

Headlines Border Security in the EU: Local Perspectives

Richard Staring (EUR) & Maartje van der Woude (UL)

International Seminar & PhD masterclass Transformative Borders, Leiden, March 14-16, 2018

From March 14- 16, 2018 Maartje van der Woude and Richard Staring organized an international seminar and PhD masterclass on the topic of “Transformative Borders and the Politics of Migration in Western Liberal Democracies. Both events were organized as part of the NWO VIDI Grant “Getting to the Core of Cimmigration” of Maartje van der Woude as well as the LDE Centre for Safety and Security project “Border Security in the EU: Local Perspectives” led by Richard Staring.

Participants to the seminar were selected and invited based on the contribution to the scholarship on bordering in the context of migration control. In doing so, it was ensured that scholars came from a variety of disciplines ranging from law, sociology, criminology, anthropology, geography, sociology of law, etc. According to Van der Woude, the notion of bordering is not to be understood other than through an interdisciplinary lens. One of the main goals of the seminar was thus to connect different scholars in the field of bordering and to build bridges between the various disciplines and their unique methodological and theoretical approaches. Next to the organizers, there were researchers from the NWO VICI project Cities of Refuge, Oxfords Border Criminologies Network, The Nordic research group NORDHOST: Nordic Hospitalities in a context of Migration and Refugee Crisis, the Swiss research group NCCR On the Move. Restricting Immigration: Practices, Experiences and Resistance and the Centre for Border Research in Nijmegen.

Over the course of the two days, scholars discussed the transformation of borders as well as the transformative effects of borders on public and private actors, migrants as well as on localities. Looking at different levels of states and organizations as well as a variety of actors, the researchers found common themes emerge from the interdisciplinary research such as discretion and decision making and the role of the local vs (supra)national. These will be discussed and elaborated further and brought together for a special issue of the international peer reviewed journal *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order*



Poster presentation PhDs

With so much (inter)national expertise in Leiden, and with so many PhD students from various research groups dealing with similar questions and challenges, the two-day seminar was followed by a one-day PhD and postdoc masterclass “Researching responses to migration”.

With contributions by Dr Alpa Parmar, University of Oxford, Dr Irena Vega, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and prof. Nancy Wonders, (Northern Arizona University), participants were able to exchange knowledge, experiences and expertise on the research process and qualitative methods, issues of positionality, ethics an integrity and data collection in various contexts. The master class was highly appreciated and strengthened the represented research groups on the level of the junior researchers.



Lecturers Master class

See also

<http://europeanbordercommunities.eu/events/bordering-practices-and-the-politics-of-mobility>
<http://europeanbordercommunities.eu/events/masterclass-researching-responses-tot-migration>

Panel on Border security and border crossings, International Conference Utrecht May 7-8, 2018

Together with dr. Ilse van Liempt (Utrecht University), Richard Staring organized a session entitled 'Facilitating contemporary journeys of unwanted travellers to Europe' during the international conference "EU at the crossroads of migration: critical reflections on the 'refugee crisis' and new migration deals" on May 7-8 in Utrecht. During this session the focus was very much on different forms of migration control within and at the borders of the European Union as well as outside the European Union (through for instance bilateral agreements) and how this control influences the journeys of migrants and refugees reaching for one of the European Union Countries. Europe has closed its borders for the legal entry of specific categories of travellers, and simultaneously allowed the deaths of many migrants at its external borders. The majority of these contemporary and unsolicited 'guests' can only travel with the help of facilitating structures within - or even outside their social networks. Different actors within these social networks, operating with different motives towards the migrants compete with each other. Going beyond the well-known support of human smugglers as well as relatives and friends of the migrants, the recent 'refugee crisis' illustrates how new supportive ties – among which ngo's, fellow-travellers and border control agencies - develop during the fragmented journeys of these migrants and refugees.

During the session the presenters directed their attention on the different routes towards Europe and the different actors that somehow facilitate (parts of) the journeys of these travellers and questions how these actors facilitate the migrant's journey as well as how these divergent ties interact with migration and border control. Next to Richard Staring, Sophie Scholten (Dutch Police Academy), Fransje Molenaar (Conflict Research Unit, the Clingendael Institute, The Hague), Milena Belloni (Department of Sociology, University of Trento), and Polly Pallister-Wilkins (Political Science, University of Amsterdam) were invited. The session was made possible through the financial support of the LDE 'Border Security in the EU: Local Perspectives' project.

Work in progress/forthcoming:

- Special issue: "Transforming Borders and the Politics of Mobility in Western Liberal Democracies" in international peer reviewed journal "Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order". Guest editors R. Staring & M. van der Woude.
- Special issue: "Migration Routes and Transnational Networks and Institutions" in international peer reviewed journal *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS)*,. Guest editors R. Staring, E. Snel & Ö. Bilgili, to be published in 2019.
- Writing a final research proposal based on the input of the scholars who participated in two international seminars we organized in 2017 and 2018, the panel on journeys described above for (possible options):
 - Horizon 2020: Understanding migration mobility patterns: elaborating mid and long-term migration scenarios (MIGRATION-01-2019) - Deadline 14 March 2019
 - Horizon 2020: Social and economic effects of migration in Europe and integration policies (MIGRATION-03-2019), Deadline 14 March 2019.
 - Nationale Wetenschapsagenda - Onderzoek op Routes door Consortia (NWA-ORC)