

# 11TH TRANSATLANTIC STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM

BORDERS IN TRANSIT:  
RURAL AND URBAN LIMINALITIES IN THE US AND EUROPE  
WARSAW; MARCH 21-30, 2013



*in cooperation between, and supported by:*

OSU, Master of Public Policy, Intercultural Student Services  
Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany  
University of Warsaw, Poland  
Max Kade Foundation



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*This report is an addendum and expansion of the main symposium report, located at <http://www.trasym.org/report.html>.*

# 1. NOTES ON PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The 11<sup>th</sup> Transatlantic Students Symposium continued the theme of borders from the 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium, but modified it to include a more historical and international perspective.

The current university partnership configuration was maintained (Humboldt-University Berlin, Oregon State University, Warsaw University).

Program assessment will continue with the addition of video journaling as an additional means of capturing and evaluating the students' experience.

# 2. PREPARATORY SEMINARS

A preparatory seminar was taught by PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee in Winter Semester 2012/13 at Humboldt University, which incorporated a selection process. Prospective symposium participants on the Humboldt side submitted their proposals and were accepted on the basis of the academic merits of their papers.

Another seminar was taught by Philipp Kneis at Oregon State University, to prepare the students selected by the MPP (Master of Public Policy) program and the ISS (Intercultural Students Services) office (recruiting students from College Student Services Administration and Public Health) for the symposium.

At Warsaw University, Dr. Tomasz Basiuk prepared the students in Winter Semester 2012/13.

All classes were coordinated by drawing from a common syllabus, in order to ensure that the students — despite their different fields — shared a similar background. A video conference between all partners was held on February 14, 2013, allowing students and faculty to exchange ideas and introduce themselves to each other.

# 3. ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

## **Total Number of Participants: 33**

Organizers: 6

Dr. Philipp Kneis, Allison Davis-White Eyes, Dr. Brent Steel, Jeff Kenney (OSU)

PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee (Humboldt)

Dr. Tomasz Basiuk (Warsaw)

Student/Assistant Organizers: 9

Andrew Johnson, Sophie Bennetzen, Christina Rechenberger (Humboldt)

Doris Gonzalez Gómez, Paul Meuse, Meghan Rhynard-Geil (OSU)

Ania Micińska, Adina Nistor, Janek Pytalski (Warsaw)

Students: 18

(Humboldt: 4, OSU: 8, Warsaw: 6)

## 4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION / UPDATED CALL FOR PAPERS

The symposium looks at the political borders of the U.S. and Poland as they shifted over time and examines the spaces and the periods of liminality this shifting has produced, focusing especially on transitions of the political order, the economy, and culture. As the American frontier advanced geographically from the time of the early settlements till the end of the nineteenth century, and as the U.S. continues to redefine its interest in various locations around the globe, the Polish borders also shifted over time to disappear altogether by the end of the eighteenth century, and to be variously redrawn in the course of the nineteenth and the twentieth century. Today, the political, legal, and economic context of the EU points to new questions about national and supranational borders.

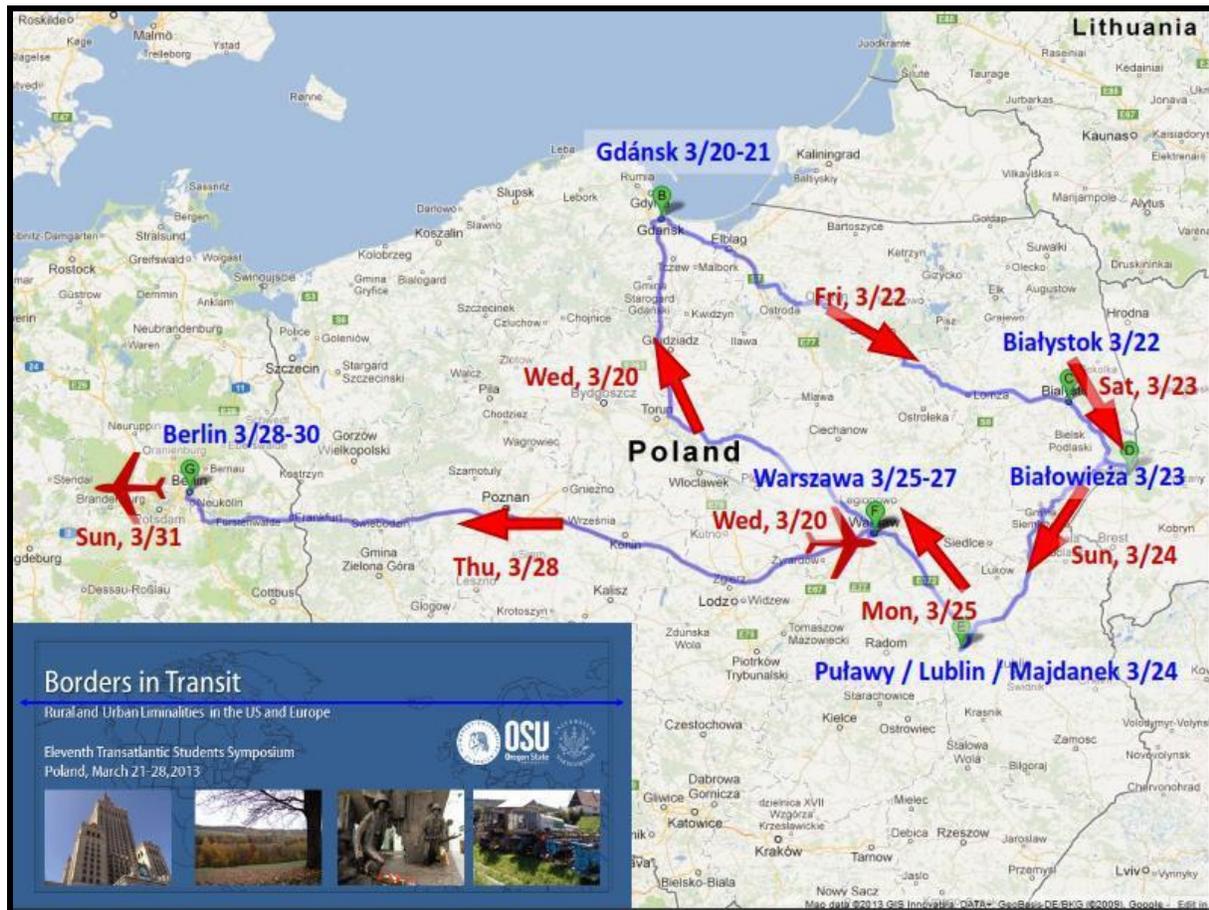
The shifting American frontier and the changing Polish borders reflected the political order of the day and the ambitions of various national and international players. They also produced economic effects and modes of cultural exchange specific to the borderland spaces opened up and closed off by the changing shape of the borders, in keeping with the historical flux of conditions that alternately allowed and limited access, fostering or constricting development and producing particular geographies of the mind. The similarities and the differences between the American and the Polish contexts afford ample opportunity for comparative study of such border phenomena, and aspects of this comparative perspective will be taken up in the symposium papers and discussions, in the preparatory and on-site seminars and workshops, and on the occasion of on-site visits in Poland.

One particular delineation that will be noted is the urban-rural divide, which remains especially vivid in eastern parts of Poland; those predominantly rural areas lie along not just the national but also the EU border. These parts of Poland are often seen as having been left behind by the post-1989 transition compared to central and western parts of the country, and especially to the major urban centers, and remain among the poorest in the EU. Nonetheless, economic and cultural change is taking place also there. The region has a long history of intercultural contact and its particular mix of languages, which included Polish, Yiddish, Russian and Belorussian, as well as German, inspired Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof to invent Esperanto, an artificial language composed of words borrowed from a range of European tongues.

The 2013 symposium week begins in Gdąnsk and leads us to Warsaw, after visiting several sites of historical, political, social and cultural relevance, such as Malbork Castle, Jedwabne (a pogrom site), Białyystok, Kruszyniany (a traditional Tatar village), Białowieża Forest, Majdanek, Lublin, Kazimierz Dolny, and sites within Warsaw and Berlin.

During all of these visits, we will address questions of the malleability and durability of borders, of their potential to exclude and include, of their function for national identity formation, and other aspects. After the symposium conference on, part of the group will continue to Berlin for two more days.

## 5. SYMPOSIUM WEEK FIELD TRIPS



### Wednesday, March 20th: Travel to Gdansk

American Group: Flight to Warsaw via Amsterdam, meet Polish group at airport

Polish Group: Tour bus from Warsaw Airport to Gdansk

German Group: Train from Berlin to Gdansk

Arrival at Hotel Artus in the Evening

Dinner on your own in Gdansk



Gdańsk



Gdańsk

**Thursday, March 21st: Gdańsk**

- 11 AM Meet at Gdańsk University campus for orientation
- 1 PM sightseeing and lunch on your own
- 2:30 PM Visit to the Solidarność Museum
- 3:30 PM Visit to the Wyspa Art Institute at the Gdańsk Shipyard, including Wałęsa’s work-shop
- 8 PM Symposium Welcome Dinner



Malbork



Jedwabne Memorial

**Friday, March 22nd: Białystok**

- 8:20 AM Depart from Gdańsk
- 11 AM Malbork Castle Museum  
Built by the Teutonic Knights (Deutscher Orden), the castle illustrates the various historical forces and shifting borders at play in the region.

A planned the visit at Tykocyn Synagogue had to be cancelled due to bad weather and road conditions – which slowed the bus down.

7 PM Jedwabne Pogrom Memorial

The site commemorates a pogrom during which at least 340 Polish Jews were killed by their Polish neighbors at the time of German occupation in 1941.

9 PM Arrival at Hotel Branicky, Białystok



Białystok



Białystok

### **Saturday, March 23rd: Białowieża**

10 AM Arsenal Museum:  
Exhibition by Anna Konik on immigrant women in Białystok and Stockholm.

12 PM Zamenhof Center: Museum dedicated to the inventor of Esperanto

1 PM Lunch together in Kruszyniany

2PM Visit of the Tatar Village in Kruszyniany, and of the Tatar Mosque (with tour guide speaking about the history of Tatars in the region).

7 PM Arrival at Wejmutka Hotel, Białowieża

7:30 PM Bonfire Dinner



Kruszyniany



Kruszyniany



Białowieża Forest



Majdanek

### **Sunday, March 24th: Majdanek, Lublin & Puławy**

8 AM Bus leaves for forest. We had planned a long walk through the national park into parts of the primeval forest usually inaccessible to the public, hoping to see European Bison. Again, the weather did not allow this – with temperatures at around -2 °F, we were only able to walk for 40 minutes during an old oak grove used for hunting by Polish nobility, and for hiding from the plague.

1:30 PM Majdanek Concentration Camp site, guided tour

4 PM Visit to Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle / sightseeing / dinner on your own

7:00 PM Departure from Lublin

8 PM Arrival at IUNG hotel in Puławy

8:30 PM Voluntary Reflection session on the Majdanek visit.

Students suggested to meet for a session that dealt with the visit to the concentration camp site. While the trip was prepared by the respective seminars, the experience of walking through the camp necessitated a group meeting, during which contemporary topics of discrimination, racism and persecution of minorities in Europe and North America were discussed in the context of the Holocaust. Faculty facilitated the discussion, allowing a space for both affective and academic interlocutions.



Majdanek



Majdanek



Lublin



Kazimierz Dolny

**Monday, March 25th: Kazimierz Dolny Warsaw**

9 AM Depart from hotel

12 PM Lunch (on your own) and sightseeing together in Kazimierz Dolny

The town once used to encompass a significant Jewish population. A small museum and photographic exhibit of Jewish life is housed in the former Synagogue.

16:00 Arrival in Warsaw. Dinner on your own; students prepare for presentations



Warsaw

## **Tuesday, March 26th: Warsaw/Conference**

Morning free for final conference preparations

12:30-8 PM Conference Part I (see schedule below)



Conference Part I



Conference Part II

## **Wednesday, March 27th: Warsaw/Conference**

9 AM-12PM Conference Part II (see schedule below)

12 PM Joint Lunch

2 PM Visit to Frontex

A representative of the European border protection agency talked with the group about border and immigration policy.

4:30 PM Tour of Warsaw, focusing on sites of the former Jewish ghetto, and sites of history

7 PM Farewell Dinner and Party



Conference Part III



Conference Part III

## **Thursday, March 28th: Warsaw/Conference/Berlin**

- 9:30-11 AM Conference Part III: Closing and Final Reflection Session  
2:55 PMP German and American students and faculty depart by train to Berlin  
8:30 PM Arrival in Berlin  
9:30 PM Dinner with alumni from previous symposia



Berlin



## **Friday and Saturday, March 28-29th: Berlin**

Humboldt student organizers took OSU students on guided tours to sites of historical and contemporary interest.

## **Sunday, March 30th: Departure to Oregon**

Flight to Portland via Amsterdam



Berlin



## 6. SYMPOSIUM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, WARSAW

### Tuesday, March 26th

**12:30-13:00: Welcome Address**

**13:00-14:15: Panel 1:**

***University Formations: Identities in Higher Education***

**Felicia Arce, Oregon State University**

**(College Students Services Administration Prg.):**

***The Social Media Era***

Social Media (electronic communication) has had an impact on students and higher education. Students' development is present in students' use of social media and it is important for students and higher education to understand the impact it has on themselves and others both online and offline. Many students are unaware of the impact pictures, messages, tweets, and posts on themselves and others. Many students assume their actions online do not affect their physical life, but they are beginning to realize that online and offline borders are having an impact on themselves and others. This presentation will analyze the use of social media as a form of identity students create as it crosses the border to an offline reality.

**Sophie Wilson, Oregon State University**

**(College Students Services Administration Prg.):**

***Border Crossing in the United States: Multiracial Identity Development within a Higher Education Perspective***

As a CSSA graduate student, my interests within student affairs include multicultural issues, diversity education, multiracial identity development, and judicial affairs (my assistantship is with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards). My passion for multiracial identity development is closely tied to my own identity as a multiracial. This has influenced by choice in topic for the symposium. My topic is to take a higher education lens and delve into Root's theory of Multiracial Identity Development and her concept of border crossing. Border crossing is defined as multiracial individuals navigating their racial identity. Root describes four ways that multiracial individuals can experience border crossing: (1) accept the identity assigned by society, (2) choose a monoracial identity, (3) choose a multiracial identity, or (4) create a new racial identity. I want to expand upon the role of higher education institutions to provide opportunities for students to undergo multiracial border crossing.

**Donald "DJ" Zissen, Oregon State University  
(College Students Services Administration Prg.):  
*Non-Monosexual Student Support***

Within the United States, the number of "out" LGBT individuals attending a college or university is on the rise. With this increase in LGBT individuals, the amount of new or different LGBT identities has also risen. Support for Lesbian and Gay students has also continued to rise, but the support for any of these newer or "fringe" identities have not begun to develop. This paper will look at college and universities (in the US) that have been identified as leaders in the LGBT student support field, and how they provide services and support for those individuals who identify as on the LGBT spectrum, but who do not identify as Lesbian, Gay, or Transgendered. Within the paper, the gender spectrum and orientation spectrum will be examined, as they represent the boarders and boundaries of dominate society.

**14:30-15:45: Panel 2:**

***On This Side of the Line: Claiming and Reclaiming Spaces***

**Victoria Wolff, Humboldt-University Berlin (American Studies Prg.):  
*Painting Borders – Painting National Identity:  
The Historical Frontier in Post Office Murals During the Great Depression***

During the Great Depression, the US government initiated several art programs, both to create jobs and to bring art to the people. Through one of these programs, namely "The Section of Fine Arts and Sculpture," the government installed hundreds of murals in post offices throughout the country. These murals were supposed to strengthen the public morale and restore pride in the nation. In my presentation, I focus on those murals that portray what can be called "historical frontier" images. Similar to representations of borders (e.g. on maps) these "frontier murals" were able to create a sense of national identity. Although each mural was a local painting and adhered to local variables, the images nonetheless created not only local identity but a national identity. They achieved this precisely because they made use of the "historical frontier."

**Valeska Dorow, Humboldt-University Berlin (American Studies Prg.):  
*Construction of borders/construction of Identity in Navajo Nation, Arizona***

My presentation will deal with the perception of borders and the construction of Identity within Navajo Nation in Arizona. The reservation within a state, within a nation, is nothing unique to the United States, still, the concept of creating a factual border within an existing state, is extraordinary. Navajo Nation has its own government, its own time zone, its own language and its own schools. Natives are keeping their lives separate from the "other" Americans. But who is "othering" whom? My presentation will deal with both sides of the border and show how history and present can contribute to form a new form of American Identity.

**Karolina Mistrzak, Warsaw University (American Studies Prg.):**

***Liminality in the Bathtub: A Close Analysis of Space in Beasts of the Southern Wild***

*Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012) tells the story of a six-year-old Hushpuppy living with her father, Wink, in the Bathtub, the fishing town separated from the mainland, the Dry World, with the Levee. Incorporating the notion of liminality, coined by Arnold Van Gennep and developed further by Victor Turner, my aim is to look at the Bathtub as on the liminal space where the blurring of boundaries between the human and the natural occurs. I will also use the concept of a threshold, as it is defined by Stavros Stavrides in *Towards the City of Thresholds*, to speak about the Levee and the way it functions in the movie.

**16:45-18:00: Panel 3:**

***Expressions of the Self: Breaking Boundaries and Challenging Expectations***

**Sylvia Gozdek, Warsaw University (American Studies Prg.):**

***Third Culture Kids as a challenge to concepts of territoriality***

Sylvia's presentation for this year's Transatlantic Student Symposium will break-down the demographic identified by David C. Pollock and Ruth E. Van Reken as "Third Culture Kids." After identifying the key characteristics to the group, she will bring in themes discussed in three of the readings assigned for the course: Kiser's "Performativity," Wojakowski's "Narrations at the southern Polish borderland," and Ho evar's "International Borders." It will be argued that "Third Culture Kids" can be used as an interesting example to understand the nature of identity as a performed phenomenon and that the unifying characteristics of individuals in this group challenges the traditional framework for understanding the relationship between culture and territory.

**Natalia Malek , Warsaw University (American Studies Prg.):**

***Rambling as a mode of women's (re)cognition  
in Sandra Cisneros's The House on Mango Street***

In her much acclaimed novella, *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros touches upon one of the most urging American social problems: urban ethnic neighbourhoods, from an innovative and personal perspective. Narrated through the words of a maturing Chicana girl, the story nonetheless allows for a distinct polyphony: the voices of the barrio women get heard, each rendered a separate story and individual recognition. The polyphony of voices arranged in non-hierarchical manner seems a significant transformation of the coming-of-age narrative, and Cisneros's defiance both from the traditional Bildungsroman and from the so-called 'ethnic autobiography' seems as much an artistic as a political choice. By presenting the barrio women, many of whom are the American legal and illegal immigrants, as ramblers, and recognizing their 'rambled stories,' she writes her own feminist coming-to-consciousness narrative.

**Mariana Amorim, Oregon State University (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**  
***Women as a heterogeneous group: invisible borders, visible effects.***

Brazil presents a disturbing scenario regarding violence against women. In spite of the great harm that it can cause to women, it took until 2004 for the Government to create the first National Plan of Policies for Women (1st NPPW), which was followed by the enactment of Maria da Penha Law (MPL) against domestic violence in 2006 and by the second National Plan of Policies for Women in 2008 (2nd NPPW). Although MPL's and NPPWs' contributions for the protection of Brazilian women are undeniable, they still did not overcome the inequality among women. Different groups of women are affected in different ways by violence, and they require specific measures to attend their needs.

This paper describes how policies addressing domestic violence for rural women have changed from 2004 (1st NPPW) to 2011 (WCF) and analyzes how the changes in the social construction of rural women have affected these policy changes, based primarily on Ingram's et al (2007) work. In order to achieve this, an analysis of the policies related to domestic violence and of the different impacts that they had in rural and urban environments were made. It was found that women as a group are moving within Ingram's et al (2007) continua, achieving not only a better social construction but also more political resources.

Although women are achieving a better situation, rural women have normally been held invisible on policy designs: their specific needs have not been addressed or have been address in a rhetorical, limited, and vague way. Another finding is that references to rural women and the creation of policy guidelines to attend their demands started to increase at the same time that rural women began to position themselves as rural *workers*. It is inferred that the construction of rural women as workers is making them more *visible* and *positively constructed*. The acknowledgement of how social constructions affect policies is important to broad notions of what constitute political power and to guide police designs that will consider normative concerns when framing problems and target groups. Rural women's movement should also be aware that social construction influences not only the design but also the implementation monitoring of said policies.

**18:15-19:30: Panel 4:**

***Battle Lines: War without Reconciliation***

**Kerstin Ammermann, Humboldt-University Berlin (American Studies Prg.):**  
***Belfast as a frontier city***

In my presentation for the Transatlantic Symposium about Borders in Transit, I will take a closer look at Belfast as a frontier city, especially the attempts by the government and other institutions to create peace. Recent survey showed that the majority of the inhabitants in Belfast wants to keep the barriers that separate streets, parks

and, I would also add, lives. I will investigate what role the Peace lines play in the life of inhabitants, especially for the young Northern Irish. An analysis of some of the images that were painted on the Peace Wall between Shankill and Falls Road will show how and if they promote the idea of a peaceful co-existence or of violence. Overall stands the question whether peace lines are really creators of peace OR whether they rather promote the idea of segregation and difference.

**Jędrzej Godlewski , Warsaw University (American Studies Prg.):**

***Troubled Image of a War Veteran:***

***National Trauma and Social Exclusion in Works of Krzysztof Wodiczko***

Recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq produced a large disproportion between soldiers killed in action and those wounded physically and/or mentally, leaving hundreds of thousands traumatized male and female veterans behind. The aura of national crisis resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks constructed a particular discourse of a soldier viewed as a hypermasculine, cold-blooded warrior. This image, prevailing in the public sphere, hindered the readjustment of war veterans, suffering from traumatic psychological diseases, in their private lives and, as the result, in the society, leading to their social invisibility. Krzysztof Wodiczko, a renowned Polish-American visual artist, approached this theme in his audio-visual installations – *Speaking Flames* (2006) and *The Veteran Vehicle Project* (2008) – attempting to reclaim the public for war veterans. This presentation argues that American public sphere, in terms of politics and arts, uses the notion of trauma to depoliticize the debate on US engagement in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## **Wednesday, March 27th**

**9:00-10:15: Panel 5:**

### ***Lands of the "Free": Nationalism, Immigration, and Exclusion***

**Carolin Kubanke, Humboldt-University Berlin (American Studies Prg.):**

#### ***The Effects of the "Fortress Europe" on Immigration***

There are almost no borders existent anymore between the states of the EU. While the EU largely abolished the borders between its member states, it was and is very concerned about protecting its outside border from illegal immigration. This presentation is going to show how the increased desire of the "Fortress Europe" to exclude "outsiders" affects immigration and immigrants. To do that a case study by Sevasti Trubeta focusing on a detention center on the Aegean island Lesbos will be introduced which is describing the horrible situation of the immigrants. Additionally, an approach concerning the decriminalization of "illegal" immigrants will be included which is likely to trigger discussion afterwards.

**Rebecca Arce, Oregon State University (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**

#### ***Unskilled Labor in the United States and the European Union: Economic Hardship or Anti-Immigrant Sentiment?***

In the midst of a global economic recession there remains an unskilled labor shortage in the United States and the European Union. This paper evaluates the social construction of immigrant workers and how policies on both continents marginalize this group and their contribution to society at large.

**Elba Moise, Oregon State University (Health and Human Services Prg.):**

#### ***The Social Construction of Borders' Impact on Haitian & Dominican Relations***

The social construction of borders reinforces a division amongst people. The erection of such an intangible structure reflects a symbol of power that imposes inclusion and exclusion. The more privileged and dominant side actively controls the borders (e.g. geography, religion, skin color, class, and language) to keep 'border-crossers' or "the others" out and to keep people in (Heewon, 2012, p. 1). These borders ultimately determine the relationships between people and establish a hierarchy-inequality structure. The transformation of the Dominican frontier into a demarcation of the Dominican border sharpened the division between people. According to Tavernier (2008), "In their development of a Dominican national identity, Dominican elites combined race, nation, and religion to serve as a marker of difference between Haitians and Dominicans that would pass from generation to generation" (p. 3). Moreover, these intangible borders have shaped and defined cultural norms, legitimized oppression, normalized inequalities, and reified the exploitation of Haitians. This paper will explore the social, political, historical and economic productions of distress in order to understand why conflict and inequalities continue between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

**10:30-11:45: Panel 6: Questioning the Machine: Responses to Global Structures**

**Sneha Gantla, Oregon State University (Master of Public Policy Prg.):  
*Rejuvenating an idyllic past: Farmers' markets as a response to globalization***

My presentation for the symposium will provide an overview of farmers' markets as a response to globalization of the food system. Farmers' markets remind us of an idyllic past when we knew how fresh the food was, where the farmer is from, and there was a feeling of community and closeness which is missing in big box stores. Thus, markets have become a part of a larger response to the adverse effects of the globalization of our food system and they provide both consumers and producers with an alternative. Yet, they are not without limitations. In order to ensure a sincere effort towards establishing a sustainable and just food system, we must avoid the "local" trap of farmers' markets and look to them as part of a larger process rather than an end goal.

**Zachary Dunn, Oregon State University (Master of Public Policy Prg.):  
*Index-based weather insurance in sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities, challenges, and the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory***

My presentation will focus on the role of risk in developing countries, and the strategies for overcoming it. Specifically I will examine the role of microinsurance in sub-Saharan Africa as a method of overcoming risk due to weather. I will compare the domestic policies of the U.S. and Poland on this issue, and will argue for greater investment in the infrastructure needed to make microinsurance available to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Thursday, March 28th**

(Meet at Jerozolima venue)

9:30-9:40: Summary and Call for Reflection

9:40-10:40: Open Forum and Discussion

10:40-11:00: Closing Address

## 7. CONFERENCE: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN POLICY AND EDUCATION. OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, APRIL 12, 2013

Social Justice” is frequently proposed as an answer to social ills, to failures or shortcomings of society, and as a response to violations of human life and human dignity. Yet what does it actually mean to seek social justice, what are the central issues addressed by such demands, and how can it actually be brought about?

We will look at rhetoric, history, cultural and social constructions, education and policy responses meant to address questions of diversity, poverty, equity, community, conflict prevention, and others.

The second Social Justice Students’ Conference at Oregon State University, taking place during Holocaust Memorial Week, provides an opportunity for students to present their research and scholarship in related areas in an interdisciplinary and collegial atmosphere.

The conference allowed for additional reflections on the symposium, and gave participating students the space to present their research and their experiences to a wider university forum.



### ***10:30-11 AM: Opening of the Conference***

**Allison Davis-White Eyes, Philipp Kneis:**  
***Discussing Social Justice***

### ***11 AM-1 PM: Transatlantic Student Symposia Reflections*** ***Panel Discussion***

Students from the Transatlantic Students Symposium talk about their symposium week experiences. This includes a video conference to two Polish student organizers.

**1:15–2:30 PM: Presentations**

**Rebecca Arce (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**  
***Unskilled Labor in the United States and European Union:***  
***Economic Hardship or Anti-Immigrant Sentiment?***

In the midst of a global economic recession there remains an unskilled labor shortage in the United States and the European Union. This paper evaluates the social construction of immigrant workers and how policies on both continents marginalize this group and their contribution to society at large.

(Original Symposium Presentation Reworked)

**Zachary Dunn (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**  
***Fighting Poverty in sub-Saharan Africa: Overcoming Weather-Based Risk***

My presentation will focus on the role of risk in developing countries, and the strategies for overcoming it. Specifically I will examine the role of microinsurance in sub-Saharan Africa as a method of overcoming risk due to weather. I will compare the domestic policies of the U.S. and Poland on this issue, and will argue for greater investment in the infrastructure needed to make microinsurance available to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. (Original Symposium Presentation Reworked)

**2:45-4 PM: *Social Justice at the International Level***

**Dinesh Timilsina, Bunny Yorth, Yossa Nainggolan (Master of Public Policy Pr.):**  
***Panel Discussion***

Three international students discuss their research on matters of social justice and human rights in Nepal, Cambodia and Indonesia.

**4:15–6 PM: *Presentations***

**Sophie Wilson (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**  
***“What Are You?”: Multiracial Identity Development in Higher Education***

The presentation takes a higher education lens and delve into Root's theory of Multiracial Identity Development and her concept of border crossing. Border crossing is defined as multiracial individuals navigating their racial identity. Root describes four ways that multiracial individuals can experience border crossing: (1) accept the identity assigned by society, (2) choose a monoracial identity, (3) choose a multiracial identity, or (4) create a new racial identity. I want to expand upon the role of higher education institutions to provide opportunities for students to undergo multiracial border crossing. (Original Symposium Presentation Reworked)

**Shannon M. Campbell (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**

***Equity and Empowerment: The Case for Community Land Trusts***

The presentation looks at affordable housing as an issue of social justice. At the example of community land trusts, mechanisms of homeownership, questions of wealth distribution and equity are discussed.

**Sarah Cline (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**

***Arrested Sovereignty: Tribal Nations in Pursuit of Justice***

American Indian nations within the United States have had a long struggle to pursue self-determination. After providing a historical backdrop to the current discourse, this presentation introduces the principles guiding Federal Indian Law. Subsequently, tribal sovereignty is discussed in the context of termination, self-determination, and the effects of Public Law 280 on Indian law and administration.

**Sneha Gantla (Master of Public Policy Prg.):**

***Closing Address***

## 8. FURTHER STEPS

- There will be an assessment undertaken based on video and text journals undertaken during the trip. This process will probably continue through summer.
- We also conducted a final reflection session on April 19 to collect feedback for possible improvements of the program for the next symposium.
- At Humboldt-University Berlin, a selection of participants from the preparatory seminar had to be undertaken for the symposium trip. The students that were not able to join us on the trip will present their papers at Humboldt-University on May 3. The conference will also include reflections by those who were able to attend.

## 9. NEXT SYMPOSIUM

Preparations are underway for the 12<sup>th</sup> Transatlantic Students Symposium, taking place in New Mexico probably from March 24-28. The topic will be:

"Sustainability in Education, Culture and Politics:  
Questioning the Validity of National Narratives and Policies"

There are already student organizer volunteers from all participating units and universities.