



Letter of Introduction

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the new issue of *Borders in Globalization Review* (*BIG_Review*)!

When we launched the journal in 2019, the editorial team promised a different kind of journal, one that would traverse disciplinary boundaries with comparative and policy relevance, integrating the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Law. Our goal was to make academic and artistic explorations of borders available worldwide, as illustrated by our eight open-access issues so far. *BIG_Review* focuses on borders that are not necessarily territorial or confined to boundary lines. We find borders non-contiguous and fragmented, functional and mobile, emerging from ancestral cultures and contemporary claims-making. Borders follow migrants and goods through spaces and regulatory frameworks. We are interested in works that document and engage with the experiences of people living in or passing through borderlands. These are works that make sense of new modes of information and communication and of current and historical anthropologies of bordering. These are works that question boundaries, territoriality, and spaces of belonging and exclusion across the world.

Border studies is on the front lines of a contentious and transformative age, of technological, social, and climatic upheavals, of a clash between old and new. States and borders are everywhere on the rise, but so are decolonization and Indigenous resurgence. This issue of *BIG_Review* captures these tensions with two special sections joined by a portfolio.

First, we present a ground-breaking special section called, **Honouring Indigenous Land and Water Defenders**, edited by our new Indigenous Internationalisms Editor, Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel. This collection integrates critical appraisals in scholarship, visual arts, poetry, and conversation, with contributions by Corntassel, Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez, Andrew Ambers, Rachel yacaaʔaʔ George, Francis Dick, Tiffany Joseph, Loreisa Lepine, Cheryl Bryce, Jana-Rae Yerxa, Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, and Jess Hāusti. Readers are introduced to important and still-underappreciated perspectives and contributions of Indigenous knowledges and traditions, including ancient and contemporary practices of land and water defence, of diplomacies, trade networks, treaties, and new forms of community solidarity. These have broad implications for border studies but remain too little known; our

aim is to address these deficits. Indeed, this is our inaugural issue presenting Indigenous internationalisms; herein and going forward, all Indigenous content is marked by a decorative design by Métis artist and BIG Indigenous Coordinator, Braelynn Abercrombie. Braelynn's artwork depicts salmon (as well as the sustainable practice of reef net fishing) and kwetlal or camas, which are vital to the food systems, sacred relationships, and the future health and well-being of Lekwungen, W̱SÁNEĆ, and coastal Indigenous nations.

Second, this issue of *BIG_Review* presents an innovative portfolio, **Documenting Border Barriers**, by Pamela Dodds. This research-based collection of etching and printmaking shines a light and brings texture to the international rise of walls and fences. The memorable works “bear witness to the violent policies of exclusion and lack of concern for the lives of people on the move”, in the words of the artist.

Third, we present a special section called **Border Renaissance**, edited by Astrid Fellner, Eva Nossem, and Christian Wille. This collection features eight research articles by the editors as well as by Victor Konrad, Ondřej Elbel, Alina Mozolevska, Kamil Bembnista, Marco Mogiani, and Kirsten Sandrock. Combined, they document the “renaissance of borders in political and media discourses”. Their focus is Europe, but the significance is global. Indeed, borders are everywhere!

BIG_Review is made possible by its team of editors, board members, and other colleagues who contribute the labour of reviews, editing, and production, supported by funding grants from SSHRC and Erasmus+. We are grateful to be at the University of Victoria, located on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Lekwungen, W̱SÁNEĆ, and Esquimalt peoples. We are also grateful for the hosting and support provided by the Centre for Global Studies and by University Libraries.

Happy reading, and happy discoveries! Please enjoy, share, and stay in touch through our [webpage](#) and [social media](#).

Sincerely,

Michael J. Carpenter, Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel,
and Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly