



PROGRAMME
OF THE
1ST EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION SPONSORED
EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP
ENTITLED
BORDERS OLD AND NEW:
TOWARDS A THEORETICAL AND APPLICATIVE FRAMEWORK
ANKARAN, 16 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

CENTRO STUDI SULLE AREE DI CONFINE – CENTRE FOR BORDER AREA STUDIES (BAS-SAC) has in 2000 successfully applied for a grant with the **EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION** (<http://www.esf.org/>) for two preparatory workshops in 2001 concerning border area studies. In the project proposal, it was stated that

The project proposal seeks to enable, and facilitate interdisciplinary research of European borders based on an original, comprehensive conceptual framework derived from studies done to time, and aims towards a theoretisation of these highly structured social environs as well as towards possible applicable results.

Basic theses were forwarded to the effect that

the members of the project group will build their debate on the notion that the areas of international borders represent a distinctly organised social environment, in that

1. it possesses a specific structure. Various state regimes may implement policies of either depopulation, or else, »artificial« population of its border areas: the »natural« populace may be supplemented by employees of state administration, industries and business, police and armed forces;
2. the presence of the border line enhances the processes of group diversification of the populace and renders them more clearly visible. Ethnic diversification is a case in point: while the nation state imposes its own categorisation (e.g. ethnic »minorities«), the populace, both »natural« and »artificial«, may form ethnic proximities and distances along quite differently drawn lines than does the state, often across the state border, of different cohesion and duration. The changes in state border regimen may prove to substantially affect these formations;
3. the strategies of manipulation with both state ideologies and folk theories on nation and state and other ways of imagining the community are likewise rendered more clearly visible with the presence of the absolute divisor, the border line. The communication between the »high system« (the state elites) and the »low«, local system can be studied in terms of its hypothetical reciprocity: not merely as the intrusion of »entrepreneurs« of the high system into the locality, but also as the impulses sent into the former by local social »proxies«. In this exchange, ideologies of Us, You and Them are constantly negotiated and rendered both meaningful and useful as strategems for social action;
4. the latter is frequently informed by notions distinctly opposed to state ideologies of nation. It has been observed that people at state borders often cultivate group perspectives on ethnic and national identity issues that are distinctly non-categorical, non-primordialist and non-essentialist. Thus, some border areas can be said to act as »pauses« in the flow of (exclusivist nationalist and ethnic) ideologies that otherwise permeate the national social spaces. This may be true despite the fact that
5. in the border areas, state and national agencies usually make special efforts to firmly embed various markers of distinctiveness, e.g. exact border lines in terms of (national) language, »culture«, sometimes even religion etc.

The aim of the two preparatory workshops is to draw a joint international research project, based on a set of hypotheses agreed upon, and a unified methodology, to be submitted to various potential financiers, among them the ESF itself.

The second, follow-up ESF workshop will be held from December 14 – 16 in Vienna. It will assemble representatives of working groups as they will form in Ankaran, to write up the contents of a joint research project to be carried out on various locations throughout Europe and possibly beyond. The project representatives' group will be joined by the Scientific Council of the **BAS-SAC**.

Definitive
information

to
all
participants

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OBJECTIVE

**SECOND
WORKSHOP
ANNOUNCED**



The Ankaran workshop will be carried out in four sessions, as follows:

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16, 16.00 – 18.30

Chair: dr. Dan Rabinowitz; Moderator: dr. Piero Vereni

16.00 – 16.15: Introductory statement by the **BAS-SAC** leadership (dr. Iver Neumann);

16.15 – 16.45: Presentation of the base hypotheses as put forward in the application (dr. Irena Sumi).

Coffee break

17.00 – 18.30: Comments.

Dinner

MONDAY, SEPT. 17, 9.00 – 13.30

Chair: dr. Robert Minnich; Moderator: dr. Karl Stuhlfarrer

9.00 – 9.30: Case studies in international border areas: a thematic and comparative inventory (dr. Thomas Wilson);

9.30 – 11.00: Comments: building a map of significant case studies and locations.

Coffee break

11.10 – 12.40: Interest in the international border areas across disciplines (dr. James Anderson);

12.40 – 13.30: Comments.

Lunch

MONDAY, SEPT. 17, 15.00 – 18.30:

Chair: dr. Krzysztof Zagorski; Moderator: dr. Duska Knezevic Hocevar

15.00 – 16.30: Identifying salient topics, places, problems and methodologies (dr. Liam O'Dowd);

Coffee break

16.30 – 18.30 Comments: Identifying salient topics, places, problems and methodologies: building a final agenda of the prospect joint project's contents and goals (cont'd).

Workshop dinner

TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 9.00 – 12.00:

Chair: dr. Albina Necak Luk; Moderator: dr. Warwick Armstrong

9.00 – 10.30: Drawing a plan of action (dr. Pertti Joenniemi)

Coffee break

10.40 – 11.40: Comments: Drawing a plan of action: agenda for the Vienna meeting in December

11.40 – 12.20: Plenary: Summary of the workshop by chairpersons and moderators. Concluding remarks of the **BAS-SAC** leadership.

Lunch, Departures

The ESF/BAS exploratory workshops are convened by dr. Irena Sumi, assistant professor of anthropology, **BAS-SAC** president.

It is the decision of the preparatory group that, aside to the two overviews of base hypotheses and case studies done to time in border area studies, there will be no written presentations or papers required for the Ankaran meeting. The members of the preparatory group feel that sessions with fully wrote-up presentations tend to limit the presenters to a specific line of argumentation, to the discussion of their chosen fieldwork location, specific intellectual traditions and more narrow specialisations involved, while our goal is to provide an ambience for a lively discussion across case studies, theories and methodology, the possibilities for applicative research, and an active exchange of ideas.

The whole event will, however, be audio-recorded and a written extract of all debates provided to all participants well before the Vienna follow-up workshop, with possibilities of a publication in mind (see below, **AIMS AND RESULTS**).

STRUCTURE
THE ANKARAN
ESF WORKSHOP

FORMAT



This participant list is conclusive.

PARTICIPANTS
THE KOPER
ESF WORKSHOP

NAME	COUNTRY	REPRESENTING/INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION
JAMES ANDERSON social geography	Ireland	CIBR - Centre for international borders research, Belfast
WARWICK ARMSTRONG social geography	Oxford	ESRC – Transnational communities programme
BOJAN BASKAR anthropology	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Institutum studiorum humanitatis, Ljubljana
GREGG BUCKEN-KNAPP political science	Denmark	IFG - Danish institute of border region studies, Aabenraa
DIETER HALLER anthropology	Germany	Europa university Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder
PERTTI JOENNIEMI political science	Finland	Copenhagen peace research institute
DUSKA KNEZEVIC HOCEVAR anthropology	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Research centre of the Slovenian academy of sciences and art, Ljubljana
ROBERT GARY MINNICH anthropology	Norway	BAS-SAC/ University of Bergen
ALBINA NECAK LUK sociolinguistics	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Faculty of letters, University of Ljubljana
LIAM O'DOWD sociology	Ireland	CCBS - Centre for cross-border studies, Belfast
DAN RABINOWITZ anthropology	Israel	University Tel Aviv
CLIVE SCHOEFIELD political geography	Great Britain	IBRU, University of Durham
KARL STUHLPFARRER history	Austria	BAS-SAC/ University of Klagenfurt
IRENA SUMI anthropology	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Institute of ethnic studies, Ljubljana
HENK VAN HOUTUM social geography	The Netherlands	Nijmegen Centre for Border Research, Nijmegen
PIERO VERENI anthropology	Italy	BAS-SAC / Università' Ca'Foscari, Venice
THOMAS M. WILSON anthropology	Ireland	CIBR –Centre for international borders Research, Belfast
KRZYSTOF ZAGORSKI sociology	Poland	CBOS, Public opinion research center, Warsaw
FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMANN social geography	Austria	BAS-SAC/ Karl Franzens university, Graz

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/ss/sp/cibr/>

<http://www.transcom.ox.ac.uk/>

<http://www.ish.si/>

<http://www.ifg.dk/>

<http://www.euv-frankfurt-o.de/>

<http://www.copri.dk/>

<http://www.zrc-sazu.si/>

<http://www.uib.no/>

<http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/>

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/ccbs/>

<http://www.tau.ac.il/>

<http://www-ibru.dur.ac.uk>

<http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/>

<http://www2.arnes.si/~ljinvl6/indexa.htm>

<http://www.kun.nl/ncbr/>

see above

<http://www.cbos.com.pl/>

<http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at/homepage.html>

PREPARATORY GROUP

The members of the preparatory group are:

- Dr. Warwick Armstrong, Great Britain
- Dr. Duska Knezevic Hocevar, Slovenia
- Dr. Robert Gary Minnich, Norway
- Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer, Austria
- Dr. Irena Sumi, Slovenia (Convenor)
- Dr. Piero Vereni, Italy



For additional information, please feel free to contact dr. Irena Sumi (irena.sumi@guest.arnes.si), or send enquiries to the **BAS-SAC** e-mail address: iabasa1@yahoo.com All participants of the Ankaran ESF event will be contacted with regard to their travel arrangement and accomodation.

CONTACTS

The preparatory group envisions threefold results of the two ESF sponsored workshops:

AIMS AND RESULTS

1. The formulation of the joint international research project proposal;
2. A volume (or possible multiple volumes) with the “digest” of the two ESF Exploratory Workshops. Border area/region studies being a relatively recent interdisciplinary problem field whose theoretisation is still vigorously underway across the disciplines, such a volume would seek to identify, articulate, comment upon, and develop the issues discussed in the two ESF Workshops.
3. An ensuing network of specialists in border area/region studies would be formed, extending and strengthening the extant cooperating individuals and networks. Within **BAS-SAC**, a special initiative to this end was formed (see below, **RELATED INITIATIVE**).

CENTRO STUDI SULLE AREE DI CONFINE – CENTRE FOR BORDER AREA STUDIES is an international association of students in border area studies, established in 1997 under the Italian law and based in Tarvisio, Italy. Its main, but not exclusive, area of research is the Triple border region among Italy, Austria and Slovenia, an area with a turbulent history during the past century, multilingual populations, and intricate and complex social and ethnic relations. Members of the **BAS-SAC** are predominantly specialists in various disciplines (e.g. history, sociology, social anthropology, sociolinguistics) who have done fieldwork in the area and come from several different countries, notably Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Norway.

INFORMATION ON THE CENTRO STUDI SULLE AREE DI CONFINE – CENTRE FOR BORDER AREA STUDIES

In the current mandate 2001-2005, our Administrative Board consists of:

Dr. Irena Sumi, president;
Prof. Friedrich Zimmermann, vice-president;
Dr. Tatiana Bajuk Sencar, secretary and treasurer;
Dr. Duska Knezevic Hocevar, member;
Dr. Piero Vereni, member.

Members of the Scientific Council are:

Prof. Roberto Gusmani;
Dr. Anne Knudsen;
Prof. Thomas Luckmann;
Dr. Robert Gary Minnich;
Prof. Albina Necak Luk;
Dr. Iver Neumann.

Prof. emeritus dr. Thomas Luckmann's presence at the workshop is expected.

Please note that our homepage is under construction and will be ready for visitors shortly.

In December 2000, **BAS-SAC** advanced, in a circle of colleagues throughout Europe, the idea for **forming an European Association** of border area students. To time, a number of colleagues responded favourably and are prepared to serve in the Steering Committee for such an Association. The current stage of developments will be incorporated as an extracurricular issue of the Ankaran ESF event, with the suggestion that the formalisation of the initiative be organised as an spin-off event of the December ESF workshop. Formal ties with the extant international association, the Association for Borderlands Studies based at University of Arizona, will be proposed (<http://www.absborderlands.org/>).

RELATED INITIATIVE