The RELATE Center of Excellence from the Universities of Oulu and Tampere, Finland will be hosting a workshop on “Border Struggles: Epistemologies, Politics, and Practices.” One of the primary objectives of the RELATE Center of Excellence is to investigate and conceptualize the tensions between “territorial” and “relational” processes that shape pivotal issues in our contemporary world; e.g., globalization, global governance and security, and the transformation of borders and state spaces.

The primary motivation of this workshop is to rethink the concept of “borders” and “bordering” from an empirical and theoretical-epistemological point of view. Borders have been a contested object of research in the past two decades, approached from a variety of perspectives and case-studies. We draw inspiration from Sandro Mezzadra and Brett Neilson’s (2013) recent reformulation of borders as “battlefields,” crossed by conflicts and mobile power relations that work through heterogeneous processes of differential inclusion. This workshop aims to investigate “border struggles” and bordering mechanisms that are productive of contemporary border formations, particularly processes of differential exclusion and subject formation.

Schedule:

Thursday, September 11:

9:00 Anssi Paasi (University of Oulu), Opening Remarks on RELATE

9:15 Oliver Belcher and Martina Tazzioli, Introduction to workshop

Morning Session

9:30 -- 10:30, Lauren Martin (University of Oulu), "Migration, Law, and Territory: A Topological Approach to Bordering"

10:45 -- 11:45, Mat Coleman (The Ohio State University), "The Quasi-event of Immigration Control"

11:45 -- 1:00, Lunch
Afternoon Session

1:00 -- 2:00, Juanita Sundberg (University of British Columbia), "Life on the Borderline or the Limits of Methodological Humanism in Border Studies"

2:00 -- 2:15, Coffee

2:15 -- 3:15, Oliver Belcher (University of Oulu), "Computational Counterinsurgency, or Data-borders in Late Modern War"

3:30 -- 4:30, General discussion on (re)theorizing borders

Friday, September 12:

Morning Session

9:30 -- 10:30, Martina Tazzioli (University of Oulu), "Border Interruptions: Migration Maps and Spaces of Migration in Between Italy and Tunisia"

10:45 -- 11:45, Nicolas De Genova (King’s College London), "Border Struggles in the Migrant Metropolis"

11:45 -- 1:00, Lunch

Afternoon Session

1:00 -- 2:00, Elisa Pascucci (University of Sussex, University of Tampere), "A politics of the present? Immobility, Precarity, and Agency in Neoliberal Egypt"

2:15 -- 3:15, Eeva-Kaisa Prokkola (University of Oulu), "Struggling with the Schengen Border: International Student’s Narratives of Border Crossing"

3:30 -- 4:30, William Walters (Carleton University), "On the Road with Michel Foucault: Migration, Deportation, and Viapolitics"

The workshop is free to attend, but places are limited. If interested in attending or for more information, please contact Oliver Belcher (oliver.belcher@oulu.fi) or Martina Tazzioli (martina.tazzioli@oulu.fi) to reserve a place.