



In this issue:

- Introduction by James Scott, ABS president 2008-09
- 2008 Executive Secretary and Treasurer Report
- Book Award 2009
- Member News
- Publications
 - Books
 - Articles & Book Chapters
 - Newsletters
 - Conference Papers & Talks
- Forthcoming conferences
- The ABS-Europe Biennale Kirkenes Conference Report

Introduction

Dear ABS members and colleagues,

Welcome to this new issue of the Association for Borderlands Studies newsletter, La Frontera!

Our spring conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 15-18, 2009 promises to be another successful academic event. Again this year, the ABS is the largest section of the Western Social Science Association Conference, with 30 panels organized by Tony Payan, our 2009 conference Chair and incoming president. Thanks to all those who submitted papers and proposed panels. The ABS conference is the largest gathering of border scholars in the world. Your presence and participation makes the ABS stronger.

Please remember to come to our annual reception on Friday April 17th at the TUSCANO Bar & Grill at 8 p.m. Our annual past presidents' book award will be presented shortly after 8 p.m.

Also, please note that our Journal of Borderland Studies is now published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) and the papers are available online. That is about 280 articles published in JBS available for downloading, in PDF format. Each year, we will add new published papers to this online database.

Last but not least I wish you a wonderful ABS meeting for 2009!

James Scott, ABS president 2008-09.





2008 Executive Secretary and Treasurer Report

This Dear ABS members and friends,

The UVic team is now concluding its third year as Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Association of Borderland Studies (ABS). We were involved in numerous activities this past year which we are pleased to report on:

The Executive Secretary is responsible for the following activities:

- running annual elections;
- managing the annual membership campaign;
- maintaining the ABS membership database and e-mail listserve;
- Producing the bi-annual newsletter *La Frontera*;
- Managing the annual book award process;
- Maintaining the ABS website;
- Managing finances including transferring funds to support JBS as required.

Election

This fall 2008, past presidents Manuel Chavez and Chris Brown co-chaired the electoral committee: Dr. Javier Duran and Dr. Heather Nicol, were elected and nominated to stand as president elect for 2009 and 2010 respectively. In 2009, our incoming president will be Dr. Tony Payan, 2009 conference chair. Dr. Javier Duran will be vice-president elect and conference chair 2010. Dr. Heather Nicol will be second vice president in 2009 and conference chair in 2011.

This process strengthens the ABS executive because it gives more time for incoming ABS presidents to gain experience since they participate in Board decisions for 20 months rather than 12 (as in the past).

Membership and List Serve

We completed 2008 with 133 regular members, 40 student members and 6 library members; At the end of December we only had 6 members signed up for 2009; JBS managed an additional 100 library subscriptions in 2008. ABS currently has over 900 individuals on its ListServe.

La Frontera

Bruno Dupeyron edited, designed and printed the Spring 2008 issue of La Frontera

before moving to the University of Saskatoon as Assistant professor in public policy and law. We are delighted for Bruno! Jennifer Guest is now producing La Frontera.

Book Award

We managed the ABS/JBS book award process this spring. All in all, our Journal of Borderland Studies reviewed eight books in 2008-09, and three were preselected for the awards (see page 5). The award will be presented at the ABS meeting in Albuquerque at our April 17th reception. The past presidents' book award committee is chaired by 2008 winner Joan Anderson (San Diego).

Website Enhancements

This past year we updated the ABS/CIBR border bibliography and moved 280 articles published in JBS since inception online.

First, Dirk van Duyn, from the University of Victoria in Canada, updated the Border Bibliography we developed with CIBR (Ireland) in 2007-08. Dirk added nearly 350 new references to our ABS/CIBR Border Bibliography. Please remember that this is a partnership with Liam O'Dowd, Director of the Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR) at Queen's University Belfast. The ABS/CIBR bibliography link is available on the ABS web-



site home page at

<http://www.absborderlands.org>.

ABS added about 650 new references in 2007, and 350 in 2008 – this brings the number of border and borderland works referenced in this bibliography to about 1,400. The ABS executive is committed to updating the ABS bibliography annually and is working towards making this an even more useful research tool by providing opportunities for members to submit recent publications and links.

James Scott, our president, and I would like to thank Dirk (UVic Canada) and Sean L’Estrange (Kings College, Dublin) who have made this project happen so quickly.

Also, in 2008 we moved the Journal of Borderland Studies ONLINE for our members ONLY!

Paid members now have access to online copies of the JBS via a password protected site accessed off the Journal page <http://www.absborderlands.org/2JBS.html> on the ABS website. Note please that we are implementing a “moving wall” of three

years between the paper/published JBS and the electronic version of JBS, so that each year the number of published articles available though the online versions will increase. Therefore, for 2009, members will see everything up to Volume 21 (2006).

Finances

UVic began to receive funds for ABS memberships in February 2007. The final transfer of the balance of funds from the previous Treasurer of ABS took place in September 2007. Please find below the ABS treasury situation for 2008:

Association for Borderlands Studies January - December 2008

Financial Summary

Note: All funds reported in Canadian Dollars

ACTIVITY	REVENUE	EXPENSES	BALANCE
Account Balance at January 1, 2008			\$10,878.96
Membership dues received by UVIC	\$7,692.63		
Incorporation documentation		\$35.35	
Credit card commissions for period		\$97.25	
Student paper awards		\$382.65	
Legal fees from business in Texas		\$1,606.95	
Printing of JBS 23 (1) and (2) in Texas		\$4,104.54	
Web domain name hosting: 5 years		\$113.73	
Couriers and Mail		\$13.77	
Total Revenue	\$7,692.63		
Total Expenses		\$6,354.24	
Account Balance			\$12,217.35



Finances continued...

2008 Memberships

Regular paid memberships	133
Student paid memberships	40
Library paid memberships*	6
Total paid memberships	179

2009 Memberships

Regular paid memberships	3
Student paid memberships	3
Total paid memberships	6

* Library memberships will no longer be recorded as part of the ABS membership list. They will now all be included within the JBS institutional/library membership list. Also, ABS membership numbers and funds do not include JBS institutional members or JBS financials (revenue and expenditures). The JBS account was held by Texas A&M University for 2008, and transferred to UVic for 2009.

Labour

All work done by the Executive-Secretary is performed as an in-kind service to the organization by staff members of the School of Public Administration, Centre for Public Sector Studies at the University of Victoria. This past year, approximately 300 hours were spent supporting ABS as outlined below:

Task	Hours
Borders Bibliography – Dirk van Duyn	30
<i>La Frontera</i> – Jennifer Guest	40
Management of Memberships, Website, Database – Jennifer Guest	120
Financial and Administrative Oversight – Thea Vakil	30
Executive Secretary – Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly	60
Total	280

Please also note that Claire Mechan started work on the editorial production of the *Journal of Borderland Studies* for a total of 45 hours in 2008.

The ABS Secretary-Treasurer looks forward to serving its members over the coming year. Please contact Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly at ebrunetj@uvic.ca should you have any questions about this report.

James Scott,
ABS President

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly
Executive Secretary & Treasurer



Book Award 2009

The Association of Borderland Studies past presidents' **Book Award committee 2009** has preselected the following three books:

Adrian X. Esparza and Angela J. Donelson (2008) *Colonias in Arizona and New Mexico: Border Poverty and Community Development Solutions*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press.

Thomas E. Sheridan (2008) *Landscapes of Fraud: Mission Tumacacori, the Baca Float, and the Betrayal of the O'odham*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press.

Antoine Pécoud and Paul de Guchteneire (eds.) 2007. *Migration Without Borders. Essays on the Free Movement of People*, UNESCO Publishing (Paris) and Berghahn Books (New York/ Oxford).

The ABS book award consists of a plaque, a certificate and a year's free membership in ABS. Also, the winner of the 2009 book award chairs the book award committee 2010.

Book award committee members: Professors **Joan Anderson** (San Diego/Chair), **Stephen Mumm** (Colorado) and **David Molina** (North Texas).

Member News

Peter L. Reich (Whittier Law School) will direct Whittier's inaugural Mexico Program in collaboration with the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. The program will offer the courses "Law of the Mexico-United States Border" and "Refugee Law" and will feature field trips to the Mexican Supreme Court and other legal institutions.

New transboundary project on nature conservation and rural development in the German-Czech border region—**Green Network Ore Mountains**

The Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER) is lead partner in a new cross-border cooperation project with the aim of identifying synergies between Natura 2000 sites and rural development in the Ore Mountains, a low mountain range between Saxony and Northern Bohemia. 'Green Network Ore Mountains' is funded by the Saxon-Czech Objective 3 programme (sometimes called INTERREG IV A).

The kick-off conference was held on 25 March, 2009, in Ústí nad Labem in the Czech Republic. It was attended by 60 representatives from NGO's, politics, administration and academia from both sides of the border. The meeting highlighted some of the particularities of this border area: A population density which is considerably higher in Saxony than in Northern Bohemia, many threatened species such as Black Grouse with transboundary habitats, and largely unused opportunities in terms of cross-border coordination and development.

'Green Network Ore Mountains' runs for three years until the end of 2011 and involves the J.-E.-Purkyne-University Ústí nad Labem and two regional land care associations from Saxony. Further information can be obtained at <http://www.ioer.de/index.php?id=762&L=1>.

Contact: Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development
Dr. Markus Leibenath, M.Leibenath@ioer.de



Publications

Books:

Roxanne Lynn Doty (2009) *The Law Into Their Own Hands: Immigration and the Politics of Exceptionalism* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press)

176 pp, ISBN: 978-0-8165-2771-7

Link: <http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/BOOKS/bid2076.htm>

George Gavrilis (2008) *The Dynamics of Interstate Boundaries* (New York: Cambridge University Press)

Daniel M. Sabet (2009) *Nonprofits and their Networks: Cleaning the Waters along Mexico's Northern Border* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press)

Lawrence Taylor (2001) with photographs by Maeve Hickey *Tunnel Kids* (University of Arizona Press)

Lawrence Taylor (2002) with photographs by Maeve Hickey *Ambos Nogales: Intimate Portraits of the US/Mexico Border* (School of American Research, Santa Fe)

Tamar Diana Wilson (2009) *Tales from Colonia Popular* (Austin, Texas: Plain View Press) [About the lives of people in a colonia in Mexicali]

Articles & book chapters

Daniel D. Arreola, D. Drew Lucio and Christopher Lukinbeal "Mexican Litchfield Park: A Forgotten Colonia of the Salt River Valley" *Journal of Arizona History* 49 (4) (Winter): 329-354

B. Arts, A. Lagendijk and H. van Houtum (2009) (eds.) "The Disoriented State: Shifts In Governmentality" *Territoriality and Governance*, Springer Verlag, Berlin

Link: <http://www.springer.com/978-1-4020-9479-8>

F. Boedeltje and H. van Houtum (2008) "The abduction of Europe: a plea for less Unionism and more Europe" *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* (TESG); vol. 99, n.3, p. 361-365

C.L.S. Eastman and S.C. Berggreen (2008) "Children without a Country: Media Coverage of Undocumented Children in the United States" *The Global Studies Journal*, 1(3): 11-20

James V. Fenelon and Thomas D. Hall (2008) "Revitalization and Indigenous Resistance to Globalization and Neo-liberalism" *American Behavioral Scientist* 51:12(Aug):1867-1901

Geoffrey Hale (2009) "In Search of Effective Border Management" (Toronto: Canadian International Council, February)

Link: <http://www.canadianinternationalcouncil.org/research/canadianfo/insearchof>

[overview paper on homeland security and border management policies in the United States and Canada that affect the border between the two countries]

P. Nick Kardulias and Thomas D. Hall (2008) "Archaeology and World-Systems Analysis" *World Archaeology: Debates in World Archaeology* 40:4:572-583

Martin Klatt and Joergen Kuehl (2008) "National Minorities and Cross-border Cooperation between Hungary and Croatia. A Case Study of Baranya, Hungary and Osijecko-baranjska County, Croatia" *European Yearbook of Minority Issues* Vol. 6, Leiden and Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, pp. 193-210

David Newman (2010) "Theorizing Borders: New Directions in Border Studies" In D. Wastl-Water (ed), *Research Companion to Border Studies*, Ashgate Publishing, UK





David Newman (2009) "The Renaissance of a Border which Never Died: The Green Line between Israel and the West Bank" in A. Diener & J. Hagen (eds), *Border Lines: History and Politics of Odd International Borders* Rowman & Littlefield

Lawrence Taylor (2007) "Picturing the Tunnel Kids" in *Projecting Migration: Transcultural Documentary Media Practice* Alan Grossman and Aine O'Brien (eds) Wallflower Press, London

Lawrence Taylor (2007) "Centre and Edge: Pilgrimage and the Moral Geograph of the US/Mexico Border" in *Displacing the Centre: Pilgrimage in a Mobile World*. Special issue of *Mobilities*. 2:3 November pp 383-394

Lawrence Taylor (2007) "The Minutemen: Re-enacting the Frontier and the Birth of a Nation" in *Wildness and Sensation: Anthropology of Sinister and Sensuous Realms* Rob van Ginkel and Alex Strating (eds) Apeldoorn-Antwerpen: Het Spinhuis, pp 89-107

Juan-Manuel Trillo-Santamaría (2009): "De la frontera a Europa, una visión desde la cooperación transfronteriza," in Feria Toribio, J.M., García García, A., Ojeda Rivera, J. F. (eds.): *Territorios, Sociedades y Políticas*, Universidad Pablo de Olavide/Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles, Sevilla

H. van Houtum and F. Boedeltje (2009) "Europe's shame, Death at the borders of the EU" *Antipode*, Vol. 41 No. 2, pp 226-230

Tamar Diana Wilson (2008) "Research Note: Issues of Production vs. Reproduction/Maintenance Revisited: Towards an Understanding of Arizona's Immigration Policies" *Anthropological Quarterly* Vol. 81, pp. 713-718

Tamar Diana Wilson (2009) (forthcoming) "The Expansion of Immigrant Networks at Origin: A Case Study from a Rancho in Jalisco, Mexico" Research in Economic Anthropology Vol. 29

Newsletters

Special issue of *Southern Rural Sociology* titled "Environmental Issues on the Mexico-U.S. Border" co-edited by **Karen Manges Douglas and Rogelio Saenz**.

Link: <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/auxiliary/srsa/>

Conference papers and invited talks:

Glaze, S., B. Creel, and C. Brown, 2009. "Potential Impacts of the Increases in Rainfall Intensity on the Lower Rio Grande." Paper to be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Water Resources Association, Anchorage, Alaska. 4-6 May 2009.

Brown, C. 2009. "Collaborative Research on Transboundary Water Resources: US-Mexico and US-Canada Cases." Invited paper presented at a workshop on North American Borders and Security hosted by the Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S. and the North American Center on Transboundary Studies, San Diego, CA. 12 January 2009.

Brown, C. 2008. "International water resource management: Comparative discussions of the US-Mexico Border & the Middle East." Invited keynote paper presented at the Student World Water Forum, The University of Nevada at Reno. 20 November 2008.

Brown, C. 2008. "What is border environmental security? Perspectives from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada." Invited paper presented at The Border Research Policy Institute 2008-2009 Speaker Series, Western Washington University. 30 October 2008.

Reich, Peter L. (Whittier Law School), "Manuscript Case Files and the Subversion of Judicial Opinions: The Los Angeles River Cases" paper given at conference, Water and Politics in Southern California, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, October 4, 2008.



Forthcoming Conferences

New Frontiers of Race: Criminalities, Cultures, and Policing in the Global Era May 29, 2009

Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture
University of Chicago

This conference will explore new genealogies and approaches to deviancy, pathology and criminality that grapple with these longstanding issues. Do migrations, diasporas, borders, and other transnationalisms disrupt ideologies and discourses of pathology? Do the stakes in the debates surrounding pathology and related problematic representations of people of color shift as they ascend to the highest echelons of power?

Call for Conference Paper Proposals

Conference paper proposals are welcome on the following themes but are not limited to these: identity politics and the politics of multiculturalisms; post-racial discourses and ideologies; “cultures” of poverty and/or “poverties” of culture; pathologies and gendered or sexual normativities; new studies and/or genealogies of criminalities, delinquencies, deviances, and pathologies; the politics of transgressions or non-normative politics; “cultures” of policings, deportations, and carcerality.

Jasbir Puar of Rutgers University and Nicholas De Genova of Columbia University have confirmed their participation as our keynote speakers. Papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication by *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*. All expenses – transport and housing – will be provided for persons chosen to present.

Paper proposals should not be more than two single-spaced pages and must be accompanied by a short two-page resume. A copy of these materials should be sent electronically by April 30 to each of the following:

Ramón A. Gutiérrez
Director, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture
University of Chicago
rgutierrez@uchicago.edu

Gilberto Rosas
Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Assistant Professor
Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture
and Department of Anthropology
University of Chicago
grosas@uchicago.edu

Jonathan Hill
Editor, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*
Professor, Department of Anthropology
Southern Illinois University
jhill@siu.edu

For additional information on the conference, please contact Prof. Ramón A. Gutiérrez, Director, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago at 1-773-702-8063 or email rgutierrez@uchicago.edu.





Forthcoming Conferences

The Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS) Summer Institute

will be hosted this year by New Mexico State University, July 22-25, 2009. The website where one can obtain more information is www.malcs.net.

ABORNE (African Border Research Network) International Conference

Johannesburg, 10-14 September 2009

Further information: Tara Polzer, University of the Witwatersrand, Email: tara.polzer@wits.ac.za

First Call for Papers:

IGU (International Geographical Union) Regional Conference - Tel Aviv - July 2010 Political Geography pre-Conference

Workshop: Borders and Territory in Divided and Conflicted Societies to be held at Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheba, including border and conflict related field trips.

Local organizer: Professor David Newman (Editor of Geopolitics): email newman@bgu.ac.il

Scholars are invited to submit their border and territory related manuscripts for publication to Geopolitics.

Link: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14650045.asp>

The journal is SCI indexed. All papers are sent out to three peer reviewers.

Submissions should take account of an appropriate theoretical or conceptual framework for the analysis of their own specific case studies.



The ABS-Europe Biennale Kirkenes Conference Report

CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND NEGOTIATION OF BORDERS

The 2008 European conference of the *Association of Borderlands Studies* was held in Kirkenes, 11-13 September 2008. This interdisciplinary and international conference had as its theme the “Cultural Production and Negotiation of Borders”. It aimed 1) to put cultural and literary studies on the agenda of borders studies and bring cultural researchers into dialogue with social geographers and other social scientists working in this field, and 2) to put Barents regions borders on the map of border studies world-wide.

The conference was located in Kirkenes, in the Norwegian-Russian borderlands, as a way of facilitating these goals. The conference built on ongoing work at the University of Tromsø (including the recent publications of the books *Border Poetics De-Limited*, eds. Schimanski/Wolfe and *Russia - Norway: Physical and Symbolic Borders*, eds. Nielsen/Jackson) and the Barents Institute. In 2007/2008, the University of Tromsø also arranged a popular lecture series streamed on video to locations across Northern Norway, on the theme of borders.

Cooperation on organizing and funding

The organization was led by the *Border Poetics research group* at the University of Tromsø, in close cooperation with the *Barents Institute* in Kirkenes, the *History Depart-*

ment at the University of Tromsø, the *CEPIN (Citizenship, Encounters and Place Enactment in the North) research school* at the University of Tromsø, and *Petrozavodsk State University*. The Barents Institute played an invaluable role in the on-site organization of the conference and liaison with various local organizations and firms in Kirkenes. The very successful book stand was organized in cooperation with the Akademisk kvarter bookshop in Tromsø. The lectures and papers were given at the Rica Arctic Hotel and at the Kirkenes cinema.

The conference received funding from the *Norwegian Barents Secretariat*, the *Sparebanken1 Nord-Norge Research Fund*, the *University of Tromsø*, the *Norwegian Research Council*, the *Barents Institute* and the *Humanities Faculty* at the University of Tromsø. Through this funding, the conference was able to pay all expenses of the Russian participants .





The ABS-Europe Biennale Kirkenes Conference Report continued

International and transdisciplinary participants

The conference attracted *69 registered participants*, including social geographers, literary scholars, historians, philosophers, ecologists, librarian scientists, tourism researchers, political scientists, media scientists, anthropologists, ethnologists, sociologists, economists, artists, and artistic producers. *Local leaders and residents*, including a group of Russian women in Kirkenes, were invited to take part, and did so. A group of students from the Finnmark University College *Barents International School* came to lectures and at most the audience reached *75 people*.

The *President of the Association of Borderlands Studies*, James Scott, was one of the participants, as were many other leading researchers in border studies. One group of participants were part of the newly started project *The Construction and Negotiation of Borders: Discourses Related to the Border between Norway and Russia*, led by the Finnmark University College and funded by the Research Council of Norway. All of the Border Poetics research group (3 faculty, 3 postdocs, 1 PhD student) at the University of Tromsø gave papers, as did research fellows in residence at the Barents Institute.

Of the registered participants, 27 came from Norway, 7 from Russia, and the others from the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Northern Ireland, Denmark, Portugal, England, Finland, Austria, the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, and South Africa.

Scientific content

The programme included 48 papers in 3 parallel sessions (this was notably the first 3-track conference hosted by the Barents Insti-

tute in Kirkenes). Of these papers, *22 directly focused on borderlands between Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia*. The programming was carefully designed to encourage participants to attend papers concerning a wide variety of regions.

Topics, all connected with borders and borderlands, addressed everyday life, musical styles, literature, cultural studies, urban complexity, scientific policy, border creation, media perceptions, narratives of local identities, EU borders, resources, cultural identities, transborder cooperation zones, films, conflict, tourism, migration, the body, colonialism, history writing, shopping, polar politics, and cultural festivals.

Some titles include:

- *Border Rhythms: An Examination of the Relationship between the Socio-Political Landscape and the Production of Music in the Border Regions of South Texas and Southern California*
- *Preconditions for Establishment of the Zone of Individual and Economic Cooperation – Pomor Zone Kirkenes-Pechenga*
- *Cultural borders between the Skolt Sami and the Finns in the era of Petsamo and after*
- *Destroying the Fence to Build a New One? Some Trends and Patterns in Russian Media Discourse on Cross-Border Cooperation.*
- *The Cultural Boundary and Intercommunication in Two Films from the North-West of Russia*
- *Cultural Heartlands beyond the Border: Finnish Kalevala Tourism in Russian Karelia*
- *Written on the Body: Difference and Transgression*
- *Creolization and the Production and Negotiation of Boundaries in Breyten Breytenbach's Recent Work*



The ABS-Europe Biennale Kirkenes Conference Report continued

- *Borderlands and EU Identity Politics: Selectivity at the Frontiers of Neighbourhood*
- *Binaries and Cognitive Cartography: What on Earth Does Poetry Have to Do with Border Transactions?*
- *Theatrical Negotiations of the German-Polish Border*

The conference was opened by the pro-rector of the University of Tromsø, Gerd Bjørhovde, and featured three keynote lectures by *David Newman*, of the University of the Negev; by *Einar Niemi* of the University of Tromsø; and by *Mieke Bal* of the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis. Mieke Bal's lecture was accompanied by the showing of her film *Becoming Vera*, which was also attended by local Kirkenes residents and students.

PhD students attending the conference and giving papers were given credit for their contributions as part of a *PhD course*.

Einar Niemi's lecture introduced *the history of borders in the Barents Region* to conference participants. The conference also finished with a panel discussion on *Placing Border Studies in the North*.

Field trip across border to Boris Gleb and Nikel

On the second day of the conference, the participants were given the chance to experience the Norwegian Russian border hands-on during a field trip arranged in cooperation with Pasvikturist AS. Thanks to close cooperation between the Norwegian and Russian border commissions and the Russian consulate, this field trip included a unique visit to the Boris Gleb church, situated in a small Russian enclave on





The ABS-Europe Biennale Kirkenes Conference Report continued

the west side of the Pasvik river. Participants with the expertise to relate these experiences to the theory and practice of borders in many different contexts were allowed the chance to see the Russian border town of Nikel and the protocols of the Storskog border-crossing.

Cultural and social programme

The conference was launched with a reception at the Barents Institute, providing a chance for social networking. Participants also attended a reception at the *Borderlands Museum*, including addresses by the mayor, the museum director and the Russian consul, and had the opportunity to walk through the museum and thus see an example of one important form of cultural negotiation of borders. At the museum, participants also enjoyed a performance by *Samovarteatret*. This opportunity to get first hand experience of cultural production in the Norwegian-Russian borderlands continued with a *Transborder Café* arranged by the art production group *Pikene på broen*, which also included a public conversation with the Russian Consul. Also taking part in the conference were two artists of the *Barents Mobile Intercultural Bureau project*, who documented much of the proceedings on video.





The ABS-Europe Biennale Kirkenes Conference Report continued

Secondary benefits, future cooperation and publications

Bringing keynote speaker David Newman to Northern Norway enabled the arrangement of *guest lectures* on border studies and borders in Israel-Palestine at the Centre for Peace Studies, at the University of Tromsø, on the day before the conference. Both lectures were well attended and one has been placed on the Internet as a video stream.

The involvement of Mieke Bal, prominent cultural theorist and filmmaker, led to a visit by Bal to Tromsø in January 2009, where she showed her film *Becoming Vera* at the *Tromsø International Film Festival* and gave two lectures the University of Tromsø. Both the showing and the lectures were well attended. Her film, a documentary on a French child of Russian and Cameroonian ancestry, was subsequently shown at the *Barents Spektakel* festival in Kirkenes in 2009.

Contact and conversations at the conference have led to further international cooperation on Tromsø-led applications for *EU Frame Programme 7* and *Research Council of Norway KULVER* research grants, both involving research activities focusing on the Barents region.

An informal cooperation was initiated between the Border Poetics group at the University of Tromsø and the *University of Potchefstroom*, South Africa, which has led to a video link-up for a seminar in March 2009.

Successful cooperation between departments and schools at the *Humanities and Social Science Faculties* at the University of Tromsø show the potentials of an ongoing faculty fusion and for interdisciplinary research in general.

The conference contributed to the local economy through use of hotel and café facilities; the trip arranged by Pasvikturist showed the potentials of reopenings in cross-border tourism and ongoing cooperation.

The conference organisers have made agreements with the *Journal of Northern Studies*, the *Journal of Borderlands Studies* and *Nordlit*, for the publication of special issues of papers from the conference, during 2009. Papers published in these special issues will include several by participants from Russia. Editorial work is under way by Einar Niemi, Johan Schimanski, and Stephen Wolfe from the University of Tromsø in cooperation with the editorial boards of all three journals.

Johan Schimanski & Stephen Wolfe
Department of Culture and Literature, University of Tromsø
23 February 2009

