

## CONFERENCE

# ***BORDERLANDS: BOUNDARIES, GOVERNANCE AND POWER IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S RELATIONS WITH NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST***

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Villa La Fonte, Via delle Fontanelle, 18 - San Domenico di Fiesole

**20-21 JUNE 2016**

## ■ INTRODUCTION

The BORDERLANDS research project investigates relations between the European Union and the countries of the Mediterranean Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through the concept of borderlands. This concept emphasises the disaggregation of the triple function of borders inherent in the Westphalian model of statehood: demarcating state territory, authority, and national identity. The project explores the complex and differentiated process by which the EU extends its unbundled functional and legal borders, together with its rules and practices, to the MENA area, thereby transforming it into borderlands. These borderlands are then connected to the European 'core' through various legal and functional regimes, patterns of governance, and the selective outsourcing of some EU border control duties.

The main objective of the conference is to present and discuss some of the main research findings of the BORDERLANDS project to date. The conference will address possible conceptualisations of the EU and its policies towards its vicinity, in particular the MENA region. It will analyse the modalities of EU policies towards MENA states in the fields of migration, security, trade and energy and discuss the implication of these policies for MENA states. More specifically, the conference will look at the processes by which the EU contributes to the restructuring of the socio-economic and political order in MENA states, and it will assess the response of these states. The crucial questions of interdependence, power and leverage in EU-MENA relations will be addressed in this context. The second objective of the conference is to place the research findings in a comparative perspective: on the one hand, scholars are invited to compare the patterns of EU-MENA relations with EU policies towards other regions. On the other, comparisons will be drawn between EU-MENA borderlands relations and regional border dynamics in other areas of the world.

The conference is part of the research project "BORDERLANDS: Boundaries, Governance, and Power in the European Union's Relations with North Africa and the Middle East". Funded by the European Research Council, the project is hosted at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI, and directed by Prof Raffaella A. Del Sarto.

## ■ PROGRAMME

### 20 JUNE

09.00 - 09.30

Welcome and Introduction to the BORDERLANDS project

**Brigid Laffan** | EUI

**Angela Liberatore** | European Research Council Executive Agency

**Raffaella A. Del Sarto** | SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University and EUI

#### Panel 1

09.30-11.00

Borderlands: Conceptualising EU-MENA relations

Chair: **Rainer Bauböck** | EUI

*The re-making of European territory*

**Jan Zielonka** | Oxford University

*Petits arrangements avec l'Empire: Reflections on imperial power at its fringes*

**Magali Gravier** | Copenhagen Business School

*Borders at the interface: The changing dynamics of the bordering process between the Middle East and Europe*

**David Newman** | Ben-Gurion University

*Normative Empire Europe: Conceptualizing the EU's relations with the Middle East and North Africa*

**Raffaella A. Del Sarto** | SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University and EUI

Discussant: **Mark Gilbert** | SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

#### Panel 2

11.30-13.00

Exporting the EU order beyond the border

Chair: **Marise Cremona** | EUI

*Scope and limits of EU functionalist power in neighbourhood relations*

**Sandra Lavenex** | University of Geneva

*The impact of the EU-led agricultural and industrial reforms in North Africa*

**Christos Kourtelis** | Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

*The European Union and Turkey: Transforming the European periphery into European borderlands*

**Meltem Müftuler-Baç** | Sabancı University

*The EU's migration policy towards its southern neighbours: Recent trends*

**Mohamed Limam** | University of Sousse

Discussant: **Amichai Magen** | Stanford University / IDC Herzliya

13.00-14.30

Lunch

Panel 3

- 14.30-16.00      Restructuring the socio-economic and political order in MENA states  
Chair: **Mette Zølner** | Copenhagen Business School  
*The fine line between norm ownership and norm subversion: Domesticating EU-promoted financial sector reforms in Egypt*  
**Roberto Roccu** | King's College  
*Norm localization and migration laws in the Maghreb*  
**Ylenia Rocchini** | EUI  
*Promoting integrated border management in the EU neighbourhood: Localizing Schengen norms on the Lebanese-Syrian border*  
**Simone Tholens** | Cardiff University / EUI  
*EU-Morocco relations: Limited influence on technical governance issues?*  
**Sylvia Bergh** | Erasmus University Rotterdam  
Discussant: **Jean-Pierre Cassarino** | Institut de recherche sur le Maghreb contemporain de Tunis
- 16.00-16.30      Coffee break

Panel 4

- 16.30-18.00      Restructuring the socio-economic and political order in MENA states 2  
Chair: **Olivier Roy** | EUI  
*Contesting European norms and practices: The European Union and Turkey's hybridised border management strategy*  
**Asli Selin Okay** | EUI  
*The EU and the development of Algeria's human capital*  
**Thomas Serres** | EUI  
*The internal and external dimensions of Borderlands: Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the natural gas sector*  
**Alessandro Rubino** | Bari University / Nature Energy  
*The EU and security sector reform in the southern neighbourhood*  
**Dimitris Bouris** | University of Amsterdam  
Discussant: **Amel Boubekur** | University of Grenoble

**21 JUNE**

Panel 5

- 9.30-11.00      Interdependence, power and leverage in EU-MENA relations  
Chair: **Laura Guazzone** | University of Rome  
*Analysing EU Neighbour countries' bargaining chips and their strategic use of migration control*  
**Jonathan Zaragoza-Cristiani** | EUI

*Beyond normativity: EU security policy towards Morocco and Tunisia after the uprisings*

**Francesco Cavatorta** | University of Laval, **Federica Zardo** | University of Turin

*Forms of reverse diffusion*

**Jean-Pierre Cassarino** | Institut de recherche sur le Maghreb contemporain de Tunis

*Fragmented borders, power and interdependence in the Israel-Palestine-European Union triangle*

**Raffaella A. Del Sarto** | SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University / EUI

Discussant: **Daniela Huber** | Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

Panel 6

11.30-12.30

Comparative perspectives: The EU and other regions

Chair: **László Bruszt** | EUI

*Power and leverage in EU-Africa trade relations*

**Angelos Sepos** | University Al-Ikhawan

*Shallow Europeanization: Conditionality and accountability mechanisms in the Balkans*

**Arolda Elbasani** | Columbia University

Discussant: **Tamirace Fakhoury** | Lebanese American University

12.30-14.00

Lunch

Panel 7

14.00-15.30

Comparative perspectives: Border dynamics and regionalism in other areas

Chair: **Jennifer Welsh** | EUI

*The borderlands concept: Does it apply to China's relations with its Asian neighbours?*

**Rosemary Foot** | University of Oxford

*Borders in regional worlds: A post-Westphalian perspective*

**Amitav Acharya** | American University, Washington, DC

*The changing dynamics of regional integration in Latin America*

**Carlos Closa Montero** | Spanish National Research Council

*The border in U.S.-Mexico border relations: From alienation to integration*

**Oscar Martinez** | University of Arizona

Discussant: **Daniel C. Bach** | Sciences Po Bordeaux

15.30-16.00

Coffee break

16.00-17.30

Concluding panel discussion: The EU, its borderlands and beyond

Chair: **Raffaella A. Del Sarto** | SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University / EUI

**Thomas Diez** | University of Tübingen

**Pinar Bilgin** | Bilkent University

**Haykel Ben Mahfoudh** | University of Carthage

**Liesbet Hooghe** | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly** | University of Victoria (via Skype)