

"Borders in Southeast Europe"

Akademie für Politische Bildung /
Academy for Civic Education Tutzing,
September 30th to October 4th, 2019

Call for applications for master and doctoral students and post-doc students (Habilitierende)

The **Southeast Europe Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft – SOG)** is a non-profit organization that seeks to facilitate the exchange of expertise about Southeast Europe and with the countries of the region (see: www.sogde.org/suedosteuropa-gesellschaft/southeast-europe-association/).

From September 30th to October 4th, 2019, the SOG will hold its **58. International Academic Week (in German: Internationale Hochschulwoche)** to provide a forum for exchange and communication by bringing together experienced scholars and junior researchers doing empirical research on Southeast Europe.

The conference venue is the Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing on Lake Starnberg /Germany. The conference language will be English.

The International Academic Week is one of the SOG`s most important events addressing early career scholars (master and doctoral students as well as Post-Doc researchers) from German-speaking countries, from Southeast Europe and other European countries. This year`s event focuses on Borders in Southeast Europe with an interdisciplinary approach **under the academic direction of Dr. Jutta Lauth-Bacas (Cologne and Athens) and Prof. Dr. Christoph K. Neumann (Munich).**

The Southeast Europe Association`s International Academic Weeks aims at promoting academic discussions and international networking of leading specialists and younger academics. **This year`s interdisciplinary Academic Week addresses students, researchers and scientists from various disciplines, especially from Migration Studies, History, Cultural Anthropology, Political Science, Cultural Studies, Sociology, Economic Sciences, Political Sciences, International Relations, etc. to support the academic exchange and scientific analysis regarding Europe`s Southeastern borders.**

Early career scholars (MA and Ph.D. students and Post-Doc researchers) with an academic background in history, sociology, political sciences, geography, social sciences or social anthropology who are focusing their present research on borders in Southeast Europe are cordially invited to apply for an active participation. A selected number of these scholars will get the opportunity to briefly present themselves and their projects.

Closing date for application: 31st of May 2019

Please send your application (including a short outline of your paper with approximately 250 words and a short CV) to the organisers of the conference:

Dr. Jutta Lauth Bacas (jutta.lauth.bacas@gmail.com), Prof. Dr. Christoph K. Neumann

(christoph.neumann@lmu.de) and to the Southeast Europe Association (info@sogde.org).

Please also include your university affiliation and contact information when submitting the proposal.

Travel and Accommodation:

All applicants accepted for active participation are invited guests of the Southeast Europe Association (travel expenses, boarding and lodging) during the whole event. It is expected that scholars with SOG-grants participate at the entire conference (September 30th-October 4th, 2019) in Tutzing (close to Munich, see <https://www.apb-tutzing.de/english/>).

Travel expenses can be usually covered in the amount of a 2nd class train ticket to/from Tutzing. In cases of lacking accessibility with train or bus we will check options for travel with alternative means like inexpensive flight connections.

Conference Topic

The tide of nationalism and newly-independent nation states that swept the western hemisphere and much of the rest of the world in the nineteenth century created a set of border dynamics that are arguably still in play in the early twenty first century. As scholars such as Saskia Sassen and Charles Maier have noted, these states sought to assert exclusive territorial sovereignty in ways that empires and feudal societies often did not. Their success created not only the free, rights-holding citizens at the centre of nation-centred histories, but also stateless peoples whose territories were subsumed or bisected by international borders, and who in turn have often been marginalized in historical scholarship.

A number of events that are of considerable long-term, as well as immediate, importance to the shaping of the modern world's management of boundaries took place along the frontiers of the Ottoman and Habsburg Empires in Southeast Europe during the 1856-1919 period. The scale of demographic upheaval within what became transitional borderlands transformed the legal, political, and socioeconomic ways to delineate state power and subject once communal lands to economic exploitation. The unmanageable flux of migrants, often involuntarily uprooted because of wars or natural disasters, both threatened and animated the whole of Southeast Europe.

These processes continued in the twentieth century, when national states attained a position that helped them strengthening and, indeed, frequently sealing off their borders infrastructurally and ideologically. Of central importance have been national dividing lines (which continue to be re-drawn in the present), ideological rifts such as those created by the Cold War or separations such as the creation of an European core that establishes and argues about different regimes of access and closure toward the people and territories of the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean.

At present, the borders of Southeast Europe are again being negotiated as fledgling states such as Kosovo's attempt to establish territorial integrity and the regime of internal (such as the one between the parts of Bosnia and Hercegovina) and external borders are subject of debate, conflict and even strife. European integration works in the direction of softening borders and abolishing some of their aspects (such as their function as economic barriers) while, on the other hand, the EU and some of their members states fortify their borders and strengthen the regimes in order to stem global migration. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, many kilometres of new border fences have been erected in the past decade at the Greek-Turkish Border, at the Greek-Bulgarian border and the Hungarian border to fence off the EU-territory from unwanted crisis migrants. In September 2018, the European Commission decided on stronger EU borders and to increase the FRONTEX budget to a total amount of 11.3 billion EURO.

Parallel to these intensified securitization efforts, critical border studies have developed as a new field of interdisciplinary research. Social sciences and humanities are co-operating, while immediate administrative, political and economic concerns direct the attention of public opinion to the question of borders. Redefinitions in legal, spatial and cultural terms are needed. The European Union, to a large degree founded on the project of softening and even abolishing internal borders, today appears to be defined by its external border. The way to administer, guard and open it is at the forefront of European debates.

Topics to be addressed:

- From Empires to Nation States
- Border Conflicts during the Cold War and Aftermath
- Surveillance and Informality at Borders
- The European Border Crisis and the Forgotten Balkan Route
- European Integration and Southeast European Borders
- Imagining and Performing Borders

A Keynote will be given by Prof. Dr. Isa Blumi (Stockholm).

