts of security and resistance' *Cultural Geographies*, 17(3) 299–319.

Marciniak, Katarzyna and Imogen Tyler (2014) *Immigrant protest: politics, aesthetics, and everyday dissent*, New York: SUNY Press.

Amoore, Louise (2007) 'Vigilant Visualities: The Watchful Politics of the War on Terror' *Security Dialogue* 38:215-232.

#### PART IV: EMBRACING THE LINES

##### **Week 12. Reimagining the border**

*Seminar 23: Another (bio)politics*

Vaughan-Williams, Nick *Europe's Border Crisis: Biopolitical Security and Beyond*, Oxford: OUP, 2015. Introduction, Chapter 6: Affirmative Borders. pp. 121-152.

*Seminar 24: Writing between the lines*

Amoore, Louise (2013) *The Politics of Possibility: Risk and Security Beyond Probability*, Duke University Press, Chapter 6: On a Potential Politics, pp. 155-176.

Shindo, Reiko, 'Resistance beyond sovereign politics: Petty sovereigns' disappearance into the world of fiction in post-Fukushima Japan,' *Security Dialogue*, 49 3, p183-p199