



Letter of Introduction

Dear Readers,

It's *time* for the new *BIG_Review*, presenting a special issue on **border temporalities**! Of course, *space* is well-trodden territory in border studies. But bordering happens in time as well. What are the *tempo*s of life in borderlands? What are the marks and traces of borders across time? What is the enduring significance of human movement and exile throughout history? This innovative collection answers these questions from multiple academic and artistic perspectives.

First, border scholars and guest editors Johanna Jaschik, Machteld Venken, and Birte Wassenberg present their **Special Issue: Border Temporalities in and Beyond Europe**, featuring 12 research articles by 18 different authors. The set of papers developed from a collaborative conference held in Luxembourg in late 2022, called "Borders in Flux and Border Temporalities in and beyond Europe". Together, Jaschik, Venken, and Wassenberg masterfully steer a diverse set of research projects into this expansive yet unified contribution to border studies. Readers will discover new and different perspectives on time and temporality, from different regions within Europe and its external borders and beyond, regarding a range of themes including identity, memory, refuge, childhood, border disputes, statemaking, and more.

After this academic tour de force, readers find the Chief Editor's Choice Portfolio, **Six Sides of Migration**, by artist and scholar Ricardo Gomez (featured on the cover). His series of prints of an anonymized migrant depicts not only precarious states of being but also perils in time, "before, during, and after the process of migration".

In our Poetry section, we are pleased to present, for the first time, works from a Chinese perspective. Poet Ming Di offers a haunting set of border reflections in her **Four Bilingual Poems**, with each page displaying the English and the Mandarin side by side.

Then, in "**Exile and Art in Time**", readers are treated to a glimpse of a remarkable and timely exhibition at the Louvre-Lens, in France, titled *Exiles: Artist Perspectives*. Our own Art & Borders Editor Elisa Ganivet interviews the exhibition's distinguished curator, Dominique de Font-Réaulx, in a wide-ranging conversation about how displacement has shaped creativity and culture across history and genre, from ancient myth to modern art, with 15 embedded snapshots from the exhibit.

This issue also features a major **Policy Report** by academic and professional Vasiliki K. Theologi, evaluating governance responses to tobacco smuggling in the Greek region, and a **Film Review** by scholar Rezzan Alagoz, reflecting on the dangers of smuggling in the Kurdish borderlands, depicted in the 2000 film *A Time for Drunken Horses*.

We hope you enjoy and share this latest issue. Electronic copies are available for free online, and print editions are available for purchase.

BIG_Review is made possible by its team of editors, board members, blind reviewers, and other colleagues who contribute the labour of reviewing and producing the work, supported by funding grants from SSHRC and Erasmus+. We especially want to thank Maya Krieger, BIG student fellow, for countless hours of outstanding copyediting that has made this issue possible. We are also grateful to the Centre for Global Studies and University Libraries at the University of Victoria for hosting and supporting BIG_Lab. Last but not least, we are grateful to live and work on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Carpenter, Managing Editor