



Università degli Studi di Messina
Dipartimento di Civiltà
Antiche e Moderne



Centro Europeo di Studi su Mito e Simbolo



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

MIND THE GAP

Borders, limits and frontiers

International Conference

20 May 2024

08:30-17:00 (London) / 9:30-18:00 (Rome)

TO JOIN: <https://mindthegap2024.github.io/MindTheGap2024/>

Scientific and organizing Committee

Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

Valentina Surace (University of Messina)

'Mind the gap' is a warning and a call to responsibility regarding the complex issue of border as an *in-between*.

Border studies has long been established as a field first and foremost in geography and in the social sciences, but they have, more recently, developed into a distinct field of interdisciplinary studies that includes philosophy, literature, anthropology and psychoanalysis, which are important areas to investigate the concept of border. The idea of borders emerged in the nineteenth century, conceiving them as tangible and discernible demarcations that delineate distinct political, cultural, social, religious, and economic territories. These partitions are foundational in shaping a community's sense of affiliation, identity, and their self-view, as well as their view of others. For this reason, questions of gender and other forms of identity and difference are central to border theory. However, the traditional understanding of border has later been integrated by an understanding of bordering as processes involving both institutional, top-down management of borders and performative bottom-up negotiations conducted by border subjects, i.e. those who inhabit the borderland or are born crossing the border. In addition, translation complicates the concept of border. In some languages, the border is a broader concept than the English word border, including the idea of limits and frontiers. Further questions have been raised by the process of globalisation, which is highly ambiguous: on the one hand, information and communication technology facilitates an unprecedented relationship between peoples, crossing borders; on the other hand, it triggers the dogged resistance of sovereign States, who try to seal their borders. The process of globalisation, on the one hand, has made the borders easily passable, enabling the flow of capital and goods. On the other hand, it has multiplied the barriers for those who move in search of more favourable living conditions.

Morning Session

8:30 Opening remarks: Giuseppe Ucciardello (University of Messina)

Panel 1: 8.45-10.30 (London) / 9.45-11.30 (Rome)

Chair: Giuliana Gregorio (University of Messina)

Caterina Resta (University of Messina)

Walled Borders. Beyond immunitary politics

Sinead O'Sullivan (Queen's University Belfast)

Reading and Praying: Collects and Glosses in Carolingian Psalters

Rita Fulco (University of Messina)

Borders and Neo-Nationalism. A geo-philosophical approach

Flash Presentation Dominic Harkin (Queen's University Belfast)

Funes the Arboreus: Border(less) Ecologies in Borges' Ficciones

Discussion

Panel 2: 10.45-12.00 (London) / 11.45-13.00 (Rome)

Chair: Craig Wallace (Queen's University Belfast)

Sandro Gorgone (University of Messina)

Liminal Places and not-Places

Caterina Marino (University of Calabria)

Frontiers of Sexual Difference. The Phantasm of Gender

Flash Presentation Matthew Bradley (Queen's University Belfast)

"Thou wenest Ich be a beggere": Borders and the Habitus in Late Medieval English Romance

Discussion

Lunch Break: 12.00-14.00 (London) / 13.00-15.00 (Rome)

Afternoon Session

Panel 3: 14.00-15.30 (London) / 15.00-16.30 (Rome)

Chair: Sandro Gorgone (University of Messina)

Giuliana Gregorio (University of Messina)

Borders and Language: Hermeneutic-Philosophical Issues

Craig Wallace (Queen's University Belfast)

Porous Borders, mise-en-scène and mise-en-abyme in Alan Moore's Jerusalem

Valentina Surace (University of Messina)

Bordering as the weak breaking force of border subjects

Discussion

Panel 4: 15.30-17.00 (London) / 16.30-18.00 (Rome)

Chair: Rita Fulco (University of Messina)

Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

Border Brushstrokes: The Ulster Arts Club's Cultural Canvas

Massimo Villani (University of Salerno)

Cum-finis. Our present between indeterminacy and infinity

Pre-recorded Presentation

Cahal McLaughlin (Queen's University Belfast) and Sioban Wills (University of Ulster)

We Fight for this Land

Discussion

Closing remarks: Aisling Reid and Valentina Surace