

1

00:00:00,160 --> 00:00:04,519

So, first thank you so much because I share,

2

00:00:04,820 --> 00:00:08,650

I mean I recognize many of the ideas that that you

3

00:00:08,650 --> 00:00:12,000

Mentioned. Maybe at first, I should first say, I'm not

4

00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:16,280

really a border scholar - I'm a border practitioner. I'm not

5

00:00:16,600 --> 00:00:22,839

doing research on borders, like everybody else here. I'm working

6

00:00:22,839 --> 00:00:32,259

with borders [Ö] within borders [laughter]? It's more like a daily experience.

7

00:00:33,109 --> 00:00:38,039

Everything mentioned by you, I'm actually living right on the

8

00:00:38,039 --> 00:00:42,409

little angle between Switzerland, France, and Germany. So, there are

9

00:00:42,409 --> 00:00:46,369

three borders, and actually the point where I live I

10

00:00:46,369 --> 00:00:49,250

can see the - I'm living in France, but I can

11

00:00:49,350 --> 00:00:51,140

see the German border, I can see the Swiss border.

12

00:00:51,140 --> 00:00:53,549

It's really you know it's just a couple of hundred

13

00:00:53,549 --> 00:00:56,960

Meters. I'm crossing the borders on a daily basis. I've

14

00:00:57,170 --> 00:00:59,899

done a rough estimation, I think it's like four to

15

00:00:59,899 --> 00:01:04,650

six times I'm crossing the border, like every day, just

16

00:01:04,650 --> 00:01:07,870

because you need to do it! And many people just

17

00:01:07,870 --> 00:01:11,629

do it quite naturally You know borders are not controlled

18

00:01:11,629 --> 00:01:16,519

anymoreÖwell sometimes now with the terrorism in France now

19

00:01:16,519 --> 00:01:19,469

we are in a state of emergency still since I

20

00:01:19,469 --> 00:01:24,390

think more than five years [laughter] I exaggerate a little

21

00:01:24,629 --> 00:01:28,680

Bit. So sometimes they have border controls, but it's rare.

22

00:01:29,250 --> 00:01:36,140

Um, I'm a translator and conference interpreter by by training. So, this

23

00:01:36,140 --> 00:01:40,939

is interesting because you mentioned translation as, you know, crossing the border

24

00:01:41,299 --> 00:01:43,969

and yes, it's crossing the border. In many respects it's

25

00:01:43,969 --> 00:01:47,409

not only a linguistic border, it's a cultural border you need

26

00:01:47,409 --> 00:01:51,140

to think about um your target culture, you know? How will

27

00:01:51,140 --> 00:01:55,069

they receive your source text? How do you need to

28

00:01:55,069 --> 00:02:01,469

adapt your translation all other - you know, so that the target the target reader

29

00:02:01,640 --> 00:02:05,500

can actually understand the source text and can understand it

30

00:02:05,500 --> 00:02:10,824

in the same way as maybe the source reader could

31

00:02:10,824 --> 00:02:16,560

understand it. And now I'm working in a cross-border um cooperation. That's between

32

00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:21,219

Germany, France, Switzerland, as a project manager. And if you,

33

00:02:21,219 --> 00:02:24,300

if one day you will have the opportunity to come to Basel

34

00:02:24,300 --> 00:02:27,379

you will see very quickly that I mean national borders

35

00:02:27,379 --> 00:02:30,849

it's not a question, you know, we're not talking about

36

00:02:31,460 --> 00:02:35,439

national borders. It's just without any interest in our case.

37

00:02:35,840 --> 00:02:39,919

Okay, you've talked about geographical borders, natural borders, like rivers.

38

00:02:39,919 --> 00:02:42,939

Of course, we have to Rhine. And you also said

39

00:02:42,939 --> 00:02:49,580

Yes, but it's also a connecting element. We all identify

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00:02:49,580 --> 00:02:56,430

with the same river the Danube (unclear). So, it's the same

41

00:02:56,525 --> 00:02:59,490

for Rhine, you know? It's an identifying element, but it's

42

00:02:59,490 --> 00:03:08,650

also separating between France and Germany. And there are a lot of - actually I will

43

00:03:08,650 --> 00:03:15,050

talk about that in my, in my talk um in Budapest. Um as I

44

00:03:15,050 --> 00:03:18,370

see it from my daily work there a lot of

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00:03:18,919 --> 00:03:24,069

Borders, but not really geographical borders, not natural borders. You

46

00:03:24,340 --> 00:03:27,580

could talk about infrastructure borders. For instance, if you have

47

00:03:27,580 --> 00:03:32,569

a highway you have difficulties to cross. Yes. Okay, but

48

00:03:32,569 --> 00:03:35,669

that's normally not the borders we encounter which will hinder

49

00:03:35,669 --> 00:03:42,490

us through our work. The borders we encounter are financial borders, like for

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00:03:43,210 --> 00:03:48,020

Instance, as Switzerland is way richer than Germany and France[laughter]

51

00:03:48,020 --> 00:03:51,870

they can provide funding that is much more important than

52

00:03:52,509 --> 00:03:57,120

Germany and France. So, you always have to find some

53

00:03:57,120 --> 00:03:59,449

balance between the different partners, because if you don't have

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00:03:59,449 --> 00:04:03,830

the balance then all the projects will be dominated by

55

00:04:03,830 --> 00:04:07,509

the Swiss partners only. And you can't accept that in

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00:04:07,509 --> 00:04:13,849

cross-border cooperation because well then, we have an un annexed Swiss territory

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00:04:13,849 --> 00:04:18,100

- and not Germany and France and Switzerland cooperating equally anymore

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00:04:18,100 --> 00:04:21,959



but the Swiss that uses the other ones to do

59

00:04:21,959 --> 00:04:25,740

what they actually want. That's not what we want. You

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00:04:25,740 --> 00:04:30,310

can find, let's say, I would have call it "administrative borders"

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00:04:30,310 --> 00:04:37,500

in the sense that you have administrative entities. Um for instance

62

00:04:37,620 --> 00:04:41,250

you have in Switzerland um you have the canton, you have the city,

63

00:04:41,250 --> 00:04:48,129

the municipality, you have the canton, and then you have the state of Switzerland,

64

00:04:48,129 --> 00:04:56,410

the Confederation. In France you would have the municipality the

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00:04:56,410 --> 00:05:00,360

département - you may have heard of that, the region, then

66

00:05:00,360 --> 00:05:04,060

the state, the Republic of France. In

67

00:05:04,060 --> 00:05:10,100

Germany you have the municipality, the Landkreis, the Bundesland, and

68

00:05:10,100 --> 00:05:13,339

then the Republic of Germany. And often you will see

69

00:05:13,339 --> 00:05:17,899

that negotiations cannot take place at the same level, or

70

00:05:17,899 --> 00:05:21,110

you need to associate different partners to make it happen,

71

00:05:21,110 --> 00:05:25,230

so that the negotiation can take place at the same

72

00:05:25,230 --> 00:05:31,050

Level. Sometimes we have to find a way around to

73

00:05:31,050 --> 00:05:33,870

get those partners around one table. Um, we have, I would

74

00:05:33,870 --> 00:05:41,399

say legal bound - illegal borders, because um, we don't have - they are less

75

00:05:42,160 --> 00:05:47,610

pronounced within the European Union. They are more pronounced if

76

00:05:47,610 --> 00:05:51,250

you go outside the European Union. For instance, public tenders,

77

00:05:51,490 --> 00:05:57,100

there are different public tenders. If you want somebody to

78

00:05:57,100 --> 00:05:59,519

make something for you, for instance, to conduct a study,

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00:05:59,750 --> 00:06:04,529

Right? If you are in transportation, for instance, you want - you may want

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00:06:04,529 --> 00:06:09,579

some consultants to conduct a feasibility study on some cross-border

81

00:06:09,579 --> 00:06:13,310

tramway line, and you know? And this can it take us to

82

00:06:13,310 --> 00:06:17,839

it takes two hundred thousand euros something like that. So, it's somebody from external that comes

83

00:06:17,839 --> 00:06:19,500

to do is room for you. You can't do it

84

00:06:19,579 --> 00:06:25,170

by yourself, very technical. Okay. So, these people come in and

85

00:06:25,350 --> 00:06:29,730

in the European Union for this kind of public tenders

86

00:06:29,980 --> 00:06:37,939

you really need to make it public, okay? So, there's

87

00:06:37,939 --> 00:06:43,310

a certain line, they say 'Okay, I think it's

88

00:06:43,310 --> 00:06:47,959

a hundred fifty thousand euros' I would have to look it up. But within the European Union, you know, they align us and say, 'one hundred fifty thousand euros', then you need to make it public, so

89

00:06:47,959 --> 00:06:51,189

that all um companies can apply to this and may get

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00:06:51,189 --> 00:06:56,839

the job, maybe. In Switzerland, the line is a little

91

00:06:56,839 --> 00:07:02,019

bit higher. So please don't ask me for the exact numbers but let's say it's two hundred thousand, okay? Just as

92

00:07:02,019 --> 00:07:06,740

an example. So, it's easier in Switzerland to give some

93

00:07:06,740 --> 00:07:10,610

Swiss company the job, just you know like: ìOh I

94

00:07:10,610 --> 00:07:14,459

know these ones they can they do a very good job. They

95

00:07:14,459 --> 00:07:16,889

don't ask too much. We will give the job to

96

00:07:16,889 --> 00:07:20,889

exactly company A.â Whereas within the European Union you would

97

00:07:20,889 --> 00:07:26,230

have to make it public earlier at a at a lower level.

98

00:07:26,269 --> 00:07:31,170

So that's one legal border we have. We could talk about fiscal

99

00:07:31,170 --> 00:07:34,459

policy and VAT, also that this is a kind of

100

00:07:34,459 --> 00:07:38,279

Border, because if the Swiss company wants to work in

101

00:07:39,480 --> 00:07:43,709

France or in Germany, then they need to have fiscal

102

00:07:43,709 --> 00:07:48,959

Representation, which costs money. So, for a Swiss company it

103

00:07:48,959 --> 00:07:53,029

is more difficult to get a job in France or

104

00:07:53,639 --> 00:07:58,689

Germany because, not only that you know honoraires are higher

105

00:07:58,689 --> 00:08:02,050

in Switzerland, anyway they can get more salary, but also

106

00:08:02,050 --> 00:08:04,904

they have to pay their fiscal representation which make their

107

00:08:04,904 --> 00:08:09,379

offer less interesting than German and French offers. It's kind of here we have

108

00:08:09,439 --> 00:08:14,540

the European Union that protects its economy actually [laughter] from the

109

00:08:14,540 --> 00:08:19,805

Outside. But in a cross-border region where we live and

110

00:08:19,805 --> 00:08:25,100

where actually you want to make [Ö] joint urban planning, common

111

00:08:25,100 --> 00:08:29,660

urban planning that's what I actually try to do, and

112

00:08:29,660 --> 00:08:36,409

cross-border urban planning, cross-border transport planning, well this is kind

113

00:08:36,409 --> 00:08:42,710

of an obstacle more. So, this is for my

114

00:08:42,710 --> 00:08:49,179

For my work just. And then I've been thinking while you were talking. I've been thinking about ñ



115

00:08:49,179 --> 00:08:57,100

oh, okay maybe also from my personal experience ñ l m just looking at my notes,  
because l ve been taking notes when you were um talking. Um because you were talking

116

00:08:57,100 --> 00:09:01,340

from a personal experience from borders, like you need to wait! Yes,

117

00:09:01,340 --> 00:09:03,539

I know that because I've been traveling to Bulgaria. Yes,

118

00:09:03,610 --> 00:09:06,169

you need to wait. The best moment to pass the

119

00:09:06,169 --> 00:09:08,679

border is I think six o'clock? No! You should be

120

00:09:08,679 --> 00:09:12,529

there before six o'clock, because at six o'clock they switch the

121

00:09:13,100 --> 00:09:18,230

teams. So, you know, you need to be there before. Um, I remember ñ my my grandmother's French.

122

00:09:18,230 --> 00:09:23,139

I'm German French So my grandmother lives in France. I

123

00:09:23,539 --> 00:09:27,649

remember when I was a child there were still those

124

00:09:27,649 --> 00:09:29,960

border controls, and we needed to show our passports. And

125

00:09:29,960 --> 00:09:32,309

then when I was about five years old or six years

126

00:09:32,309 --> 00:09:35,360

old then all the borders were opened, within the European

127

00:09:35,360 --> 00:09:40,195

Union we could just travel. You know it's wow! And now I'm getting

128

00:09:40,195 --> 00:09:43,990

so used to that. It's so strange, as soon as ñ if you are

129

00:09:44,340 --> 00:09:47,129

outside the European Union or you have somebody with you

130

00:09:47,129 --> 00:09:49,700

that is outside the European Union - because I have a person

131

00:09:49,700 --> 00:09:52,610

it's a company in Europe that comes from Turkey - quite

132

00:09:52,610 --> 00:09:55,529

strange, he needs to show his passport everywhere. I'm just

133

00:09:55,529 --> 00:09:59,240

travelling freely wherever I want to travel. And also, I

134

00:09:59,769 --> 00:10:02,539

remember when I was five years old

135

00:10:02,539 --> 00:10:05,820

I noticed I realized ìOh there's something differentî. And when

136

00:10:05,820 --> 00:10:09,070

I was fifteen years old the European Union announced ìwe

137

00:10:09,070 --> 00:10:13,730

will introduce one common currency: the Euroî. And I remember

138

00:10:13,730 --> 00:10:17,190

the moment, I was in school with my friends, it

139

00:10:17,190 --> 00:10:20,000

came on the radio ñ just the morning, you know? - it

140

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:22,820

was ìWow, we are living a historic moment! We will

141

00:10:22,820 --> 00:10:27,330

grow together! It's exciting! I'm so thrilled!î. And this is

142

00:10:27,330 --> 00:10:30,490

what happened and now we receded, you know, for politics

143

00:10:30,929 --> 00:10:34,659

it's now the reverse trend that happens because we observe

144

00:10:34,659 --> 00:10:38,169

nationalism popping up everywhere. So, this is my personal experience

145

00:10:38,169 --> 00:10:44,759

also with borders, you know? Um now I've been thinking also while we

146

00:10:44,759 --> 00:10:49,179

were talking how we could ñ how could we define borders. You know with

147

00:10:49,179 --> 00:10:52,370

a definition that englobes everything, because then we were talking

148

00:10:52,370 --> 00:10:56,210

about the psychological dimension of borders. I've been talking- I've

149

00:10:56,210 --> 00:11:02,169

been thinking about: Well, borders define the space where you

150

00:11:02,169 --> 00:11:06,009

can act, within you can act, you know? So either

151

00:11:06,009 --> 00:11:11,220

it's the space in a geographical sense where you can

152

00:11:11,220 --> 00:11:14,639

move freely, and as soon as you cross the border

153

00:11:14,639 --> 00:11:17,870

It's not, you're not as free anymore because normally you have to

154

00:11:17,870 --> 00:11:21,809

wait during passport control for instance. Um It can also be

155

00:11:21,970 --> 00:11:31,039

your own comfort zone. And then you have- um you've been talking about sociological

156

00:11:31,039 --> 00:11:37,039

bordersî also: has every group within some country the same

157

00:11:37,039 --> 00:11:40,580

Opportunities? No, certainly not. No

158

00:11:40,580 --> 00:11:45,159

there are groups that have better opportunities than other ones.

159

00:11:45,159 --> 00:11:47,250

You have cultural groups, you  
have `cultural borders`.

160

00:11:47,629 --> 00:11:52,049

Like, ëdo you want to cross the border, actually?í Now it's no more like about ëdo you  
have the same

161

00:11:52,049 --> 00:11:56,220

opportunity?í You could, but do

162

00:11:56,220 --> 00:12:00,970

you want to do it? And for your psychological borders, your personal limit so you

163

00:12:00,970 --> 00:12:03,210

put it like that where you have like a personal

164

00:12:03,210 --> 00:12:05,879

limit your comfort zone, when it's safe and then you

165

00:12:05,879 --> 00:12:10,240

want to cross it. It's also for me very much

166

00:12:10,240 --> 00:12:12,419

about do you want to see that border, or do

167

00:12:12,419 --> 00:12:14,809

you close your eyes. You don't want to see

168

00:12:14,809 --> 00:12:17,399

it and you won't cross it anyway. Like, as soon as

169

00:12:17,399 --> 00:12:19,929

you see it and you feel kind of challenged,

170

00:12:20,289 --> 00:12:24,720



for me it's a kind of challenge. I feel like

171

00:12:25,179 --> 00:12:28,509

ìMaybe I'm not safe to cross that border?î ìOh that's

172

00:12:28,509 --> 00:12:33,070

so interesting, let's just go do that.î So, um I'm not

173

00:12:33,330 --> 00:12:35,509

as structured as you are. I'm trying to gather a

174

00:12:35,509 --> 00:12:39,120

little bit my thoughts. You've also raised a question about

175

00:12:40,139 --> 00:12:43,950

ìIs this actually a line at the border? A very

176

00:12:43,950 --> 00:12:47,120

neat line?î So, a space if your protected in

177

00:12:47,120 --> 00:12:49,090

then there's just a thin line, you cross it, and

178

00:12:49,090 --> 00:12:57,039

then Boo! It's danger, it's chaos everywhere. Now no I'm entering

179

00:12:57,039 --> 00:13:00,100

discussion with you, but I don't see it that way.

180

00:13:00,519 --> 00:13:05,019

I think it's more like um like a space negotiation. You know it's

181

00:13:05,120 --> 00:13:08,720

a grey, it's a grey zone. You've got a very white zone and

182

00:13:08,720 --> 00:13:11,679

then it gets greyer and greyer and greyer until the

183

00:13:11,970 --> 00:13:17,110

point where it's very dark and you don't feel safe

184

00:13:17,110 --> 00:13:19,789

anymore. And I think we all can accept a kind

185

00:13:20,029 --> 00:13:23,809

of 'greyness', a certain amount of greyness. And the amount

186

00:13:23,809 --> 00:13:27,350

of greyness you can deal with, that's your personality. Either

187

00:13:27,350 --> 00:13:32,970

you're a very open, curious person, then you can accept

188

00:13:32,970 --> 00:13:35,590

you you can deal with a lot of greyness, maybe even

189

00:13:35,590 --> 00:13:39,309

with a black space, and then you would be very

190

00:13:39,309 --> 00:13:44,389

Daring. Or maybe you are more like a very careful person,

191

00:13:44,789 --> 00:13:47,399

then you need to have a very light shade of

192

00:13:47,720 --> 00:13:52,960

Grey. And I also think you can negotiate that person

193

00:13:52,960 --> 00:13:56,029

that border: that's the moment where you question yourself. Where

194

00:13:56,029 --> 00:13:59,700

where you think about 'okay is this really all I

195

00:13:59,919 --> 00:14:02,500

can do? Or can I go further, can I push

196

00:14:02,500 --> 00:14:05,529

it a little bit more to the limits?'. And I

197

00:14:05,759 --> 00:14:08,580

think you will feel your borders at the point where

198

00:14:09,379 --> 00:14:12,519

somehow it hurts. You know you fail at something you

199

00:14:12,730 --> 00:14:15,080

fail to deal with something that it hurts and that's

200

00:14:15,080 --> 00:14:18,500

where you set your borders, and then maybe at a

201

00:14:18,940 --> 00:14:21,389

later point you will try again, and then you'll see

202

00:14:21,389 --> 00:14:27,279

that you can push your borders furthermore. [Ö] Yes, but in

203

00:14:27,279 --> 00:14:30,220

each case I think what I would say is your

204

00:14:30,220 --> 00:14:33,080

borders are constructed, and it's yourself that define

205

00:14:33,080 --> 00:14:36,990

them. Whether it's now geographical borders - because you can accept

206

00:14:36,990 --> 00:14:39,700

them you don't accept them; it's up to you. Or your

207

00:14:40,039 --> 00:14:47,044

personal borders, your sociological borders, or your cultural borders - you

208

00:14:47,044 --> 00:14:52,210

can accept them or you just define for yourself. So

209

00:14:52,940 --> 00:14:57,259

that would be my, my summary of it.