

## GamingScorpion - transcript

1

00:00:02,319 --> 00:00:07,700

BS Okay so my name is [gives real name - GamingScorpion]

2

00:00:07,700 --> 00:00:12,990

and as you will tell from my accent I'm from

3

00:00:12,990 --> 00:00:19,050

Scotland. Now Scotland has a very famous and historic border

4

00:00:19,309 --> 00:00:25,629

that is with England. That border is called, was formed

5

00:00:25,629 --> 00:00:30,989

as part of the Roman Empire. It represented this as

6

00:00:30,989 --> 00:00:34,829

far as the Roman Empire managed to get in Europe

7

00:00:34,829 --> 00:00:37,759

it spread all the way up to the border with

8

00:00:37,759 --> 00:00:46,750

Scotland it's called Hadrian's Wall and, that was the point

9

00:00:46,850 --> 00:00:49,560

where that as far as Roman soldiers got they didn't

10

00:00:49,560 --> 00:00:55,159

get any further, it's thought because the Scottish the people

11

00:00:55,159 --> 00:01:00,490

who lived in Scotland at the time were very good

12

00:01:00,740 --> 00:01:05,060  
at defending or attacking the Romans especially attacking the  
Romans

13  
00:01:05,060 --> 00:01:10,359  
and, therefore the Romans sought to defend themselves from the

14  
00:01:10,780 --> 00:01:16,200  
people of Scotland the Picts by building Hadrian's Wall I

15  
00:01:16,200 --> 00:01:20,780  
think if I'm correct in saying so. So, for me

16  
00:01:20,780 --> 00:01:23,400  
as a Scotsman when I think of borders that's one

17  
00:01:23,400 --> 00:01:29,290  
that automatically comes to mind and I think about Hadrian's

18  
00:01:29,290 --> 00:01:34,709  
Wall. Although the wall is all but destroyed now there's

19  
00:01:34,709 --> 00:01:38,299  
still little parts of it available to see and it

20  
00:01:38,299 --> 00:01:46,930  
represents more, it's still the border between England and  
Scotland

21  
00:01:47,010 --> 00:01:52,150  
but it doesn't have any great meaning beyond that. But

22  
00:01:52,250 --> 00:01:55,299  
when I think of borders and it goes back to

23  
00:01:55,299 --> 00:01:59,319  
the point about Hadrian's Wall not just Hadrian's Wall but

24

00:01:59,409 --> 00:02:04,310

when I think about borders, I think very much about

25

00:02:04,700 --> 00:02:09,349

another wall the Berlin Wall in Berlin now I've been

26

00:02:09,349 --> 00:02:12,759

to Berlin once and I was very fortunate to see

27

00:02:12,759 --> 00:02:16,830

the wall and I found that very a moving experience

28

00:02:17,800 --> 00:02:23,229

because I've always had a great love of history and

29

00:02:23,590 --> 00:02:28,870

growing up and reading about the Second World War and

30

00:02:28,870 --> 00:02:32,360

then the events afterwards and the Cold War, seeing the

31

00:02:32,909 --> 00:02:38,969

berlin Wall to me was very, very meaningful and very

32

00:02:38,969 --> 00:02:45,830

moving and for me that represents a border. Now what

33

00:02:46,199 --> 00:02:49,180

has a border is the question I think that we

34

00:02:49,219 --> 00:02:54,460

are being asked to discuss and I cannot offer any

35

00:02:54,669 --> 00:02:58,680

hard and fast textbook definition but I would say a

36

00:02:59,009 --> 00:03:05,384

border is probably, when I read borders or hear of

37

00:03:05,384 --> 00:03:09,189

borders or think about borders I think about, politics I

38

00:03:10,020 --> 00:03:17,729

think about political division between countries and sometimes  
within countries

39

00:03:17,810 --> 00:03:24,069

I think about the politics that underlies the setting up

40

00:03:24,069 --> 00:03:26,780

of the border and the reason why it's there and

41

00:03:26,780 --> 00:03:29,569

what it seeks to do now what does a border

42

00:03:29,569 --> 00:03:31,599

seek to do we might want to ask ourselves and

43

00:03:31,599 --> 00:03:36,389

I suppose it can be seen from the Hadrian's Wall

44

00:03:36,389 --> 00:03:41,460

example of being something that stops people from crossing, So

45

00:03:41,460 --> 00:03:47,710

the Picts the early Scots from crossing into what was

46

00:03:47,710 --> 00:03:51,250

then Roman territory and attacking them so it can be

47

00:03:51,250 --> 00:03:57,960

used to defend against migrants. But, I suppose a border

48

00:03:58,169 --> 00:04:02,250

can also be used in the example of the Berlin

49

00:04:02,250 --> 00:04:08,009

Wall it can be used to stop people from escaping.

50

00:04:08,520 --> 00:04:11,490

So that's two very different things but it's still a

51

00:04:11,870 --> 00:04:17,370

border it can stop people from crossing either to, attack

52

00:04:17,370 --> 00:04:22,949

or to escape into a more wealthy and healthy land

53

00:04:22,949 --> 00:04:27,310

or it can imprison people and I find that a

54

00:04:27,850 --> 00:04:36,579

very very interesting and sad at the same time, aspect.

55

00:04:37,379 --> 00:04:50,649

I do not think, I am perhaps more realistic or

56

00:04:51,370 --> 00:04:56,319

perhaps less optimistic than yourself in thinking that we could

57

00:04:56,319 --> 00:04:59,480

have a world without any borders. Unfortunately I don't think

58

00:04:59,600 --> 00:05:03,899

that's the case I see many people

59

00:05:03,899 --> 00:05:12,060

who choose to build up borders, within countries and between

60

00:05:12,060 --> 00:05:18,060

countries, and a border is an unfortunate fact or maybe

61

00:05:18,060 --> 00:05:23,540

even in fortunate fact, but there's not just the geographical

62

00:05:23,850 --> 00:05:27,540

border which is what probably everyone thinks of it immediately.

63

00:05:27,800 --> 00:05:32,509

I'm doing a keynote on this early evening tonight and

64

00:05:33,069 --> 00:05:36,079

I'm not just talking about geographical borders but I'm also

65

00:05:36,550 --> 00:05:42,300

talking about the metaphorical borders which Machteld touched on

66

00:05:42,470 --> 00:05:47,620

earlier on. For me that's just as important that are

67

00:05:47,620 --> 00:05:55,790

there are borders between people, yeah there are borders between people

68

00:05:55,790 --> 00:05:59,329

in academia or in all walks of life that stop

69

00:05:59,720 --> 00:06:04,730

people from, having open discussions with one another that stop

70

00:06:05,079 --> 00:06:16,050

people from getting on with one another, and that can

71

00:06:16,170 --> 00:06:29,339  
be facilitated in many ways by, the media politicians industry

72

00:06:29,529 --> 00:06:32,829  
by people who see the border as serving a function

73

00:06:32,829 --> 00:06:37,110  
for them. So the border is not just a physical

74

00:06:37,110 --> 00:06:42,019  
entity, it can be a process it can be an

75

00:06:43,259 --> 00:06:49,100  
invisible entity that stops people from interacting with one  
another

76

00:06:49,100 --> 00:06:56,379  
so freely and if indeed at all. So that's something

77

00:06:56,379 --> 00:06:59,720  
I see in relation to what is a border. But

78

00:07:00,540 --> 00:07:06,949  
then, I've given some examples of what I think a

79

00:07:07,240 --> 00:07:11,459  
border is and what other people will think a border

80

00:07:11,459 --> 00:07:15,389  
is depends on who they are. So the example of

81

00:07:15,529 --> 00:07:19,689  
the refugees they will see the border as being, a

82

00:07:20,220 --> 00:07:24,379  
challenge as being something to get over to get round

83

00:07:24,379 --> 00:07:28,660

to be able to get through to try and find

84

00:07:28,660 --> 00:07:31,490

a better land a safer land a place to live

85

00:07:31,490 --> 00:07:36,029

where they will not be under persecution or under the

86

00:07:36,029 --> 00:07:39,480

threat of war or economic hardship where they can get

87

00:07:39,480 --> 00:07:50,259

a job, so in that respect a border is a

88

00:07:50,970 --> 00:08:01,009

great, it is a challenge for them but for statesmen in whatever land

89

00:08:01,120 --> 00:08:04,350

they will see the borders being something that is to

90

00:08:04,350 --> 00:08:07,829

be defended, they will see it just like the Romans

91

00:08:07,910 --> 00:08:18,910

they will see, a means for security rightly or wrongly.

92

00:08:19,970 --> 00:08:22,829

And so I think we have to bear that in

93

00:08:23,379 --> 00:08:27,089

mind when we're thinking about what does a border mean

94

00:08:27,470 --> 00:08:31,449

to other people and as I said a border will



95

00:08:31,449 --> 00:08:36,029

have different roles values and purposes depending on who you

96

00:08:36,029 --> 00:08:38,919

talk to and who you ask. So if you ask

97

00:08:38,919 --> 00:08:41,629

the migrant they would give you a different example to

98

00:08:41,629 --> 00:08:45,440

me, if you ask an immigration officer they would give

99

00:08:45,440 --> 00:08:54,990

another example different to both me and the migrant. Borders

100

00:08:55,830 --> 00:09:02,269

act as imaginary lines, in some cases as dots on

101

00:09:02,269 --> 00:09:06,610

a map to signify you're leaving one country and entering

102

00:09:06,610 --> 00:09:14,740

another and as you said that can represent, a moving

103

00:09:14,740 --> 00:09:20,159

from one culture to another and is that so bad

104

00:09:20,159 --> 00:09:24,600

that you go from one culture to another I think

105

00:09:25,230 --> 00:09:28,580

not. One of the things I've always loved when I

106

00:09:28,580 --> 00:09:32,850

travel when I go abroad is to see new lands

107

00:09:32,850 --> 00:09:36,409

and new cultures and if we all spoke the same

108

00:09:36,409 --> 00:09:39,259

language which I don't think would be possible even in

109

00:09:39,659 --> 00:09:42,419

an ideal world I think then we would all have

110

00:09:42,480 --> 00:09:46,179

the same culture and I would not like that I

111

00:09:46,179 --> 00:09:52,570

think we should accept and celebrate diversity in culture and

112

00:09:52,570 --> 00:09:57,149

to accept and to celebrate that the border enables people

113

00:09:57,450 --> 00:10:00,399

to have different cultures to have different languages

114

00:10:00,399 --> 00:10:03,570

and to see that as being not something that's

115

00:10:03,570 --> 00:10:06,409

bad that something needs to be changed or to be

116

00:10:06,620 --> 00:10:14,320

wiped out but, something that should be celebrated and embraced

117

00:10:14,519 --> 00:10:21,389

and acknowledged and respected. So I'm here the first time

118

00:10:21,389 --> 00:10:29,230

in Austria and for me, although I've been to Germany

119

00:10:29,230 --> 00:10:34,559

a couple of times I've never been to Austria so

120

00:10:34,720 --> 00:10:39,299

they are separate, this is a Germanic nation and culture

121

00:10:39,980 --> 00:10:43,679

and for me it's interesting to be reminded and to

122

00:10:44,210 --> 00:10:48,620

see a new form of Germanic culture. And again if

123

00:10:48,690 --> 00:10:53,049

we didn't have borders I don't know if we could

124

00:10:53,049 --> 00:10:56,710

have that so well. But there is a bad side

125

00:10:56,789 --> 00:10:59,700

to borders I've already talked about it but borders have

126

00:10:59,700 --> 00:11:03,450

been used by the media by the press by politicians

127

00:11:03,450 --> 00:11:09,419

right-wing politicians to subjugate people to enclose and  
imprison people

128

00:11:09,419 --> 00:11:14,720

to separate people to separate families. I don't need to

129

00:11:14,720 --> 00:11:21,034

give any examples the USA being a prime one. And

130

00:11:21,034 --> 00:11:24,600

that's an unfortunate fact of the world but it's a

131

00:11:24,600 --> 00:11:29,080

fact that I do not like. In that respect we

132

00:11:29,080 --> 00:11:36,669

should be trying to, do what we can to ensure

133

00:11:36,669 --> 00:11:44,889

that the border is, less divisive is, less of a

134

00:11:45,309 --> 00:11:57,320

barrier and that we can enable humanity and humankind and

135

00:11:58,009 --> 00:12:00,070

kindness to reign. But again that is something I think

136

00:12:00,100 --> 00:12:05,460

that is probably going to be quite a challenge. So

137

00:12:05,460 --> 00:12:10,570

we have that aspect as well now One of the

138

00:12:10,570 --> 00:12:16,250

things that I realize is that my main interest of

139

00:12:16,250 --> 00:12:21,490

my love of borders arises not from any academic work

140

00:12:21,490 --> 00:12:24,710

that I've done, my background I should say is in

141

00:12:25,129 --> 00:12:28,509

social sciences and psychology but I have worked in the

142

00:12:28,509 --> 00:12:32,240

area of health services research throughout my career until I

143

00:12:32,240 --> 00:12:42,710

wrote my book about conferences now. I've always since I

144

00:12:43,860 --> 00:12:49,330

was a young boy had a great interest in countries

145

00:12:49,330 --> 00:12:53,320

and atlases and maps and capital cities and I would

146

00:12:53,500 --> 00:12:56,210

try and remember all the different capital cities and all

147

00:12:56,210 --> 00:13:02,039

the different borders and maps and everything And so that

148

00:13:02,779 --> 00:13:05,909

interest is now being ignited by my being here at

149

00:13:05,909 --> 00:13:10,330

this conference today but also my, looking at stuff in

150

00:13:10,330 --> 00:13:13,700

relation to my talk tonight and these are things that I

151

00:13:14,220 --> 00:13:20,860

find, very interesting that I can relate to that I

152

00:13:21,289 --> 00:13:31,509

can help to understand better, to give me, a better,

153

00:13:33,200 --> 00:13:39,519

understanding of the border. So that is something that allows

154

00:13:40,009 --> 00:13:45,720

me to engage with the conference because it's not one

155

00:13:45,980 --> 00:13:47,860

that I've been to before, and as I said there's

156

00:13:47,960 --> 00:13:58,940

the cultural worlds. In borderland studies and in the borders

157

00:13:58,940 --> 00:14:03,889

themselves, as I said I've giving you examples of Hadrian's

158

00:14:03,889 --> 00:14:07,740

Wall and the Berlin Wall. Another memorable example of a

159

00:14:08,080 --> 00:14:12,320

border that I've been to is in Switzerland just outside

160

00:14:12,409 --> 00:14:16,789

of Basel there is a piece of land called Dreilaendereck

161

00:14:16,820 --> 00:14:22,799

a three-land meeting point between Switzerland and France and on

162

00:14:22,879 --> 00:14:26,549

the other side of the river Germany in front of

163

00:14:27,399 --> 00:14:33,659

Switzerland and that is marked by a sign-post, and it's

164

00:14:33,690 --> 00:14:38,909

a place that I've visited, the three times that I've

165

00:14:38,909 --> 00:14:43,340

been to Basel I find that a very memorable place

166

00:14:43,340 --> 00:14:47,610

because you can see the three different countries but also,

167

00:14:47,610 --> 00:14:53,519

you see there are flags and it reminds you that

168

00:14:53,629 --> 00:14:57,360

you can be in one country and at its very

169

00:14:57,940 --> 00:15:01,259

extreme and then you're literally just a

170

00:15:01,259 --> 00:15:04,879

stone's throw from another country another culture. I find

171

00:15:04,879 --> 00:15:11,399

that exciting I don't find that intimidating at all. Another

172

00:15:11,399 --> 00:15:14,700

country that I have a great deal of love and

173

00:15:14,700 --> 00:15:21,700

respect for is the Netherlands. The reason I am mentioning

174

00:15:21,700 --> 00:15:29,899

that is because, part of the Netherlands has a border

175

00:15:29,899 --> 00:15:34,029

with Belgium there is a town in Belgium and the

176

00:15:34,029 --> 00:15:37,710

Netherlands and it's one town but it crosses the border

177

00:15:38,570 --> 00:15:45,120

and so it encapsulates both the countries and it has

178

00:15:45,529 --> 00:15:52,200

different signs so it has the, French, it has, I think

179

00:15:52,200 --> 00:15:58,200

it has the Flemish, street names and then the Dutch street

180

00:15:58,659 --> 00:16:01,220

names and I've not been to that but I've seen

181

00:16:01,220 --> 00:16:04,519

it on the TV I've seen it in books and

182

00:16:04,519 --> 00:16:09,370

I think it's a wonderful example of a place where

183

00:16:09,539 --> 00:16:15,649

people can be together and where they can live in

184

00:16:15,649 --> 00:16:17,950

a place where yes there is a border but that

185

00:16:18,299 --> 00:16:25,919

border is not, not so divisive. As I said I keep

186

00:16:26,179 --> 00:16:28,490

coming back to this point over and over again that

187

00:16:28,899 --> 00:16:35,789

borders, it depends who is in charge who, who holds the

188

00:16:35,789 --> 00:16:38,789

power in the country, and what do they see as

189

00:16:38,960 --> 00:16:42,629

being the purpose of a border what do they see as

190

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:46,720



being useful in the use of a border so, in

191

00:16:47,139 --> 00:16:52,200

that example between Belgium and the Netherlands, nobody uses it

192

00:16:52,490 --> 00:16:57,049

in a hostile way no one's going to say we

193

00:16:57,450 --> 00:17:00,389

want this part of the town or that part. There's

194

00:17:00,389 --> 00:17:03,759

no searchlights there's no barbed wire there's no wall, it's

195

00:17:03,759 --> 00:17:08,269

just a little marking down the side of a street.

196

00:17:08,450 --> 00:17:14,250

That's, I suppose if you were in the best of both

197

00:17:14,250 --> 00:17:19,990

worlds yes we could have borders, but, not borders of

198

00:17:20,119 --> 00:17:24,799

barbed wires and fences and search-posts and lights and guns

199

00:17:24,799 --> 00:17:28,710

but borders with just markings on the road saying you

200

00:17:28,710 --> 00:17:34,079

are now leaving the Netherlands you are now entering Belgium

201

00:17:34,569 --> 00:17:39,049

something like that which I would, think that as being

202

00:17:39,089 --> 00:17:48,220

a very good way for taking borders onwards. Two and half minutes left to go.

203

00:17:48,730 --> 00:18:01,480

What more can I say. Just counting dead air time. So yeah as I said borders are

204

00:18:01,819 --> 00:18:07,470

metaphorical there's borders between, people right now between yourself

205

00:18:07,470 --> 00:18:13,259

and myself. Again this is not deliberate, this is just

206

00:18:13,950 --> 00:18:17,109

something that comes with the if you pardon the expression

207

00:18:17,380 --> 00:18:20,099

comes with the territory. Me being who I am where

208

00:18:20,099 --> 00:18:21,950

I come from you being who you are so there's

209

00:18:22,009 --> 00:18:28,500

the border of language. You're kindly speaking in English, you

210

00:18:28,720 --> 00:18:32,680

speak it very well I could not speak Hungarian to you at

211

00:18:32,680 --> 00:18:36,059

all or even German, so there is a linguistic border

212

00:18:36,119 --> 00:18:40,619

there that we are managing to get round in a

213

00:18:40,619 --> 00:18:45,289

way but it might also be a border that, you

214

00:18:45,289 --> 00:18:48,619

might be struggling at times with my accent or some

215

00:18:48,700 --> 00:18:50,440

of the words I'm saying you might be thinking I

216

00:18:50,650 --> 00:18:53,430

speak too fast you might be thinking I speak too

217

00:18:53,430 --> 00:18:57,660

slow. You're having to think in a foreign language to

218

00:18:57,660 --> 00:19:00,269

understand what I'm saying and appreciate me, so I have

219

00:19:00,269 --> 00:19:05,670

a distinct advantage over you in that respect. So there

220

00:19:05,670 --> 00:19:10,170

is that border there's also the border of jobs and

221

00:19:11,430 --> 00:19:20,190

experience and that, I have been a postdoc I'm a

222

00:19:20,339 --> 00:19:23,720

PhD I've done research for seventeen years and you're a

223

00:19:24,529 --> 00:19:29,450

student, so there is a border in that respect. But

224

00:19:30,339 --> 00:19:35,910

I'm hoping that we've managed not to rely too much

225

00:19:36,460 --> 00:19:44,759

in these borders that we have between ourselves and that

226

00:19:44,900 --> 00:19:50,509

we have been able to, so far hold the conversation

227

00:19:51,059 --> 00:19:56,026

in a way that is useful helpful meaningful.