

## Young Researchers Conference

# “Identity Constructions and Meaning-Making in Border Regions”



@ Salle des Thèses, Espaces Rabelais, UFR Humanities and Arts of the University of Lorraine | Ile du Saulcy, 57000 Metz (FR)  
@ Room Jane Jacobs, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) | Maison des Sciences, 4366 Esch-Belval (LU)

# PROGRAM

## March 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

We are delighted to welcome you to the Young Researchers Conference Identity Constructions and Meaning-Making in Border Regions, a platform dedicated to exploring the dynamic and evolving nature of border regions and their impact on identities, lived experiences and cross-border governance.

As research in border studies expands, we recognize the need for a dedicated network of young scholars working in this field. This conference is a step toward building such a network—one that is international, interdisciplinary, and open to fresh perspectives.

Our discussions will focus on how borders shape identities, create narratives, and influence a sense of belonging. We will examine how individuals and communities experience and negotiate borders, reflecting on their material and symbolic significance. The notion of the border as a fixed entity is being increasingly challenged; instead, we view borders as spaces in flux, shaped by historical, political, and social forces.

Welcome to an inspiring and insightful event!



Salle des Thèses, Espace Rabelais, UFR Humanities and Arts of the University of Lorraine, Metz (FR)

12:30-13:00 Arrival of Participants

13:00-13:30 Opening Address

13:30-14:00 Introductory Keynote, **Grégory HAMEZ** (*Université de Lorraine*): Identity issues in the cross-border Greater Region, between Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg - Introductory words

Session 1: B/Ordering Effects

Migrants living in Paris' makeshift camps: how borders deprive migrants' men from their bodies. A gendered perspective  
**Annaelle PIVA**, *Université Laval de Québec & Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne*

14:00 Towards a Definition of Cross-Border Placemaking: Insights from the Saar-Moselle Region  
16:00 **Alexandra SCHATNER**, *Universität des Saarlandes, htw saar*

Friction at the Frontier: Conflict, Displacement and Mobility related transformations in the Bangladesh-Myanmar Borderlands  
**Anas ANSAR**, *Universität Freiburg & Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) Freiburg*

State Encapsulation and Resilience on the Pakistan-Afghan Borderland  
**Hafeez ULLAH**, *University of Sussex*

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Identity formations through bordering processes

The making and (un)making of deviance: Identity constructions of migrant smugglers at the French-Italian borderland  
**Masha HASSAN**, *Università di Bologna*

16:30 Practices of doing and undoing borders: between the other Self and the other Other  
18:30 **Helen KLEIN**, *Université Grenoble Alpes*

'Chhiter lok': Construction of Identity at the India-Bangladesh Border Enclaves  
**Anamika ROY**, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

Identities, mobilities and cooperation in transboundary protected areas. A comparative approach between the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (Southern Africa) and the Alpi Marittime-Mercantour Park (Western Europe)  
**Hugo MAZZERO**, *Université Bordeaux Montaigne, Passages UMR 5319 CNRS*

18:30-19:00 Conclusion

20:00 Conference Dinner in Metz - El Théâtris | 2, place de la Comédie, 57000 Metz



Room Jane Jacobs, Maison des Sciences Humaines (MSH), LISER Esch-Belval (LU)

8:00	Meeting in Metz for Bus to LISER <b>Meeting Point:</b> Statue of Charles de Gaulle in front of the METZ Ville train station (Place du Général de Gaulle, 57000 Metz)
10:00-10:30	Arrival of the participants
10:30-10:45	Opening Address

Session 3: Negotiating Cross-Border Relations: Semiotics, Law, and Identity	
11:00 13:00	Borders semiotics and cross-border regionalization: a visual analysis of cross-border cooperation in the Upper Rhine and the Greater Region since the 1970s. <b>Loris PAGNANI</b> , <i>Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)</i>
	Exposure to Uncertain Borderlands: The Socio-Materiality and Semiotics of European (Energy) Borderlands <b>Kamil BEMBNISTA</b> , <i>Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)</i>
	Who is in and who is left out of our cultural identity's future?: Normative Coherence between Inclusivity and Anticipatory Governance in the Policies Supporting Cross-Border Cultural Initiatives <b>Camille Marie FILLIOUX</b> , <i>University of Luxembourg</i>
	The evolving (legal) landscape of cross-border cooperation: illustrating the relation between law and border region's tradition and identity <b>Loth VAN DER AUWERMEULEN</b> , <i>Universiteit Hasselt</i>

13:00-14:00	Coffee Break
14:00-14:45	Concluding Keynote, <b>Pierre-Alexandre BEYLIER</b> ( <i>Université Grenoble Alpes</i> ): Borders and identities: the case study of a cross-border region and other theoretical considerations
14:45-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-16:30	Young Researchers Network Discussion round
17:00	Meeting at Liser for Bus to Metz train station. Estimated Arrival in Metz Pôle Multimodal (behind the train station): 18:15



