



Università degli Studi di Messina
Dipartimento di Civiltà
Antiche e Moderne



Centro Europeo di Studi su Mito e Simbolo



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

Faculty Research Initiatives Fund (QUB)

MIND THE GAP

Borders, limits and frontiers

International Conference

20 May 2024

08:30-18:00 (London) / 9:30-19:00 (Rome)

LINK ZOOM:

Scientific and organizing Committee

Aisling Reid

Valentina Surace

'Mind the gap' is a warning and a call to responsibility regarding the complex issue of border as an *in-between*.

Border studies has long been established as a field first and foremost in geography and in the social sciences, but they have, more recently, developed into a distinct field of interdisciplinary studies that includes philosophy, literature, anthropology and psychoanalysis, which are important areas to investigate the concept of border. The idea of borders emerged in the nineteenth century, conceiving them as tangible and discernible demarcations that delineate distinct political, cultural, social, religious, and economic territories. These partitions are foundational in shaping a community's sense of affiliation, identity, and their self-view, as well as their view of others. For this reason, questions of gender and other forms of identity and difference are central to border theory. However, the traditional understanding of border has later been integrated by an understanding of bordering as processes involving both institutional, top-down management of borders and performative bottom-up negotiations conducted by border subjects, i.e. those who inhabit the borderland or are born crossing the border. In addition, translation complicates the concept of border. In some languages, the border is a broader concept than the English word border, including the idea of limits and frontiers. Further questions have been raised by the process of globalisation, which is highly ambiguous: on the one hand, information and communication technology facilitates an unprecedented relationship between peoples, crossing borders; on the other hand, it triggers the dogged resistance of sovereign States, who try to seal their borders. The process of globalisation, on the one hand, has made the borders easily passable, enabling the flow of capital and goods. On the other hand, it has multiplied the barriers for those who move in search of more favourable living conditions.

Morning Session

Opening remarks: Giuseppe Giordano (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Introduction: Aisling Reid and Valentina Surace

Panel 1: 8.45-10.15 (London) / 9.45-11.15 (Rome)
Chair: Giuliana Gregorio (Università degli Studi di Messina)

Caterina Resta (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Title

(Queen’s University, Belfast)
Title

Rita Fulco (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Title

Discussion

Panel 2: 10.30-12.00 (London) / 11.30-13.00 (Rome)
Chair: Caterina Resta (Università degli Studi di Messina)

Sandro Gorgone (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Title

Aisling Reid (Queen’s University Belfast)
Title

(Università degli Studi di Messina)
Title

Discussion

Lunch Break: 12.00-14.00 (London) / 13.00-15.00 (Rome)

Afternoon Session

Panel 3: 14.00-15.30 (London) / 15.00-16.30 (Rome)
Chair:

Discussion

Panel 4: 16.30-18.00 (London) / 17.30-19.00 (Rome)
Chair: Sandro Gorgone (Università degli Studi di Messina)

Caterina Marino (Università della Calabria)
Title

Valentina Surace (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Title

(Università degli Studi di Messina)
Title

Discussion

Closing remarks: Aisling Reid and Valentina Surace