



Towards a New Agenda for Border Studies

February 13-15, 2024
Fez, Morocco

The Political Studies and Public Law Laboratory at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University (USMBA) in Fez in collaboration with the Center for Geopolitical Studies – Raoul-Dandurand Chair at the University of Québec at Montréal (UQAM) and the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) is organizing an event entitled «Towards a New Agenda for Border Studies», to be held in Fez, Morocco, on February 13-15, 2024. This event will bring together scholars from various disciplines and backgrounds to substantially rethink how we address the evolution of border(ing) processes, practices and related theories by decentering the analysis hitherto produced essentially in the North. To encourage increased participation of scholars from the South, and to foster more balanced, multivocal discussions on the topic, the event will be organized in Fez, Morocco, at the Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University.

In a world in turmoil, borders have become increasingly multiple. Mobile and static, concrete and abstract, coherent and pixelated, externalized and internalized - all often at the same time. The pace with which borders were closed during the COVID-19 epidemic goes hand in hand with the idea that a border can be hermetically sealed, an element often central to border wall design (Wheatley & Kroll-Zeldin, 2021), helping to maintain a secure and healthy interior against threats perceived as external. In the wake of the pandemic, border wall construction saw a resurgence. The war in Ukraine further fuelled attention to rigid state borders amidst the looming geopolitical challenges.

Border studies scholars have established the urgent need to once more renew the way in which border issues are analyzed (see Walther et al. 2023; Scott 2020), conceding the existence of major pitfalls in current research (see Agnew, or Boedeltje and Van Houtum 2021:40) but also in identifying the gaps in border studies (see Brambilla and Jones 2020; Mau 2022). The general objective of this conference is to rethink the dynamics at work in the re/de/bordering, by de-centering the often Western-centric analysis of the process of enclosure and its consequences. Our scientific objective is to create a unique and unprecedented space for in-depth discussions around the renewal of border studies to foster the establishment of an inclusive, innovative and multidisciplinary research network.

Our aim is to improve our understanding of borders in a multiscalar context, 1) by pooling the expertise of the scholars brought together, 2) by relying on recent scientific knowledge, 3) by mobilizing multiscalar analysis in innovative ways 4) and by engaging with postcolonial readings of re/b/ordering processes.

The general objective of the conference is to lay the foundations for a new agenda of border studies that can benefit the border studies community as a whole. It is also about helping to forge closer links between researchers from distinct geographical areas that tend to coexist but rarely cross paths, and to benefit fully from these exchanges. The conference will be held in English, French and Arabic.

Organizers/Scientific Committee

Said Saddiki USMBA - Morocco
 Elisabeth Vallet CMR-St Jean & UQAM - Canada
 Jussi P. Laine UEF - Finland
 Irasema Coronado ASU - United-States
 Mohamed Bouzrafa USMBA - Morocco
 Rachid El-Marzguioui USMBA - Morocco



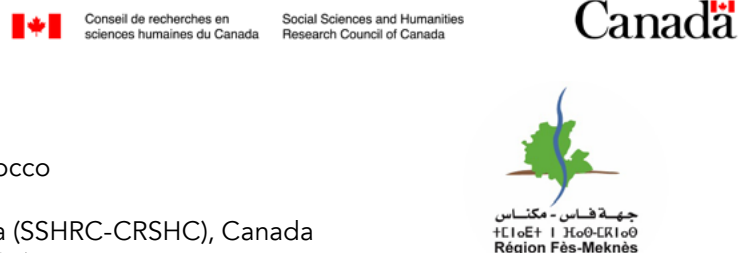
Coordinators

Abdelhaq Belfkik, USMBA - Morocco
 Gabrielle Gagnon, UQAM - Canada
 Alicja Micheler, UEF Bomocult - Finland



Partners and Sponsors of the conference

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 Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME), Morocco
 Bomocult, UEF, Finland
 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC-CRSHC), Canada
 National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST), Morocco



OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAM

Pre-conference Panel – On Borders and B/Ordering

Online Panel – Hosted by BOMOCULT (UEF)

February 9 th, 10h00-11h30 EET

In Person Fez Conference – Towards a New Agenda for Border Studies

Day 1. February 13 th

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Welcoming reception</i>
16h00 - 18h30	<i>Opening Addresses</i>

Day 2. February 14 th

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Panel A</i>	<i>Panel B</i>
9h00 - 10h00	<i>Plenary Keynote : El Arbi Mrabet</i>	
10h30 - 12h00	PANEL 1 A - English <i>Border Walls 1</i>	PANEL 1 B - French <i>Migration</i>
13h30 - 15h00	PANEL 2 A - English <i>Border Walls 2</i>	PANEL 2 B - French <i>International Law / Re-defining borders</i>
15h30 - 17h00	PANEL 3 A - English <i>Border Walls 3</i>	PANEL 3 B - English <i>Migration / Smuggling</i>

Day 3. February 15 th

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Panel A</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Panel B</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Roundtable</i>
8h00 - 9h00	PANEL 4 A - Arabic <i>Border Walls (In)security</i>	8h30 - 10h00	PANEL 4 B - English <i>Security</i>	8h30 - 11h00	<i>Towards a New Agenda in Border Walls Studies</i>
9h30 - 10h30	PANEL 5 A - Arabic <i>Border Walls / Power dynamics</i>	10h30 - 12h00	PANEL 5 B - English <i>Border Management</i>		
11h00 - 12h00	PANEL 6 - English <i>Border Theory</i>				
12h00 - 12h30	<i>Concluding keynote : Jussi P. Laine</i>				

DETAILED PROGRAM

Pre-conference Panel – On Borders and B/Ordering

February 9th

10h00-11h30 EET

Online Panel – Hosted by BOMOCULT (UEF)

Gurvel Singh Malhi, Khalsa College, India & **Manjit Kaur**, Amritsar, India

South Asia's Tryst with Borders : Reflections on Indo-Pak Boundary in Punjab (India)

Ahmed Jemaa, Border Studies Research Group at the Center of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Sousse, Tunisia

The Securitization of Mobilities and the Criminalization of Migration in the Mediterranean Maghreb: "Harga" and Visa Nexus

Sanjiv Krishan Sood, Ex Additional Director General, Border Security Force, India

Management of Fenced Borders of India

Ali Beheshtian Mesgaran Ferdowsi, University of Mashhad, Iran

Review of the Spatial Impacts of the Security Approach on the Joint Border of Iran and Afghanistan

Merrill Hopper, King's College, United Kingdom

Walls: Artwork of the State or Canvas for Resistance?

LINK TO THE CONFERENCE

Meeting ID: 647 0676 3692

Passcode: 916440

In Person Fez Conference – Towards a New Agenda for Border Studies

VENUE :

Centre de conférences et de formation de l'Université Mohamed Ben Abdellah
Conference and Training Center at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University

Day 1. February 13th

16h00 - 18h30 Welcoming reception

Moderator : Said Saddiki : Director of the Political Studies and Public Law Laboratory, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University

Speakers :

Mustapha Ijjaali, President of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University

Mohammed Bouzlafa, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences

Abdellah Boussouf, Secretary-General of the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad

Élisabeth Vallet, Professor, RMC-Saint-Jean and Director of the Center for Geopolitical Studies - Raoul-Dandurand Chair, University of Quebec in Montreal

Day 2. February 14th

9h00 - 10h00 Plenary Keynote : **El Arbi Mrabet**

10h30 - 12h00 PANEL 1 A, *Border Walls 1*

Language : English

Chair : **Victor Konrad**, Carleton University

James Wesley Scott, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

"Walls (Don't/Won't) Work". Borders between Culture Wars, Anxiety and Realpolitik

Élisabeth Vallet, Université du Québec à Montréal / Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean, Canada

A Decade After "The (Re)Building of the Wall in International Relations": A New Agenda for the Global Wallification of the World

Irasema Coronado, Arizona State University, United-States

Feminist Perspectives on the US Border Wall: Unveiling Stories of Power, Violence, Resistance, and Solidarity

Said Saddiki, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

Border Walls: An International Relations Perspective

10h30 - 12h00 PANEL 1 B (Parallel Session), *Migration*

Language : French

Chair : **El-Hassan El-Ouarit**, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University

Rabah Aynaou, Mohammed First University, Morocco

Au-delà des frontières géographiques, les migrants face aux barrières immatérielles : Cas des immigrés subsahariens au Maroc

Soumia Bouhdoud, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

L'impact de la fermeture des frontières européennes sur le parcours migratoire des subsahariens transitant au Maroc

Zakkari Younés, Mohammed V University, Morocco

Libre circulation vs construction des murs frontaliers : état des lieux et perspectives en Afrique

Maélys Druilhe, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Frontières, exclusions et sport international : l'équipe olympique des réfugiés

13h30 - 15h00 PANEL 2 A, *Border Walls 2*

Language : English

Chair : **James Scott**, University of Eastern Finland

Damien Simonneau, Institut National des Langues et des Civilisations Orientales, France

Walls and Wars. Identifying and Questioning the Military in Contemporary Border Security Policies

Nick Megoran, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

What Happens When Border Walls Reopen ?

Mathilde Bourgeon, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Shadowed by the Wall: Securitization Practices in the US-Mexico Borderlands

Luca Paolo Cirillo, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands & **Henk van Houtum**, Radboud University Nijmegen & University of Naples L'Orientale, Italy

Access for Sale: on 'Paper Walls' and the Market of Citizenship

13h30- 15h00 PANEL 2 B, *Borders and International Law*

Language : French (Parallel Session)

Chair : **Benahmed Hougua**, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University

Said Hammamoun, Ibn Zohr University, Morocco

Ombres et lumières sur les nouvelles techniques de la gestion des frontières extérieures de l'UE et leurs déclinaisons dans l'espace méditerranéen

Smail Kouttroub, Mohammed V University, Morocco

L'édification des murs entre jurisprudence et débat doctrinal

Omar Qaissi, Ibn Zohr University, Morocco

La frontière en tant que mur en droit international : comment marier la sécurité de l'État avec la liberté de l'Homme ?

15h30 - 17h00 PANEL 3 A, *Border Walls 3*

Language : English

Chair : **Irasema Coronado**, Arizona State University

Jussi P. Laine, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

End of the Finnish-Russian Pragmatic Frame: on the Politics of the Border Fence

Kenneth Madsen, Ohio State University, United-States

Communities Divided: Border Barriers in Local Context

Hakan Ünay, Migration Research Foundation, Göç Araştırmaları Vakfı, Turkey

Walled Country of Walled World : Turkey's Border Walls

Dhananjay Tripathi, South Asian University, India

Mental Borders Between India and Pakistan

15h30 - 17h00 PANEL 3 B, *Migration / Smuggling*

Language : English (Parallel Session)

Chair : Claudia Donoso, St-Mary's University

Daniela Bea & Laurence Brassard, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

On the Way to Roxham Road, Beyond a Linear Migratory Path

João Luís Jesus Fernandes, University of Coimbra, Portugal

The Vulnerability of Interrupted Migrations. The Border Walls as Waiting Territories

Nikolas Kouloglou, CentraleSupélec, University Paris-Saclay, France

From the 2015 Migrant "Crisis" to European Border Governance. The Case of Counter Migrant Smuggling Policies in Greece

Gabrielle Gagnon, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Changing the Narrative : Human Smuggling From and Through Tunisia

Guillermo Candiz, Université de l'Ontario français & **Tanya Basok**, University of Windsor, Canada

Assembling and Disassembling Humanitarian Borders: International Organizations, Migrant Autonomy, and National Interests in the Global South

Day 3. February 15th

8h30 - 9h30 PANEL 4 A, *Border Walls (In)security*

Language : Arabic

Chair : **Jamal Gueddouri**, Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University

Amine Lemine Ndary, University of Islamic Sciences, Mauritania

صعوبة تدبير أمن الحدود في غياب السياجات: الحالة الموريتانية

Zakaria Ouriemchi & Naïma El-Bali, Mohammed First University, Morocco

تسييج الحدود المغربية الجزائرية : دراسة ميدانية بجهة الشرق

Fouad Aalouane, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

الجدران الدفاعية: بين الضرورات الأمنية والإعتبارات الإنسانية

8h30 - 10h00 PANEL 4 B, *Border Security*

Language : English (Parallel Session)

Chair : **Luca Paolo Cirillo**, Radboud University

Meryem Lakhdar, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

Borders, a Study of a Modern Power in Interstate Conflicts

Mohamed El Bouchikhi, Hassan First University, Morocco & **Mohamed Badine El Yattioui**, National Defense College, United Arab Emirates

Border Security Between Türkiye and Iraq: A Permanent Challenge for Ankara

Olga Dorokhina, Caucasus International University, Georgia

Building Walls, Producing Spaces: How Borderization is Forming a Grey Zone

Hamdy A. Hassan, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

The Salvador Pass Dilemma Security, Violence, and the Paradox of Governance in the Sahel's Borderlands

8h30 - 11h00 ROUNDTABLE, *Towards a New Agenda in Border Walls Studies*

Language : English (Parallel Session)

10h00 - 11h00 PANEL 5 A, *Border Walls and Power dynamics*

LANGUAGE : Arabic

Chair : **Farouk El Badmoussi**, Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University

Louay Abdelfattah, Mohammed First University, Morocco

سياسات الفصل والعزل الإسرائيلية تجاه الفلسطينيين: كيف تقيم الجدران والحواجز نظاما للفصل العنصري؟

Azzeddine El Faraa, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

الجدارُ والمُجتمَعُ: ملبليّة وميلاد سُوسلُوجيَا الحُدُود الاستعماريّة في المغرب

Nabil Zegaoui, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

الموت على أعتاب الحدود: مسؤولية السياسات الحدودية عن ضحايا الهجرة غير النظامية

10h30 -12h PANEL 5 B, *Border Management*

Language : English (Parallel Session)

Chair : **Hamdy A. Hassan**, Zayed University

Pamela Dodds, Visual artist at Toronto, Canada

Documenting Border Barriers : Informing and Engaging through Artwork

Claudia Donoso, St-Mary's University, United-States

Failing to Protect Bare Life During the COVID-19 Pandemic : Forced Migrants as Carriers of the Virus

Malika Bensahra & Fatima Amrani Zerrifi, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

Religious Diplomacy and Wall Borders' Roles in Safeguarding Nations : Effectiveness or Ineffectiveness

11h30 - 12h30 PANEL 6, *Border Theory*

Language : English

Chair : **Nick Megoran**, Newcastle University

Victor Konrad, Carleton University, Canada

"Looking Back in Order to Look Forward": Critical Heritage Theory Informs a New Agenda for Border Wall Studies

Madimabe Mahlako Tebele, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

An Analysis of the Contemporary History of Xenophobia in South Africa and the 'Breakdown' of its Borders

Nouh Alaoui Mhamdi, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

Revisiting Huntington : The Morocco-Ceuta-Melilla Border Wall as a Clash of Civilizations Symbol

Dhananjay Tripathi, South Asian University, India & **Shaji Sadasivan Nair**, University of Hyderabad, India

Borders, Border Practices and Implications for Border Theorizations in Contemporary Times: A Case Study of India

12h30 - 13h30 Concluding remarks : **Jussi P. Laine**



Keynotes and Speakers' Biographies

Abdellah Boussof, Secretary-General of the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad

Abdellah Boussof has been the Secretary-General of the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME) since 2007. Mr. Boussof is a historian with a Ph.D. in Mediterranean relations in the thirteenth century. He previously held various positions in Islamic and cultural institutions in Europe, including the Association of Strasbourg Mosque, the French Council of the Muslim Faith, the Brussels Institute of Islamic Studies, and the Euro-Islamic Center for Culture and Dialogue in Charleroi (Belgium). In addition, Mr. Boussof is an advocate for moderate Islam and open dialogue among religions and civilizations.

Mohammed Bouzlafa, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Morocco

Mohamed Bouzlafa has served as the Dean of the College of Law, Economics, and Social Sciences since 2019 at the USMBA. Prior to this role, he held various scientific and teaching positions, including Head of the Private Law Department (2017), Coordinator of the Research Team in Criminal Sciences (2008), and Member of the Drafting Committee on Criminal Procedure Law at the Ministry of Justice and Liberties (2014). Professor Bouzlafa holds a state doctorate in private law.

Mustapha Ijjaali, President of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

Mustapha Ijjaali is the President of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdullah University (USMBA), where he previously held several academic and administrative positions, including Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology in Fez (2014-2023) and Director of the Center for Doctoral Studies: Engineering Sciences and Technologies (2008-2014). Professor Mustafa is an active member of several national and international scientific societies and research groups.

Jussi P. Laine, Professor, Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland

Jussi P. Laine is a professor of multidisciplinary border studies at the Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland (UEF), holding the title of Docent of Human Geography at the University of Oulu, Finland. He is the President of the World Social Science Association and currently serves on the Steering Committee of the International Geographical Union's Commission on Political Geography.

El Arbi Mrabet, Research Fellow, Royal Institute for Strategic Studies, Morocco

El Arbi Mrabet is holder of a "Doctorat d'Etat" of law, Bachelor of English (American Literature and civilization); former Governor in charge of the Coordination between the Government of Morocco and the MINURSO, former Dean of the Faculty of Law and Economics, Mohammed First University of Oujda, and Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the same Faculty. In addition, Mr. Mrabet is holder of the UNESCO Chair of Peace Culture International and currently an expert at the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies.

Said Saddiki, Director of the Political Studies and Public Law Laboratory Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

Said Saddiki is professor of international relations at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University (USMBA), where he heads the Political Studies and Public Law Laboratory since 2019. He received a Doctorate degree in Public Law (International Relations discipline) from Mohammed First University in Oujda, Morocco. He is the co-chair of the Research Committee 46 on Migration and Citizenship of the International Political Science Association (IPSA).

Élisabeth Vallet, Professor, RMC-Saint-Jean and Director of the Center for Geopolitical Studies - Raoul-Dandurand Chair, University of Quebec in Montreal

Élisabeth Vallet is associate professor at RMCC-Saint Jean, director of the Center for Geopolitical Studies of the Raoul-Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies, affiliate professor at the Department of Geography at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). She has been the Quebec lead for the Borders in Globalization program and is currently a co-researcher for the Borders in the 21st Century Program (University of Victoria). She is a regular columnist for the Canadian National Network (Radio-Canada) and for the newspaper *Le Devoir*.

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