

Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology  
Masters and Ph.D. Course 7.5 ECTS  
23 Oct. 2017– 12 Jan. 2018



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# DESIGN ANTHROPOLOGY OF BORDERS

Boat graveyard in Lampedusa  
Photo: courtesy of Shona Hazel Richards



# DESIGN

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# ANTHROPOLOGY

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# OF

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# BORDERS

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Masters and PhD Course, 7.5 ECTS, Fall 2017

Engaging Vulnerability Research Program  
Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology  
Uppsala University

Main Teachers

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While borders of different kinds seem to be everywhere, yet some borders are more visible than others due to their design; some perform heavier than others due to their distinctive material qualities; some are more lethal than others because of the way they perform; some borders operate not only to repress but to produce different sorts of subject, wealth and capital and they do so due to their specific design and materiality.

In recent years, an emerging movement in social sciences and humanities, including anthropology, is taking place which calls for a greater attention towards objects, materials, infrastructures and their performative, spatial and temporal qualities that recognise and consequently generate a different form of politics. Similarly, scholars of migration and border studies have paid attention to the performativity and materiality of borders for instance through discussing technologically and materially designed apparatuses regulating mobility and migration.

Following such emergence, this experimental course by weaving two modes of inquiry aims to provide a space for thinking and discussing as well as intervening in how the materiality and performativity of borders operate and what they produce through their designs in different sites and moments. Building on recent scholarship in *anthropology of borders* and *design anthropology*, this course aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice through multi-modal learning.

In this course, on the one hand, students will read the texts in which scholars and practitioners examine the materiality and performativity of borders in contemporary time. On the other hand, the course by engaging design methods of inquiry such as mapping, visualisation, prototyping, probing, etc. will include practice and project based explorations of borders in different contexts introduced to the class through lectures and seminars. Possible contexts for project could include but not limited to borders in urban spaces operating through logistics and infrastructures, gentrification processes, integration discourses and practices; geopolitical and historical borders operating through off shore visa policies, European border regime, colonial borders and demarcations, development and humanitarian work as well as borders in and by technological configurations such as algorithms, biometrics, surveillance, big data, drones, social media, etc.

The aim of the course is to provide an understanding of the anthropology of objects, sites and spaces as borders and bordering processes through implying different ethnographic as well as design concepts and methods.

## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course the student is expected to:

- Account for and develop an understanding of anthropology of materiality, design anthropology and anthropology of borders based on recent literature;
- Account for and critically discuss different approaches to borders in recent literature on border studies and more specifically materiality of borders;
- Have an understanding of design methods used in ethnographic practices, ethnographic methods used in design processes as well as other relevant mixed-methods;
- Propose and practice a design project individually or in group that highlights, discusses, challenges or examines borders in one or more of the three levels of geopolitical, urban or technological settings;
- Critically evaluates one's own and others projects and account for the limitation and possibilities of design anthropology as an emerging field of study.

## TEACHING

Teaching activities include a series of lectures, seminars, presentations, tutoring and workshops. Class attendance is obligatory unless stated otherwise. The language of instruction is English.

## EXAMINATION

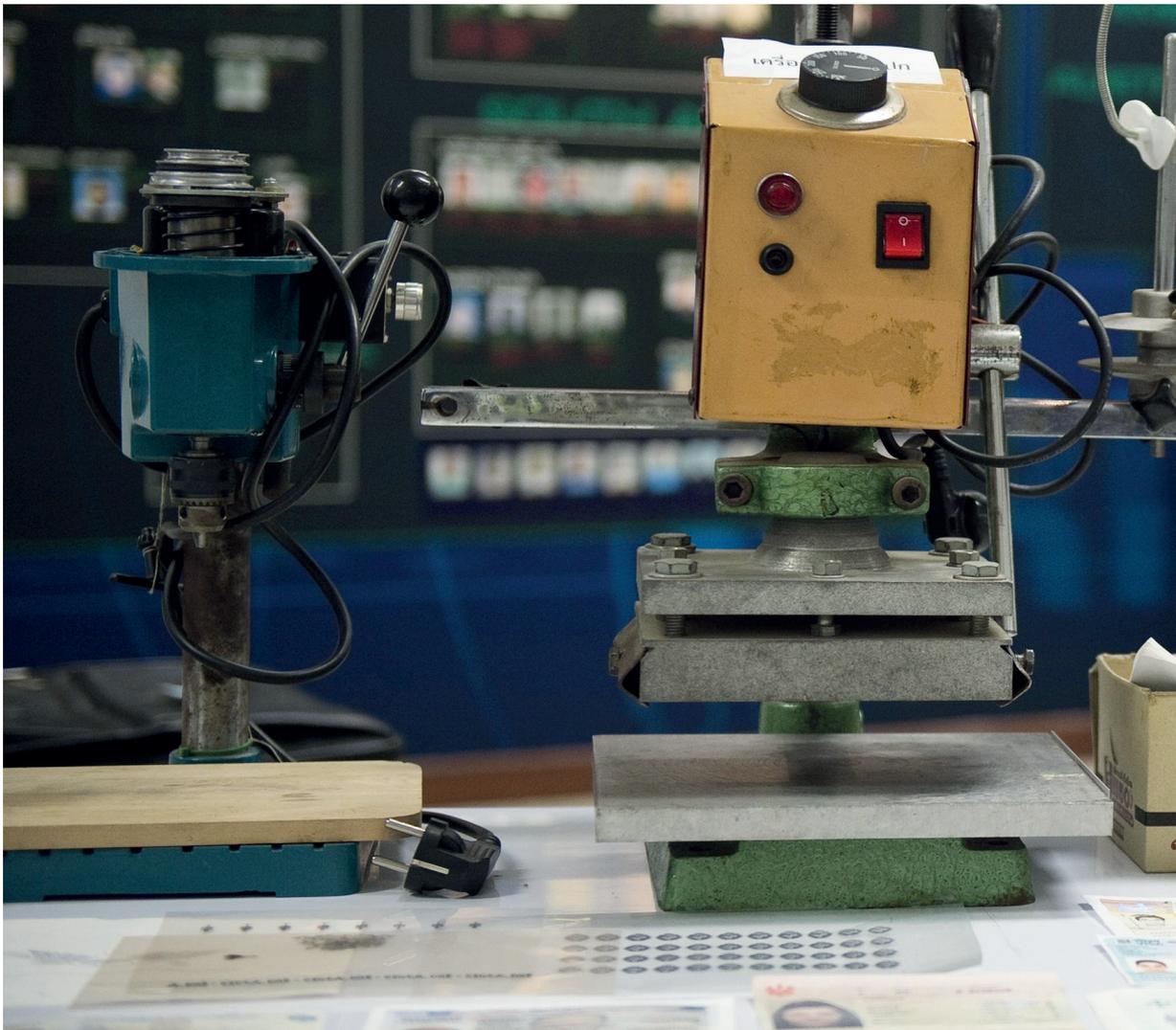
Besides active participation in the course and short reaction papers and seminar discussions, the students are expected to deliver two main assignments:

- (I) Conduct and present visually or/and materially a specific project that addresses encounters, negotiations and challenges around a site or situation of borderwork. This can be individually or in a group of two if desired.
- (II) Write a final paper of which the requirement differs depending on masters or PhD level.

*Master students* are expected to deliver a final paper of max. 3000 words reflecting critically on the process of their work by analysing and referring to the course literature and their ethnographic practice.

*PhD students* are required to deliver a final paper of 5000–6000 words that is both exegetical and analytical. They may or may not engage with the practical project done during the course but if they decided to do so, they need to be sure that enough space is dedicated to critical review of the literature, analysis of certain points and arguments as well as critical positioning of their project within them.

All students will be assessed for their active participation in class, their oral presentations of the project and for the quality of their final paper.



## SCHEDULE

The course is divided into two chunks of intensive periods. Since you have two final assignments to deliver, one practice-based project/intervention and one final paper, you need to start thinking of what is your specific site or situation of borderwork with which you want to work from the first day. Throughout the course we will back and forth discuss your chosen site or situation of borderwork in relation to the literature in order to frame and narrow down your specific project into a feasible and doable work within the short time of this course.

**Location:** All classes are held at Engaging Vulnerability seminar room 40019A, located in Hus 4, Engelska Parken Campus, Uppsala University, unless stated otherwise.



A presser and forged documents are displayed at the immigration bureau in Bangkok after Thai police arrested a famous forger known as "The Doctor"  
Photo: AFP/Nicolas Asfour

**23-25 Oct.**

Preparing for Seminar 1 and 2 by reading the assigned literature, writing a paragraph reacting to each seminar as well as having a preliminary idea of a situation or site of borderwork which with you would like to engage.

**26 Oct. Thursday**

10.00–12.00

Introduction

**Lecture 1: Design Anthropology**

13.00–14.45

**Seminar 1: Anthropology, Design and Materiality**

You are expected to come to the seminar having read all the readings in the cluster of Design Anthropology and Anthropology of Material Culture from the literature list and present your reaction paragraph.

15.15–17.00

Extra Seminar at the Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on Racism: Post-Deportation: What happens after deportation? Shahram Khosravi – room: tbc

**27 Oct. Friday**

10.00–12.00

**Lecture 2: Ethnography of Borders**

13.00–15.00

**Seminar 2: Ethnography of Borders**

You are expected to come to the seminar having read all the readings in the cluster of Ethnography of Borders from the literature list and present your reaction paragraph.

15.30–16.30

A quick round of presentation and discussion on specific sites or situations of borderwork chosen by each student (max. 5 mins each). This is to find overlapping interests among students to form smaller groups if desired. It is also a way to get you to start thinking about your actual project from the beginning.

**30 Oct – 8 Nov.**

Preparing for Seminar 3 and 4 by reading the assigned literatures, writing one reaction paragraph for Seminar

3, one page reaction paper on literatures from the seminar 4 as well as starting preliminary research on sites or situations of borderwork which with you would like to work.

## **9 Nov. Thursday**

10.00–12.00

### **Seminar 3: Materiality of Borders**

You are expected to come to the seminar having read all the readings in the cluster of Materiality of Borders from the literature list and present your reaction paragraph.

13.00–15.00

**Presentation 1:** Presenting and discussing the sites/situations of borderwork in relation to the literature

## **10 Nov. Friday**

9.30–10.30

### **Lecture 3: Guest Lecture** by Dr. Jennifer Mack: **Urban Design from Below: Immigration and the Spatial Practice of Urbanism.**

Assigned Reading: Mack, Jennifer. 2014. "Urban Design from Below: Immigration and the Spatial Practice of Urbanism." *Public Culture* 26.1 72: 153–185.

11.00–12.00

### **Lecture 4: Design Methods of Inquiry**

13.00–16.00

### **Workshop: Design Methods**

## **13 Nov. Monday**

13.00–16.00

Borders of Europe: Material and Visual Perspectives – A half-day symposium at Stockholm University. Note that this seminar is held at Stockholm University, room to tbc.

## **14 Nov. Tuesday**

9.30–12.00

### **Seminar 4: Urban, Geopolitical and Technological Borders**

You are expected to come to the seminar having read all readings in the clusters of Technological Borders, Urban Borders, Geopolitical Borders from the Literature list. Students will present and comment on each other's reaction papers on literatures assigned to

seminar 4. This will be done in pairs.

13.00–16.00

**Presentation 2:** each student/group has to discuss the relation between literatures from seminar 4 and the chosen sites/situations of borderwork.

### **21 Nov. Tuesday**

13.00–16.00

Optional Tutoring: Each student or group can book a timeslot of 15 minutes to discuss one's project. Remember that this is not mandatory and it is possible for those who live in cities outside Stockholm/Uppsala region to skype for these sessions.

### **28 Nov. Tuesday**

13.00–16.00

Optional Tutoring: Each student or group can book a timeslot of 15 minutes to discuss one's project. Remember that this is not mandatory and it is possible for those who live in cities outside Stockholm/Uppsala region to skype for these sessions.

### **5 Dec. Tuesday**

13.00–16.00

Optional Tutoring: Each student or group can book a timeslot of 15 minutes to discuss one's project. Remember that this is not mandatory and it is possible for those who live in cities outside Stockholm/Uppsala region to skype for these sessions.

### **14 Dec. Thursday**

9.30–16.00

#### **Presentation 3 - Final Presentations**

During this day, each student or group will present their project on the specific site/situation of borderwork for approx. 15–20 minutes. The format of presentation is open and can include visual, textual, performative, etc. aspects to capture your work.

### **10 Jan. Wednesday**

9.00 a.m.

Submission of the final paper via email to both [mahmoud.keshavarz@antro.uu.se](mailto:mahmoud.keshavarz@antro.uu.se) and [shahram.khosravi@rasismforskning.uu.se](mailto:shahram.khosravi@rasismforskning.uu.se)

## LITERATURE

### **Design Anthropology & Materiality**

#### Design Anthropology

Murphy, K. M. (2016). Design and Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 45, 433–449.

Gunn, W., Otto, T., & Smith, R. C. (Eds.). (2013). *Design anthropology: theory and practice*. London: Bloomsbury (Selected chapters)

Suchman, L. (2011). Anthropological relocations and the limits of design. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 40.

#### Anthropology of Material Culture

Appadurai, A. (2013). “The Social Life of Design” in *The Future as Cultural Fact. Essays on the Global Condition*. London and New York: Verso.

Ingold, T. (2012). Toward an ecology of materials. *Annual review of anthropology*, 41, 427–442.

Larkin, B. (2013). The politics and poetics of infrastructure. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 42, 327–343.

Hull, M. S. (2012). Documents and bureaucracy. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 41, 251–267.

### **Borders**

#### Ethnography of Borders

Khosravi, S. (2010) ‘Illegal’ Traveler: An auto-ethnography of borders, Palgrave MacMillan.

Fassin, D. (2013). *Enforcing order: An ethnography of urban policing*. Polity Press. (selected chapters)

Jansen, S. (2013). People and things in the ethnography of borders: materialising the division of Sarajevo. *Social Anthropology*, 21(1), 23–37.

### Materiality of Borders

Johnson, C., Jones, R., Paasi, A., Amoore, L., Mountz, A., Salter, M., & Rumford, C. (2011). Interventions on rethinking 'the border' in border studies. *Political Geography*, 30(2), 61–69.

Shapira, H. (2013). The Border: Infrastructure of the Global. *Public Culture*, 25(2 70), 249–260.

Heller, C & Pezzani, L 2014, 'Liquid traces', in *Forensic Architecture* (eds.), *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth*, Steinberg Press, pp. 657–684.

Andersson, R. (2016). Hardwiring the frontier? The politics of security technology in Europe's 'fight against illegal migration'. *Security dialogue*, 47(1), 22–39.

### Technological Borders

Amoore, L. (2006). Biometric borders: Governing mobilities in the war on terror. *Political geography*, 25(3), 336–351.

Tawil-Souri, H. (2015). Cellular Borders: Dis/Connecting Phone Calls in Israel–Palestine. *Signal Traffic: Critical Studies of Media Infrastructures*, 157–182.

Verstraete, G. (2003). "Technological Frontiers and the Politics of Mobility in the European Union". In *Uprootings/Regroundings: Questions of Home and Migration*, edited by Sara Ahmed, Claudia Castada, Anne-Marie Fortier, and Mimi Sheller, 225–249. London: Bloomsbury.

### Urban Borders

Graham, S. (2010) "Ubiquitous Borders" in *Cities Under Siege*. London: Verso. Pp.89–152

Caldeira, T. P. (1996). Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation. *Public Culture*, 8(2), 303–328.

Keshavarz, M. (2017). "Undesigning Borders: Spaces of Borders and

Counter-Practices of Looking” in Coombs, G, Sade, G., McNamara, A. (eds.) Undesign: Critical Perspectives at the Intersection of Art and Design. London: Routledge

### Geopolitical Borders

Casas-Cortes, M., Cobarrubias, S., & Pickles, J. (2013). Re-bordering the neighbourhood: Europe’s emerging geographies of non-accession integration. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 20(1), 37–58.

Reeves, M. (2014). *Border work: spatial lives of the state in rural Central Asia*. Cornell University Press. (selected chapters)

Green, S. (2012). A sense of border. In Wilson, T. and Donnan, H (eds.) *A Companion to Border Studies*, Wiley Blackwell, 573–592.

### **Suggested Reading**

Casas-Cortes, Maribel, Sebastian Cobarrubias, Nicholas De Genova, Glenda Garelli, Giorgio Grappi, Charles Heller, Sabine Hess et al. “New keywords: migration and borders.” *Cultural Studies* 29, no. 1 (2015): 55–87.

Rael, R. (2017). *Borderwall as Architecture: A Manifesto for the US–Mexico Boundary*. Univ of California Press.

De León, J. (2015). *The land of open graves: Living and dying on the migrant trail* (Vol. 36). Univ of California Press.

Reviel Netz. (2004). *Barbed wire: An ecology of modernity*. Wesleyan University Press.

Weizman, E. (ed). (2015) *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth*. Sternberg Press

Ascher, K. (2005). *The works: Anatomy of a city*. Penguin Group USA.

Neilson, B. and Mazzadra, S. (2013) *Border as Method or the Multiplication of Labour*. Durham: Duke University Press.

van Reekum, R., & Schinkel, W. (2017). Drawing lines, enacting migration: visual prostheses of bordering Europe. *Public Culture*, 29(1 81), 27–51.

## NOTES

	Week 43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	2
Monday				<b>13 November</b> 13-17 Workshop on borders of Europe (Stockholm University)					
Tuesday				<b>14 November</b> 9.30-12 Seminar 4: Urban, geopolitical and technological borders 13-16 Presentations & discussion	<b>21 November</b> 13-16 Optional tutoring	<b>29 November</b> 13-16 Optional tutoring	<b>5 December</b> 13-16 Optional tutoring		
Wednesday									
Thursday	<b>26 October</b> 10-12 Introduction and Lecture 1: design anthropology 13-15 Seminar1: Anthropology, design materiality 15.00-17.00 Extra seminar on post-deportation		<b>9 November</b> 10-12 Seminar 3: Materiality of borders 13-15 Presentations & discussion					<b>14 December</b> 9.30-16 Final presentation	
Friday	<b>27 October</b> 10-12 Lecture 2: Ethnography of borders 13-15 Seminar 2: Ethnography of borders 15.30-16.30 Presentation & discussion		<b>10 November</b> 9.30-10.30 Guest Lecture by Jennifer Mack: Urban design from below 11-12 Lecture 4: Design methods of inquiry 13-16 Workshop: Design methods						<b>10 January</b> 9.00 Essay submission



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