

HERITAGES, SPACES, BORDERS

Ljubljana (Slovenia), March 30–April 3, 2020

The [ZRC SAZU](#) (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts) [Institute of Slovenian Ethnology](#) (Ljubljana, Slovenia) announces the meeting of the **SIEF WG Space-Lore and Place-Lore Ljubljana, March 30–April 1, 2020**

THE SPACES OF REAL AND IMAGINED BORDERS

The expansions of the European Union and the end of the Cold War are but some of the more recent events that have inspired increasing ethnographic research of space and place as well as of (international) borders, although these issues were often explored separately. The borders of Europe went through significant changes, often marked by the decline or consolidation of border regimes, which helped define spaces of local and global dimensions.

Borders are a space of political influence; actors of all stripes tend to invoke history at borders in order to shape the futures of regions, states and even larger entities. In this fashion, borders can be catalysts of historical changes that directly affect the daily lives of those in their immediate vicinity as well as beyond. Moreover, borders have historically been spaces that hinder or encourage certain forms of movement. They are selectively permeable, giving rise to semantic, material and ecologically distinctive spaces whose differences are defined by national and international agreements as well as the individual persons and civil groups involved in border work. Borders are also lines of demarcation that articulate state sovereignty, yet become much more through attributed meanings, discursive and affective agency, the materiality of border infrastructures and imagined features that inform daily life in tangible ways. For these reasons, borderlands have long been considered as particular spaces in national contexts.

This conference aims to link spatial concepts with those from border studies and to explore how political borders help shape space(s) in terms of the production of space, spatial practices and relations as well as the narration, imagination, perception and experience of space.

We welcome contributions that will address any of the following suggested topics:

- Border shifts as well as changing features of spatially unchanged borders as affecting spaces of varied dimensions
- Borders as spaces for the activation of larger political projects and historical change: border changes at borders often have local impacts, but can potentially redefine and restructure broader national and international spaces
- Borderlands as the materialization of certain political visions and/or power relations as well as spaces of emerging anti-hegemonic discourses and practices
- The temporality of borders: borders as spaces of historical memory or of real or potential change, where inhabitants often create aspirations, hopes and fears

- Borders as creating spatial differences that generate special conditions for reflection and instrumentalization, operating as places where social actors can track and compare events, practices and potentials on both sides of the border
- Borders and economies: borders as sites that attract or discourage diverse legal and illegal economic activities, which contribute to spatial changes of border regions, including the emergence of tax-free and exception zones
- Border landscapes as arenas for the emphasis of common or uneven features of cross-border regions
- Border regimes and border ecologies: border ecologies that can operate as unifying elements across borders or as markers of differences cast as “authenticity” and “autochthony”
- Border spaces/borderlands as subject to specific regimes that selectively hinder or promote movement, and the unique rhythms of that these movements create
- Borders as spaces furnished with diverse material elements (from specialized equipment to diverse infrastructures) that articulate borders' singularity in material terms and the specific affectivity of these spaces
- Borders and security: borders as spaces that operate as sites for the production of varied/multiple understandings of security, fear, threats, and danger – on the part of numerous actors at different scales, from the state to borderland residents (Fortress Europe)

Borders are unique in that they can inform spaces and places – be they nearby or remote, local or vast – in innumerable ways, and thus the call is also open to other considerations not mentioned here.

PROGRAM AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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PAPER SUBMISSION

Please submit the title of your paper, an abstract of no more than 250 words and brief CV of no more than 150 words, together with your name, academic affiliation.

The language of the conference is English.

SCHEDULE

January 15, 2020:	Paper submission online [link] or by e-mail borders2020@zrc-sazu.si
February 15, 2020:	Notification of acceptance / rejection of paper proposals
February 28, 2020:	Final program
March 1–25, 2020:	Registration open
March 30–April 1, 2020:	Conference Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion.
April 1–3, 2020: (optional)	Guests are welcome to register the SIEF WG Cultural Heritage and Property Conference at the same venue.

ORGANIZERS

ZRC SAZU, Institute of Slovenian Ethnology and the SIEF Working Group Place-lore and Space-lore

CONFERENCE VENUE

ZRC SAZU (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Novi trg 2-5, Ljubljana [[link](#)]

CONFERENCE FEE

Conference fee: 90 € (Coffee breaks and Dinner on Tuesday)
135 € for both conferences

The organizers do not provide any transportation, [accommodation](#), nor preferential registration fees.

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