

MoMI Annual Meeting 2023
11-12 December
University of Naples L'Orientale (UNIOR)
Palazzo Giusso, Room 3.5

Countering EU's 'Borderism'
A more-than-academic roundtable

For the 2023 Annual Meeting, the UNIOR Mobility and International Migration Studies Centre (MoMI) is aiming at gathering up group of scholars and practitioners to draft up a new agenda of intervention to move beyond what Henk van Houtum has recently defined as EU-driven 'discriminative borderism', i.e., the contemporary deadly and self-damaging nativistic border-politics allowing the authorities to stop, detain, and push-back people simply because they were born in the wrong country and are not wealthy enough to obtain a VISA in advance (van Houtum 2021).

In the case of the EU, about ⅓ of the world nationalities are blacklisted. Together with the brutal consequences in terms of criminalisation of migration and solidarity, border violence and deaths, this legalised-and-normalised apartheid has been making of the EU a large gated-community inhabited by 'dividuals' (Deleuze, 1992) in 'fear' (Bauman, 2006) and 'panic' (Cohen, 2002), while the outsourcing and externalisation of border control practices has turned migration into a profitable market for a variety of private actors (Infantino, 2017).

The discrimination and violent exceptionalization of a specific, significant part of global humanity is fed by decades of systemic disinformation and misrepresentations – a socio-cultural understanding of borders and migrations dynamics which has been shaped in accordance to a variety of economic and political features, and imbued with a mixture of racist, xenophobic, and aporophobic stances. In this sense, there is an urgent need to consider new ways of narrating, imagining, and representing global mobility, the struggle of people against discriminative enclosures, and to facilitate the emergence of a shared framework of intervention to counter this suicidal 'necropolitics' (Mbembe 2003, van Houtum and Bueno Lacy 2020).

With this aim in mind, we are organising two-days of collective discussion, brainstorming, and collaboration among academics, artworkers, activists, journalists, students, and interested citizens, to work together in a horizontal roundtable open to everyone.

References:

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- Bauman, Z. (2006). *Liquid Fear*, Cambridge, Polity Press.
- Cohen, S. (2002). *Folks Devils and Moral Panic*, London, Routledge [original publication 1972].

- Del Biaggio, C., Rossetto, T., Boria, E. (2019). Mapping Local Resistance to Anti-Immigration National Law: A Carto-Essay. *J-Reading - Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography*, 1, 89 - 98.
- Deleuze, G. (1992). Post-script on the Societies of Control, *October*, Vol. 59, pp. 3–7 [original publication 1990].
- Mbembe, A. (2003) *Necropolitics*. *Public Culture* 15(1), 11–40.
- Houtum H.J. van (2021), Beyond Borderism: Overcoming discriminative B/ordering and Othering, *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie (TESG)*, 112, 1, 34–43.
- Houtum, H.J. van, Bueno Lacy, R. (2020). Deadly B/ordering Regime; Overcoming its Paradoxical Paper, Iron and Camp Borders. *Geopolitics*, 25(3), 706-733.
- Infantino, F. (2017). La mise en marché de la frontière, un produit d'État. Compagnies privées et mise en œuvre de la politique du visa Schengen, *Gouvernement et action publique*, 6, 51-73.

Guests speakers

- Alessandra Bonazzi (University of Bologna)
- Cristina Del Biaggio (Université Grenoble Alpes)
- Henk van Houtum (Radboud University, Nijmegen Centre for Border Research – NCBR)
- Federica Infantino (Université Côte d'Azur, Unité de Recherche Migration et Société – URMIS)
- Laura Marmorale (Mediterranea Saving Humans)
- Giacomo Zandonini (Fada Collective)

Programme

Day 1

11 December 2023

14.00 - 18.00

14.00 – 15.00 – **Intro talk**

Fabio Amato (University of Naples L'Orientale, President of MoMI) and Iain Michael Chambers (Founding member of MoMI)

15,00 – 18,00 – **Roundtable (1st Session)**

- Guests: Henk van Houtum (Radboud University, NCBR), Federica Infantino (Université Côte d'Azur, URMIS), and Giacomo Zandonini (Fada Collective).
- Moderator: Luca Paolo Cirillo (University of Naples L'Orientale, MoMI).

Day 2

12 December 2023

9.45 - 13.45

9.45 – 12.45 – Roundtable (2nd Session)

- Guests: Alessandra Bonazzi (University of Bologna), Cristina Del Biaggio (Université Grenoble Alpes), and Laura Marmorale (Mediterranea Saving Humans).
- Moderator: Fabio Amato (University of Naples L'Orientale, President of MoMI)

12.45 – 13.45 – Final talk

Led by Alessandra Gissi (University of Naples L'Orientale, MoMI)

Discussants

Anna Brambilla (Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione – ASGI)

Iain Michael Chambers (Founding member of MoMI)

Adele Del Guercio (University of Naples L'Orientale, MoMI)

Anna Liguori (University of Naples L'Orientale, MoMI)

Fabrizia Forni (Official serving at the Territorial Commission for the recognition of international protection of Salerno - Naples section)

Miguel Mellino (University of Naples L'Orientale, MoMI)

More info at:

<https://bitly.ws/34aWt>.