

1

00:00:00,390 --> 00:00:10,519

Thank you very much for this speech. And um, you

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00:00:10,519 --> 00:00:15,609

probably spoke with your heart saying what you think is

3

00:00:15,609 --> 00:00:19,460

a good idea or bad development about borders. And I

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00:00:19,460 --> 00:00:24,809

can definitely agree with you on the importance of human

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00:00:24,809 --> 00:00:32,240

Rights, and how borders can bring some violation of human

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00:00:32,240 --> 00:00:35,890

rights or personal crisis or political common crisis. Um, and on another

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00:00:35,890 --> 00:00:41,350

part with you, I would like to separate borders from

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00:00:41,350 --> 00:00:45,189

migration or something which you describe us a wall or

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00:00:45,189 --> 00:01:01,920

a separation. Um, in my work, border does not always have

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00:01:01,920 --> 00:01:06,469

this meaning. And I and I wanted to give you some

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00:01:06,469 --> 00:01:11,310

explanation about how I understand border and what it means

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00:01:11,310 --> 00:01:16,709

to me personally in my personal um and scientific development and

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00:01:16,709 --> 00:01:19,400

also, today how I do research about borders. So um I

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00:01:19,400 --> 00:01:32,959

grew up in Paris suburbs where there is no national border

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00:01:32,959 --> 00:01:38,599

I'm really in the center of the country

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00:01:38,599 --> 00:01:40,969

and I used to um German and English, but it

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00:01:40,969 --> 00:01:44,890

was not a family tradition to travel or to learn

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00:01:44,890 --> 00:01:47,829

Languages. So I did it with the help of school

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00:01:47,829 --> 00:01:52,859

of other institutions than my family. And for example, my

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00:01:52,859 --> 00:01:57,849

mother did not want to travel to go abroad to

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00:01:57,849 --> 00:02:03,250

cross a border, a national border state, and she was

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00:02:03,250 --> 00:02:09,020

not comfortable with the idea of going in another system.

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00:02:09,020 --> 00:02:15,520

A lot of organizational problems came to her like she

24

00:02:15,520 --> 00:02:19,879

felt not comfortable with other languages. She had the impression

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00:02:19,879 --> 00:02:23,800

that the language would be a barrier. She had also

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00:02:23,800 --> 00:02:28,159

the impression that it would be a totally different system

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00:02:28,159 --> 00:02:31,159

like cities are organized differently or she would have to

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00:02:31,159 --> 00:02:35,159

apply for a visa and would be confronted with an

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00:02:35,159 --> 00:02:42,419

administrative system she doesn't know. And another big issue for

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00:02:42,419 --> 00:02:47,159

her was that if she crossed a country border she

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00:02:47,159 --> 00:02:51,199

would come into another world, another country

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00:02:51,199 --> 00:02:55,900

with another economic level or development level, and she was

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00:02:55,900 --> 00:03:03,620

really afraid of living again sort of colonialism because she's

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00:03:03,620 --> 00:03:06,580

French coming from a wealthy country

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00:03:06,580 --> 00:03:10,520

and she not she did not want to go into a poorer country

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00:03:10,520 --> 00:03:20,310

because then she would face the differences and the inequalities of the world and probably

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00:03:20,310 --> 00:03:23,939

feel something like being guilty. And that's the

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00:03:23,939 --> 00:03:27,810

reason why she did not want to cross a border.

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00:03:27,810 --> 00:03:31,710

And here I'm speaking about her not wanting to go abroad to

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00:03:31,710 --> 00:03:35,840

leave friends, but it means that the border was in

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00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:38,389

her head and it was her perception of what a

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00:03:38,389 --> 00:03:46,830

border is. She's never experienced this because she did not

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00:03:46,830 --> 00:03:49,830

Travel. She does not exactly know how it feels but

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00:03:49,830 --> 00:03:54,960

she has a perception, a representation of what would be

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00:03:54,960 --> 00:03:59,150

a border crossing and that was very interesting I think

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00:03:59,150 --> 00:04:04,569

to see that she had an idea of what is

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00:04:04,569 --> 00:04:08,349

the border what it means, and I experimented then something

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00:04:08,349 --> 00:04:11,419

Else. And we all have these different representations of the

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00:04:11,419 --> 00:04:16,449

Border. But here I'm talking about national borders and for

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00:04:16,449 --> 00:04:34,110

her it was also a linguistic border, an administrative border

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00:04:34,110 --> 00:04:37,790

which are much more boundaries, located at the border, but

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00:04:37,790 --> 00:04:41,060

in her mind in her imagination that's the first thing

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00:04:41,060 --> 00:04:42,730

I want to say. And because she did not want

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00:04:42,730 --> 00:04:45,500

to go abroad I travelled with schools and work and

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00:04:45,500 --> 00:04:49,339

I came into the subject of borders um because I was

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00:04:49,339 --> 00:04:53,949

first um in universities, in political sciences. And when I talk

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00:04:53,949 --> 00:05:01,500

about border I have this political bias from political scholars

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00:05:01,500 --> 00:05:04,509

always thinking about the Westphalian border. So, the border of

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00:05:04,509 --> 00:05:08,560

a state. Not a border between two communities or between

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00:05:08,560 --> 00:05:12,310

two regions or the border between the pathway and the

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00:05:12,310 --> 00:05:18,680

Roadway, just, I always think about national border between France and

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00:05:18,680 --> 00:05:27,970

Germany, Germany and Austria. I'm always with this kind of border in mind.

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00:05:27,970 --> 00:05:30,319

There are lots of different borders but

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00:05:30,319 --> 00:05:34,480

that's I know some state-centric bias

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00:05:34,480 --> 00:05:47,120

in my thinking probably comes from this education as a political scientist. And in

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00:05:47,120 --> 00:05:50,819

this study I went to Germany and to France and

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00:05:50,819 --> 00:05:53,750

I made like a double degree in which I studied part

68

00:05:53,750 --> 00:05:58,000

in France and part of Germany and through this study I um got to

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:02,879

know both countries and I had to move every year from one

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00:06:02,879 --> 00:06:07,680

room in France to another room in Germany.

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00:06:07,680 --> 00:06:13,550

I lived in Münster, that's very close to the Netherlandsí border and that's where

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00:06:13,550 --> 00:06:17,139

I got used to the border crossing in my everyday life

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00:06:17,139 --> 00:06:23,339

and also, through the communication with other

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00:06:23,339 --> 00:06:31,129

Students. Because we were some of a group mixed up

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00:06:31,129 --> 00:06:37,449

with German students and French students and two students from

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00:06:37,449 --> 00:06:43,170

Austria, I think. And here um we experienced other kind of borders,

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00:06:43,170 --> 00:06:47,889

like social borders like when we organized the party

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00:06:47,889 --> 00:06:53,920

a student's party at night. We just say we will

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00:06:53,920 --> 00:06:58,709

have dinner and have a party, and all German friends

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00:06:58,709 --> 00:07:04,060

came at eight o'clock, at eight o'clock.

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00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:09,180

At five past eight all German people were here and the French people came around nine

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00:07:09,180 --> 00:07:15,000

or ten or even later and that's cultural differences, but

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00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:20,920

it also, can be understood as a boundary, or a

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00:07:20,920 --> 00:07:28,410

social boundary, depending. And um that's another way I experienced border

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00:07:28,410 --> 00:07:33,980

and it led me to work.

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00:07:33,980 --> 00:07:39,509

I first got a job in Luxembourg in the

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00:07:39,509 --> 00:07:44,040

city of Luxembourg. And it was a cross-border project.

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00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:49,629

At that time, I really had to deal with border and border-crossing in my

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00:07:49,629 --> 00:07:54,839

work because the aim was to build up um a

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00:07:54,839 --> 00:08:01,370

common strategy between Germany, France, Luxembourg,

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00:08:01,370 --> 00:08:05,709

and Belgium so the surrounding region of Luxembourg.

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00:08:05,709 --> 00:08:12,199

The idea was to come up with a strategy for communicating better

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00:08:12,199 --> 00:08:15,639

in terms of bus transportation and train transportation.

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00:08:15,639 --> 00:08:22,290

We wanted to make the cross-border buses and trains more visible

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00:08:22,560 --> 00:08:26,319

so that the commuters take public transportation and don't take their own car to cross

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00:08:26,319 --> 00:08:32,830

the border. The idea was to be in a sustainable

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00:08:32,830 --> 00:08:39,159

development across border, to have an integrated labor market, without

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00:08:39,159 --> 00:08:42,879

regards to borders

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00:08:42,879 --> 00:08:49,169

because Luxembourg is a strong city, a strong metropolis which attracts lots of workers, and use,

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00:08:49,169 --> 00:08:54,460

for example, people are living in Trier in Germany, and they cross

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00:08:54,460 --> 00:08:57,850

the border to Luxembourg every day to work in a

102

00:08:57,850 --> 00:09:01,450

Bank, let's say, and every night

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00:09:01,450 --> 00:09:06,509

they go back to their home and family in Germany. And that's

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00:09:06,509 --> 00:09:13,090

a huge phenomenon around Luxembourg. It concerns more than hundred, a hundred thousand

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00:09:13,090 --> 00:09:19,500

of people who are commuting every day. And that is

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00:09:19,500 --> 00:09:24,190

a huge issue for the state, for the Luxembourgian state

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00:09:24,190 --> 00:09:29,929

because they pay all the infrastructures

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00:09:29,929 --> 00:09:36,710

and have a lot of negative externalities which means that they kind of suffer

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00:09:36,710 --> 00:09:40,720

from their attractiveness. Of course, they

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00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:44,340

are benefits of being a strong metropolis close to the

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00:09:44,340 --> 00:09:48,850

border because they don't have to pay for the residential

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00:09:49,250 --> 00:10:01,870

areas abroad, but they have to develop infrastructures and services for companies, for workers, and so onÖ

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00:10:01,870 --> 00:10:07,110

That's why we um drafted some partnerships between the border, between

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00:10:07,110 --> 00:10:10,919

different public bodies

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00:10:10,919 --> 00:10:18,450

on both side of the borders. And in this work, I get used to the idea

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00:10:18,450 --> 00:10:24,750

of ïcross-border metropolisesî. So it's a region which is organized with

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00:10:24,750 --> 00:10:30,629

Borders, national borders

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00:10:30,629 --> 00:10:35,769

in between, but also strong metropolises which has an influence area

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00:10:35,769 --> 00:10:40,379

a functional area which is broad enough to cross the border.

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00:10:40,379 --> 00:10:44,490

So, in Luxembourg, you have the core city in Luxembourg state but around it you have

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00:10:44,570 --> 00:10:49,269

the French, the Wallonia, and the German border. And workers

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00:10:49,269 --> 00:10:54,980

cross these borders. So, it's like a cross-border metropolitan region.

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00:10:54,980 --> 00:10:59,610

You have other examples, and I think of Basel, Basel

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00:10:59,610 --> 00:11:04,049

in Switzerland which is a city whose core -

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00:11:04,049 --> 00:11:14,299

the city core is also on the border, but the border really

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00:11:14,299 --> 00:11:18,100

crosses the city and the agglomeration. It's not only the

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00:11:18,100 --> 00:11:21,690

workers flows, which are going across the border but also

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00:11:21,690 --> 00:11:28,419

the streets, and housing, and residential districts are cut or

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00:11:28,419 --> 00:11:39,700

crossed by um by borders. So um, that's when I went into contact

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00:11:39,700 --> 00:11:47,730

with um a cross-border metropolitan region and this concept and it's

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00:11:47,730 --> 00:11:54,480

brought me to university again, where I'm currently doing a

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00:11:54,480 --> 00:11:59,440

PhD so I'm a student and a researcher. So I

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00:11:59,440 --> 00:12:02,570

don't know if I'm a real scholar, but I'm doing

134

00:12:02,570 --> 00:12:06,149

my PhD for four years now, and I'm about to write it.

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00:12:06,149 --> 00:12:11,649

I work on cross-border metropolitan regions and the

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00:12:11,649 --> 00:12:18,759

way they are politically constructed. And in that meaning I think border

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00:12:19,019 --> 00:12:28,250

has another assumption, another meaning I would say that um border has -

138

00:12:28,250 --> 00:12:33,190

have different functions, because they are not always a wall or

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00:12:33,190 --> 00:12:37,730

a dead end. It's not always the end of the national

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00:12:37,730 --> 00:12:41,500

State. You don't always have a ñ I donít know,

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00:12:41,500 --> 00:12:46,960

sea or a mountain you can cross or -

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00:12:46,960 --> 00:12:52,409

It can be on land it can be in a city, in a metropolis

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00:12:52,409 --> 00:12:55,980

So the city - the border has

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00:12:55,980 --> 00:13:01,169

rather a function of interface, an interface

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00:13:01,169 --> 00:13:06,120

meaning that you have relation with the other side.

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00:13:06,120 --> 00:13:09,309

You also have a differentiation because on

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00:13:09,309 --> 00:13:13,779

the one side for example you have one culture

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00:13:13,779 --> 00:13:16,159

or one nationality and on the other side

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00:13:16,159 --> 00:13:22,000

you have another nationality, so it's a way to differentiate and it is a way to um

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:29,929

îregulateî the flows especially in the globalization. You spoke about terrorism

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00:13:29,929 --> 00:13:36,070

and migration. The state uses borders in order to filter,

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00:13:36,070 --> 00:13:42,549

to regulate the flows, to be able to give orders

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00:13:42,549 --> 00:13:45,500

about what has a right to cross

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00:13:45,500 --> 00:13:48,110

the border, who has the right to cross the border,

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00:13:48,110 --> 00:13:55,309

and by the way we are not all equal, definitely. So the European passport is a strong

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00:13:55,309 --> 00:13:58,870

Document. So the border

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00:13:58,870 --> 00:14:06,210

is very complex and I rather see it as an interface. Some authors

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00:14:06,210 --> 00:14:09,500

also say in a more positive way

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00:14:09,500 --> 00:14:15,230

that the border is not only an interface but a resource for political

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00:14:15,230 --> 00:14:21,889

Actors, for economical actors, especially in the case of a metropolis.

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00:14:21,889 --> 00:14:25,610

If you imagine how a different actor can

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00:14:25,610 --> 00:14:29,159

use the border it can be a resource.

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00:14:29,159 --> 00:14:33,679

You can use it um to make you different.

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00:14:33,679 --> 00:14:38,389

Because you are located on the border, you have a locational benefit.

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00:14:38,389 --> 00:14:41,710

You are on this border. It means that's a gate open to the world, or at least to

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00:14:41,710 --> 00:14:45,899

the foreign country.

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00:14:45,899 --> 00:14:53,289

It's a point where you can be in contact with other culture, goods, um

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00:14:53,289 --> 00:14:56,750

CapitalsÖeverything. So it can

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00:14:56,750 --> 00:15:02,220

be a resource because you're there. It can be a resource because you have these differences from

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00:15:02,220 --> 00:15:05,710

one side and the other side of the region. For

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00:15:05,710 --> 00:15:10,509

example, in um around Switzerland a lot of

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00:15:10,509 --> 00:15:27,500

companies choose to be located in Switzerland because of the fiscalities. They pay less taxes in Switzerland. And on the contrary, the workers pay less taxes in France or Germany. So, they choose to

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00:15:27,500 --> 00:15:32,350

settle in France and Germany. And that's the opposite for

174

00:15:32,350 --> 00:15:45,590

enterprises and companies. So that's the differential benefit for example. And you can count lot of different benefits like that.

175/176/177

00:15:45,960 --> 00:16:04,120

[not related to the topic]

178

00:16:04,120 --> 00:16:10,909

But um, if you, um I think that we both introduced different aspects

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00:16:10,909 --> 00:16:16,230

of borders and um in the way I work

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00:16:16,230 --> 00:16:21,090

with borders and in my personal experience, I was always

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00:16:21,090 --> 00:16:27,110

located in a context which is the EU and it's, um a strong

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00:16:27,110 --> 00:16:31,500

premise. It's a strong assumption to speak only

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00:16:31,500 --> 00:16:37,480

about EU internal borders. You were probably more speaking about EU external borders

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00:16:37,480 --> 00:16:42,679

which are strong borders because of the Schengen

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00:16:42,679 --> 00:16:50,679

Agreement. I experienced movements or also boundaries within the Schengen Area.

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00:16:50,679 --> 00:16:56,460

And that's why I, I focus in my research on um

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00:16:56,460 --> 00:17:04,130

actor strategies and um political strategies. How the border can be used to

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00:17:04,130 --> 00:17:09,960

make some promotion or advertising for a city

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00:17:09,960 --> 00:17:12,990

or for a region and to be a border region -

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00:17:12,990 --> 00:17:19,109

be a cross-border region or a cross-border metropolis, is becoming an

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00:17:19,109 --> 00:17:23,150

argument to sell your city, to sell your region.

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00:17:23,150 --> 00:17:28,799

It's kind of a path of development. You can

193

00:17:28,799 --> 00:17:31,669

elaborate a strategy on this component.