

1

00:00:00,220 --> 00:00:08,960

Yeah, so I think think for me borders present

2

00:00:08,960 --> 00:00:12,130

something a little bit different. I think my first image

3

00:00:12,130 --> 00:00:15,470

Is, you know, very difficult border crossings. But then I

4

00:00:15,470 --> 00:00:19,429

think about some other experiences I've had. I do research

5

00:00:19,429 --> 00:00:22,589

on borders in West Africa, and most of these borders

6

00:00:22,589 --> 00:00:26,109

are not very well controlled. Um you have to go through

7

00:00:26,309 --> 00:00:30,469

border controls in only certain official places, and everyone knows

8

00:00:30,769 --> 00:00:33,549

where the unofficial places you can cross the border. So,

9

00:00:33,729 --> 00:00:36,039

if you need to cross the border and you don't

10

00:00:36,039 --> 00:00:39,280

want to be monitored, you know where to go and

11

00:00:39,280 --> 00:00:42,710

you can get, we can get around it. I don't

12

00:00:42,710 --> 00:00:46,640

think of borders as being like inherently good or inherently

13

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:49,920

Bad. Um borders are in some ways good because they tell

14

00:00:50,359 --> 00:00:55,299

people who's responsible for taking, for providing them services and building roads,

15

00:00:55,299 --> 00:00:58,280

and schools, you know? If we didn't have any borders

16

00:00:58,280 --> 00:01:02,399

we would either have to have one government or no

17

00:01:02,399 --> 00:01:04,739

Government. So, people would be fighting over land all the

18

00:01:04,739 --> 00:01:07,480

time. So and we all have borders, right? We have- if you

19

00:01:07,480 --> 00:01:09,780

live in an apartment you have a border between your

20

00:01:09,780 --> 00:01:12,450

apartment and the next apartment. So a border is just

21

00:01:12,450 --> 00:01:16,159

à way of dividing space um and there are positives and

22

00:01:16,159 --> 00:01:19,150

negatives to that. So I don't really see borders as

23

00:01:19,700 --> 00:01:24,620

inherently good or inherently bad depending on how well they're

24

00:01:24,620 --> 00:01:30,010

controlled. So, you know, as long as you allow people

25

00:01:30,010 --> 00:01:32,409

to move in and out, which is not always the

26

00:01:32,409 --> 00:01:36,319

case, then that's fine. Um you know the problem is when

27

00:01:36,319 --> 00:01:39,939

you see these cases where where it's so difficult for you.

28

00:01:39,939 --> 00:01:43,280

Even at this conference you can see um all these, you

29

00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:44,980

know- I went to a session this morning and none

30

00:01:44,980 --> 00:01:47,260

of the panelists came. They were from Nigeria. And I

31

00:01:47,769 --> 00:01:50,650

think it's because they they couldn't get here, they couldn't get

32

00:01:50,650 --> 00:01:53,689

a visa. Um and then, we just saw at the last

33

00:01:53,689 --> 00:01:57,709

panel the delegation from Nigeria wasn't here, and I'm assuming

34

00:01:58,250 --> 00:02:05,219

for a similar reason. So that's one way that borders

35

00:02:05,219 --> 00:02:14,370

work negatively. Um, you know, and then there is if you are cro- and normally when we think about crossing a

36

00:02:14,370 --> 00:02:17,219

border we think about crossing a border by land, so

37

00:02:17,219 --> 00:02:20,164

whether in a car or by train, but when you

38

00:02:20,164 --> 00:02:24,129

are flying somewhere you're also dealing with borders when you, you

39

00:02:24,129 --> 00:02:27,509

Know, in the United States - I'm from the United States -

40

00:02:27,509 --> 00:02:29,879

and none of my family arrived at a land crossing,

41

00:02:29,879 --> 00:02:33,780

they all arrived by boat. So, that was their border

42

00:02:33,780 --> 00:02:37,090

that they crossed, it was a maritime border. So you

43

00:02:37,090 --> 00:02:39,745

see all these different things at work. I crossed the

44

00:02:39,745 --> 00:02:42,469

border into Canada, between the United States and Canada, maybe

45

00:02:42,469 --> 00:02:45,009

a month ago. It was very easy! I drove up in

46

00:02:45,009 --> 00:02:48,110

my car, I showed them my passport, they said 'What

47

00:02:48,110 --> 00:02:50,990

are you doing?' I told them. They said 'Are you

48

00:02:50,990 --> 00:02:53,099

transporting anything?' I said 'no', and they let me go.

49

00:02:53,099 --> 00:02:57,569

But other times um when I moved from one part of

50

00:02:57,569 --> 00:03:01,020

the US to another part, the quickest way to

51

00:03:01,020 --> 00:03:03,419

get between the two was through Canada. And so I

52

00:03:03,419 --> 00:03:05,729

had a trailer with all of my stuff, and they

53

00:03:05,729 --> 00:03:07,669

had to search the entire trailer to make sure that

54

00:03:07,669 --> 00:03:13,259

I wasn't transporting anything. Um but normally when I'm crossing the

55

00:03:13,259 --> 00:03:15,000

border in West Africa as long as I have a

56

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:18,770

Visa - which as an American is easier to get - I

57

00:03:18,770 --> 00:03:21,060

just show up. You know I go; I get stamped;

58



00:03:21,060 --> 00:03:23,509

I pay a small fee, and I cross the border.

59

00:03:23,770 --> 00:03:27,060

When I come back it's same the same thing. So

60

00:03:27,419 --> 00:03:31,969

sometimes people ask for bribes, but normally it's not a

61

00:03:31,969 --> 00:03:35,210

huge a huge problem. So, and I think for many people in

62

00:03:35,210 --> 00:03:37,819

the world, this is how they normally experience borders. It's

63

00:03:37,819 --> 00:03:40,960

not these very dramatic things that we see on the

64

00:03:40,960 --> 00:03:45,389

news, you know, but I think those are, you know,

65

00:03:45,389 --> 00:03:48,830

cases that we focus on. Um the other thing

66

00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:51,569

I think that we don't, we tend not to think about it

67

00:03:51,569 --> 00:03:56,169

with borders is borders within countries. So, I'm not and

68

00:03:56,169 --> 00:03:59,150

I don't know Austria that well, but I'm assuming that

69

00:03:59,150 --> 00:04:02,430

you have like subdivisions within the country, right? And so,

70

00:04:03,389 --> 00:04:07,409

in the US every state, every department is responsible

71

00:04:07,409 --> 00:04:10,960

for its own education, its own different things. I think

72

00:04:10,960 --> 00:04:13,409

in European countries things are a little more centralized, but

73

00:04:13,500 --> 00:04:16,540

you still have these these differences where, if you are the

74

00:04:16,540 --> 00:04:18,540

mayor of a town or if you live in a

75

00:04:18,540 --> 00:04:20,930

town, you know who is in charge and you know

76

00:04:20,930 --> 00:04:25,459

who to complain to if something goes wrong. Um whereas, if

77

00:04:25,459 --> 00:04:29,250

you don't have borders it becomes difficult to know, you know, who's

78

00:04:29,250 --> 00:04:32,259

in charge and who is responsible for things.

79

00:04:32,259 --> 00:04:38,519

At the same time that becomes restricted very quickly, you know?

80

00:04:38,519 --> 00:04:41,560

We're talking about with Hungary, all these fears about like migration

81

00:04:41,560 --> 00:04:43,920

and border research and things like that. And I think

82

00:04:43,920 --> 00:04:46,110

we see that a lot now a lot of discussion

83

00:04:46,110 --> 00:04:49,269

about building walls, and fences, and other sorts of things

84

00:04:49,509 --> 00:04:56,269

to keep people out. Um and, that is I think not

85

00:04:56,269 --> 00:04:58,839

a new phenomenon, because if you look at all of

86

00:04:58,839 --> 00:05:02,300

these old like walled cities, especially in like Europe, what

87

00:05:02,300 --> 00:05:04,199

were they designed to do? They were designed to keep

88

00:05:04,199 --> 00:05:07,889

people out, you know? To know who belonged inside and who belonged

89

00:05:07,889 --> 00:05:12,329

Outside. And unfortunately, I think that's human nature. Um I don't

90

00:05:12,329 --> 00:05:14,759

think humans are designed to think in really really big

91

00:05:14,759 --> 00:05:18,519

Groups, you know, even bigger than a country, and it

92

00:05:18,519 --> 00:05:23,839

is um an unfortunate tendency to associate, you know, with people

93

00:05:23,839 --> 00:05:25,970

who have the same religion, who look similar

94

00:05:25,970 --> 00:05:30,480

to you, and things like that. Um and so that's I think

95

00:05:30,480 --> 00:05:35,319

borders provide an easy way to discriminate against people, um even

96

00:05:35,319 --> 00:05:38,319

if they're not inherently bad, they are probably more often used

97

00:05:38,319 --> 00:05:42,139

for bad purposes than they are for good purposes. Um so

98

00:05:42,139 --> 00:05:44,740

I think there is a difference between when we talk

99

00:05:44,740 --> 00:05:48,060

about borders in migration, and we talk about borders just

100

00:05:48,060 --> 00:05:54,720

kind of abstractly. Um but I think in a lot of

101

00:05:54,720 --> 00:05:57,680

cases borders can be good, if you know, like in my experience in West

102

00:05:57,680 --> 00:06:00,459

Africa. People know on what side of the border things

103

00:06:00,459 --> 00:06:03,540

are cheaper, because of different currencies. So that, you know,

104

00:06:03,540 --> 00:06:06,870

if you go from Senegal to Gambia, you can get

105

00:06:06,870 --> 00:06:09,610

sugar for cheaper in Gambia. And if you're from Gambia you know

106

00:06:09,610 --> 00:06:11,170

If you come to Senegal, you know what you can get

107

00:06:11,170 --> 00:06:14,519

there for cheaper. And so it actually provides incentives a

108

00:06:14,519 --> 00:06:18,329

lot of times for people to build connections, to build

109

00:06:18,329 --> 00:06:20,464

community from one side of the border to the other.

110

00:06:20,975 --> 00:06:23,105

Maybe you have no reason to interact with me, but

111

00:06:23,105 --> 00:06:25,425

now that we live on different sides of the border,

112

00:06:25,524 --> 00:06:28,154

you have a lot more incentives, because we can work

113

00:06:28,154 --> 00:06:40,024

Together um and accomplish something. [Ö] So um, and then you know there

114



00:06:40,024 --> 00:06:46,415

are also 'geographic borders' that are not related to like 'administrative

115

00:06:46,415 --> 00:06:49,420

boundaries'. So, a river is a border between two places

116

00:06:49,420 --> 00:06:51,589

even if they're in the same country or in the

117

00:06:51,589 --> 00:06:55,579

same region or something like that. Mountains can also be

118

00:06:55,579 --> 00:06:59,009

can be borders. And so there's, I mean, there's a

119

00:06:59,009 --> 00:07:01,649

lot of different ways we can, we can think about

120

00:07:01,740 --> 00:07:05,360

This. Um and I think that we need to be better,

121

00:07:05,740 --> 00:07:11,920

as scholars or citizen scholars, of communicating to people the

122

00:07:11,920 --> 00:07:14,680

history of these ñ maybe I say this because I'm a

123

00:07:14,680 --> 00:07:17,990

Historian - but the history of these boundaries, to let people

124

00:07:17,990 --> 00:07:21,795

know that just because you live in Austria and someone

125

00:07:21,795 --> 00:07:26,509

else lives in Hungary, that doesn't make you inherently different,

126

00:07:26,509 --> 00:07:30,009

you know? This is a recent development. And so, you may want

127

00:07:30,009 --> 00:07:32,329

to keep those people out but, at least you need

128

00:07:32,329 --> 00:07:36,839

to know that this border has not always existed. In

129

00:07:36,839 --> 00:07:38,670

the case in the United States, the border between the

130

00:07:38,670 --> 00:07:41,160

US and Mexico has changed a lot since it

131

00:07:41,160 --> 00:07:44,810

was first drawn. Um it was in a different place and

132

00:07:44,810 --> 00:07:48,180

then the US took over a lot of what

133

00:07:48,180 --> 00:07:52,930

was then Spanish Mexico, and then the country of Mexico.

134

00:07:52,930 --> 00:07:54,399

Texas, which as you know is one of the most

135

00:07:54,399 --> 00:07:56,910

prominent regions of the US, was its own country with

136

00:07:56,910 --> 00:07:59,930

its own border with Mexico. And then the US

137

00:08:00,170 --> 00:08:06,600

came in and then switched the border. As someone who

138

00:08:06,600 --> 00:08:09,550

studies Africa one thing that's always interesting to me is

139

00:08:09,550 --> 00:08:12,644

that when people want to say that borders are arbitrary,

140

00:08:12,935 --> 00:08:15,225

but they always want to say that about African borders.

141

00:08:15,225 --> 00:08:20,514

Any borders that were drawn by people outside of the

142

00:08:20,944 --> 00:08:23,795

Area. So, you know, the French and the British went

143

00:08:23,795 --> 00:08:26,595

and they drew border between Nigeria and Niger. This is

144

00:08:26,595 --> 00:08:30,185

an arbitrary border. But the border between Austria and Germany,

145

00:08:30,185 --> 00:08:32,825

or Austria and Hungary, that is not an arbitrary border?

146

00:08:33,034 --> 00:08:36,125

All borders are arbitrary. All borders you choose where to

147

00:08:36,125 --> 00:08:40,134

draw them, for some reason. And to assume that because

148

00:08:40,134 --> 00:08:42,294

they're done in Europe they're logical, and because they're done

149

00:08:42,294 --> 00:08:45,105

in Africa or Asia they're illogical, to me doesn't make

150

00:08:45,105 --> 00:08:48,544

a lot of sense. The border between the United States

151

00:08:48,544 --> 00:08:51,965

and Canada is for maybe, at least over a thousand

152

00:08:51,965 --> 00:08:55,615

Miles, a straight line. It just follows, you know, the

153

00:08:55,615 --> 00:08:58,924

curve of the earth. Um I think that is just as

154

00:08:58,924 --> 00:09:01,190

arbitrary as any border you would find anywhere in the

155

00:09:01,190 --> 00:09:05,039

World. But I think because it's associated with the West

156

00:09:05,100 --> 00:09:08,960

and the West is associated with logic and reason, we

157

00:09:08,960 --> 00:09:13,460

do not treat these borders as arbitrary. We just sort

158

00:09:13,460 --> 00:09:16,659

of assumed. And there is the difference and then, you

159

00:09:16,659 --> 00:09:19,070

Know, in many cases African borders were forced on them

160

00:09:19,070 --> 00:09:21,840

from the outside, but most people in Europe didn't have

161

00:09:21,840 --> 00:09:25,870

any choice over their borders were either. So um yes, I

162

00:09:25,870 --> 00:09:32,889

think that that is another thing that is important to

163

00:09:32,889 --> 00:09:35,240

Think um with borders. To go back to what I was

164

00:09:35,240 --> 00:09:40,549

talking about borders potentially being good, um you know I think you were

165

00:09:40,549 --> 00:09:43,544

talking about violence and how if there were no borders

166

00:09:43,544 --> 00:09:45,894

there would be no violence, and I don't necessarily know

167

00:09:45,894 --> 00:09:48,004

that I agree with that. I, you know, if you had

168

00:09:48,355 --> 00:09:51,065

one large government they could do violent things to their

169

00:09:51,735 --> 00:09:54,254

Citizens, and if there wasn't another place that you could

170

00:09:54,254 --> 00:09:58,985



go to, you would be trapped. Whereas you know not

171

00:09:58,985 --> 00:10:03,480

always successfully in today's world but, if there is violence

172

00:10:03,750 --> 00:10:05,940

in one country you can cross the border into the

173

00:10:05,940 --> 00:10:09,029

next country over. Um, you will not always be welcomed to

174

00:10:09,029 --> 00:10:13,179

that country but historically many people have fled across borders

175

00:10:13,179 --> 00:10:17,250

to escape violence, and in some cases have been welcomed

176

00:10:17,250 --> 00:10:21,914

by those countries to which they escaped. And so, by

177

00:10:21,914 --> 00:10:26,254

providing a place where the state's authority ends, borders can

178

00:10:26,254 --> 00:10:31,654

be useful in terms of of that. And if states know

179

00:10:31,654 --> 00:10:36,485

their citizens can leave maybe, they will be more generous

180

00:10:36,485 --> 00:10:40,024

to those people. If you know that you treat your

181

00:10:40,024 --> 00:10:42,554

people poorly they will leave the country, you have incentive

182

00:10:42,554 --> 00:10:47,605

to treat people well. In a lot of cases in

183

00:10:47,605 --> 00:10:53,394

Africa, you see states competing over their subjects. It didn't

184

00:10:53,394 --> 00:10:56,615

make the government's good, but it made them probably less

185

00:10:57,105 --> 00:11:01,955

bad than they would be if they hadn't had to

186

00:11:01,955 --> 00:11:05,654

do that. So, I think that those sorts of examples,

187

00:11:05,654 --> 00:11:10,134

I think, complicate the perspective that we see. Um, you know, in the

188

00:11:10,134 --> 00:11:12,894

US we have a lot of people who have

189

00:11:12,894 --> 00:11:17,294

left their countries escaping violence. Now our government seems to

190

00:11:17,294 --> 00:11:20,024

think that helping these people is not a good idea.

191

00:11:20,024 --> 00:11:23,514

But for a long time, ìweì, as a country, seemed

192

00:11:23,514 --> 00:11:25,845

to accept that it was okay for people to leave

193

00:11:25,845 --> 00:11:28,835

their countries when they were violent and come to the

194

00:11:28,835 --> 00:11:31,235

United States. And, I mean you see similar things in

195

00:11:31,235 --> 00:11:35,455

Europe as well, and a change in that, um you know,

196

00:11:35,455 --> 00:11:39,965

and what is acceptable among people. And I think with

197

00:11:39,965 --> 00:11:42,625

all of this movement towards building walls, and trying to

198

00:11:43,424 --> 00:11:51,205

really restrict movement um, returning to our baser instincts as human

199

00:11:51,205 --> 00:11:55,934

Beings, and really not using borders for what they could

200

00:11:56,024 --> 00:12:02,335

be used for. Because, you know, there is a benefit

201

00:12:02,335 --> 00:12:05,845

to having like different places with different laws, in different

202

00:12:05,845 --> 00:12:08,294

Roles. And, you know, if we had one country, would

203

00:12:08,294 --> 00:12:13,434

we have a hundred and fifty official languages or would

204

00:12:13,434 --> 00:12:15,654

we have one official language, and then everyone would have

205

00:12:15,654 --> 00:12:18,855

to learn that language? It would probably be English - which

206

00:12:18,855 --> 00:12:22,365

is unfortunate for most people. It would be fortunate for

207

00:12:22,365 --> 00:12:26,794

Me, but unfortunate for many people. And so, you know

208

00:12:26,794 --> 00:12:29,955

it helps things from getting to homogenized in a lot

209

00:12:29,955 --> 00:12:33,894

of ways. Um and it also allows people to choose to

210

00:12:33,894 --> 00:12:37,174

live somewhere, assuming that you allow people to move. You

211

00:12:37,174 --> 00:12:39,575

know some people may want to live somewhere where taxes

212

00:12:39,575 --> 00:12:41,825

are lower and social services or less. Some people want

213

00:12:41,825 --> 00:12:44,495

to live somewhere where there are more social services taxes

214

00:12:44,495 --> 00:12:47,065

are higher. Some people might want to live in a

215

00:12:47,065 --> 00:12:51,705

religiously affiliated state, some people may not. And so, um borders

216

00:12:51,705 --> 00:12:57,514

allow people to live in different places that are more um

217

00:12:57,514 --> 00:13:01,245

appealing to them. This is an abstract argument, because oftentimes

218

00:13:01,245 --> 00:13:02,945

people don't have the capacity to move from one place

219

00:13:02,945 --> 00:13:06,174

to another. And I think that in most cases borders

220

00:13:06,174 --> 00:13:10,414

do not function like this, but there is some theoretical

221

00:13:11,004 --> 00:13:14,115

positive things that we can that we can take from

222

00:13:14,205 --> 00:13:20,904

this. I think that we had this myth, maybe ten

223

00:13:20,904 --> 00:13:24,225

or so years ago, that the world was becoming increasingly

224

00:13:24,914 --> 00:13:27,355

Borderless. I think we felt that way in large part

225

00:13:27,355 --> 00:13:30,164

because of the EU, and the expansion of the EU,

226



00:13:30,164 --> 00:13:33,315

and the expansion of the Schengen Zone, expansion of the

227

00:13:33,315 --> 00:13:36,855

Euro. And I think we now see that that is

228

00:13:36,855 --> 00:13:40,950

not necessarily the case. But I think that there's always

229

00:13:40,950 --> 00:13:43,774

been like an ebb and flow. Things are always changing

230

00:13:43,774 --> 00:13:47,264

and then changing back and people are

231

00:13:47,264 --> 00:13:51,784

Reacting. Um you know, in some ways, the United States' borders

232

00:13:51,894 --> 00:13:57,904

were more open one hundred fifty or two hundred years ago than they

233

00:13:57,904 --> 00:14:03,274

are now um you know? The other thing that for me we have

234

00:14:03,274 --> 00:14:09,375

not figured out how to do, is borders do a

235

00:14:09,375 --> 00:14:12,414

very bad job of containing people who are nomadic or

236

00:14:12,414 --> 00:14:16,365

who need to move for survival. You know, if you

237

00:14:16,365 --> 00:14:19,195

are a farmer and you live near borders and your

238

00:14:19,195 --> 00:14:22,205

land dries up and the only good land on the

239

00:14:22,205 --> 00:14:26,264

other side of the border, how are you, you know, what are you supposed to

240

00:14:26,264 --> 00:14:28,769

Do? If you are a herder and you need to

241

00:14:28,769 --> 00:14:30,580

graze and the place that you graze in a certain

242

00:14:30,580 --> 00:14:31,580

time of the year is on the other side of

243

00:14:31,580 --> 00:14:35,450

the border, how can modern states which do not accept

244

00:14:35,450 --> 00:14:40,750

these sorts of complications, how do we deal with these

245

00:14:40,750 --> 00:14:46,240

sorts of situations? Because I think especially in places where

246

00:14:46,639 --> 00:14:51,725

borders are relatively recent or have only relatively recently been

247

00:14:52,184 --> 00:15:06,715

Forced, how do we retroactively [Ö] allow people to continue doing

248

00:15:06,715 --> 00:15:09,315

things the way they used to do them? Or do

249

00:15:09,315 --> 00:15:13,414

we force everyone into this particular idea of how movement

250

00:15:13,414 --> 00:15:21,250

should function, how states should function? I also think we

251

00:15:21,250 --> 00:15:23,799

tend to think of - especially when it comes to migration

252

00:15:23,799 --> 00:15:29,220

and borders - we have this idea in the quote 'Western

253

00:15:29,220 --> 00:15:34,759

World that like it's always about people moving from, you know, impoverished

254

00:15:34,759 --> 00:15:37,879

countries to rich countries. So people are going from Africa

255

00:15:37,879 --> 00:15:40,460

or the Middle East to the EU. But most people

256

00:15:40,460 --> 00:15:44,240

who migrated across borders are not migrating that far. They're

257

00:15:44,240 --> 00:15:48,919

migrating from one country to another, they're migrating from Cambodia

258

00:15:48,919 --> 00:15:54,440

to Vietnam or they're migrating from Malaysia to Singapore or

259

00:15:54,899 --> 00:15:57,529

I mean, the US and Mexico is an example. There's

260

00:15:57,529 --> 00:16:00,210

more of a power imbalance, but a lot of people

261

00:16:00,210 --> 00:16:02,450

migrate from Canada to the US or from the US

262

00:16:02,450 --> 00:16:08,059

to Canada. And I think that we need to create

263

00:16:08,059 --> 00:16:10,379

space for people to think about borders in a way

264

00:16:10,379 --> 00:16:14,750

that's not just from one country that's drastically different to

265

00:16:14,750 --> 00:16:21,120

another country that's drastically different. Um, you know, if someone moved from the

266

00:16:21,120 --> 00:16:26,019

US to the UK, they're obviously moving across an

267

00:16:27,929 --> 00:16:30,509

international border. Or even within the EU if you're moving

268

00:16:30,509 --> 00:16:32,860

from France to Germany or from Germany to Austria, you're

269

00:16:32,860 --> 00:16:35,240

going to a different country. But we don't consider that

270

00:16:35,240 --> 00:16:38,985

the same way we consider someone coming from Morocco to

271

00:16:38,985 --> 00:16:44,034

Spain, even though they're not going any farther. Or from

272

00:16:44,034 --> 00:16:48,754

Tunisia to Italy, you know, because we create we have

273

00:16:48,754 --> 00:16:54,159

these ideas of how movement should be should work and which countries

274

00:16:54,159 --> 00:16:59,279

should be allowed to migrate to which other countries. And

275

00:16:59,279 --> 00:17:01,669

So, I think these are important things to think about

276

00:17:01,669 --> 00:17:05,609

when we think about borders. And to make sure that

277

00:17:05,609 --> 00:17:08,390

there is a lot of open space to think about

278

00:17:08,390 --> 00:17:10,680

borders in many different ways, and not just the ways

279

00:17:10,680 --> 00:17:19,890

we see it covered in the media most of the

280

00:17:19,890 --> 00:17:22,525

time. [Ö] So, I think conferences like this are useful because

281

00:17:22,525 --> 00:17:27,424

it forces people to really engage with different perspectives on

282

00:17:27,424 --> 00:17:30,894

Borders. Um I went to a conference once in the



283

00:17:30,894 --> 00:17:33,045

US on borders, It was all about the US and

284

00:17:33,045 --> 00:17:35,414

Mexico, which was not helpful for me as someone who

285

00:17:35,414 --> 00:17:41,785

studies African borders. But I think that, you know, academics and people

286

00:17:41,785 --> 00:17:45,194

who learn about these things whether it's citizen scholars or

287

00:17:45,194 --> 00:17:48,234

these other titles, need to go out into the world

288

00:17:48,234 --> 00:17:53,434

and make sure these ideas, um because when we realize that

289

00:17:53,755 --> 00:17:59,934

borders are all just human creations - you know there's nothing

290

00:17:59,934 --> 00:18:03,144

permanent about borders. There's nothing, I mean, they're real in

291

00:18:03,144 --> 00:18:05,414

the sense that they have been made real, but they

292

00:18:05,414 --> 00:18:09,615

are creations of governments. And, in many cases recent creations.

293

00:18:10,045 --> 00:18:13,894

It will allow people to hopefully be more understanding and

294

00:18:13,894 --> 00:18:17,144

welcoming of the fact that they had the fortune or

295

00:18:17,144 --> 00:18:19,545

misfortune to be born in one place and not in

296

00:18:19,545 --> 00:18:23,075

another place. Rather than thinking about, you know, well this

297

00:18:23,075 --> 00:18:27,085

is my land. What does that mean? Like, you know,

298

00:18:27,085 --> 00:18:29,115

because if you- unless you live in the same house

299

00:18:29,115 --> 00:18:31,940

that you were born in, you are living somewhere that

300

00:18:31,940 --> 00:18:35,390

is not originally where you're from. I'm from one part

301

00:18:35,390 --> 00:18:37,660

of the United States, I moved to another part. I

302

00:18:37,660 --> 00:18:40,589

crossed many state borders, but I don't feel like I

303

00:18:40,589 --> 00:18:43,180

am a stranger- most of the time, sometimes I do.

304

00:18:43,549 --> 00:18:46,009

So, but I think we have this idea, if you

305

00:18:46,009 --> 00:18:50,920

move within a country then it all belongs to you.

306

00:18:50,920 --> 00:18:55,519

Why is that any more belonging to you than if

307

00:18:55,859 --> 00:19:01,869

you move from one country to another country?