

ABORNE Summer School
Palace of Thurnau, Germany 26-30 July 2010

The importance of African border zones as ‘productive sites’ is increasingly recognised within Africanist research communities. Recent studies on borderlands reveal significant processes of political and cultural productivity and significant economic growth. An important focus of study within this context is the ways in which state structures and border inhabitants jointly shape the border experience. In addition to this, the political realities in peripheries and borderlands of many post-colonial states in Africa seem to challenge state conceptions of sovereignty, territoriality and citizenship.

We invited 18 Ph.D. (two students could not come) students and young researchers coming from Europe and Africa. The students focussed on a wide range of issues:

- Borderland history
- Borderland Culture
- Politics in borderlands
- Cross-border governance (by state and non-state actors)
- A particular regional emphasis was dedicated to the borderlands in Southern Sudan
- Borderland Economies and the role of development cooperation
- The concept of border and frontier in the novels of Mia Couto
- Migration and borders
- Environment and borders/migration

The lectures and seminars connected the students with recent studies of the ABORNE Network:

- Paul Nugent, University of Edinburgh: Keynote Lecture on “Borderland Studies”
- Werner Zipps, University of Vienna: Lecture and Film: “Filmmaking in African Borderlands”
- David Coplan, University of Witwatersrand, Seminar: Borders Amidst our Lands. A North America-Southern Africa Comparative Perspective on Border Theory”

- Wolfgang Zeller, University of Edinburgh: Lecture on: Access all Areas – A Backstage Look at ABORNE’ s Emerging Research Agendas
- Baz Lecoque, University of Ghent & Jan Bart Gewald, University of Leiden: People, Territory and Borders: Suzerainty and Sovereignty before, during and after Colonial Rule in Africa
- Dereje Feyissa (University of Bayreuth, Humboldt Foundation Fellow), Lecture: The Cultural Construction of State Borders: The View from Gambella
- Petr Skalnik (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic), Politics and Borders in Africa