

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of the journal *Studia Territorialia* for 2025, entitled “Borders in Motion.”

Borders are dynamic constructs that consist of political, cultural, social, historical, and geographical elements. More than mere lines on a map, they are zones of the landscape where identities, sovereignties, and geopolitical interests blend and overlap. They are shaped by cultural exchanges, economic interactions, and social relationships. Throughout history and up to this day, borders and borderlands have always been grounds for negotiation, transformation, and conflict.

This special issue brings together three original research articles that explore diverse dimensions of borders. In the opening contribution, Karim Dharamsi revisits the philosophical and ethical foundations of constitutional legitimacy in Canada. He views Canadian constitutionalism as a sort of “contested borderland” and argues that Canada’s existing constitutional framework is still rooted in the traditions of settler colonialism, which as such remains conducive to the marginalization of Indigenous peoples and other minority communities.

The second article is an autoethnographic study of the Cieszyn Silesia region. Specifically, it focuses on the Friendship Bridge connecting the towns of Cieszyn and Český Těšín, which are located on opposite sides of the Polish-Czech border. Magdalena Bubík analyzes the bridge’s social and symbolic transformations over time, drawing on the Derridian concept of *hauntology* to make her case. She argues that the bridge has become an indispensable element of the local identity, as well as a place for reconciliation and remembrance.

Finally, Kateřina Vnoučková examines the entangled history of cross-border cooperation between South Moravia and Lower Austria during the 1980s and

1990s. She demonstrates how the interconnected environment and the shared rural traditions of the regions facilitated contacts across the Iron Curtain, particularly through village renewal programs.

This issue of *Studia Territorialia* concludes with a report reflecting on a special anniversary. Last year, the Institute of International Studies of Charles University, our journal's publisher, celebrated thirty years of its existence. Since its founding in 1994, the Institute has become a leading academic institution in the field of area studies in post-communist Czechia. Moreover, it has greatly influenced our profile in the disciplines we cover, as well as the way we conduct research and publishing. In his contribution, Miroslav Kunštát looks back on that moment thirty years ago, providing an overview of the Institute's origins, the debates that preceded its establishment, its subsequent development, and its achievements thus far.

More contributions on "Borders in Motion" will be published soon.

On behalf of the Editors,

Lucie Filipová, Magdalena Fiřtová, and Jan Šír
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