

The Ibero-American Centre (IAC) at the Department of International Relations and European Studies (IRES) at Metropolitan University Prague in cooperation with the Center for Ibero-American Studies (SIAS) at Charles University, Prague are pleased to announce:

Call for Papers

for the upcoming conference

BORDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Processes of bordering and identification in the Americas and their historical, cultural, political and security implications.

Conference date and venue: 21 November 2014, Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic
Deadline for submission of abstracts extended: 8 September 2014
Working language: English

Recent world events have shown that borders are far from being fixed and uncontested in the 21st century. While the processes of globalization and traffic of commodities, services, persons and capital might deem borders less effective, they actually maintain acute relevance as a source of identification for citizens, or as territorial frameworks for action by national governments. As distinguished anthropologist Fredrik Barth pointed out, borders are not drawn to separate differences; it is because we have drawn the borders that we actively seek differences and become acutely aware of their presence.

Aims of the conference:

In this conference, we propose to analyse processes of bordering and identification in the Americas and their complex conceptual, historical, cultural, political, and security implications. To this end, we are focusing on the relationship between the construction of national borders, identities and citizenship in the Americas from the 19th century onwards. At the same time, attention shall be paid to the 20th – 21st century challenges to borders and identities in the Americas brought about by increasingly transnational processes of migration and cross-border exchange in the Western hemisphere.

Experienced scholars, as well as junior researchers and students from different fields of interest are cordially invited to submit abstracts of their proposed presentations. Discussed topics may include, but are not confined to, the following thematic areas:

- Conceptualization of borders;
- Nation-state, borders and citizenship in the Americas;
- Human rights and national security along the borders in the Americas;
- Culture, literature and art at the borders in the Americas;
- Processes of identification: border communities and borderlands;
- Borders and political and cultural power;
- Impact of globalization and migratory practices on the borders.

Reflecting the fact that the research on borders has become increasingly interdisciplinary, the contribution will combine various fields of expertise from political science and geopolitics to anthropology and cultural and literary studies.

Formal requirements:

Abstracts summarizing the conference presentation (15-20 minutes long) shall be sent no later than 8 September 2014 at: iac@mup.cz. These summaries (500-1000 words in English) shall be accompanied by a short author's bio and contact details. All applicants will be contacted by the conference organizers with notification of acceptance by 30 September 2014.

Conference date and venue:

The conference will be held on 21 November 2014 at Metropolitan University Prague, Prokopova 16/100, 130 00 Praha 3, Žižkov, Czech Republic.

Conference fee:

The conference is **free of charge**.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts!

Mgr. Kateřina Březinová, Ph.D.
Metropolitan University Prague
Head of the Ibero-American Centre

Doc. Markéta Křížová, Ph.D.
Charles University Prague
Center for Ibero-American Studies