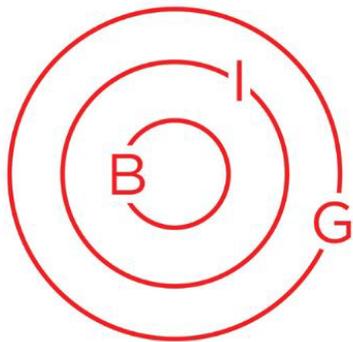


# Borders in Globalization

# Summer Institutes

Program Report 2023



**BORDERS IN  
GLOBALIZATION**



[www.biglobalization.org](http://www.biglobalization.org)

## Borders in Globalization Summer Institutes

July 10 – 26, 2023

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*“It was a life-changing experience for me to pursue the Trade and Customs Borders course. Thanks a lot for the excellent and immensely interesting, rich lectures and communications.” – Customs Academy Manager*

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### Overview

In 2023, the Borders in Globalization Lab (BIG Lab) increased the number of Summer Institutes first offered in 2021 and 2022 from two to five. These institutes once again featured the latest research provided by our research network colleagues. Fellows explored topics related to border policy and border management in the context of an increasingly globalized world. All institutes were conducted in a hybrid format, with sessions online over Zoom and in-person at the University of Victoria (UVic), British Columbia, Canada. We received more than 384 applications for the World Customs Organization (WCO) fellowships and for the BIG Lab fellowship.

A total of **73** fellows from **27** different countries, including 15 beneficiaries of World Customs Organization (WCO) fellowships, completed one or more institutes.

We welcomed a [variety of speakers](#), including policy and decision makers and academics with expertise in the fields of border management, trade and customs, human mobility, artificial intelligence, and border law. Participants gained a thorough understanding of the complexities and challenges of managing cross-border regions, trade flows, migration, machine learning, regulatory environments, and border disputes. Sessions included lectures and reading discussions, as well as two daily practicums for fellows to apply what they study. Pre-recorded videos and assigned readings supplemented the synchronous meetings. Sessions were held twice per day, with each session lasting three hours, for a total of six hours of class instruction per day. For Institutes #1, #2, and #3, ten sessions were held over five days; for institutes #4 and #5, six sessions were held over three days.

Although we just launched the Certificate program in 2022, one fellow has already received a Professional Development Certificate in Modern Border Management for the *(Im)migration and Mobility* stream. Additionally, six fellows from the 2022 and 2023 cohorts have completed more than one Summer Institute. We expect several more fellows to earn Professional Development Certificates in 2024.

The 2023 Summer Institutes included:

1. Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective
2. Trade and Customs Borders
3. Managing Borders and Bodies in the 21st Century
4. Artificial Intelligence in Border Management
5. Borders and Law in the 21st Century

Read on for a summary of each Summer Institute.



## Structure and Requirements

Each of the five summer institutes are structured as courses into which fellows enroll through the University of Victoria. Course materials are made accessible through Brightspace, the university's common online platform for web-based learning. All courses offer synchronous, interactive lectures and practicum sessions, pre-recorded videos for fellows to view outside of lectures, and supplementary readings.

Requirements were as follows:

1. Participation:

For each institute, attendance of all sessions was expected; however, absences could be excused for up to two sessions per week, provided the fellows submitted written summaries of the readings for the session(s) that they missed.

2. Written assignments:

WCO Fellows were required to submit a two-page outline of their paper proposal for their fellowship application, along with a commitment to develop a 4000-to-5000-word policy brief. Support was provided to these fellows, including a half-day session on how to write a policy brief. Fellows continued to receive support through communications with team members and were encouraged to submit final policy papers to *Borders in Globalization Review*, a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed academic journal, published twice yearly by the BIG Lab.

## Format

We continued to deliver the Summer Institutes in a hybrid format, which ensured that fellows from Victoria could attend in person and fellows abroad could join the sessions virtually. While some fellows had minor connectivity issues, we were satisfied with how the hybrid sessions were conducted. For each session, we reserved an integrated telecommunication room at UVic and ensured that we had the university's tech support on call in order to respond quickly to any issues that arose.

## Professional Development Certifications

In 2022, we launched the Professional Development Certificate program, through which Summer Institute fellows can obtain a Certificate in either of two streams of Modern Border Management: A) *Trade and Customs* and B) *(Im)migration and Mobility*. Participants who completed all requirements i.e. three courses in their chosen stream are eligible to receive a Professional Development Certificate:

### A. Certificate in Modern Border Management: Trade and Customs Stream

Required courses: ASHI 781 | Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective  
ASHI 780 | Trade and Customs Borders  
ASHI 804 | Artificial Intelligence in Border Management

### B. Certificate in Modern Border Management: (Im)migration and Mobility Stream

Required courses: ASHI 781 | Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective  
ASHI 805 | Managing Borders and Bodies in the 21st Century  
ASHI 806 | Borders and Law in the 21st Century



## Summer Institute Summaries

### **Institute #1: ASHI 781 | Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective**

*July 10–14, 2023*

The Cross-Border Management Institute focused on local and regional changes affecting the politics and policies of cross-border regions and transboundary people. This institute consisted of 12 sessions delivered over the course of five days, with two sessions taking place each day except the first.

Institute #1 began with a general introduction by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (UVic, BIG Lab). Then, Bernard Reitel (Artois University), Birte Wassenberg (University of Strasbourg), Frédérique Berrod (University of Strasbourg), and Jean Peyrony (MOT), surveyed the state of contemporary cross-border management in Europe, with special attention to the consequences of Brexit. Ricardo Ferreira (EUC), Natalie Verschelde (European Commission), and Martin Guillermo Ramirez (AEBR) then took up the conversation of European cross-border regions. Three sessions on cross-border management in Canada and the US (including Border Security) were facilitated by Matt Morrison (PNWER), Natalie Baloy (WWU), Laurie Trautman (BPRI), and Christian Leuprecht (RMC) with Todd Hataley (RMC), and Jamie Ferrill (Charles Sturt University). Lastly, Martin Pratt (BorderMap Consulting), Benjamin Rohrbaugh (USDHS), and Alan Bersin (Altana AI) rounded off the institute by discussing disputed boundaries and the future of border management.

### **Institute #2: ASHI 780 | Modern Border Management: Trade and Customs**

*July 17–21, 2023*

The Trade and Customs Institute explored how the regulatory environment of trade functionally redesigns borders and changes customs policies and practices. Through 11 sessions delivered over the course of five days, fellows were introduced to the borders of trade flows in a globalizing world.

After a general presentation of Institute #2 by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (UVic, BIG Lab), fellows were introduced to trade and custom borders through a comparative framework by Alan Bersin (Altana AI), and Geoffrey Hale (University of Lethbridge). Frédérique Berrod (University of Strasbourg) spoke about Energy Union and new EU borders and Jenia Peteva (EUC) explored customs reform in the EU. Hubert Duchesneau (CIRRICQ) and Cameron Walter (OSCE) spoke about the Role of Border Management Agencies in Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property, while Mourad Arfaoui (WCO) provided an international perspective on the WCO and its policies. Solomon Wong (interVISTAS) discussed airport border risk management, and Kathrine Richardson (San José State University) examined cross-border planning in the Cascadia region. Lastly, Alan Bersin (Altana AI) and Peter Swartz (Altana AI) examined the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and trade and custom borders.

### **Institute #3: ASHI 805 | Modern Border Management: Managing Borders and Bodies in the 21st Century**

*July 17–21, 2023*

The Managing Borders and Bodies Institute examined the various ways that international actors manage the flow of people across international borders. Focusing on how migrants are categorized, sessions explored the inter-related migration regimes that facilitate easy mobility for some and highly restrict mobility for others.

Most sessions were facilitated by Scott Watson (UVic), who equipped fellows with a thorough understanding of the global migration system, economic migration, and the mobility of temporary foreign workers and skilled workers. Several guest speakers co-facilitated sessions: Nicole-Bates Eamer (UVic) spoke about climate migration; Kate Dearden examined human smuggling and trafficking; Richard St. Marseille (CBSA) discussed refugees and asylum seekers; Tricia Best (UVic) explored the complex realities facing international students; and Dave Cowen (Bouchard Gardens) focused on international tourism.



#### Institute #4: ASHI 804 | Artificial Intelligence in Border Management

July 24–26, 2023

The Artificial Intelligence Institute examined the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) in both trade facilitation and trade enforcement. Fellows received an introduction to AI/ML, evaluated AI/ML systems, and discovered how AI/ML is used to model trade and secure borders.

Institute #4 began with a general introduction by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (UVic, BIG Lab). Most sessions were facilitated by Peter Swartz (Altana AI), who introduced fellows to AI/ML concepts and systems in the context of border management. Swartz covered a wide range of topics, including AI/ML targeting of smuggling and revenue evasion and AI/ML implications for privacy and security. Guest speakers Thomas Cantens (WCO) and Rim Khazall (CBSA) facilitated sessions on the history of customs and mathematics and AI applications at the Canada Services and Borders Agency, respectively.

#### Institute #5: ASHI 806 | Borders and Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

July 24–26, 2023

The Borders and Law Institute explored the juridical complexity of borders through varying legal disciplines such as history of law, public law and international law, European law and transnational law. Fellows learned about the juridical history of borders and new ideas on juridical bordering through discussions of territorial delimitations, border singularities, international disputes, border controls, and the effects of the EU and globalization on contemporary borders.

Institute #5 began with a general introduction by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (UVic, BIG Lab). Most sessions were facilitated by Benjamin Perrier, who provided a Juridical Border Studies perspective on the concepts of territorial delimitation, border disputes, cross-border cooperation and trans-boundary governance, and integrated and disaggregated borders. Additionally, guest speaker Richard St. Marseille (CBSA) facilitated a session exploring the bordering process as it relates to customs and migration controls focusing on a case study of Canada.

#### Back to Basics: Introduction to Policy Research and Policy Briefs

For each institute, Claude Beaupré (UVic, University of Strasbourg) led a session that provided fellows with the opportunity to develop or sharpen their skills in policy research and policy brief writing. In this session, fellows explored the conceptual foundations of policies, various research processes, ethics, and methods in policy making and policy evaluation; they also learned to conduct policy research and present their findings in the format of a policy paper.

### Participants



The 2023 cohort was comprised of 73 fellows from 27 different countries, including 15 WCO fellows and 25 BIG Lab fellows. Upon completing the course requirements, all fellows received completion certificates from the Department of Continuing Studies at the University of Victoria.

Despite time differences, fellows from Australia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Peru, Canada, and the European Union consistently and actively participated in class discussions and practicum sessions.



## Feedback and Development

After completing an institute, fellows were invited to fill out a survey on their experience. Participants were asked to rate all courses and sessions in which they enrolled on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 representing 'very dissatisfied' and 10 representing 'very satisfied.' All survey responses were kept anonymous so that participants would feel comfortable sharing their honest opinions and suggestions. Questions aimed to discern the following:

- Fellows' overall experience with the institute(s)
- How likely fellows were to attend other Summer Institutes
- Whether fellows felt they had achieved the course learning objectives
- Whether fellows felt supported in their learning experience
- How the institute(s) could be improved

Overall, the feedback we received was very positive. On average, fellows rated their overall experience with the institute(s) **8.8 out of 10** and indicated that sessions supported their learning experience **4.5 out of 5 times**. Further, fellows rated their likelihood of attending future Summer Institutes **9 out of 10**. Notably, Institute #5 (Borders and Law) received perfect ratings from all participants, translating to a **100%** satisfaction rate.

Multiple fellows highlighted both the "clear, consistent, and didactic" method of session instructors and the "well organized" practicum sessions as qualities that contributed to their enjoyment of the institutes. One fellow specifically noted that the instructor "managed to keep [their] interest alive during all the sessions."

We received valuable feedback from fellows regarding the course structure, content, and delivery. Most notably, multiple fellows identified language barriers as obstacles to learning and suggested implementing translation of lectures, particularly from English to French. Some fellows also indicated that course concepts would be more digestible if the institute(s) were longer and expressed interest in more opportunities for practical application of course concepts. In response to this feedback, we are providing three additional Summer Institutes in 2024; read on for more information.

## Looking Ahead

In addition to the existing five institutes, we will offer three new Summer Institutes in July 2024 for a total of eight. The finalized schedule for the 2024 Summer Institutes is as follows:

### July 8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1. Cross Border Management in Comparative Perspective
2. The Law of Borders in the 21st Century

### July 15<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1. Trades and Customs Borders
2. Managing Borders and Bodies in the 21st Century

### July 22<sup>nd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1. Modern Border Security Management
2. Ecological Border Management

### July 29<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

1. Artificial Intelligence in Border Management
2. Indigenous Internationalism and Border Crossings



A Fellowship call will be posted in December 2023 for customs, migration and border management professionals to submit a two-page policy brief for their chosen course. The forty best policy briefs/applications will be selected and receive a full fellowship/tuition waiver for a Summer Institute that matches their policy brief/application of choice.

Travel grants will be available for ten fellows to study at UVic in the *(Im)migration and Mobility stream* in person (only).

We will also offer one new Professional Development Certificate stream, for a total of three:

**A. Modern Border Management: Trade and Customs**

Required courses:

1. Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective
2. Trade and Customs Borders
3. Artificial Intelligence in Border Management

**B. Modern Border Management: (Im)migration and Mobility**

Required courses:

1. Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective
2. Managing Borders and Bodies in the 21st Century

Optional courses (choose one):

- a. The Law of Borders in the 21st Century
- b. Indigenous Internationalisms and Border Crossings
- c. Ecological Border Management

*New*

**C. Modern Border Management: Law of Borders and Cross-Border Laws**

Required courses:

1. Cross-Border Management in Comparative Perspective
2. The Law of Borders in the 21st Century

Optional courses (choose one):

- a. Modern Border Security Management
- b. Indigenous Internationalisms and Border Crossings
- c. Ecological Border Management