



Association for
BorderlandsStudies



Asociación de
EstudiosFronterizos

Call for Papers

2024 Annual Conference
April 3-6, 2024, San Antonio, Texas, USA

Research Practices in Border Studies.

Approaches, epistemologies, and methodologies for understanding bordering processes.

Border studies have come a long way in comprehending processes related to borders in their material and immaterial, visible and invisible forms. Multidisciplinary research has been investigating places, people, identity, politics, devices, technologies, discourses, practices, representations, cultures, imaginaries, and performances of borders through a variety of tools and lenses. The richness of the debate is indeed unquestionable, as is the complexity and sophistication of border analysis and theoretical efforts. It is precisely this diversity and variety of approaches that inspired the theme of the 2024 Annual Conference: we want to address the practices we adopt when studying borders and promote a discussion on the different methodologies that can help us understand borders and re/de/bordering processes.

More traditional approaches to the study of borders are now paralleled by feminist, decolonial, critical, and creative methodologies. Quantitative and qualitative analysis are often combined; narratives and discourses have become key aspects of border studies, while border culture and representations help to understand the geopolitics of bordering. The field does not imply a specific methodological framework, and the richness of case study research is evident. The goal of the conference is not to propose a homogenization of methodologies nor to call for theoretical generalization. Rather, we believe that the encounter of various, and sometimes radically different, approaches can be productive and allow for a valorization of border research.

We invite border scholars from a variety of disciplines to present their work, reflecting specifically on the approaches, epistemologies, positionalities, and methods they adopt. As always, the Association for Borderlands Studies Annual Conference extends its invitation beyond the conference theme to bring together a community of researchers encompassing a wide range of topics and ways of seeing. Proposals from across the diverse field of border studies are welcome, and we particularly encourage complete panel and roundtable sessions that reflect this diversity. Individual papers and book presentations are also most welcome.

For Submissions:

- An Individual Paper is a single paper submitted by one or multiple authors. The programme committee will organize individual papers into thematic panels and assign a chair/discussant. Individual papers will be given approximately 15 minutes.
- A panel is a group of papers with a similar theme that has been organized by the person submitting the proposal to make a unified session. A panel must have a chair and 3 or 4 presenters.
- A roundtable is an open session and discussion on a topic with no papers. A roundtable must have an organizer and at least three participants.
- Book Presentation is an open session where the author can introduce their new monograph to ABS members.

You will first need to register on the system, as usernames/passwords from previous conferences cannot be used. Submissions can be made under the "Submit Abstracts" tab of the [WSSA conference website](#). Please select "Association for Borderlands Studies" as the Section and include the following information on your paper, panel, roundtable, or book presentation:

- Individual Paper: Title and abstract not to exceed 250 words.
- Individual Paper as part of a Panel: Title and abstract not to exceed 250 words. Please also include the title of the Panel it will be part of in your abstract.
- Prearranged Panel: Title of the panel as well as the names, affiliations, and emails of all authors/participants. Include an abstract of the panel theme, which should not exceed 250 words. Indicate clearly in the abstract that this is a panel submission, and each participant should also submit an abstract for their paper (see "Individual Paper as Part of a Panel").
- Roundtables and book presentations: Title of the panel and an abstract or description of the session not to exceed 250 words (include the names, affiliations, and emails of all participants). Indicate clearly in the abstract that this is a roundtable or book presentation submission.

We hope all participants will be willing to act as moderators or discussants on the programme, but please contact the conference chair via the email address below if you would prefer not to.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by the end of January 2024 and a preliminary programme will be published prior to the opening of the conference.

Important Dates:

Deadline for all submissions: **January 15, 2024**

- Please submit proposals at: <https://wssaconference.com>

Important Information:

To attend the conference you are required to:

- 1) Register and pay the WSSA conference fee at: <https://wssaconference.com>
- 2) Pay your ABS membership at <https://absborderlands.org/membership/>

Please note that in order to present at the ABS annual conference, you must be a member of the ABS and pay the WSSA registration fees (the WSSA does the invaluable job of organizing the venue and conference).

The conference will run from April 3-6, 2024, and it is anticipated that the conference programme will be entirely in-person. However, we recognise that not all members may be able to attend in-person. For those who cannot make it to San Antonio, and would still like an opportunity to present to our border studies community, please email associationborderlandstudies@gmail.com so that we can gauge interest in a virtual alternative.

2024 ABS Scientific Programme Committee:

- Anna Casaglia, ABS President-elect & Programme Chair/Coordinator (University of Trento, IT)
- Paul Richardson, ABS President (Birmingham University, UK)
- Laurie Trautman, ABS Vice-President (Western Washington University, US)
- T Mark Montoya, ABS Immediate Past-President (Northern Arizona University, US)
- Simon Dalby (Balsillie School of International Affairs, CA)
- Chiara Brambilla (University of Bergamo, IT)
- Nick Megoran (Newcastle University, UK)
- Agnese Pacciardi (Lund University, SE)
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- Marcela Tapia Ladino, ABS Board member (Universidad Arturo Prat Iquique, CL)
- Daniel Covarrubias, ABS Secretary and Treasurer (Texas A&M International University, US)

For any inquiries about this call, please contact the Programme Chair at:
associationborderlandstudies@gmail.com

Please feel free to share this call with colleagues across your networks and we hope to see you in San Antonio in 2024!

Anna Casaglia

Programme Chair, 2024 ABS Annual Conference
ABS President-Elect