



2016

Symposium on Border Regions in Sub-Saharan Africa



University of Eastern Finland,
Joensuu Campus,
Joensuu, Finland

7th – 9th September 2016

Alfred Colpaert

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FOREWORD

The Symposium on Border Regions in Southern Africa in Katima Mulilo, Namibia in 2015 was a stimulating experience, which revealed many new aspects of academic studies related to transnational border regions. The present meeting in Joensuu, Finland in 2016 builds directly on those experiences with a broader scope, addressing interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies of borderland studies and concerning the entire Sub-Saharan Africa.

The late Doreen Massey, stated that *Geography Matters*, and this is no less true for border regions in Africa. Geography therefore is an important subject in universities and education in general. It is one of the key subjects helping to define territories and building nations. Therefore it is surprising that geographical societies are lacking from most African countries. In Europe geographical societies actually preceded the discipline as an independent university subject. The British Royal Geographical Society played a major role in the exploration of Africa and European geographical societies certainly played an active role in the colonization process of Africa. These societies, however, were not replicated in most African countries, and at present there are only societies in South-Africa, Nigeria and Uganda. The founding of geographical societies to foster spatial research and link local academia with the International Geographical Union should have high priority on our academic agenda.

Geography, however, is not the only player in the field of regional studies. That is why we want to address the importance of a multidisciplinary setting of societal, political and historical realities of border regions. For example, the historical long-term approach is necessary to understand geopolitical structures, and ethnic, religious and economic circumstances of border communities.

In Katima Mulilo we had many discussions on the different views and meanings African borders represent. I hope Joensuu will deepen these discussions and will produce a meaningful contribution to the international discourse on the subject of borders and border regions.

Joensuu September 7, 2016

Alfred Colpaert
Professor of Geography
University of Eastern Finland

PROGRAM

7th September 2016

Auditorium F101, Futura Building, Yliopistokatu 7, 80100 Joensuu

8:00 - 10:00 Registration

9:00 – 11:20 Opening ceremony

9:00 - 9:10 Opening words by Professor Markku Filppula, Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, University of Eastern Finland

9:10 - 9:15 Professor Alfred Colpaert, University of Eastern Finland

9:15 - 10:00 Keynote address Dr. Bennett Kangumu, University of Namibia
Connections: The Case of the Southern Africa region in Sub-Saharan Africa

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee Break at Restaurant Futura

10:30 - 11:00 Keynote address, by Professor Maria Lähteenmäki, University of Eastern Finland
Studying border regions. The case of the Finnish Vyborg from 1812 to 1944

11:00 - 11:20 VERA – Centre for Russian and Border Studies, presentation by Professor Ilkka Liikanen, University of Eastern Finland

11:20 – 12:00 Session 1 Environmental Problems, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, Chair Professor Alfred Colpaert

Irmeli Mustalahti: Bioeconomy in Africa: Who holds rights and creates access to natural resources?

Augustine-Moses Gbagir: Analyzing the evolution of land degradation in eastern Zambezi Region, Namibia using aerial photos and MODIS data – Implications for policy

12:00 - 13:20 Lunch break at Restaurant Aura

13:20 – 13:45 Session 1 continues

Annika Hyytiä: Sustainable development – International framework – Overview and analysis in the context of forests and forest products – Sustainability with Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

13:45 – 14:20 Session 2 Migration, Chair Professor Alfred Colpaert

Antti Erkkilä: Translocality and resilience in Namibia

J.M.K Mbombo: Rethinking constitutionalism as a border management strategy in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

14:20 – 14:50 Coffee break at Restaurant Futura

14:50 – 16:00 Session 2 continues

Christopher C. Nshimbi: Tourism mobilities and border crossings: Policy (in)consistency and impact on South Africa's tourism sector

Haaveshe Nekongo-Nielsen: A long walk to education: The schooling of Angolan children living along the Namibian-Angolan border

Inocent Moyo: Transnational organised crime: The case of human smuggling at the Beitbridge border between South Africa and Zimbabwe – Presenter Christopher C. Nshimbi

8th September 2016

Auditorium F100, Futura Building, Yliopistokatu 7, 80100 Joensuu

9:00 – 10:15 Session 3 Identities and Culture, Chair Dr. Antti Erkkilä

Kari Miettinen: Masculinity, violence and border in pre-colonial Ovambo culture (North-Central Namibia)

Tatiana M. Gavristova and Nadezhda Khokholkova: The Borders of Africanity

Éva Sebestyén: Two territories, one history, one identity: Mbadja of Angola and Namibia

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee break at Restaurant Futura

10:45 - 12:00 Session 4 Trade and Livelihood in Border Areas, Chair Professor Ilkka Liikanen

Alfred Colpaert: Pasture use in the eastern Zambezi region, Namibia; a grazing system under a flood – drought regime

Ndangwa Noyoo: Cross Border trade between Sesheke and Katima Mulilo: Examining the social implications

Christopher C. Nshimbi: Poverty and inequality Post-2015: what role for informal cross-border traders in sustaining livelihoods in southern Africa?

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch break at Restaurant Aura

13:00 - 14:30 Session 5 Ethnic Groups and Inequality, Chair Adjunct Professor Irmeli Mustalahti

James Hlongwana et al.: Neither here nor there: The landless Ndau who have turned “no man’s land” between Mozambique and Zimbabwe into a home

Bernard K. Mbenga: One Ethnic Community Straddling an International Border: Tshidilamolomo Villagers in South Africa and Botswana

Petri Nurmi: Meaning given to development co-operation in reducing economic inequalities in Namibia 1985-1990

Inocent Moyo: Claiming border citizenship from below: The case of South-Africa-Zimbabwe border – Presenter Christopher C. Nshimbi

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break at Restaurant Futura

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion and decisions on publication of proceedings

18:00 Dinner at Teatteriravintola

9th September 2016, Escursion to Ilomantsi

Starting point: In front of the Carelia Building, Yliopistokatu 4, 80100 Joensuu

9:00 The bus leaves to Ilomantsi, Assistant Professor Jussi Laine tells about ABS – Association of Borderlands Studies

10:00 Visit to Ilomantsi Town Hall, presentation by Erja Karvinen, Coffee break

11:30 Lunch at Parppein Pirtti

12:30- 16:30 Researcher Kaarlo Nygren as a guide:

Easternmost point of EU, driving near the eastern border to Öykkösenvaara and Möhkö: war memorials.

Coffee break in Öykkösenvaara.

16:30 The bus leaves back to Joensuu

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR. BENNETT KANGUMU

Bennett Kangumu obtained his PhD from the University of Cape Town for this study. He has previously published on 20th century Namibian history: *Contesting Caprivi - A History of Colonial Isolation and Regional Nationalism in Namibia*.

Since 2008 has been the Rector of the former Caprivi College of Education, now the Head of the University of Namibia's Katima Mulilo Campus.



Connections: The Case of the Southern Africa region in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is generally and geographically regarded as the area of the continent that lies south of the Sahara desert. It can be sub-divided into further 'regions': central Africa, Horn of Africa, southern Africa, south-east Africa, Sudan, western Africa. It is an expansive geographical area with a population of over 800 million people and that is projected according to the UN to grow to 1,5 billion to 2 billion people by 2050.

With the African state being variously described by Afro-pessimist literature as being dysfunctional and in 'chaos' (Ayittey 1998), or as having achieved a condition of "instrumentalized disorder" (Chabal and Daloz 1999), there is bound to be differing levels of projecting power beyond central cities that may result in instances of the neglect of the countryside and border regions and hence the interest in scholarship to study border regions such as at this symposium. This paper explores the connectedness and/or 'regionness' of the southern Africa region. It is such connections that provide a framework for the study of border regions. At the micro-level, the paper will also briefly explore feelings of separateness on the Namibian border in the Zambezi region.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR MARIA LÄHTEENMÄKI

Maria Lähteenmäki is a Professor of history at the University of Eastern Finland, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Helsinki. She is the Professor of the Year 2015 in Finland, member of the Research Council for Culture and Society in the Academy of Finland and Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. Lähteenmäki has published some 20 monographs and tens of articles dealing with border regions and communities, everyday life, Finnish historiography and women's history. Just to mention the monographs *The Peoples of Lapland. Boundary Demarcations and Interaction in the North Calotte from 1808 to 1889* (2006), and *Väinö Voionmaa. Politician and geopolitician* (2015, in Finnish), and articles *The Making of a Barrier between Two Worlds: Finnicization on the Finno-Russian Border in the 1910-20s* (2012) and *Trafficking in children in Lapland in the nineteenth century* (2013).



Studying border regions. The case of the Finnish Vyborg from 1812 to 1944

The paper examines research premises in politically sensitive border regions. The key concept of the presentation is geohistory; which can be understood in this connection both as a method and theoretical framework. The geohistorical research genre has its roots in the 19th century, but as a modern research field geohistory was developed from the 1940's onward when the French historian Fernand Braudel used the method in an innovative way in his famous work *The history of the Mediterranean world* (1949). The basis of the geohistorical approach is interdisciplinary; it contains three components, historical and geographical data linked to the knowledge of political science. This paper introduces also a case study related to the border town of Vyborg between Finland and Russia. It opens the cultural and political realities of the community through the strife on city-space and public monuments.

SESSION 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bioeconomy in Africa: Who holds rights and creates access to natural resources?

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The bioeconomy is seen as a new economic and social order that will challenge most of the current practices and structures globally. In Africa, there is a rush to support bioenergy growth, international bioeconomy innovations and investments, although the environmental sustainability and social justice of bioeconomy growth can be questioned. I argue that social sustainability of the bioeconomy can be examined via citizens' participation in natural resources governance. In this paper, I would like to discuss the empirical and conceptual understanding of deliberative natural resources governance and how this could foster justice in bioeconomy. The case studies in this paper exhibit forest governance reform efforts, both as attempts to respond to the need for citizens' participation in forest governance. I argue that the forest-based bioeconomy challenges previous conceptualizations about how states, citizens and corporations affect and influence justice and decision making over utilization of natural resources. The bioeconomy therefore also impact on local democracy and citizenship instead of remaining as development incentives for bioeconomy era. However, it can be also argued that bioeconomy interventions have the potential to increase participation of local citizens in forest management, but a top-down approach of bioeconomy is criticized. The remaining question is how bioeconomy interventions could create so called private-public-people partnership to include private investors' concerns of economic sustainability as well as public discussion and the voice of vulnerable groups to defend and strengthen social justice in bioeconomy.

*Irmeli Mustalahti is adjunct professor and Academy of Finland research fellow at the Department of Geographical and Historical Studies, University of Eastern Finland. The main aim of her current research is the analysis of forest governance as a global environmental governance mechanism that can lead to expected and unexpected impacts on local communities, thereby influencing the distribution of benefits, risks and opportunities of land use and forest management. Currently, she is studying, developing funding proposals and is involved in theoretical debates on responsive governance in the forest-based bioeconomy. She also heads an Academy of Finland-funded research project called "REDD+: The new regime to enhance or reduce equity in global environmental governance? A comparative study in Tanzania, Mexico and Laos". In 2012-2014, she was a leader within the Academy of Finland-funded research project entitled "Towards Responsive Governance in

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation? Comparative case study in Tanzania and Nepal”. You can find a short introduction related to her research on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ-2NvDT6ZM> Joint international bioeconomy research initiatives.

Analyzing the evolution of land degradation in eastern Zambezi Region, Namibia using aerial photos and MODIS data – Implications for policy

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Namibia is one of the driest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa making it very vulnerable to land degradation and desertification. The Zambezi region in the eastern part of the country receives the highest amount of rain, the soil is very fertile and there is abundance of plants and animals. The region is defined by land degradation, land clearances and deforestation due to a number of factors such as increase in population density, agricultural activities, overgrazing, poverty, deforestation, flooding, droughts and land ownership rights. Despite the conservation measures put in place, land degradation and deforestation is still on-going in the Zambezi. Also, there are still conflicts of interests in the conservations areas on how best to manage these lands efficiently and provide livelihoods for the people.

This study addresses the following main research questions: (i) how have the drivers of degradation evolved in the last four and a half decades (1970 – 2016)? (ii) what are the land use changes that have taken place during this period? and (iii) what are the underlying causes of these degradations? Aerial photo mosaic time series from 1970 – 2006 and MODIS NDVI and EVI data from 2000 – 2016 will be used. We will develop indicators and use these to analyze the time series data to assess land degradation, deforestation and land use changes in the Zambezi region of Namibia. The potential policy implications of the study to climate change adaptation and mitigation and conservation policy in Namibia and the countries facing similar problems and challenges will also be discussed in the paper.

Key words: Land degradation, flooding, drought, indicators, conservation, adaptation.

Sustainable development – International framework – Overview and analysis in the context of forests and forest products – Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade and Corporate Social Responsibility with the Advocacy Coalition Framework with stakeholders

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Policy has a remarkable role in the sustainable development. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, FLEGT, constitutes a significant policy within the CSR with a significant stakeholder collaboration in the sustainable development framework. Forest certification and FLEGT provide an important role for stakeholders in the markets.

Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) provides a useful tool for exploring the sustainable development internationally and nationally. Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR, and stakeholder collaboration are up to date themes. Corporate Social Responsibility approach and stakeholders have an important role. Advocacy Coalition Framework in an international and in a national policy framework gives a useful tool for exploring the sustainable development internationally and nationally. Research on stakeholders, Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR, and stakeholder collaboration is an actual theme and represented in an international and national policy framework. Corporate Social Responsibility approach and stakeholders have a role in diverse ecosystem services and sustainable growth. There are many opportunities to engage in the sustainable development taking into consideration national and international aspects. Policy, trade and markets have a significant role in the international sustainable development. Forest certification and FLEGT provide an important role for stakeholders.

This is a qualitative research based on literature. Sustainable development in an international framework has been studied as an overview and analysis in the context of forests and forest products.

This is a qualitative research based on literature.

SESSION 2 – MIGRATION

Translocality and resilience in Namibia

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In the Sub-Saharan Africa internal migration has been the dominant form of population mobility. However, it has not been in the focus of theoretical discourse. It has been argued that the distinction between international and internal migration is artificial, and therefore the concept of transnationalism should be extended and adopted also to the analysis of rural-urban interaction. The concept of translocality has become a widely used paradigmatic tool in topics dealing with interaction between rural and urban communities, particularly in the Global South. The definition of household used in the household population and housing censuses has appeared to be inadequate in the context of African household dynamics, and needs, therefore, further elaboration. In Namibia the migrant labour system was introduced during the German colonial period in the early 1900s, when the first mines were opened in central and southern Namibia. The most important recruitment regions were the densely populated rural areas of Cuvelai, i.e. the north central parts of the country.

In the context of cross-border mobility, the most important internal border in Namibia is a two-metre high veterinary fence, extending from the Namib Desert in the west to the Botswana–Namibia border in the east. The origin of this internal border between north and central Namibia dates back to the rinderpest epidemic in 1896, and the need to protect the German settlement region from the dangers of the African interior. Under South African rule, the veterinary and settlement borders were merged into a cohesive border known as the Red Line. The intention of apartheid regime was to establish homelands in the northern areas for black population, whereas most of the southern areas were reserved for white population. Until the Namibian independence in 1990 the crossing of the Red Line was restricted and mostly allowed only for migrant laborers.

The objective of this study is to examine socio-ecological resilience of rural households in North Central Namibia in the context of translocality. The study relies on the Namibia 2011 Population and Housing Census, Namibia 2006–07 and 2011 Demographic and Health Surveys, as well as semi-structured interviews carried out 2012–15 in the project *Demographic change and the resilience of the social and ecological systems in North Central Namibia*, implemented by the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Namibia. In 1930s the population growth led to the expansion of subsistence farming to ecologically harsher areas. On the other hand, insufficient food production and scarcity of alternative income opportunities increased the dependency on migrant work. After the Namibian independence people are allowed to move, reside and settle freely. The most characteristic population development since 1990 has been urbanization, especially the movement from the North Central regions to Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. In the North Central regions the urbanization is more recent, though fast growing phenomenon. While rich families continue investing in farming and animal husbandry, even though its profitability is questionable, poor families in the rural areas are increasingly dependent on old-age pensions, extensive family and social networks.

Rethinking constitutionalism as a border management strategy in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

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Since the end of the Cold War, progress in Information and Communication Technology has ushered in a 'flattening world' in which ideological walls that separate people according to language, culture, nationality and race are fast crumbling. An overwhelming movement of air travellers arriving from one country or heading to another reflects the permeability of frontiers. The same traffic goes on at the crossing of international boundaries by a great deal of road users and boat peoples on a daily basis. Put simply, hard borders do not bother people as they are continually searching for better opportunities in life because as goes the saying, greener pasture is always on the other side of the fence. The porosity of African borders is not only about foreigners entering the state undocumented but also citizens who easily cross over the border into neighbouring countries because their respective governments care less about their wellbeing. This study attempts to address the question as to what an international border mean to a refugee such as a Burundian born to parents who were refugees in east DRC in 1960s but died as a result of conflict in that country in late 1990s, found himself in a refugee camp in Burundi (his supposedly fatherland), but had to escape another civil war there and, together with his wife and four kids now live once more in a refugee camp in Tanzania. As such the study focuses on the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of Africa which is made of the D.R. Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Kenya, generally accepted as core members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Whereas a number of transfers of power have taken place in the last two mentioned countries that host the majority of asylum seekers in East Africa, façade democracies have resulted in a vicious circle of unconstrained power, extractive institutions and loss of government legitimacy. The paper contends that is not the porosity of borders that is responsible for insecurity, armed conflict and organised crimes among other things (in fact most of such crimes are committed in the Cyberspace without crossing international boundaries) but the way the elite in power manipulate border-related issues (natural resources, communities at the borders, social development, security...) to advance their selfish agendas and transform the GLR into a refugee producing geopolitical zone. They do so by turning down the will of the people enshrined in national constitutions while promoting their personal wills (President-for-life syndrome) and eventually alienating themselves from their respective constituencies. In other words, it is the weakening of governance that creates new openings for illicit border crossings to thrive even though trans-border activities appear largely legitimate in the eyes of the fugitive poor. This desk research relies on secondary data (review of literature) and it is premised on Kant's theory of peace that requires the interplay of three principles, namely Republican constitution, Federation of Free states and Cosmopolitan rights. By establishing a correlation between constitutionalism, border security and peace the study attempts to not only stem the tide of forced emigration but also transform border communities into homogenous neighbourhoods. The study recommends the promotion of constitutionalism as a border management strategy that enables contiguous states in the GLR to not only care for the wellbeing of the citizenry but also pool their resources together so as to jointly transform international boundaries into bridges.

Keywords: Constitutionalism, Border management, Refugees, Conflict, Peace.

*Dr. Mbombo J.M.K. hails from the D. R. Congo. He holds M.Phil. and PhD degrees in International Peace Studies from Trinity College, University of Dublin (2013). He lectures at the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. His areas of interest include Peace and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa; Border and Refugee Management in the context of Regional integration and Counter-terrorism.

Tourism mobilities and border crossings: Policy (in)consistency and impact on South Africa's tourism sector

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Based on the concept 'borders', this paper highlights the absence of inter-ministerial coordination/collaboration and (in)consistencies in legislations and policy decisions in South Africa's government departments, and the impact of policy flip-flops on tourism mobilities and border crossings. The paper attempts to uncover the core motivations in formulating such policies. South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA), in an effort to actively build and strengthen borders to control and prevent certain mobilities like human trafficking and smuggling, instituted immigration regulations in 2015 that backlashed on a sister department and related economic sector—tourism. Also, South Africa's Sports Minister in May 2016 revoked the privileges of several sports mother bodies to bid for or host any major international sports events in South Africa, in a bid to force transformation in the country's sports sector. Again, the tourism department and sector, among others, apparently will be affected by this decision. In order to fulfil its purpose, the paper uses the evolving field of border studies and frames the impact of some decisions and legislations by the DHA and Department of Sport and Recreation (SRSA) of South Africa on tourism and migration in the context of the concept, borders. A thorough review and critical analysis of relevant policies and legislations, media and the reports of professional bodies and think tanks, and the literature is also conducted. DHA's 2015 immigration regulations negatively impacted South Africa's tourism industry. Moreover, travel regulations introduced by DHA to prevent child trafficking were inconsistent with international recommendations. The regulations made South Africa the only country that requires children to travel with birth certificates. DHA also formulated the regulations without consulting other government departments, particularly those affected by the legislation such as tourism. Similarly, SRSA made decisions that suggest the Department of Tourism and tourist sector will forfeit revenue. Theoretically, this paper revisits the notion of the "Borderless world", which became prominent especially following the end of the Cold War. It also attempts to understand better, the way in which borders evolve in nuanced ways that apparently keep globalization at bay, suggesting that the nation state is here to stay. Empirically, the paper positions itself in legislation and policy making and engagements between state departments and with industry, as countries tackle real challenges. However, in a continent said to be experiencing rapid economic development driven by tourism, among others, African countries cannot afford to experiment and flip-flop with policies, especially because the tourism sector must compete globally to remain attractive in the "Borderless world".

Keywords: borders; migration; tourism; borderless world; policy (in)consistency; South Africa.

A long walk to education: The schooling of Angolan children living along the Namibian-Angolan border

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The Namibian-Angolan border is one of the busiest in terms of human mobility in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Border activities along this border has always involved seeking health and education services as well as religious activities on the Namibian side of the border. Today, the criss-crossing of the border for educational purposes is a unique situation of the Namibian-Angolan border, with children crossing the border on daily basis.

This is a critical ethnographical study in progress, conducted in four regions of Namibia, located along the Namibian-Angolan border; namely Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene and Ohangwena regions. The study involves 6 Combined Schools which are known historically to having served Angolan children for 10 years or more, 6 principals, a group of teachers, 12 families, a group of learners (coming from the 12 families) and 2 border patrol officers.

The study is framed around educational access and equity principles. Researchers believe that high quality education must be underpinned by equity principles, including access to good schools, challenging and engaging curriculum, committed teaching and engaged learning and appropriate resourcing.

The main objective of the study is to investigate ways in which educational access and equity can be achieved for Angolan Children living along the Angolan-Namibian border. The study tries to explore the following research questions:

What are the determinants of educational access and equity?

Who are the role players in the educational provision of Angolan border children?

How can these role players collaborate to enhance learning opportunities for Angolan border children?

Preliminary findings are that the access to education of children of southern Angola is negatively affected by a number of issues that needs the attention of policy makers. These issues include among others:

1. Lack of citizenship documents;
2. The dangers and hustles of crossing borders on daily basis (over mountainous terrains, water (two rivers), and seasonal/mobile schools;
3. The unwritten rules of border restrictions, including border fences and border patrol officials;

4. The cost of cross-border basic education (contributions to school development funds in the age of free primary education; accommodation facilities); and
5. Lack of learning support.

These preliminary findings are indicative that a combination of strategies is needed to address challenges, including policy development to govern trans boundary basic education within neighbouring countries.

Transnational organised crime: The case of human smuggling at the Beitbridge border between South Africa and Zimbabwe

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Established as a result of the London Convention of 1884, the Beitbridge border between South Africa and Zimbabwe served to 'separate' the then Southern Rhodesia and South African Republic. After Zimbabwe attained independence in 1980 and majority rule in South Africa in 1994, the both countries have continued to exert border controls in an attempt to emphasize the interiority and exteriority of these countries. But, given that, after 1994, South Africa has been the destination of choice for many Zimbabweans, the South African government has relatively tightened its immigration regime, with the result that some Zimbabweans have defied the border, which has provided a site and fertile ground for the emergence of extensive human smuggling- a form of transnational organised crime. Against this background, and by deploying debates on border interactions, this paper investigates how and if border and bordering practices at the Beitbridge border and human smuggling could be theorised as transforming the border. The paper concludes by highlighting that, one of the ways of reducing or attempting to reduce transnational organised crime like human smuggling in a setting like Southern Africa, would be to relax a strict immigration regime, in the spirit of regional integration as espoused in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Declaration of Treaty of 1992.

Keywords: Transnational organised crime, human smuggling, Beitbridge border, SADC.

SESSION 3 – IDENTITIES AND CULTURE

Masculinity, violence and border in pre-colonial Ovambo culture (North-Central Namibia)

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This presentation analyzes how concepts of masculine honor and border interacted in Ovambo culture in increasing or decreasing the use of violence, as well as how this interaction defined whether the use of violence was acceptable or non-acceptable (or honorable/dishonorable). Border here is understood either as a politico-geographical one, i.e. as a difference between Ovambo communities (kingdoms), or as a social one, i.e. as a difference between kin groups within communities.

Violence was perfectly acceptable and honorable when political borders were crossed in war. Every man was expected to be a brave warrior, and killing an enemy added something extra to a man's status as a man. Men's readiness to resort to violence in conflict situations was also acceptable both in inter-kin and intra-kin relations. However, using fatal violence was unacceptable in inter-kin interactions, while it was both unacceptable and dishonorable in intra-kin ones. Thus, closer home one comes, more unacceptable fatal violence becomes.

The Borders of Africinity

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Demarcation of the territory, culture and identity had been always important for the people from every corner of the globe. The Scramble for Africa transformed Sub-Saharan region, in which issues of delimitations, cross-cultural communication and definition of “their” and “other” have been acute. Regional, political, ethnic and religious conflicts promote the integration of Africa into the global migration process, border-crossing and hybridization of cultures. Under the circumstances the study of the orientation of people toward their identity seems to be compelling. The changing of the situations inside the societies of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa activated the search for identity and rethinking Africinity.

The borders of personal Africinity (belonging to the peoples and cultures of Africa) are topical question for both Africans and people of African descent living all over the world. The generalized unified image of “Africans” have formed from the outside, by Europeans and Americans. However, subsequently a number of representatives of the intellectuals from the different African countries and Diasporas perceived it. The ideas of consolidations, “black unity” became the backgrounds for Pan-Africanism, Negritude, Consciencism, Trans-Africanism, Afrocentrism and other teachings, ideologies and paradigm of this kind. The main goal of the most of these philosophical theories and movements is the expansion of the borders of African discourse.

Expanding the boundaries of Africinity change the identity and mentality of the Africans made them to ask a lot of questions. Where do we come from and where are we going? Where are our roots? Who are we and who am I? And what is Africa?

Two territories, one history, one identity: Mbadja of Angola and Namibia

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In consequences of the Conference of Berlin a neutral zone first then a permanent border were created between Angola and South West Africa which divided Ovambadja, as part of Ovambo territory, in two parts. Nowadays, about 70 000 Mbadja live in Angola and other 70 000 in Namibia. The Angolan Mbadja territory consists of two kingdoms, namely the 'Little Ovambadja' called Omungu and the Big Ovambadja called Onaluheke. Due to the Portuguese occupation the royal family of Omungu together with followers fled to Namibia and some descendants remained in Namibia being now the traditional representatives of the Namibian Mbadja community. After the Namibian independence the Mbadja population had not got an administrative independence, their territory was attached to Namibian Oukwanyama. On the base of historical cultural claim, as independent ethnic group and community, the Mbadja were authorized to separate from Oukwanyama in 2004 and established the Ombadja Traditional Authority by the name Kavango. The historical Ovambadja remained in Angola and the Mbadja of Namibia was a colonial formation of Mbadja migrants from Angola.

One issue of this paper deals with cross border mobility of Mbadja in the past basing first on political refugees, then migrants for better job conditions. Nowadays they look for better chances for education and shopping. The present commercial network concerns products of basic necessities for the household as food, beverages, manufactured goods, clothes etc.

The other topic focuses on the expression of collective identity of the Angolan and Namibian Mbadja through different manifestations such as a registered civil society association (ANAONA) struggling for a better socio-economic conditions.

Besides both of Mbadja have a very strong identification with their history which is manifested in the yearly festival in memory of the Mbadja victorious battles (Vau de Pembe, in 1904.), the construction of several memorial places of Mbadja history such as memorial tomb of the king Shahula, reconstruction of the royal palace, creation of the national song of Ovambadja, and plans of installation of a memorial house of Mbadja history and traditional culture.

My contribution to the conference bases on Mbadja oral memories concerning the present Mbadja struggle for their socio-cultural identity with the joint participation of Mbadjas of Angola and Namibia.

Keywords: Mbadja cross border relation, struggle for identity, memorial places, oral history.

SESSION 4 – TRADE IN BORDER AREAS

Pasture use in the eastern Zambezi region, Namibia

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Cattle grazing and subsistence farming are still of major importance in the rural areas of northern Namibia. The grazing cycle of cattle in the eastern Zambezi region of Namibia (previously known as the Eastern Caprivi region), is defined by an annual flooding and drought cycle. National Parks and other conservation areas as well as national borders (permanent rivers, Zambezi and Chobe) define the space available for grazing. Increasing numbers of cattle and settlements in the area create pressure on the environment, which results in local land degradation and erosion on the higher sandy areas. This paper seeks to analyze the trends during the last 15 years using MODIS NDVI satellite data and aerial photography. Two years of GPS cattle tracking data provides data to relate cattle movement to flooding intensity. An aerial photo mosaic series from 1970 – 2006, provides detailed data on land clearance and cattle increase for the Salambala conservation area. Cattle is grazed around the enclosures where they are kept during the night for protection against predators. The grazing cycle starts on the pastures closest to the villages, gradually extending outwards during the dry season. In August, after the floods have subsided, and the daily distances become too long, the animals are moved to the lower areas near the Chobe and Zambezi. During the flooding period (March – May) cattle has to leave the grazing areas on the flood plains and livestock numbers on the higher sandy areas increases above the ecological carrying capacity. The same higher grounds are also becoming more and more densely settled, ad settlements are often focused near the main roads, where clean water, electricity health and educational services area more readily available. This negative cycle of settlement concentration, unproductive farming practices, charcoal burning and grazing on confined spaces is easily seen in the environment.

Keywords: Namibia, Zambezi region, cattle, flooding, local land degradation, MODIS, GPS-collar tracking.

Cross Border trade between Sesheke and Katima Mulilo: Examining the social implications

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Cross-border trade between the towns of Sesheke in the Western Province of Zambia, and Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Province of Namibia, has been steadily increasing in the last decade. Many observers and commentators have lauded the increasing volumes of trade between the two towns, especially, at the micro level, where cross-border traders buy goods for re-sale in the two towns. Indeed, cross border trade is regarded as something that will help the local economies of the two towns to grow, even though this trade leans more on the Zambian side. However, not many people have delved into the social implications of freer trade activities on both sides of the border. There is not much data relating to such trade in regard to the negative social effects of cross-border trade. This paper seeks to put under the spotlight the social challenges that emanate from cross-border trade and argues that policy-makers, civil society actors, grass roots organisations and traditional authorities need to be firstly aware of the social ills that emanate from the trade and secondly, come up with strategies to combat them.

Poverty and inequality Post-2015: What role for informal cross-border traders in sustaining livelihoods in southern Africa?

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This paper investigates the viability and significance of the mobilities and cross-border activities of informal cross-border traders (ICBTs) to the sustenance of livelihoods, in view of the Post-2015 development agenda. Specifically, it seeks to establish the nature and reality of migration and mobilities that involve informal cross-border trade in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and determine whether this provides reliable means of livelihoods. Secondary data including a thorough review of the literature on informal cross-border trade, ethnic entrepreneurs, and reports and methodologies for monitoring informal cross-border trade is conducted. Literature on regional integration and livelihoods is also reviewed and provides the context for the discussion of migration and cross-border mobilities as well as livelihoods in the Post-2015 era in SSA. Primary data is obtained through extensive fieldwork conducted at selected border posts, in the major border towns of the adjacent provinces of selected countries in SSA, and in markets and villages in the contiguous border areas of those countries. While neoliberal economic strategies and policies have made headway and contributed to shifts in policy towards, among other things, trade openness in SSA, authorities in most countries seem oblivious to the plight of the casualties of the structural adjustment policies (SAPs) that came with liberalization in the late 1980s and early 1990s. ICBTs too engage in trade of goods albeit at a small scale. Recognizing and facilitating ICBTs' and their activities will benefit SSA and help improve livelihoods among ICBTs. ICBTs make a living from their activities and thus provide employment for themselves and others such as the many unemployed youths in Africa. From their earnings they are also able to provide for the educational, health and social needs of children and communities in SSA borderlands. ICBTs provide employment and a means of survival for retrenched workers, retirees and even supplementary income for people in full-time employment. This paper contributes to a theoretical and better understanding of the place, dynamics and contribution made by (the activities of) ICBTs and grassroots non-state actors to sustainable livelihoods and integration in SSA. Empirically, it shows that governments in SSA would do well to learn from Southeast Asia regarding livelihoods and development initiatives in borderlands. It shows countries such as Singapore to have adopted policies and strategies that promote economic growth through, among other things, active participation in and sponsoring of livelihoods activities in borderlands.

Keywords: informal cross-border trade; livelihoods; borderlands; sub-Saharan Africa

SESSION 5 – ETHNIC GROUPS AND INEQUALITY

Neither here nor there: The landless Ndaou who have turned “no man’s land” between Mozambique and Zimbabwe into a home

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It baffles the mind to see ordinary people inhabiting landmine infested landscape. The border region between Mozambique and Zimbabwe which has been transformed into a settlement was heavily mined in the 1970s by the former Rhodesian forces who wanted to prevent guerrilla incursions into the country from Mozambique. Innocent people still continue to get maimed and killed in spite of demining which was undertaken after Zimbabwe’s independence in 1980. Also, in the past some of the areas in the borderland where settlements have been established were reserved as burial sites for children.

However, in spite of the danger being posed by land mines and the sight of graves of children, and those of unknown victims of landmines during the war time in the 1970s, part of the local population has thrown caution to the wind and established a thriving settlement along this “no man’s land.” Their justification for the invasion of the border region is that, prior to the demarcation of the colonial boundary, the border region was part of the sprawling territory belonging to the Ndaou people. Therefore, they can be considered as people who are reclaiming their ancestral land.

In this paper, the contribution of land expropriation legislations in both colonial and post-colonial periods in causing landlessness and desperation for economic survival among the Ndaou will be discussed. It further focuses on identity and citizenship dilemmas which these people face in the borderland. In spite of the imminent danger from landmines, the settlement along the border has turned out to be home to the former “landless” Ndaou who are enjoying a new lease of life. They have assumed a settled life supported primarily by farming. Geopolitically, their new home is strategically located to enable them to exploit opportunities which exist in the borderland. However, they have become stateless as they can claim neither the citizenship of Zimbabwe nor Mozambique. The paper historically traces features of Ndaou-“homeyness” in the border region and also argues the acute

shortage of arable land among the Ndaou people of Zimbabwe as a result of land alienation policies has forced some to settle on a non-contested but dangerous landscape.

Keywords: Expropriation; citizenship; landlessness; geopolitics; region; stateless; borderless boundaries; ecohealth and wellbeing; homeyness; Ndaou people; Zimbabwe; Mozambique.

One Ethnic Community Straddling an International Border: Tshidilamolomo Villagers in South Africa and Botswana

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Tshidilamolomo village is inhabited by the Setswana-speaking Barolong ba Ratlou ethnic community. Located some 361 kilometres west of Pretoria and 322 kilometres north of Kimberley, the village is situated on both sides of the north-western border between South Africa and Botswana. The border was created jointly by the then Transvaal Republic of the Boers and the British government through the Pretoria Convention in July 1881. The border 'cut' straight through the middle of the village and thus split it permanently into two segments, one in the British Bechuanaland Protectorate (today Botswana), and the other in the Northern Cape Colony, which eventually became part of modern South Africa's North West Province. Each segment has very close blood relatives on the other side. However, the nearest official immigration crossing point was/is some 80 kilometres away from both segments. The paper focuses on the South African part of the village and shows how villagers on both sides consider the border to be a gross irritant and an undesirable inconvenience. Using both oral, archival and secondary sources, the paper reveals how, ever since the border was created, the community on both sides have always defied the immigration laws of both governments and crossed the border at will at all convenient -- even though unofficial and illegal -- crossing points. The paper shows how the governments of both countries always 'looked the other way' about this open illegality. But eventually, in December 2015, both governments had to officially allow (and thus decriminalise) the age-old 'illegal' border crossing by this community. Consequently, both segments now no longer have to travel over 80 kilometres, just to visit relatives who were/are located a mere 600 metres away! The paper also discusses other international border dynamics, such as smuggling, and how both governments have dealt with the practice.

Meaning given to development co-operation in reducing economic inequalities in Namibia 1985-1990

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My presentation is based on the unfinished master's thesis on which I am currently working. The thesis examines the meaning given to development co-operation in reducing the large economic inequalities in Namibia from the beginning of official development aid in 1985 to independence in 1990. With my thesis I will clarify the possible connection between development co-operation and the reduction in poverty from both a Finnish faith-based non-government organization Felm's point of view and that of a local newspaper.

The primary methods currently used in my thesis are qualitative content analysis and thematic analysis. I employ these methods to identify and categorize the different perceived reasons for poverty and the measures used against them by development co-operation. Since content analysis ultimately cannot be used in drawing conclusions, I will have to consider additional theoretical approaches in interpreting my findings before finally concluding my thesis. As a supplement to my qualitative source material I use publicly available numerical and statistical data in tracking the changes in the amounts of money spent in development co-operation. The field of research to which my thesis is primarily connected is that of historical development studies. My primary sources are Felm's magazine *Lähetysseuran* and minutes from Felm's board meetings as well as a Namibian newspaper, *The Namibian*.

At this time, I do not have final conclusions, because my master's thesis is unfinished. With that said, my tentative findings are that apartheid's effects were still strongly seen in the distribution of wealth, divided both locally and racially. People in towns in the north were substantially more poor than those in the inner cities, but the "black" townships around bigger cities were reported to be extremely poor as well. As for racial economic divisions, there were three primary reasons for poverty, mainly among the "black" Namibians: high unemployment and low wages, low level of education and lack of land ownership. The quality of education the government offered to the "black" was not equal to that offered to the "white", thus perpetuating the economic division between the groups. Felm provided primary and high school education in the poor areas of Namibia, giving their students a much higher probability of success in graduating high school. The other service Felm provided was equal healthcare for all Namibians, unlike the racially divided hospitals of the government. The one big issue Felm did not address is that of the inequality of land ownership.

Claiming border citizenship from below: The case of South-Africa-Zimbabwe border

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In the eyes of both the South African and Zimbabwean governments, border citizens do not exist, it is either there are Zimbabwean citizens to the north of the border or South Africans to the south. The practices by inhabitants on the both the South African and Zimbabwean sides of the Beitbridge border illustrate people, who were 'separated' when the border was drawn. Such inhabitants have always engaged in dynamic and agentive ways, which defy the existence of the border. After both countries attained independence, there has been a tightening of border controls and entry especially into South Africa, a reality which illustrates that both the South African and Zimbabwean governments have remained blind to the reality of border citizens who have always shared cultural, linguistic and other ties since time immemorial. Such border inhabitants have, against strict and successive regulatory regimes from colonial to post-colonial times 'defied' the border and continue to do so. They claim border citizenship from below, by rapturing the apparatus of border controls. This establishes a case for *de facto* border citizens who successfully challenge the inflexible territoriality of citizenship at both the South African and Zimbabwean borders.

Key words: Beitbridge border post, border citizenship, borderlands

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