

# New journal for border scholars (not only) from Canadian/US border: *Borders in Globalisation Review*

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## **Aim and scope of the text**

This review shall be dedicated to the new journal studying borders, cross-border co-operation and bordering – *Borders in Globalisation (BIG) Review*. In 2018, Borders in Globalization, a research lab of the Canadian University of Victoria established *Borders in Globalization Review* and the *Borders in Globalization Book Series* under the editorship of prof. Emmanuel Brunnet-Jailly. Both series declare their interest in... “engaging in inter- and trans-disciplinary conversations on research works and artworks in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences”. It is published in the Open Access, which is a substantial asset of the journal.

Over the last few years, we have observed increased interest in studying cross-border co-operation and border studies as such. For quite some time, the *Journal of Borderlands Studies* published by the Association of Borderland Studies was the only platform for border scholars, later on other journals were established.

Later on other journals/yearbooks primarily targeting cross-border cooperation emerged. The Centre for Cross Border Studies started publishing its *Journal of Cross Border Studies* in Ireland in 2006. This yearbook serves as a platform for border scholars and practitioners and will celebrate its 15th issue this autumn. Its principal focus is placed the cross-border relations within the island

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of Ireland since 2016. Brexit and its consequences create a substantial core of the journal; this caused a slight decrease of articles covering cross-border co-operation outside of Ireland.

Since 2014, the Budapest-based Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI) started publishing their yearbook. Under the editorship of James Scott, Gyula Ocskay and CESCI, the team managed to profile their as a platform for original research articles, complemented by research notes and book reviews. Its last edition focuses on borders as creators and markers of socio-spatial difference and explores how border studies can reflect social science research in terms of social development and intercultural dialogue.

This journal, the *Border and Regional Studies*, formerly known as *Pogranicze*, *Polish Borderlands Studies*, has been dedicated to the advancement and development of some of the latest thinking within the border, borderlands and regional studies. Published (since 2013) four times a year, it has changed its language policy and has started publishing articles exclusively in English since 2020.

In addition to these journals and yearbooks, there are also different relevant border-related blogs and zines. Moreover, the works published in other languages can bring interesting insight in specific border contexts, as in the case of the Polish-Czech-Slovak *Transcarpatica* series, which has already published its seventh issue in those languages (Wróblewski 2020).

### ***Borders in Globalization Review: a child of eponymous research program***

*BIG Review* characterizes itself as “...a new, bi-annual, multi-disciplinary, open-access, and peer-reviewed journal, providing a forum for academic and artistic explorations of borders in the 21st century” (BIG 2020). The Review is one of the outputs of the BIG partnership that gathers scholars of Canadian and international universities with the common objective of improving understanding of borders in globalization and understanding the aterritoriality of borders in practice and in implementation. In this regard, the research program intends to push border studies beyond the conceptual literature (Bates-Eamer & Hallgrímsdóttir 2020). Since 2014, the BIG partnership has generated interesting results in the form of publications (books, journal articles and reviews) and videos. The journal is thus one of the latest outputs. The sole fact that co-founder of border studies as a scientific discipline (2005), Emmanuel Brunnet-Jailly acts as a chief-editor, attracted our attention and inspired us to present this new journal here as well.

The second *BIG Review* issue (available from <https://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/bigreview/issue/archive>) was published in July 2020. Its scientific part hosts a special section “...on the crisis of the European Schengen border zone. It reveals the challenges faced by asylum seekers and other migrants in need and also includes the challenges confronting the ideal of a Europe without borders” (BIG 2020). The section is introduced by an article by Brunet-Jailly and Wassenberg (2020), in which they the 2015 Schengen and Dublin political crises and observe an end to the ideal of a “Europe without borders”. The works of authors from the University of Strasbourg create a core of this section (Wassenberg, 2020; Berrod, 2020).

The paper by Abdalhadi Alijla (2020) also deserves special attention where the author provides an autoethnography of the lives of Palestinians from Gaza strip, which is described as a state of exception, visa violence, airports and borders. The paper has three goals: the first is to stress the importance of autoethnographies for borders studies. Second, it shows how Israel, as a controlling power, created the notion of “azans “as those living a bare life” and third, it provides a new perspective on how borders affect stateless people’s lives in conflict conditions.

The artistic part of the magazine is opened by photographs documenting the journey of thousands of Central American migrants traveling in large groups of self-described caravans to the United States in hopes of a better life. The amateur artworks of Central American migrants, who arrived in photographed “caravans” and later detained in the detention centres, create the other part of artistic part. Two poems insist on mobility and identity across international boundaries in the context of North America. Two essays explore the importance of performative art in overcoming the exclusionary quality of borders. An essay published in Spanish explores the border theory of a French thinker (the journal editor plans to continue in publishing contributions also in Spanish and French). The reader will also find film reviews where we would like to draw the reader’s attention to Beata Halicka’s review of the Polish movie *Cold War* (2018): *Tough Love in the Shadow of the Iron Curtain*, book and essays reviews.

The *BIG Review* is a very unusual journal, given its focus and its approach mingling science and art. However, its more than 140 pages offer interesting intellectual nourishment for border scholars and for anyone with an interest in issues related to borders and opportunities and problems they bring along. This magazine is therefore a must-read for every border scholar.

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