

International Conference

26 April 2019, Brussels, Belgium

Walls and Wars. Identifying and questioning the military in contemporary border security policies

Call for proposals. Deadline: January 15th, 2019

Till January 15th 2019, we receive proposals to participate in a day seminar on: “Walls and Wars. Identifying and questioning the military in contemporary border security policies”, on April 26th, 2019 at Université Saint Louis Bruxelles (Belgium).

Presentation

Contemporary migration control is usually referred to as “border security”. Historically, defending borders has been a key mission for the military, especially in the construction of modern States. Border security implies a degree of militarization of borderlands through the variable use of military engineering, military practices and routines of patrolling (Dunn 1996, Maril 2011). However, we are witnessing intensification and multiplication of such militarization sometimes organized around “walls” (Jones 2012, Vallet 2014). In the present decade, the banalization of such military tools and practices (even though locally, nationally and internationally contested) is more generally questioning militarism of societies when dealing with control of territory and foreigners.

The conference aims to interrogate the mutual co-constitution of contemporary border security and militarism - broadly understood as how war tends to disseminate into society to become ordinary and determinate political and social relations (Stavrianakis & Selby 2013). What are police and/or military rationalities behind fences, walls, buffer zones, borders and associated technologies of containment and enclosure?

The literature, especially in critical military studies and critical security studies when trying to deal with this nexus (Barkawi 2011; Jabri 2006), describes how issues recognized as security problems mute and transform, blurring classical distinctions such as external/internal, public/private, and war/peace (Linhardt & Moreau de Bellaing 2013) by connecting the study of military practices and securitization processes. It acknowledges how contemporary warfare manifests itself also in “security problems”.

Thus, the conference aims to address the following listed questions by linking them to empirical case studies. We especially welcome analyses outside the EU and US border cases. Four

thematic sessions will be proposed, depending on the number of proposals received. A special lecture will be also given at the beginning of the conference.

Frames of wars:

- How is war formulated and tackled in border security policies?
- What are the military elements that could be identified inside processes of border security? Images of enmity, frames and narratives of war, war myths linked to territorial conquest, military practices and technologies, *etc.* (, Shaw 1988, Andreas 2003, Weizman 2007)

The military/security nexus to deal with border security:

- What a focus on militarism or security allows us to research on (Stavrianakis & Stern 2018)?

Police and military practices and technologies and their genealogy:

- How do police practices merge with military ones? Under which legitimization?
- How to trace the genealogy of border security measures to military ones such as camps and walls (Dufour 2004, Bernardot 2008, Razac 2009, Rigouste 2009, Graham 2011)?

A transnational economy of border security:

- How do security models circulate among border security enforcers, such as “the Israeli model of perimeter control” (Gordon 2012) or the “Australian externalization model” for instance (Ghezelbash 2018)?
- What is the role of the military in the economy of border security?
- How to analyze transnational exchanges of practices and technologies?

Résumé en français :

Le colloque a pour objectif d'interroger le renforcement mutuel des politiques de sécurité frontalière contemporaines et le militarisme des sociétés qui les développent et soutiennent. Les conférenciers se demanderont notamment : quelles rationalités et tactiques militaires ou policières sont à l'œuvre derrière l'érection de « murs », de « zones de contrôles », et autres technologies de fermeture des territoires et d'enfermement des personnes en mobilité ?

Proposals and calendar:

Proposals should include a title, up to 5 keywords and an abstract (max 250 words). They should be sent to damien.simonneau@usaintlouis.be before **January 15th 2019**. Papers should be written preferably in English and contain between 8000 and 10000 words, including abstract, tables, references and endnotes. A special issue will come out of the conference. The scientific committee will then select the papers according to the following calendar:

Launch of the call: November 15th 2018

Deadline for answers: January 15th 2019

Selection of the proposals: February 15th 2019
Full texts received by: March 30th 2019
Conference: April 26th 2019

Scientific committee

Florence Delmotte (FNRS – Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
Mathias Delori (CNRS-Sciences Po Bordeaux)
Nathalie Duclos (Université de Tours)
Denis Duez (Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
Julien Jeandesboz (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Polly Pallister-Wilkins (University of Amsterdam)
Damien Simonneau (Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles)
Christophe Wasinski (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

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