

Workshop Program

„Justifying the European Border Regime and holding it to account: Ideational versus Material Dimensions?“

The European border regime is under intense contestation: Long before the tragedy of Lampedusa, scientists, civil society organizations and other relevant actors in the field have been questioning the European Union’s border enforcement policy. Even though some argue that the EU promotes progressively higher standards for the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, security considerations continue to dominate European and national policymaking processes in the field of migration. The ensuing tensions are apparent in a great number of policy developments, ranging from readmission agreements and mobility partnerships, the establishment of EUROSUR, and the adjustment of the Schengen regime, to current debates on how to deal with “foreign fighters”, how to continue maritime rescue operations in the Mediterranean or how to envisage the long-term evolution of the EU’s Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. In this context, it hardly needs reminding that border regimes have profound impacts on the lives of affected migrants, and that oversight, accountability practices and justificatory arguments are of vital importance in this field.

The interdisciplinary workshop therefore seeks to investigate the role of European as well as national institutions in this issue area. The workshop will revolve around the questions whether, how and to what extent recent developments in the area of border management, migration and asylum reflect an increase in the degree of accountability towards European citizens as well as towards migrants – or whether we are faced with a seemingly uncontrollable and ever more complex ‘apparatus’ of control.

Friday, 27.03.2015 European University Viadrina

10.30 – 11.00 Arrival and light buffet

11.00 – 13.00 PANEL 1:

Charlotte Fiala (Humboldt University Berlin): “What role should we attach to considerations about consequences of migration? A normative inquiry”

Daniel R. Mekonnen (International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI), Oslo): “Balancing the Tension between Security and Human Rights in the EU’s Southern Maritime Borders”

Discussant: Jürgen Neyer (European University Viadrina)

13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 16.00 PANEL 2:

Bastian Vollmer (University of Oxford, COMPAS): “Discourses and practices of bordering – a hermeneutical approach”

Adina Maricut (Central European University, Budapest): “The European border regime as an arena of ideational clashes – the case of the Schengen Governance Package”

Jürgen Neyer/ Luana Martin/ Mitja Sienknecht (European University Viadrina): “Contesting the European Border Regime: How, Where and When Do Good Arguments Matter?”

Discussant: Raphael Bossong (European University Viadrina)

16.00 – 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15 – 18.15 PANEL 3:

Estela Schindel (Konstanz University): “Displacing accountability: The role of “nature” in the deaths at the EU maritime borders.”

Bossong, Raphael (European University Viadrina): Dissecting normative claims about EU border and internal security policy – technology and multidimensional accountability

Discussant: Hartmut Aden (HWR Berlin)

18.30 CONFERENCE DINNER