



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aims of the two preparatory workshops were:

- a. to examine state-of-the-art in the field of border studies world-wide, and in Europe specifically;
- b. to draw a joint international research project proposal, based on a set of hypotheses agreed upon, and a unified methodology, to be submitted to various potential financiers, among them the ESF itself;
- c. to form a permanent group of researchers Europe-wide for further collaboration;
- d. to initiate a Europe-wide inter-disciplinary association of scholars in the problem field of border and boundary studies.

A. At both meetings, in Ankaran, Slovenia, and in Vienna, Austria, the first objective was fully met. Presented and discussed were early, salient and paradigmatic explorations in the field from the point of view of various disciplines, notably social geography, social anthropology, sociology and economics. Broader theoretical implications of the findings of these various disciplines and traditions of investigations in international border areas were discussed in detail, with special regard to emergent new theoretisation of cultured social spaces. A successful, application-oriented synthesis of such generalised theoretical propositions was achieved and recorded. The specific features of European borders and border areas, both EU, non-EU, internal EU and future EU were considered, as were possible research methodologies that would allow for an in-depth, yet cross-case comparable study.

The generalised point of departure established by the group holds that the focus of the research projects proposals is on borders, how they function as barriers, bridges and symbols, and how these functions are changing – or need to change – in the processes of European integration and enlargement. With globalisation and European integration, borders are paradoxically becoming more important. As their functions change, borders are becoming increasingly differentiated, most notably in the contrast between internal and external EU borders. The borders of states, and related ethnic or cultural boundaries bring Europe-wide social issues and problems into sharp focus and crystallise social conflict. Borders are ‘frontiers of identity’ where different ‘systems’ meet in negotiation and in contestation. Here, they can most easily be compared; here, they most directly interact; and here it is easiest to observe their mutual contradictions, mismatches and misunderstandings. They are pivotal to the problems and possibilities for the ‘deepening and widening’ of the EU.

In light of these processes, certain disciplinary traditions such as social and political geography, sociology, political science, economics insisted on what may be termed a macro-diagnostic perspective. Salient social processes deemed to be especially evident at political borders were analysed in the broad context of international politics, political processes, economic developments and global trends. Conversely, anthropologists and some geographers persisted with the production of more locally-focused case studies emphasising micro-interpretations of the internal components within such macro contexts. These two perspectives, the diagnostic and the interpretative, were producing data and results that to a large extent lacked common ground.



B. It was decided that the project proposal(s) resulting from the work of the ESF preparatory workshops group should recognise this situation in border studies, and aim explicitly to draw these two perspectives into closer proximity to allow a common thematic approach to be created. Consequently, a new standard agenda for border studies can be articulated that has the potential to significantly affect work in this field.

It was decided that two separate project proposals be prepared and submitted to various funding agencies. A first project proposal is to focus on international land borders; the aims of such a project would be:

- developing an initial, empirically evaluated inventory of complex border situations in Europe and in its neighbouring space;
- identifying recurrent, salient configurations of social agencies in border situations;
- constructing a typology of social agencies and their interactions in the highly structured social environment created and continuously re-created by the presence of the border;
- identifying lacunae in the present topic repertoire and in methodological approaches to border studies and articulating them for the promotion of future research.

A second project proposal should investigate the less clearly bounded spatial divisions such as airports, maritime ports and physical personnel movement communication channels. This study should focus on mobility within European and its neighbouring spaces, and obtain as a result a cognitive map of the ‘actual’ as opposed to politically drawn borders between home/neighbouring/familiar spaces and those that are, irrespective of their physical proximity, seen as foreign/alien by Europeans.

The work on both project proposals is to be concluded by June 1, 2002.

C. The group is determined to maintain its cohesion for the duration of these projects and beyond it, pending the successfulness of the proposals. In the course of project proposal preparation and the ensuing actual work on the projects, scientists from over 12 specialised European border studies institutes and university departments will be drawn in.

D. The initial plan to form an international, interdisciplinary association of scholars in border studies was found to be redundant in view of the existence of the *Association for Borderlands Studies* based in the University of Arizona, Arizona, U.S.A. Several group members already held membership of the ABS and the rest were encouraged to do take it up by the ABS Presidency with whom close relationship was established as the ABS was fully appraised of the work of the ESF exploratory workshop group. As a consequence, the group was represented at the ABS meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A., between April 10–3, 2002 (<http://www.absborderlands.org/>).

The members of the organising committee of the ESF exploratory workshop entitled *Borders old and new: towards a theoretical and applicative framework* were: Dr. Warwick Armstrong, Great Britain; Dr. Duska Knezevic Hocevar, Slovenia; Dr. Robert Gary Minnich, Norway; Dr. Karl Stuhlpfarrer, Austria; Dr. Irena Sumi, Slovenia; and Dr. Piero Vereni, Italy.

Irena Sumi



1ST EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION SPONSORED
EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP

**BORDERS OLD AND NEW:
TOWARDS A THEORETICAL AND APPLICATIVE FRAMEWORK**

ANKARAN, 16 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

PROGRAMME

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 strategms 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.



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. Thomas Luckmann);

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 Stuhlpfarrer

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



PARTICIPANTS - THE ANKARAN ESF WORKSHOP

This participant list is conclusive.

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
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 / Universita' Ca'Foscari, Venice
THOMAS M. WILSON anthropology	Ireland	CIBR –Centre for international borders Research, Belfast
KRZYSZTOF ZAGORSKI sociology	Poland	CBOS, Public opinion research center, Warsaw
FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMANN social geography	Austria	BAS-SAC/ Karl Franzens university, Graz

The members of the preparatory group were:

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.



2nd EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION SPONSORED
EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP

**BORDERS OLD AND NEW:
TOWARDS A THEORETICAL AND APPLICATIVE FRAMEWORK**

VIENNA, 11 – 13 JANUARY 2002

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, JAN 11, 15.00 – 18.30

Chair: dr. Irena Sumi

15.00 – 17.00: Review of work done in preparation of joint project proposal; collecting the materials;

17.00 – 17.15: Coffee break;

17.15 – 18.30: Detailed review of research site description and site crew personnel.

Dinner.

SATURDAY, JAN. 12, 9.00 – 13.00

Chair: dr. Duska Knezevic Hocevar

9.00 – 11.00: Review of project contents, adding up;

11.00 – 11.15: Coffee break

11.15 – 13.00: Finalisation of project contents;

Lunch.

SATURDAY, JAN. 12, 15.00 – 18.30

Chair: dr. Henk van Houtum

15.00 – 17.00: Financial construction of the project;

17.00 – 17.15: Coffee break;

17.15 – 18.30: Finalisation of financial plan;

Dinner.

SUNDAY, JAN. 13, 9.00 – 13.00

Chair: dr. Warwick Armstrong

9.00 – 10.00: Project apparatus (CVs, bibliographies, partner organisation information) check-up;

10.00 – 10.15: Coffee break;

10.15 – 13.00: Editing the project proposal on computer;

Lunch.

SUNDAY, JAN. 13, 15.00 – 18.30

Chair: dr. James Anderson

15.00 – 17.00: Final reading of the project proposal;

17.00 – 17.15: Coffee break;

17.15 – 18.30: Final session: planning follow-up research designs;

Dinner.



PARTICIPANTS - THE VIENNA ESF WORKSHOP

This participant list is conclusive:

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
GREGG BUCKEN-KNAPP political science	Denmark	IFG - Danish institute of border region studies, Aabenraa
SHELAGH FURNESS geography	Great Britain	IBRU – University of Durham
DUSKA KNEZEVIC HOCEVAR anthropology	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Research centre of the Slovenian academy of sciences and art, Ljubljana
ANDREJ KVEDER mathematical sociology	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Research centre of the Slovenian academy of sciences and art, Ljubljana
IRENA SUMI anthropology	Slovenia	BAS-SAC/ Institute of ethnic studies, Ljubljana
HENK VAN HOUTUM social geography	The Netherlands	Nijmegen Centre for Border Research, Nijmegen
FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMANN social geography	Austria	BAS-SAC/ Karl Franzens university, Graz

The members of the preparatory group were:

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



The organisers envision threefold results of the two ESF sponsored workshops:

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.

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.

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/>).