

Lecture Series

# Atelier Bordertextures

## Theories and Methods in Cultural Border Studies

### Border Aesthetics: Visibility and Invisibility at the US-Mexico Divide

Markus Heide (Uppsala University)

In the 80s and 90s artists and writers who engaged in what today is referred to as “border art” had a strong focus on forms of cultural blending and mixing as well as liberating concepts of de-categorization. Some of these artists and writers highlighted the utopian potential of border space. Their literary and artistic work has contributed to theorizing various forms of mixing. Their border art inspired postcolonial concepts of hybridity, metissage and mestizaje. Following this period, in the late 90s and particularly after 9/11, surveillance became a concern in art that critically explored border paradigms. More recently, the focus of border art shifted towards questions of violence: narco violence, femicide, immigration, but also structural violence that established criteria defining who is allowed to cross the border and who is not. The lecture will discuss intersections of politics and aesthetics in the contemporary US-Mexico borderlands.

**Markus Heide** is associate professor at the Swedish Institute for North-American Studies at Uppsala University. His recent research concentrates on Inter-American relations (USA, Canada, Mexico) and the US-Mexico border. In this context he co-edited *Hemispheric Encounters: The Early United States in Transnational Perspective* (2015) and published academic contributions on border film, border art, and “narcocorridos” in the US and Europe. In 2017 and 2018 he was visiting research fellow at the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies at UC San Diego, doing research and field work on *The US-Mexico Borderlands as Contested Space: Film, Art, and Popular Culture*.

26<sup>th</sup> of June 2019  
16:00-17:30

Saarland University  
Campus Saarbrücken  
Building A5.3  
room 203

The lecture series is open to the public and is aimed at interested students and young as well as experienced researchers.

Organized by the interregional research group „Bordertextures“ of the UniGR-Center for Border Studies (UniGR-CBS).

Contact & Information  
<http://atelier.bordertextures.org>

