



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO
Dipartimento di Scienze della Persona
Scuola di Dottorato in Antropologia ed Epistemologia della Complessità

International Seminar

Sguardi di frontiera: Soglie Urbane tra Visibile e Invisibile /
Border Sightscales: Urban Thresholds between the Visible and the Invisible
April 3, 2009- Porta Sant'Agostino

The event is part of the Festival ***Frontiera: Passaggi Metropolitani***
(Bergamo, Porta Sant'Agostino, March 6 – April 12, 2009)

Sguardi di Frontiera – border sightscales – is an opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue to reflect on the pressing need for critical thought on the forms and ways of representing borders. Today, deconstructing these methods of representation means that we must move away from classic approaches (*boundary studies*) in which borders, assumed as mere delimitations of sovereignty, appear to be naturalized and static territorial lines, geometric marks on maps. In the face of the changing scenarios of contemporary life, it becomes impossible to cling to the certainties of that tradition, and there is a need to recover the relationships between social and spatial aspects that are played out at borders (*border studies*).

Aside from this scenario, however, this is not merely about dealing with the places at the edges of nation-states. Borders have been dis-located and re-located. This shift has become evident in urban settings in which the interweaving of local and global, and the rearticulation of transnational flows have now become the constituents of a new urban planning approach founded on the complex patchwork of cultures and identities that, in turn, have spawned new areas of overlap, new shockwaves, new urban thresholds between the visible and the invisible.

These thresholds are social, cultural and political, mobile, perspectival and relational constructs. It is the variety of social interactions – embracing the experiences, policies and representations that enliven thresholds – that defines the meaning acquired by border sightscales. Urban thresholds are evidence of the complexities of the infinite and contingent border variations, serving as an index that can make room for the invisible geographies denied by the modern eye, which often tends to standardize and essentialize things. A focus on urban thresholds will thus help reveal borders not as a mere space of “di-vision” but as one animated by multiple perceptions and representations, making it a “pluri-vision”. As a result, borders acquire a dual significance as materiality and representation, whose meanings are constructed through the identity and social practices of their inhabitants.

Thus, a border view of urban thresholds as spaces that are represented, perceived and lived-in – and thus as the fluid terrain of a multitude of political negotiations, demands and counter-demands – has become fundamental once more, going beyond the mendacity of the linearities of visible boundaries.

CURATED BY:

Dr. Chiara Brambilla
Dr. Carmelo Marabello

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

Prof. Enrico Giannetto
Prof. Mauro Ceruti
Prof. Gianluca Bocchi
Dr. Carmelo Marabello
Dr. Chiara Brambilla

PROGRAMME

APRIL 3, 2009

9:30 a.m. **Welcome – Enrico Giannetto** (University of Bergamo, Scientific Coordinator of the Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)

SESSION I:

Chair: **Elena Bougleux** (University of Bergamo – Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)

9:45 a.m. **Eleonora Fiorani** (Polytechnic University of Milan)
Abitare la frontiera / Living the Border

10:30 a.m. **Elena dell’Agnese** (University of Milan-Bicocca)
Piazza San Babila, “la trincea nera” / Piazza San Babila, “the black trench”

11:15 a.m. *Coffee Break*

11:45 a.m. **Henk van Houtum** (Radboud University Nijmegen, NCBR)
The City of Our Maps

12:30 a.m. **Chiara Brambilla** (University of Bergamo, Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)
Verso un’Estetica delle Frontiere: il Caso di Berlino tra Borderscapes e Cityscapes / Towards an Aesthetics of Borders: the Case of Berlin between Borderscapes and Cityscapes

1:00 p.m. Discussion – Discussant: **Gianluca Bocchi** (University of Bergamo, Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)

1:30 p.m. *Lunch*

SESSION II:

Chair: **Cristina Grasseni** (University of Bergamo, Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)

3:00 p.m. **Irit Rogoff** (Goldsmith’s College, University of London)
The Where Of Now

3:45 p.m. **Carmelo Marabello** (University of Bergamo, Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)
Soglie Urbane, Cinema e Geoscopia / Urban Thresholds, Cinema and Geoscopia

4:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*

5:00 p.m. **Francesco Casetti** (Catholic University of Milan)
Una Questione di Luoghi: Spazi Urbani e Schermi Cinematografici / A Matter of Places: Urban Spaces and Film Screens

5:45 p.m. Discussion – Discussant: **Cristina Grasseni** (University of Bergamo, Ph.D. Programme in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity)

6:30 p.m. *Closure of the Seminar*