

Call for Submissions
The Fourth Annual Student Conference in History
of the Université de Sherbrooke
Université de Sherbrooke
17-18 February 2011

From one boundary to another
Conceiving, defining and representing the notion of the boundary

How do we conceive of boundaries? Common dictionary definitions tend to describe the term as a real or imagined line that marks the edge or limit of something. But how can we definitively understand boundaries?

While some boundaries are natural: mountain ranges, coastlines, deserts, forests, rivers, islands, etc., they may also be of human construction, such as walls, national customs frontiers, fences or barriers. But the notion of boundary becomes more complex when it goes beyond natural features and material manipulation. As a boundary is a demarcation between two geographical areas or material space, can it also delineate conceptual aspects, modes of thought, representation or belief?

The notion of boundary encompasses broader ideas: Identity and distinctness, representation of the self and the Other, marginality and conformity, construction, destruction and rebuilding, diversity, etc. Similarly it raises the questions: Who sets the boundaries; how and why are they established? Are they modifiable or unchanging? Where do they lead? Do they merely obstruct, or, conversely, do they exist to be crossed? Do these boundaries delimit zones and separate, or rather, create mixed space with exchange?

The current context of economic globalisation and the accelerated development of telecommunications and cultural exchanges can sometimes give the impression that boundaries are deteriorating or even disappearing. Yet they continue to exist, to be built, to be reshaped or redefined, this occurs in many forms: physical, biological, political, ideological, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, stylistic, artistic, historical, etc.

It is within these complex and dynamic parameters that the theme will be approached at the Fourth Annual Student Conference in History at the Université de Sherbrooke, 17-18 February 2011. The goal of this event is to foster inquiry and reflection on the notion of boundaries, and to determine ways in which this can be interpreted through various program areas and research fields. While organised as a conference in history, the event is open to graduate students from all disciplines.

Proposals for Submissions should include:

- A working title;
- An abstract, including thesis and the main ideas to be developed (max. 250 words);
- Your contact details – indicating your university, department and current level of studies.

Please send all the above information to colloquehst@usherbrooke.ca by **1 December 2010**; use “proposition de communication” as the subject of the email. Selection will take place during the first two weeks of December and all applicants will be notified by 20 December. A form is available at the following address:

<http://pages.usherbrooke.ca/aemdhus/wordpress/colloque-des-etudiants>

If you have any questions, contact Conference Co-ordinator Pascal Scallon-Chouinard at colloquehst@usherbrooke.ca.

Note:

- Your work could be published in a special issue of the Université de Sherbrooke history students' journal, *Le Convecteur temporel*, which may be viewed at the following address:
<http://www.pages.usherbrooke.ca/ctrhus/>.
- Many universities offer to cover a portion of travel expenses for students participating in conferences.