Call For Papers

The Power of Borderland(s): In Media's Res
International and Interdisciplinary Conference, Greifswald/ Germany, 28-30 June 2018

The International Research Training Group (IRTG) "Baltic Borderlands: Shifting Boundaries of Mind and Culture in the Borderlands of the Baltic Sea Region", a collaborative programme between the universities of Lund, Tartu, and Greifswald, invites proposals for conference papers that discuss the context and medialization of border crossing (or transgression) and the establishment (or dissolution) of borderlands. We invite papers from the humanities and social sciences, e. g. history and art history, linguistics and literary studies, political sciences, gender studies, sociology, and digital humanities that address maps, literary texts, academic accounts, biographical notes, press media, film, digital productions and their story as well as the impact on conceptualizations of borders and borderlands.

Pekka Hämäläinen and Samuel Truett reflect in their 2011 account "On Borderlands" about the expansion of research approaches and the usefulness of the fashionable (academic) application of the borderland concept in the humanities. Although the concept had been applied with varying degrees of success, the power of borderlands as analytical tool appears already in Gloria Anzaldúa's summary of her own stories of living in the borderland, namely borderlands exist wherever two or more cultures exist. Similarly, the observation of Etienne Balibar that "borders are everywhere" rely very much on narrativizations of experiences through different channels. These channels are particularly interesting in the context of this conference and include poetry, maps, biographical accounts and, more recently, numerous digital approaches.

Globalization supported a perspective of borderlessness beyond any containments like national, imperial or regional spaces and opened up these centrist research perspectives on spaces and orders. Spatial mobility here implies to cross borders, but does not mean to cross them out. They continue to be part of our cognitive and physical world. They remain part of our social, cultural, political and economic world making processes not only through experiences at and across the border but particularly through debates, discourses and images embedded in a multitude of narratives. We therefore ask: What happens with borders and borderlands in the narratives about times of historical and contemporary globalization? Do we cross or transgress borders? What does it mean when we use one or the other concept? Who has particular interest to present borders and borderlands in a specific way? Which media were used to disseminate ideas? Which of these choices confirm and which subvert the border? Do media and communication have an impact on these processes and hereby influence perceptions, constructions and dissolution of borders and borderlands?

Confirmed Keynote Speaker
Vlad Strukov, Film and Digital Culture, University of Leeds
Kazimierz Musiał, Political Sciences, University of Gdańsk

Submisssion
We invite contributions by both early career and senior scholars from the humanities and social sciences. The proposed papers should deal with historical and current perspectives on borderlands and the role of media (in a broader sense). Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words in English and a short biographical note by **28 February 2018** to: waterproj12[at]uni-greifswald.de. Applicants will be notified by **31 March 2018**.

Organisation
The conference is organized jointly by researchers from the IRTG Baltic Borderlands. Further information about the IRTG is available on our website:
https://phil.uni-greifswald.de/institute/einrichtungen/gk-baltic-borderlands/.

Funding
The IRTG Baltic Borderlands will fund travel and accommodation for invited speakers.

Further Information
Alexander Drost (Greifswald) alexander.drost@uni-greifswald.de

Address
IRTG Baltic Borderlands
Universities of Lund, Tartu, and Greifswald
Rubenowstraße 2
17489 Greifswald
Germany