



Counter-Europeanisation as a Security Challenge: Rebordering borderlessness

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The European Union's project of consolidating political community and its own international actorness have encountered formidable obstacles - partly due to global shocks and partly due to internal crises. In this process, borders have come to play a critical role as an interface between domestic concerns and wider interstate and intercultural contexts. As markers of difference, their role as barriers to undesirable influences and threats perceived to emanate from the other side have only been reinforced. Under pressure, a number of governments have opted for the end-of-pipe solution of closing their borders in an attempt to restrict the incoming or transiting movement of people, some succumbing to the knee-jerk reaction to build walls and fences. We have witnessed a consistent drive for ever stricter border and migration policies, which are not limited to mere border management but become an inherent part of a wide range of policies and societal practices. Accordingly, the success of Europeanisation, understood as the emergence of common rules, values, social agendas, etc., is no longer self-evident. Europeanisation's weaknesses partly reside in the contradictions and contestations inherent in the project of Union itself. Above and beyond this, however, it is clear that Europeanisation is challenged from a variety of fronts – even at the very heart of Europe: from those that demand a Europe of nations and nationalisms, those who see in the EU an agent of globalisation and exploitation, those who contest the EU's geopolitical role in the world and, more generally, those who question the European Union's legitimacy.

Jussi P. Laine is the President of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) and associate professor of multidisciplinary border studies at the Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland. By background, Laine is a human geographer, yet in his approach to borders he combines influences from international relations and geopolitics, political sociology, history, anthropology, and psychology. Within border studies he seeks to explore the multiscalar production of borders and bring a critical perspective to bear on the relationship between state, territory, citizenship, and identity construction.

5th October 2021
4.30-6.00pm
Online (Zoom)

The online lecture series is public and is aimed at researchers, students and interested practitioners within and outside of the Greater Region.

Free admission, lecture in English.

Registration required
www.borderrealities.org

Lecture within the framework of the interdisciplinary UniGR-CBS lecture series 2021/2022 "Border Realities. On the Renaissance of Border in Uncertain Times".

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Further information
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