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

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

Time: 31th 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) – Collaborative Research Centre/ SFB 1604 “Production of Migration”

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 C20 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 Sayım (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: Nikola Tietze (Berlin/Paris, tbc)

Yazid Benhadda (University of Exeter): “Inheriting a Document, Inheriting a Modern Border: the Passport and the Decolonisation of Morocco and Tunisia (1955-1962)”

Lennart Schmidt (Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam): "Making Borders Digital: 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 Organizations and the Control of Migration (The Roles of ICAO and IMO)"

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) "(Re-)Bordering the English Channel: the Production of (Un-)Wanted Channel Crossings in the 1990s"

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 (Potsdam/Berlin)

Frederik Doktor (EUF Flensburg / SFB 1604 Osnabrück), "Loss of State Control? Local Border Practices in Marseille and their Postimperial Reshaping after the 'Shock of Decolonization'"

Fabio Santos (University of Copenhagen): "Doing Borders Beyond Europe Proper: De/Colonial Histories, De/Migrantisation, and the Un/Making of European Elsewheres"

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