

CALL FOR PAPERS

Borders, Fences, Firewalls**Assessing the changing relationship of territory and institutions**

*Conference at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity,
Department Law, Ethics, Politics, Göttingen, Germany, October 19-20, 2017*

Recent years have provided us with new images of a world in which persons can interact almost seamlessly regardless of distance. Various private and public institutions draw on changing means of communication and transport that seem to transcend particular spaces and times. Concepts such as liquid democracy suggest the revolutionary potential of digital media for our thinking about politics. At the same time, we are also witnessing an unbroken and even growing focus on securing territorial borders. Critiques of disembodied perspectives on norms and persons join with a new emphasis on space's significance for human interactions, often described as the "spatial turn". Are we moving past a territorially defined order – or do we see a return of border walls? Are territorial borders being complemented or replaced by other forms of boundaries, tighter firewalls and/or private fences?

This international conference will provide a forum for addressing the complex and shifting interrelations between territory and institutions, bringing these various perspectives into productive exchange. The general narrative is that a growing connection between territory and institutions char-

acterizes modernity until the mid-20th century, when globalization began to disentangle the two. Is such a description adequate? To which extent does it represent a particular European perspective, and can it be countered or complemented by other histories? What normative claims result from the respective descriptions? What reactions do we see in different areas of society to tackle these developments, and what reactions might evolve in the future?

We invite contributions that engage with the relationship between territory and institutions from these various angles, and especially encourage innovative approaches and interdisciplinary perspectives. Submissions are welcome from, among others, the scholarly fields of legal and political history, institutional economics, international law and international relations, post-colonial studies, border and migration studies, and critical legal geography.

The conference will include keynotes by **Prof. Margaret Moore** (Queen's University) and **Prof. T. Alexander Aleinikoff** (The New School).

Please submit paper summaries up to 500 words by **15 April, 2017**, to conferenceterritory@mmg.mpg.de. Accepted participants will be notified by 15 May 2017. ■ For further details, contact conferenceterritory@mmg.mpg.de.

Important dates:

- 15 April 2017: Deadline for submission of paper summaries
- 15 May 2017: Notification of acceptance
- 16 May 2017: Registration for non-presenting participants opens
- 01 Sept. 2017: Full paper submission deadline

