



Call for Abstracts for a Workshop at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder) at 26/27 March 2015

Justifying the European Border Regime and holding it to account: Ideational versus Material Dimensions?

The European border regime is under intense contestation: Long before the tragedy of Lampedusa, scientists, civil society organizations and other relevant actors in the field have been questioning the European Union's border enforcement policy. Even though some argue that the EU promotes progressively higher standards for the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, security considerations continue to dominate European and national policymaking processes in the field of migration. The ensuing tensions are apparent in a great number of policy developments, ranging from readmission agreements and mobility partnerships, the establishment of EUROSUR, and the adjustment of the Schengen regime, to current debates on how to deal with "foreign fighters", how to continue maritime rescue operations in the Mediterranean or how to envisage the long-term evolution of the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. In this context, it hardly needs reminding that border regimes have profound impacts on the lives of affected migrants, and that oversight, accountability practices and justificatory arguments are of vital importance in this field.

The interdisciplinary workshop that will take place on **26./27. March 2015** at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder) therefore seeks to investigate the role of European as well as national institutions in this issue area. The workshop will revolve around the questions whether, how and to what extent recent developments in the area of border management, migration and asylum reflect an increase in the degree of accountability towards European citizens as well as towards migrants – or whether we are faced with a seemingly uncontrollable and ever more complex 'apparatus' of control.

In particular, the workshop will focus on the impact of, and interplay between, technological advances and normative arguments on policy-making. It is the tension between the new opportunities for control fostered by 21st century surveillance techniques on the one hand and the growing concern of organized civil society with human rights issues on the other hand that we are most interested in. We therefore invite papers from scholars and practitioners focusing on either ideational or material drivers of change in the European governance of migration, and aim to offer a platform for jointly investigating the interplay between both dimensions. Are accountability structures evolving in parallel to the European border regime, or are they outpaced by processes of increasing digitalization, projection to third countries, and informalization? What patterns of justification and argumentation can we discern in recent processes of EU border and migration policy making? In how far do justificatory processes and/or arguments voiced in the broader public play a significant role, particularly in comparison to material and technological drivers for change?

To address these questions, we welcome contributions from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, (e.g. political science, law studies, anthropology and sociology) as well as different methodological approaches and levels of analysis (e.g. reaching from multi-level-governance analyses to country case studies).

The workshop is held by the Viadrina Center B/Orders in Motion (<https://www.borders-in-motion.de/research-projects>), which focuses on processes of demarcating, transcending, overcoming and re-establishing borders, boundaries, frontiers and limits. The European University Viadrina is situated approximately 1h from Berlin.

Travel costs and accommodation of selected participants will be covered.

Please send your abstract (300 words), and a short bio note, to bossong@europa-uni.de and akoch@europa-uni.de by Friday, 6 February 2015. Applicants will be informed about the acceptance of their submission no later than 16 February 2015.