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Letter of Introduction

Dear Readers,

Our beautiful new issue of *Borders in Globalization Review* is out! As always, *BIG_Review* is free. It is a Diamond Open Access publication. Print editions are available and distributed *at cost* by the University of Victoria's Bookstore.

BIG_Review *is produced on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples, and we are very grateful to live and play on these beautiful lands.*

Leading the issue is a Special Section of essays on "Border Studies: Past, Present, and Future" that was edited by David Newman and myself. It presents the views of 19 scholars from around the world. All entries examine either the past, present, and/or future views of border studies. A few teamed up to discuss all three themes; some are grounded in regional perspectives; others discuss borders thematically as borderlands or frontiers or as policy instruments (barriers or bridges, diachronic, epistemic, or temporal).

The idea for an open call on past, present, and future border studies came out of a discussion between David Newman and me on the year celebrating the creation of the Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS). Indeed, it was created 50 years ago in 1976.

Originally, the Association's primary focus was to bring together scholars interested in the development of cross-border relations spanning the Mexico–United States boundary line. At the time, the field of border studies focused on borders as boundary lines, and most of the literature focused on issues with boundaries such as delineation, demarcation, or disputes.

In the decade prior to the establishment of ABS, one very important contribution was made by Julian Minghi. In his 1963 review article, "Boundary Studies in Political Geography", Minghi suggests:

> *Because political boundaries form the areal expression of the limits of jurisdiction and power of the system to which they belong, they are perhaps the most palpable political geographic phenomena and thus have held a strong attraction for students of political geography.*

and concludes that,

> *one can see a trend away from the earlier thought restricting boundary concepts, such as that based on the artificial-versus-natural dichotomy, toward a more function-oriented studies"* (Minghi 1963, 427).

Since then, the field has followed a foundational transformation, in part thanks to the critical border studies movement (including scholars such as Anzaldua, Balibar, Brambilla, Brunet-Jailly, Mezzadra, Neilson, Newman, Paasi, Pallister-Wilkins, Parker, Rumford, Salter, van Houtum, Vaughan-Williams, and Walters) that points to much more complex understandings of borders. Boundary studies remain important, also complemented by studies of borderlands, border regions, as well as multiple forms of bordering—which the entries in this special section illustrate extremely well.

Some of you may be surprised by the juxtaposition of Minghi's 1963 review article with those entries; indeed there is almost a Kuhnian gap here. There is an *incommensurability*—old border studies paradigms and the many new discussions are not necessarily able to speak the same 'theoretical' language (Kuhn 1996, 103).

This *BIG_Review* issue also includes three articles, one on European integration outside the Union by Jean-François Clouzet, one on borders as "ghosts, gatekeepers, and guards" by Malvika Sharma, and one on the discursive construction of Hong Kong as "a temporal jurisdiction with an expiry date" by Iverson Ng.

Our Portfolio is by internationally renowned mural artist from India, Suresh K. Nair. Nair is also a Professor of Art in the Department of Painting at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India.

Our Art & Borders Editor Elisa Ganivet brings us an interview with Nico Alexandroff, whose work in

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border forensics helps to document the violence of border regimes.

Our Poetry Editor Natasha Sardzoska publishes two poems, "Fugitives across River Evros" by Hussein Habasch and "Load-Bearing" by Jussi P. Laine.

Our Policy Section includes an innovative report on the problem of lost revenue from illicit vehicle trade in Ethiopia by Tesfahun Tewodros Kassahun.

The issue also offers two film reviews: the first by Tobias Michael Schank of the film *Purple Sea*, the second by Karolina Golimowska of *Green Border*.

BIG_Review is made possible by Caitlin Janzen and Michael Carpenter, and our team of wonderful editors, board members, peer reviewers, and all the other colleagues who contribute the labour of reviewing and producing the work. We are also immensely grateful to our expert copyeditor Dr. Michelle Braiden; our outstanding designer, Arifin Graham of Alaris Design; and our Editorial Assistant, Hanna Solis Perusquia. We are also grateful to the Centre for Global Studies and University Libraries at the University of Victoria for hosting and supporting BIG_Lab. *BIG_Review* would not be published without the support of the European Erasmus+ funding programs.

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Sincerely,

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, Editor

Works Cited

Kuhn, Thomas S. 1996. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 3rd ed. University of Chicago Press.

Minghi, Julian V. 1963. "Boundary Studies in Political Geography." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 53 (3): 407–28. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8306.1963.tb00457.x.