

Lecture series

# Atelier Bordertextures

## Theories and Methodologies in Cultural Border Studies

### Affective Textures: Love as Border-Crossing in Cypriot Poetry and Film

Angelos Evangelou  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

03 May 2024  
17:00-18:30 pm  
Universität des  
Saarlandes  
Building B3 1  
Lecture Hall 1 (HS 1)

This presentation proposes an examination of the role of affective entanglement in the experience of borders and most importantly in the moments, the practices and the possibility of debordering. Specifically, I will focus on the theme of erotic love and defend it against the stereotypical views which dismiss it as a banal cliché, which has so far resulted in little critical work. In response, I explore the critical potential of erotic love for mobilising political change in the context of Cyprus as a divided island; a bordered space. Departing from the act of real and imaginary border-crossing, I trace the politicization of the body as it renders itself the *textured* space in which imposed ethnic, religious, ideological, gender and sexual borders are both suffered and resisted. In other words, in speaking, feeling, desiring and resisting *from* the border, the body also speaks *about* the border. Drawing from Foucault, Butler and Anzaldúa, as well as actively engaging with the concept of *bordertextures*, I look at the ways Neşe Yaşın's poem "Unsent Letters" (1992) and Marios Psaras's short film *Thin Green Line* (2017) establish a complex nexus between vulnerability and resistance mobilized by the body's erotic energies. Their employment of erotic love as an agent for anti-border and reconciliatory politics complements Anzaldúa's theorization of the borderland as a space of liminality which yields both vulnerability *and* possibility, a space where differences are not neutralized but unfold in creative and hybrid syntheses.

**Angelos Evangelou** is Assistant Professor in English Literature and Theory at the Department of English Language and Literature of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Having worked extensively on the representation of the border between madness and reason in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century English Literature and Critical Theory, his current research focuses on the theorization of the *border* and the crosscurrents between Border Theory, Border Studies and Postcolonial Literature. Special emphasis lies on the representation of the physicality of the border as well as on bordering and debordering practices in British Literature, especially post-Brexit, as well as in the Anglophone Literatures and Cinemas of Cyprus, Palestine and Israel.

Contact & Information

<http://atelier.bordertextures.org>

The lecture series is open to the public and is aimed at interested students and researchers at all career stages.

Organized by the interregional research group Bordertextures of the UniGR-Center for Border Studies (UniGR-CBS)

