

## Call for Papers



### **Contested Borderscapes**

### **Transnational Geographies vis-à-vis Fortress Europe**

September 28 - October 1, 2017

International Conference

Mytilene, Lesvos (Greece)

Urban Geography and Planning Laboratory,

"Invisible Cities" research team & Population Movements Laboratory

Department of Geography, University of the Aegean

<http://www.contested-borderscapes.net>

## Intro

*European member states are signatories to the Geneva Convention Related to the Status of Refugees.*

*Human rights and dignity are respected in detention centres across Europe.*

*An electrified fence was built to protect the nation-state from illegal intruders.*

*Traffickers are responsible for deaths by drowning in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.*

*Deportations are voluntary returns.*

*Turkey is a safe country.*

*War is peace.*

*Freedom is slavery.*

*Ignorance is strength.*

In 2016, Oxford English Dictionary declared “post-truth” the word of the year. In this Orwellian moment, the movement of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants across the increasingly militarised borders of Europe have instigated a socio-spatial debate about the limits of human rights, national sovereignties, continental values, precipitating and contributing to the ongoing condition of European crises. Although in the era of globalisation borders constitute porous passages for capital and commodities, at the same time they have hardened and ossified as “new enclosures” seeking to immobilise migrant and refugee populations. Fortress Europe emerges as a complex of new state control mechanisms, freshly erected border fences, newly built detention centres and improvised refugee camps; together, these technologies of migration management aim at the criminalisation, classification, stigmatisation, and biopolitical control of moving populations, fomented by xenophobic politics, and managed by humanitarian subcontractors. In this hostile climate, people on the move contest European border regimes, peripheries, and cityscapes by claiming spatial justice and political visibility while creating a nexus of emerging common spaces. They are joined by activists defending their right to movement, who are engaged in efforts to “welcome refugees” into a shrinking and contested public sphere, into alternative and self-organised social spaces, responding to the humanitarian crises wrought by militarism, violence, and structural adjustment with solidarity, stemming from a larger vision of sharing in each other’s struggles for survival and social transformation.

The island of Lesbos is a space of multiple histories of refugee passage, now reinvented as a “hot spot” in the contemporary European regime of migration management, but also reimagined by people who live there as a space of social solidarity with migrant struggles. It thus constitutes one epicentre, or “contested borderscape” of Fortress Europe, and a place where we might learn from local struggles and movements against its murderous politics. If, over the past year, the shores and seaways of Lesbos (“Lesbos”) gained international visibility as the backdrop to untold human suffering, loss, and survival, the purpose of gathering here is not to consume it as a spectacle; instead, we seek to learn from how people here have responded to, and organised in the urgency of what has become mediatised as “the refugee crisis.” The main aim of this international conference is to create a space of critical reflection in which academics, artists, and activists from different disciplines, backgrounds, and locations, can strategise, organise, and analyse the social landscapes of border-spaces such as this, and their reverberations for anti-border politics elsewhere.

We welcome proposals for various kinds of interventions, including, but not limited to: presentations of formal academic papers falling under one of the following five themes; brief provocations leading to open discussions; performance lectures; installations; exhibitions or screenings of visual work (e.g., film, photography, etc.); workshops (sharing practical knowledge, working through a particular idea or problem, teaching a methodology, approach, or framework). We wish to emphasise multidirectional discussion and open debate of contested—rather than “settled”—issues, as opposed to unidirectional knowledge transmission by institutionally acknowledged academic experts. As such, the conference will open with a plenary of local activists, and will culminate in a general assembly of all participants, mapping possibilities for future collaboration and exchange across and beyond Fortress Europe.

# Topics

## Track 1: The notion of the border

- Borderlands, borderscapes, borderlines, border regimes
- Borders and nomadism, diaspora, travel, heterotopias, and otherness
- In-between spaces, hybrid spaces, and threshold spaces vis-à-vis border fortification, militarisation, enclaves, ghettos, walling urbanism, state territories
- Bridging political, social, national, gender, religion and identity borders, boundaries and communities
- No borders, open borders, and border-crossing struggles, movements, and activism

## Track 2: Migrants' commoning practices

- Autonomy of migration and transnationalism
- Mobile common space; strategies and practices for survival, struggle, solidarity, networking, communication, mutual aid of the moving populations.
- Collective and sharing practices in migrants' informal settlements and camps
- Social solidarity, connections between the social struggles of the locals and the migrants; social philanthropy, humanitarianism, volunteering and NGO's industry
- Migrants' social centres, squatted buildings, and self-organised housing projects

## Track 3: New intersectional enclosures

- New enclosure policies, forced displacement, dispossession and grabbing of the means of production and reproduction, permanence of so-called primitive accumulation
- Class aspects of immigration, cheap workforce, surplus reserved army of unemployment

- Emergence of nationalistic-racist-fascist rhetoric and practice, (for instance, racist locals' committees, the role of church and media)
- Gendered aspects of immigration (women, lgbtq+, sexism, gendered violence, pregnancy)
- Age aspects of immigration (children and elderly people)
- Disability and immigration
- Cultural re-appropriation of moving populations
- Slavery, trafficking, human organs' trafficking

#### **Track 4: State and Hyperstate migrant policies**

- Fortress Europe, detention centers, hot spots, relocation policies, new border fences
- Law geographies, divisions between refugees and immigrants, criminalization and illegalization of border crossing, the right to citizenship and asylum
- Fear policies, xenophobia and biopolitics
- Health geographies, biosecurity and border controls
- Neocolonialism, geopolitics and war

#### **Track 5: Representations and communication**

- Cultural representations of the Other
- Landscape and representations of the Other
- Newcomers – new ideas – new cultural relations
- Art and multicultural representations
- Newcomers and e-books, e-sharing, horizontal e-actions
- Other history, other museum, oral history of newcomers

## **Submission Procedure**

We welcome proposals for various kinds of interventions, including, but not limited to: presentations of formal academic papers; brief provocations leading to open discussions; performance lectures; installations; exhibitions or screenings of visual work (e.g., film, photography, etc.); workshops (sharing practical knowledge, working through a particular idea or problem, teaching a methodology, approach, or framework).

Interested contributors are invited to submit by 20 February 2017 an abstract of maximum 500 words. Abstracts should include: title, keywords, track name, name of the author(s), name of the presenter, affiliation and full contact details (please fill the submission form, [link](#)). Authors will be notified by March 20, 2016, about the status of their proposals. There are no fees but we do not have funds to cover travel expenses. The organisers expect an edited volume to result from the gathering. Questions can be directed to [contestborders@gmail.com](mailto:contestborders@gmail.com).

## **Important Dates**

Abstracts Submission Deadline: March 1, 2017

Notification of Acceptance: March 20, 2017

Conference: Mytilene, Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, September 28 – October 1, 2017

## **Inquiries**

Inquiries may be directed to: [contestborders@gmail.com](mailto:contestborders@gmail.com)

<http://www.contested-borderscapes.net>

## **Organizing Committee**

### **Abatzi Matina**

MSc Student, member of research group Invisible Cities  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

### **Alexiou Xeni**

MSc in Human Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

### **Catapoti Despina**

Assistant Professor in Cultural Theory & Digital Culture  
Department of Cultural Technology and Communication  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

### **del Val Jaime**

Director of Reverso Institute, Coordinator of Metabody project  
Reverso, Madrid (Spain)

### **Gouvias Dionysios**

Associate Professor  
Department of Preschool Education Sciences and Educational Design (T.E.P.A.E.S.)  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

### **Jaidopulu Vrijea Maria**

Cultural geographer, member of Urban Geography Laboratory  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

### **Katseniou Elena**

Msc student at European Policies, Planning and Spatial Development  
Dept. of Geography, Harokopio University (Greece)

### **Lafazani Olga**

Postdoc researcher, ERC  
University of Barcelona (Spain)

### **Leontidou Lila**

Professor  
University of Peloponesus (Greece)

### **Makrygianni Vasiliki**

PhD Student, school of Architecture  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

### **Mermigkas Aris**

Honorary Advocate, Ass. member of Urban Geography and Planning Laboratory  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Montesantou Dafni**

MSc in Sociology  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Papachristou Ioanna - Anna**

PhD Student  
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - Barcelona Tech (Spain)

**Papada Evie**

PhD Student  
Loughborough University (UK)

**Papoutsi Anna**

PhD Student  
Birmingham University (UK)

**Petrakou Ilektra**

Assistant Professor in Urban Geography  
Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Petropoulou Christy**

Assistant Professor in Urban Geography  
Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Pitsikos Ilias**

Dr.  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Sampanikou Evi (Evangelia)**

Associate Professor in Art History and Visual Culture  
Department of Cultural Technology and Communication  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Stavrides Stavros**

Associate Professor in Architectural Design and Theory  
National Technical University of Athens (Greece)

**Tan Pelin**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Architecture  
Mardin Artuklu University (Turkey)

**Travlou Penny**

Lecturer  
University of Edinburgh (UK)

**Tsavdaroglou Haris**

Dr. Urban Planner  
Department of Spatial Planning and Development  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Tselepi Naya**

Dr Geographer  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Tsilimpounidi Myrto**

Marie Curie Fellow  
Institute of Sociology (Slovakia)

**Varvarousis Angelos**

PhD Student, Research Assistant of SINALECO project  
Universidad Autonoma Barcelona (Spain)

**Vradis Antonis**

Lecturer  
Loughborough University (UK)

**Zafeiris Constantinos**

MSc in Political Science and Sociology  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Scientific Committee****Alexandri Georgia**

Post-Doc Researcher  
Department of Political Science and International Relations  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)

**Arapoglou Vassilis**

Assistant Professor in sociology of inequalities and social exclusion  
Department of Sociology  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Avramopoulou Eirini**

Dr. Social Anthropology  
British School at Athens, A. G. Leventis Fellow (Greece)

**Betancourt Posada Alberto**

Professor

Colegio de Desarrollo y Gestión Intercultural, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras  
UNAM (Mexico)

**Carastathis Anna**

Independent Researcher

**Casas-Cortes Maribel**

PhD Hunt Fellow

Wenner-Gren Foundation (USA)

**Catapoti Despina**

Assistant Professor in Cultural Theory & Digital Culture  
Department of Cultural Technology and Communication  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Chatzaroula Pothiti**

Assistant Professor

University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Chourmouziadi Anastasia**

Assistant Professor

Department of Cultural Technology and Communication  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Cisneros Cesar**

Professor

Department of Sociology  
UAM-I (Mexico)

**Cobarrubias Sebastian**

Assistant Professor

University of North Carolina at Charlotte (USA)

**Dalisa Giacomo**

Post-Doc Fellow

ICTA Autonomous University of Barcelona

**del Val Jaime**

Director of Reverso Institute, Coordinator of Metabody project  
Reverso, Madrid

**Frangopoulos Yannis**

Assistant Professor of Sociology of Space  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Genç Fırat**

Lecturer  
Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey)

**Georgoulas Stratos**

Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Gialis Stelios**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**González Pérez Jesús Manuel**

Professor  
Universitat de les Illes Balears (Spain)

**Gouviás Dionysios**

Associate Professor  
Department of Preschool Education Sciences and Educational Design (T.E.P.A.E.S.)  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Gritzas Giorgos**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Spatial Planning and Development  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Jaidopulu Vrijea Maria**

Cultural geographer, member of Urban Geography Laboratory  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Hatziprokopiou Panos-Arion**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Spatial Planning and Development  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Iosifides Theodoros**

Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Kavoulakos Karolos**

Assistant Professor  
School of Political Sciences  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Kaika Maria**

Professor  
University of Manchester (UK)

**Khosravi Shahram**

Associate Professor  
Stockholm University (Sweden)

**Kioupiolis Alexandros**

Assistant Professor  
School of Political Sciences  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Lafazani Olga**

Postdoc researcher, ERC  
University of Barcelona (Spain)

**Leontidou Lila**

Professor  
University of Peloponesus (Greece)

**Lykogianni Rouli**

Associate Professor  
National Technical University of Athens (Greece)

**Marvakis Athanasios**

Professor in Clinical Social Psychology  
Department of Primary Education  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Mayer Margit**

Professor  
Center for Metropolitan Studies, Berlin (Germany)

**Mezzadra Sandro**

Associate Professor  
Department of Political and Social Sciences  
University of Bologna (Italy)

**Özgen Nese**

Professor  
University of Galatasaray (Turkey)

**Papadopoulos Dimitris**

Reader  
University of Leicester (UK)

**Papageorgiou Dimitris**

Professor

Department of Cultural Technology and Communication  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Parsanoglou Dimitris**

Dr.

Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)

**Peano Irene**

Post-Doc Researcher

Department of Political and Social Sciences  
University of Bologna (Italy)

**Petrakou Ilektra**

Assistant Professor in Urban Geography

Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Petropoulou Christy**

Assistant Professor in Urban Geography

Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Pitsikos Ilias**

Dr.

University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Plexousaki Efrosini (Efi)**

Assistant Professor

Department of Social Anthropology and History  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Pratsinakis Manolis**

Marie Curie IF post-doctoral fellow

University of Macedonia (Greece)

**Psimitis Michalis**

Professor

Department of Sociology  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Rozakou Katerina**

Post-Doc fellow

University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

**Sampanikou Evi (Evangelia)**

Associate Professor in Art History and Visual Culture  
Department of Cultural Technology and Communication  
University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Sander Katya**

Professor  
Head of Department of Language, Space and Scale  
The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Visual Arts (Denmark)

**Sitch Bryan**

Curator  
University of Manchester (UK)

**Stavrides Stavros**

Associate Professor in Architectural Design and Theory  
National Technical University of Athens (Greece)

**Tan Pelin**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Architecture  
Mardin Artuklu University (Turkey)

**Themelis Spyros**

Senior Lecturer  
University of East Anglia (UK)

**Travlou Penny**

Lecturer  
University of Edinburgh (UK)

**Trubeta Sevasti**

Visiting Professor  
Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)

**Tsavidaroglou Haris**

Dr. Urban Planner  
Department of Spatial Planning and Development  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Tselepi Naya**

Dr Geographer  
University of the Aegean

**Tsianos Vassilis**

Professor  
University of Applied Sciences Kiel (Germany)

**Tsilimpounidi Myrto**

Marie Curie Fellow

Institute of Sociology (Slovakia)

**Tsitselikis Konstantinos**

Professor

Department of Balkan, Slavic & Oriental Studies

University of Macedonia (Greece)

**Vradis Antonis**

Lecturer

Loughborough University (UK)

**Walsh Aylwyn**

Senior Lecturer

University of Leeds (UK)

**Yalçın Tan Murat**

Professor

Department of City & Regional Planning

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Turkey)

**Yiannitsiotis Yiannis**

Assistant Professor

Department of Social Anthropology and History

University of the Aegean (Greece)

**Yardimci Sibel**

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Turkey)