Revisiting Borders and Boundaries: Gendered Politics and Experiences of Migrant Inclusion and Exclusion

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University of Neuchatel, Switzerland
This workshop addresses questions of inclusion and exclusion by bringing together two theoretical approaches, which are in general employed in different fields. One focuses on boundaries and boundary work. The other places borders and bordering practices at its center stage.

The idea of boundaries revolves around the creation, maintenance and contestation of institutionalized social differences. Conversely, the concept of borders captures the maintenance of territorial sovereignty and national inclusion and exclusion. We argue that boundaries produce both similarities and differences, which in turn affect the enforcement and management of borders. Additionally, we propose to apply a gender perspective to illuminate the links between borders and boundaries. As a marker of difference, gender is a key element of boundary work and politics of belonging. At the same time, gender is fundamentally inscribed in the technologies of marking, enforcing and securing nation state borders by means of inclusive and exclusionary practices.

To integrate these different approaches the overarching question of the workshop asks:

How can we conceptualize dynamic processes of exclusion and inclusion through the prism of gendered boundary work and bordering practices?

Confirmed Speakers
Anna Amelina, Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main
Oliver Bakewell, University of Oxford
Kathryn Cassidy, Northumbria University at Newcastle
Heike Drotbohm, Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz
Melanie Griffiths, University of Bristol
Anna Korteweg, University of Toronto
Sabine Strasser, University of Bern
Ioana Vrabiescu, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest