

**Strategic Scientific Workshop funded by the Humboldt Centre,**

**University of Bayreuth:**

**Borders of Belonging: Historical and Creative Methods in Heritage and Placemaking**

**28-30 June 2023, Schloss Thurnau**

***Workshop Report by Alison Carrol and Astrid Swenson***

This workshop was designed with the intention of rethinking the role of borders in shaping ideas of heritage and belonging in Europe. While recent historical research has taken increasing account of transnational movements, debates often remain fragmented according to national lines and fail to consider the ways in which a wide set of European, imperial and global encounters and processes interacted. Bringing together scholars and creative practitioners, this workshop addressed this gap by analysing the shifting presentation of borders from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century, with attention to sites across Europe in a global perspective. These sites may have been on the peripheries of nation-states, but they were at the centre of a range of other processes that shaped notions of belonging. Thus, the workshop aimed to advance the fields of historical research, heritage studies and border studies by placing thinking about the role of fluid and closed borders at the heart of historical thinking and heritage practice.

The workshop participants came from across the world and a range of disciplines

- Astrid Swenson, Professor for European Historical Cultures, Institute for Franconian History, University of Bayreuth (University of Bayreuth Main Applicant)
- Alison Carrol, Reader in European History, Brunel University London (Co-Applicant), UK
- Elizabeth Vlossak, Associate Professor of European History, Brock University, Canada
- Rebecca Madgin, Professor of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, UK
- Artemis Ignatidou, Lecturer in European Historical Cultures, University of Bayreuth
- Evi Nakou, Sound Artist, Athens, Greece
- Martin Ott, Director Institute for Franconian History, Bayreuth & Bamberg
- Anna Källén, Associate Professor in Archaeology, Stockholm University/Chair Professor of Museology at Umeå University, Sweden
- Kerstin Stamm, Art Historian, Berlin
- Marcus Mühlwinkel, Institute for Franconian History, University of Bayreuth
- Sybille Frank, Professor for Urban Sociology, TU-Darmstadt
- Muriel Blaive, Elise Richter Research Fellow, University of Graz, Austria
- Tatiana Zhurzhenko, Researcher, ZOIS – Centre for East European and International Studies, Berlin / Research Associate, Department of History, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- Cassandra Mark-Thiesen, Junior Research Group Leader, University of Bayreuth
- Inge Dornan, Reader in History, Brunel University London, UK
- Dacia Viejo Rose, Associate Professor in Heritage and the Politics of the Past, Director, Cambridge Heritage Research Centre, UK (online)
- Hyun Kyung Lee, Assistant Professor at Critical Global Studies Institute, Sogang University South Korea (online)
- Nabila Oulebsir, Professor of Contemporary Art History, University of Poitiers, France, (online)
- Tamara van Kessel, Assistant Professor in History, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Samuel Aylett-Streitberg, Senior Lecturer at Arden University, Berlin
- Valentine Koppenhoefer, Set Designer and Architect, Weimar
- Ionna Streitberg, Historian, Berlin.
- Lili Toitot, Doctoral Researcher, Brunel University London, UK
- Cassandra Newland, Associate Professor of Heritage, Royal Agricultural University, Swindon, UK (online)
- Uta von Pezold, Historian, Thurnau
- John Grant, Associate Prof. Politics, King University College London, Canada,

The following students from the Bayreuth MA programmes in 'Global History' and 'History in Research and Practice' joined as research assistants and participants:

- Sophie Gindele,
- Wolfgang Ficht,
- Stefano Pedrina,
- Andrew Teague.

The workshop began on 28 June with keynotes by Elizabeth Vlossak, Rebecca Madgin, Evi Nakou and Artemis Igantidou. Elizabeth Vlossak opened the conference and set up the first theme of 'Borders' with a journey through borders that she has encountered, encompassing belonging, identity and boundary making in French, Romanian and Canadian borderlands. Rebecca Madgin then switched the focus to place making and methodological approaches to examine the emotional meaning of heritage sites and to evaluate people's emotional responses to historic places. The third keynote, by Artemis Ignatidou and Evi Nakou encouraged reflection upon the performativity of borders, and introduced workshop participants to how creative methods might be employed to study placemaking and border sites.

On 29 June the participants reconvened for a full day of discussion and research papers. The first panel addressed 'Borders and Agency.' Two very different contributions (the first by Alison Carrol on the symbolism of border infrastructure and the second by Anna Källén on genetic testing and identity construction) set out some of the themes for the day, namely how and what we remember and forget, questions of identity and emotions across national borders and the tension between the emotions involved in border making and the presentation of practical or scientific considerations in the process. The discussion was led by Kerstin Stamm, who highlighted the role of experts in border construction.

The second panel focussed upon 'Spaces of Encounter' and encompassed papers from Sybille Frank on the memory of spaces shaped by political violence, Muriel Blaive on cross-border romantic relationships, and Tatiana Zhurzhenko on the politics of memory construction at the border. Covering sites across central and eastern Europe the three papers raised themes of emotion in relation to border crossing and border memorialisation, and there was a focussed discussion of 'fear' at national and international boundaries, as well of the role of heritage makers (and heritage consumers) in the construction of memory at border sites. Comment and discussion was by Cassandra Mark-Thiessen who questioned points of commonality and contrast across the different sites discussed.

The final panel addressed the theme of 'Forgotten and Remembered Borders.' This brought together papers on heritage tours of the demilitarised zone in Korea by Dacia Viejo Rose and Hyun Kyung Lee and on shared spaces of memory between France and Algeria by Nabila Oulebsir. The papers addressed the often competing emotions at border sites, such as hope and fear, as well as the

competing national values that come into play at shared border heritage sites. The comment by Tamara van Kessel drew the participants' attention to the evolution of the presentation of border sites across time.

Following the final panel, participants discussed the relationship between the local, the national and the global through a guided tour of an exhibition co-created and co-curated by Astrid Swenson, Artemis Ignatidou and Valentine Koppenhöfer along with students from the University of Bayreuth. Then, Evi Nakou and Artemis Ignatidou led a workshop on creative approaches to border and place making, involving erasure poetry and the creation of a soundscape. This encouraged the participants to pause, focus upon meaning and to work together collaboratively.

On the final day of the workshop, the participants took a trip to the former German-German border at Mödlareuth. We were given a guided tour of the museum and site, followed by the chance to explore. This triggered discussion amongst participants on the relationship between place and identity, on how borders of the past are presented when they no longer represent a boundary, and on the role of heritage in creating a sense of place. We concluded the workshop with a discussion of next steps, and will meet over zoom to discuss the journal special edition in more detail. Carrol and Swenson are investigating funding at Brunel to hold a follow-up workshop, and are in discussion about an application to the joint AHRC-DFG scheme.

All workshop participants appreciated the excellent working conditions in Schloss Thurnau that allowed focussed discussion, and participants found the creative workshop and trip useful in encouraging more creative discussion and exploratory thinking. All participants expressed their gratitude to the Humboldt Centre of the University of Bayreuth for funding this workshop within the Strategic Scientific Workshop programme.



Fig. 1. Conference Poster (A. Ignatidou & S. Gindele)

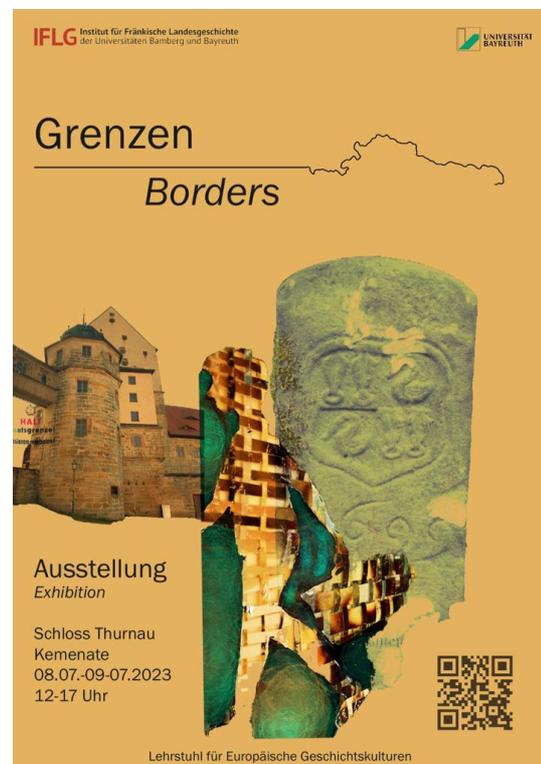


Fig. 2. Exhibition Poster (A. Swenson & S. Gindele)



Fig. 2-5. Keynotes by Elizabeth Vlossak, Rebecca Madgin, Evi Nakou and Artemis Ignatidou.



Fig. 6-7. Workshop Discussions



Fig. 8 Creative Workshop led by Artemis Ignatidou and Evi Nakou



Fig. 9-11. Curator's Tour of the 'Borders/Grenzen' exhibition in Thurnau Castle. Left Prof. Elizabeth Vlossak being shown the shifting border of once independent Thurnau by Wolfgang Ficht (MA Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Praxis Candidate). Right: Installation on Passport History.



Fig. 12-15 Guided Tour of German-German Border Museum at Mödlareuth.