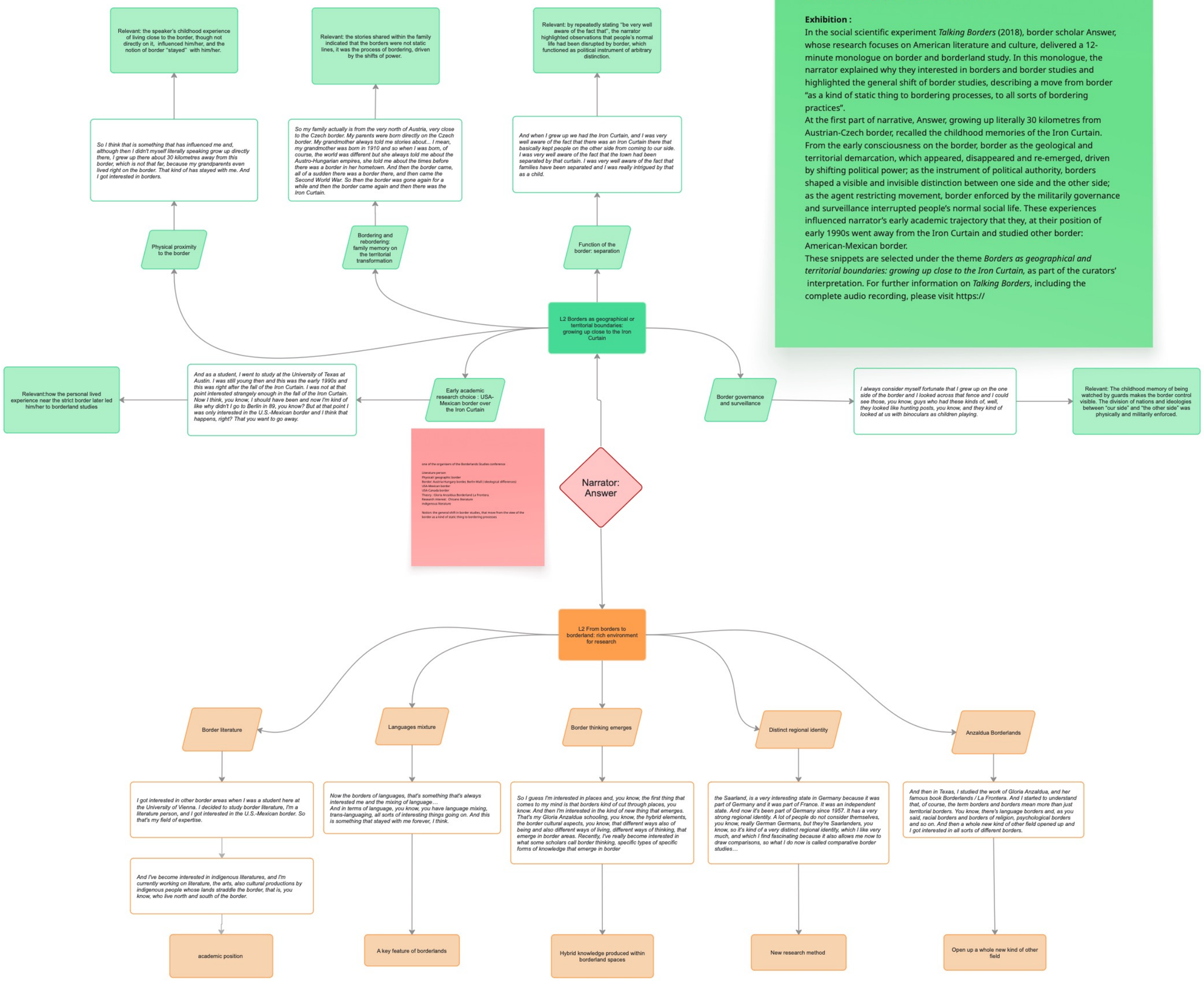
Answer: Growing up Close to the Iron Curtain

Exhibition :
In the social scientific experiment *Talking Borders* (2018), border scholar Answer, whose research focuses on American literature and culture, delivered a 12-minute monologue on border and borderland study. In this monologue, the narrator explained why they interested in borders and border studies and highlighted the general shift of border studies, describing a move from border "as a kind of static thing to bordering processes, to all sorts of bordering practices".
At the first part of narrative, Answer, growing up literally 30 kilometres from Austrian-Czech border, recalled the childhood memories of the Iron Curtain. From the early consciousness on the border, border as the geological and territorial demarcation, which appeared, disappeared and re-emerged, driven by shifting political power; as the instrument of political authority, borders shaped a visible and invisible distinction between one side and the other side; as the agent restricting movement, border enforced by the militarily governance and surveillance interrupted people's normal social life. These experiences influenced narrator's early academic trajectory that they, at their position of early 1990s went away from the Iron Curtain and studied other border: American-Mexican border.
These snippets are selected under the theme *Borders as geographical and territorial boundaries: growing up close to the Iron Curtain,* as part of the curators' interpretation. For further information on *Talking Borders*, including the complete audio recording, please visit https://