



# Letter of Introduction

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to share this unique collection of border studies and border art with you.

*In this issue*, you will find two special sections and a portfolio. First, in a special section edited by regional specialists and *BIG\_Review* Board Member, Dhananjay Tripathi, we are proud to showcase the research of emerging scholars working on South Asian border studies. Five articles present new research on the interrelations between states, borderlands, identities, and exclusions by emerging scholars Sampurna Bhaumik, Malvika Sharma, Sariful Islam, Rachel Irene D'Silva, and Uddipta Ranjan Boruah. In their own ways, each of the authors reveal distinct challenges confronting the markedly securitized, sectarian, and postcolonial borders of the Indian subcontinent. Then readers explore the nostalgic—some would say idealistic or even naive—portfolio of Valerio Vincenzo, featured on our front and back covers. Here, the photographer captures European borders not as barriers but as open, sprawling, and unmarked spaces, daring us to (re) capture lost or aborted imaginaries of another world. Following the portfolio, *BIG\_Review's* new Art Editor Elisa Ganivet presents a special section of original artwork on borders. Readers are first treated to an inside view of the historical role of aviation in border delimitation in an essay written by Ina Neddermeyer and Jürgen Bleibler, curators of a recent Museum exhibition in Germany. Ganivet then presents illustrated interviews she conducted with three artists working on borders in their own peculiar ways: Randa Maroufi, Taysir Batniji, and Emeric Lhuisset; the interviews are bilingual, presented to the reader in both English and French. Then (for French readers exclusively) Hélène Mutter's essay explores the implications of the pixelized and flattened renditions of borders in Google Earth. Lastly in the art section, in both English and French, author

Christian Gattinoni touches on the paradoxes of borders through glimpses into the diverse creative works of the 2021 Fotolimo festival in the Catalan region. Finally, the issue concludes with a remarkable pair each of book and film reviews, by authors and researchers Aurélien Portelli, Eric Rigaud, Marion Christina Rohrleitner, Tonia Harris, Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman.

*At BIG\_Review*, we are confident of bigger things to come. Congratulations are due to Chief Editor Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly and his new research partner Jeff Corntassel for winning a new funding grant to explore borders in the 21st century for another several years, going beyond the original BIG grant that formally ended in 2020. This also means that *BIG\_Review* will have more support for expanding and promoting its content and distinctive brand. For the journal, I am pleased and immensely grateful that Stephanie Gruhlke has joined the team and will serve jointly as co-Managing Editor. In fact, without Stephanie, this issue would not have been possible. Special thanks are also due to Elisa Ganivet, who showed tremendous vision and patience in working with me to put the special section on art and borders together. As usual, big thanks go out to the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria. I am most grateful to be part of this team, and I hope you enjoy the content as much as I do.

Please share with friends and colleague who may not know about us. The entire journal is free and open access online. Visit our [journal homepage](#) and find BIG on the [web](#) and [social media](#).

Kindest regards,

Michael J. Carpenter, Managing Editor