

Un/Making (National, Imperial, EU-European) Borders

Spaces & Practices in and beyond Europe in the long 20th Century

Time: 31st August – 1st of September 2026

Venue: Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany. University Campus, Tallin 007

Organised by: Christiane Reinecke, Thea Kruse, Frederik Doktor

Funded by: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – SFB 1604 “Production of Migration” – 501120656

Preliminary Programme

[Sunday, 30th August, 7.30 pm: Informal get-together for those who have already arrived]

Monday, 31st August

9:30 to 10:00 **Coffee & Arrival**

10:00 to 10:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Coffee

11:00 to 13:00 **Panel I:** *Bordering from Below? Actors and Agencies*

Chair/Commentator: Florian Wagner (Erfurt)

Louise Thatcher (Bard College Berlin): “Finding Stowaways (in the Archive): Autonomy of Migration and the Histories of Bordering and Border Evasion in Early Twentieth Century White Australia”.

Franziska Exeler (Freie Universität Berlin): “Smuggling, Emigration Agents, and Suspected Sexual Trafficking in the Late Imperial Russian–Austrian–Prussian Borderlands: What Counted as Irregular Border Crossings, and for Whom?”

Burak Sayim (Universität Basel): “Challenging European Imperial Borders in the Post-Ottoman Middle East: Cross-Border Revolutionaries and Forged Papers in the Interwar Years”

Lunch

14:30 to 16:00 **Panel II:** *Documenting and Identifying: Passports and the Changing Infrastructures of Border-Making*

Chair/Commentator: Sébastien Tremblay (Flensburg)

Yazid Benhadda (University of Exeter): “Inheriting a Document, Inheriting a Modern Border: The Passport/Visa Regime and the Decolonisation in Morocco (1954-1962)”

Lennart Schmidt (Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam): “From Registry to Regime: Migration Control and the Rise of European Information Systems (1960s–2000s)”

Coffee

16:30 to 18:30 **Panel III:** *Controlling Flows, Controlling People: Mobility Infrastructures, Institutions, and Practices*

Chair/Commentator: Philipp Müller (Hamburg)

Carolin Liebisch-Gümüş (Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam): “Making Skies and Seas Safe for Globalization: International Traffic Organizations and the Control of Migration”

Andrew Tompkins (Deutsches Historisches Institut Warschau): “Agents of Socialist Integration: Customs Controls and Human Flows on the Poland-GDR Border”

Thea Kruse (EUF Flensburg / SFB 1604 Osnabrück): “A Turn Towards the Border: Negotiating ‘Asylum’ at the English Channel (1997-98)”

Conference Dinner

Tuesday, 1st September

8:45 to 10:15 **Panel IV:** *Unmaking Imperial Borders? Reshaping Border Regimes During and After Decolonisation*

Chair/Commentator: Isabella Löhr (Berlin/Potsdam)

Frederik Doktor (EUF Flensburg / SFB 1604 Osnabrück), “Loss of State Control and Border Collapse? Local Border Practices in Marseille and their Postimperial Reshaping after the ‘Shock of Decolonization’ 1962”

Fabio Santos (University of Copenhagen): “Where Europe Begins: Outermost Regions, Migrantization, and the Un/Making of Imperial Borders”

Coffee

10:45 to 12:15 **Panel V:** *Categorising Mobilities, Categorising Migrants At and Beyond the Border*

Chair/Commentator: Maren Möhring (Leipzig)

Rob Waters (Queen Mary University of London): “Multi-Status Britain, beyond Subjects and Aliens”

Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University): “Gender in the French and German Postwar Labour Migration Regimes”

12:30 to 13:00 **Final Discussion**

Lunch