

## **CfP: 2025 AHRC International Conference**

### **Borders and Boundaries**

**Monday 15 September – Wednesday 17 September 2025**

#### **The Queen's College, University of Oxford**

At once tangible and transitory, borders and boundaries shape, restrict and intersect across the spheres of human knowledge. In some basic sense, scholarship is about pushing boundaries, expanding the possibilities of what can be known. There are those borders and boundaries that we study (e.g., in works of art, in given historical or political contexts), those that striate our studies by parcelling them out into periods or disciplines, and those in whose enclosures we study (e.g., the limitations of institution or nation). It is important we recognise these boundaries so that we may work to identify opportunities and push past limitations.

For the Tenth Annual AHRC International Conference, the organising committee would like to invite speakers from a wide range of disciplines to speak on the topic of *Borders and Boundaries*. Supported by the Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC DTP, the conference will bring together graduate students from the Open University, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the University of Stockholm, the University of Cologne, the Australian National University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the University of Toronto.

Submissions might consider the borders and boundaries that separate disciplines, languages, cultures or nations from one another. We are interested in the structures, concepts and attitudes that establish these limits as well as what undoes them. Again, submissions might explore the tensions between crossing and respecting borders and boundaries. How do we 'push boundaries' in our research and the world in which it intervenes? Should we always cross the boundaries we encounter? Finally, submissions might attend more specifically to those borders and boundaries that structure the research process. When is restricting our inquiries productive, when unhelpful?

We are accepting proposals concerning all subjects in the arts and humanities for individual 20-minute papers and for themed panels (3 x 20-minute papers). Potential topics and approaches include:

- Literal and metaphorical boundaries and borders in our world, their origins and their features
- Representations of borders and boundaries in literature, art and music
- Spatial and temporal characteristics of borders and boundaries
- Definitions of borders and boundaries in different discourses (e.g., theories, disciplines, cultures)
- Different ways of crossing borders and boundaries (e.g., translation, interdisciplinarity)

- The impact of borders and boundaries on the selection, collection and analysis of evidence as well as other aspects of the research process
- Institutional, methodological and theoretical borders and boundaries between and within disciplines
- The borders and boundaries of the humanities and of academe

The committee wishes to emphasise the friendly nature of the conference. This is a chance for speakers to gain experience communicating their research to a wider audience. The audience will consist primarily of fellow conference speakers to foster a welcoming space for early-career researchers. Beyond the stimulating academic discussions and thought-provoking presentations, we are excited to offer a dynamic program of social events designed to foster connections, encourage collaboration, and deconstruct the borders between disciplines and institutions.

**Please submit your proposal to**  
**[artes-international@uni-koeln.de](mailto:artes-international@uni-koeln.de)**  
**no later than 22 April 2025.**

### **Eligibility**

All doctoral candidates at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities that are enrolled for doctoral studies at the University of Cologne are eligible to apply for participation. The participants from the University of Cologne are selected exclusively by the a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School.

The a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School will fund support for travel expenses for all accepted participants. Accommodation will be offered by the Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC DTP.

Please direct any questions regarding the a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School's application procedure to [artes-international@uni-koeln.de](mailto:artes-international@uni-koeln.de).

For further questions regarding the overall organization of the conference, please contact [training@oocdtp.ac.uk](mailto:training@oocdtp.ac.uk).