

2:00 pm Thursday 2 November 2006

Borders in a Changing World

Gerard Delanty

The seminar concerns the changing nature of borders today. I argue the border is a networked and fluid process rather than a fixed line and is constituted in new and changing relations between cores and peripheries and is the site of political contestations where power and culture interact. This is particularly evident in the case of Europe today. Europe's internal national borders are not merely modified by the growing significance of a European external frontier, but both internal and external borders are influenced by the wider global context. This dimension has so far been missing from the existing literature on Europeanization and borders. Borders exist not on the edge of the territory of the state, but in numerous points within and beyond it. I argue that the changing nature of the border has implications for identity, since the system of classifications the border establishes provides identities with a means of distinguishing insiders from outsiders. The emerging networked border challenges existing notions of a European identity defined by the closed borders of culture or territory. The result is that Europe's external border will be post-imperial. The seminar will attempt to introduce some wider comparative examples of changing borders in a global era.

Gerard Delanty is Professor of Sociology, University of Liverpool, UK, where he is the head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy. Born 1960, Cork, Ireland he is a graduate of University College Cork, Ireland where he studied sociology and philosophy. He was a Doctoral D.A.A.D scholar at Frankfurt University in 1985-86. After the award of his PhD in 1987, he taught at the University of Hannover, Germany and the Orientale University Institute, Naples, Italy. He has been at the University of Liverpool since 1996. Professor Delanty works mainly in the field of social and political theory, with a particular interest in European cultural and political heritage. He also has a major interest in the comparative cultural and historical sociology of modernity. Professor Delanty is currently working on cosmopolitanism, especially in relation to new interpretations of modernity, and in civilizational encounters between Europe and Asia. He has held research grants from the European Commission on xenophobia, and on democracy in central and eastern Europe.

Professor Delanty has authored or co-authored the following 11 books: *Inventing Europe: Idea, Identity, Reality* (Macmillan, 1995), *Social Science: Beyond Realism and Constructivism* (Open University Press/University of Minnesota Press, 1997. Enlarged 2nd edition 2005), (with P. O' Mahony) *Rethinking Irish History: Nationalism, Identity and Ideology* (Macmillan 1998), *Social Theory in a Changing World: Conceptions of Modernity* (Polity Press, 1999), *Modernity and Postmodernity: Knowledge, Power, the Self.* (Sage, 2000), *Citizenship in the Global Age: Culture, Society and Politics.* (Open University Press, 2000), *Challenging Knowledge: The University in the Knowledge Society* (Open University Press, 2001), (with P. O'Mahony) *Nationalism and Social Theory* (Sage, 2002), *Community* (Routledge, 2003), (with C. Rumford) *Rethinking Europe: Social Theory and the Implications of Europeanization* (Routledge, 2005). He has also published over 90 papers in journals or edited volumes, and edited or co-edited 7 other books.)

There is no entry charge and everyone is welcome.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Jevons Building – Level C jb3.302 (UC40), Geelong Campus, Deakin University