



**2019 Fellows Forum: "Scholarship Beyond Borders"**

Emphasis Day 1: Research on Borders & Migration  
Talks Summaries

**Mathew Hauer – Keynote**

Growing evidence demonstrates that climate change and sea level rise (SLR) can have profound impacts on human migration and there is growing worry that climate change is likely to cause mass human migration over the next century. Many SLR assessments focus on populations presently inhabiting vulnerable coastal communities, but to date no studies have attempted to model the destinations of these potential SLR migrants. Understanding the impact of SLR migrants on destination communities is critical to understanding more holistic societal impacts of SLR. I show that in the absence of adaptive infrastructure, a SLR is expected to reshape the US population distribution, potentially stressing landlocked areas unprepared to accommodate this wave of coastal migrants. In contrast to prior results, SLR impacts will ripple inland throughout the entire United States and are not confined to just coastal communities. This redistribution of the US population will be comparable to other great migrations of the 20th century such as the dustbowl migration and the great migration of African-Americans. These results provide the first glimpse of how climate change will reshape future population distributions and establishes a new foundation for modelling potential migration destinations from climate stressors in an era of global environmental change.

**Panel of Speakers**

**Suzanne Sinke**

Marriage and migration constitute two demographic forces with a multitude of possible interactions. Just as lines on maps create geographic borders, national identities create personal borders, allowing entry to some while excluding others. Whether individuals have legal status, and whether they retain it, depends on the formal definitions of which side of the nationality borders they fall. In U.S. History those lines changed in various time periods, and mobile people had to adjust. Racial and gendered inequality played into those adjustments. By focusing on the relationships of marriage and migration in a U.S. historical context, this presentation explores the borders of nationality in light of legal and familial status through several key periods.



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**Panel of Speakers ...cont.**

**Christopher Uejio**

Bugs, borders, and bodies. The first portion of the talk will discuss how mosquitoes transcend multiple types of boundaries: borders between nation states, property lines, and human bodies. They also cross barriers between species and ethical decisions about what is “killable”. The mosquitoes that transmit the most important diseases require human activities to persist. *Aedes aegypti*, which transmits dengue, Zika, and Yellow Fever, thrives in human made containers. The mosquito can flexibly breed in waste tires, single use plastic containers, flower pot saucers, and septic tanks. This second part of the presentation will discuss research on mosquitoes in Mexico and along the U.S. Mexico border.

**Carrie Danielson**

What can music tell us about the European migrant ‘crisis’? What roles do music and the arts play in the integration of newly arrived and unaccompanied children into new cultural environments? How does music facilitate borderwork on individual and societal levels? This presentation addresses these questions through discussion of Syria and Afghan refugee children’s participation in Sweden’s historically democratic music-and-art schools, or *kulturskolor*.

Drawing upon ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Simrishamn, Sweden, I argue that Sweden’s *kulturskolor* function as sites for what childhood studies scholar Stephanie Olsen calls 'emotional frontiers'—that is, spaces of encounter where “cultural friction and transfer take place” (Olsen 2015). Specifically, I analyze the experience of one young boy from Syria and a song he wrote called “*Syrien du vackra land*” (“Syria, you beautiful country”). This song, which is based on a Swedish pop tune, not only reveals the individual identity and borderwork of ‘newly arrived’ refugee children residing in Sweden who are no longer ‘newly arrived,’ but it also acts as a microcosm for larger discussions of integration, tolerance, and cultural friction in contemporary Swedish society.

The Graduate School



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Emphasis Day 2: Negotiating Borders

Talks Summaries

**Panel of Speakers**

**Dorothy Chan**

Revenge of the Asian Woman: In my latest poetry collection, *Revenge of the Asian Woman* (Diode Editions, March 2019), I continue to explore food, sex, fantasy, and family in the world of the queer Chinese-American woman who is the product of Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong. Questions of cultural intersections and identity arise as the speaker of these poems explores her parents' love story, their move from Hong Kong to America, along with her own origin story from her sexual awakening to the "revenge" she takes on the people who have fetishized her culture. This collection is comprised of full-body odes and sonnet sequences.

**Paromita Sanyal**

If we take an expansive understanding of borders that we need to negotiate during research, these could be urban/ rural borders, state borders, gender, class, and other social boundaries, and language barriers. In my presentation I will draw on my extensive experience of doing field research to talk about how I negotiated these boundaries while doing research on microfinance programs in rural India.

**Elwood Carlson**

Borders in Space and Time: A recent feature in the *New York Times* suggested that the current political turmoil over immigrants in Germany may be as much a question of boundaries between generations as it is about borders between countries. We will explore this possibility from two angles, both reflecting my recent research. First, I review the origins of the immigrant issue in contemporary Europe in terms of the crisis in Syria, the Dublin Regulations, and the resulting diaspora of Syrians across Europe. Second, I examine contrasts between generations, beginning with distinctive generations of Americans but comparing this to generations in other countries