

For the 15th Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality, the WZB, Humboldt University of Berlin, and the Irmgard Coninx Stiftung cordially invite you to a series of lectures on

Borders and Borderlands: Contested Spaces Between States

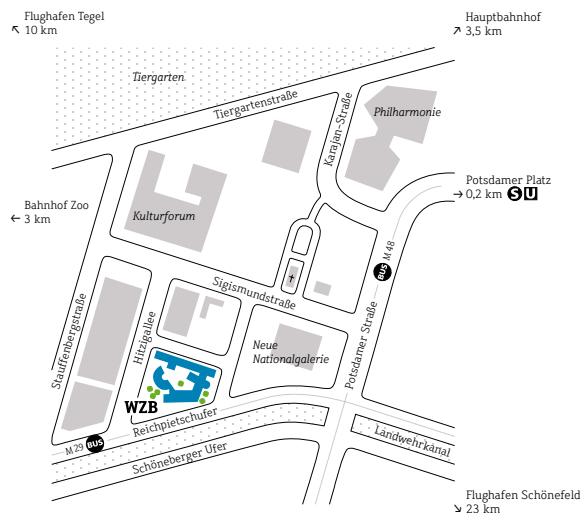
A world without borders persists to be a dream for many people. The reality albeit looks different. In a series of public lectures accompanying the 15th Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality, we want to investigate how borders influenced and influence personal lives and everyday politics, how they came into existence as odd “lines in spaces” in various parts of the world and how they have to be managed in an age of technological and environmental hazards.

Lectures will be followed by a discussion and reception.

All lectures are held in English.

Organized by:
Irmgard Coninx Stiftung, WZB and
Humboldt University of Berlin

Registration:
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WZB

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
für Sozialforschung



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Borders and Borderlands: Contested Spaces Between States

March 28 – 30, 2012

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 6 p.m.

Jens Reich

Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine

Contested Borders: Intellectual Life under the Tutelage of a Dictatorship

Drawing on his personal experience as scientist and civil rights activist, Jens Reich will delineate four decades of European history shaped by the Berlin Wall. After its erection many East Germans had to cope with the deep intellectual melancholy of the first decade of “living in a cage” and being cut off from “the rest” of the world. In the 1970s and 1980s a coming-out of the snail shell of intellectual self-isolation took place, influenced by the Eastern European Perestroika that opened up new perspectives. As a result, East Germans became strongly “easternized” – culturally, intellectually, and in political terms – and joined the peaceful revolutionary movement that toppled an entire empire.

Jens Reich is professor for molecular medicine and member of the German Ethics Council. As son of a medical doctor in Halberstadt, he studied medicine at Humboldt University of Berlin and soon turned to research. In the 1970s, he co-founded a private opposition group on which the Stasi soon spied. Shortly after his appointment as head of the department at the Central Institute of Molecular Biology, he lost this post and was further sanctioned with a ban to travel to Western countries. In the course of the '89 events Jens Reich became one of the leading dissidents and political activists. In 1994, he was nominated by the Green Party as Federal President.

Venue: WZB, Room A 300

Thursday, March 29, 2012, 7 p. m.

Eric Tagliacozzo

Department of History, Cornell University

Jagged Landscapes: Conceptualizing Borders and Boundaries in Human History

Borders have histories just as peoples do, and the history of Western borders is only one category among many. Eric Tagliacozzo will delineate conceptual approaches scholars have taken in examining borders. Drawing upon examples from Early Modern Europe, Ottoman Turkey, pre-modern China, the early Americas and particularly the recent morphogenesis of Southeast Asia, he will look at how these “lines in space” have appeared in different guises, in various global landscapes, and at varying points in history.

Eric Tagliacozzo is professor of history at Cornell University, where he teaches Southeast Asian Studies. In 2005, he published *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier, 1865–1915* and is currently finishing his new book *The Longest Journey: Southeast Asians and the Pilgrimage to Mecca*.

Venue: Haus der Kulturen der Welt, John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10, 10557 Berlin

In cooperation with the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, www.hkw.de

Friday, March 30, 2012, 6 p.m.

Christian Tomuschat

Faculty of Law, Humboldt University of Berlin

Environmental Impact Assessment Across Boundaries

Under domestic law, environmental impact assessment has progressively become an indispensable procedure regarding construction work which entails risks for its neighbourhood. In particular, nuclear power plants can normally only be authorized after careful prior investigations. At the international level, no general procedure for that purpose has yet come into being. In the past, many nuclear plants were built close to borders with neighbouring countries, with governments relying on their territorial sovereignty. To insist on such unilateral decision-making, without involving those likely to be negatively affected not only in case of an accident, but also as a consequence of routine operations, is an anachronism in a world placed under the principles of good neighbourliness and trans-boundary cooperation.

Christian Tomuschat is professor of public international law and European law at Humboldt University of Berlin and a former member of the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN's International Law Commission. In 1994, he chaired the UN-sponsored Historical Clarification Commission (CEH) after the conclusion of peace accords between the Guatemalan government and the guerrillas in December 1996. In 2010, he was appointed head of the UNHCR-Mission for the inspection of the implementation of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, known as the Goldstone-Report.

Venue: WZB, Room A 300
