

1. Events

Event Details

Mobilizing the Commons: Everyday Activism and Mobility Struggles around EU Border Regimes

Conference sessions

Start date : 29 September 2025 09:00
Date de fin : 2 October 2025 17:00

Where : Cologne

Hosted by : Conference of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (GASCA/DGSKA)

Information sources :

<https://tagung.dgska.de/en/>

Convenors: Monika Palmberger (University of Vienna)

Elissa Helms (Central European University)

Short abstract:

This panel invites ethnographic explorations of how the anthropology of commoning can enrich studies of small-scale and resistant forms of solidarity, citizenship, or humanitarianism by migrants and non-migrants acting in physical and digital arenas to challenge EU border and migration regimes.

Long abstract:

This panel examines how informal acts in various forms challenge and resist EU border and migration regimes. Recent discussions of commoning in anthropology, particularly mobile commons, bear resemblance to dynamics analyzed through other concepts that aim to theorize similar autonomous or subtle forms of citizenship, solidarity, or humanitarianism. Drawing on feminist perspectives that see citizenship and borders as constructed and gendered processes, we aim to explore how different actors—both "citizens" and "non-citizens" navigate rights, identities, and solidarities through embodied practices in both physical and digital environments, thereby transforming private and public spaces into political arenas.

Our focus is on how decentralized and resistant practices of migrants and non-migrants reshape and redefine communal belonging and structures of solidarity in relation to bordering and citizenship regimes. We ask how these often disparate threads of

scholarship can be brought into dialogue with the anthropology of commoning to sharpen our understanding of how small-scale acts attempt to counter or mitigate the power of borders and migration regimes in the contemporary EU context. We invite ethnographically grounded papers that offer theoretical insights into the dynamics of everyday, small-scale acts and activism around the EU border regime in digital and physical arenas. How do these practices challenge dominant forms of knowledge and social relations? How do they navigate inclusion and exclusion in a polycrisis context? Finally, how can the concept of the commons be brought into theoretical dialogue with related concepts such as resistant forms of solidarity, citizenship, humanitarianism or autonomous approaches to migration?

Practical informations :

The conference theme is “Un/Commoning Anthropology” For more information, see <https://tagung.dgska.de/en/theme/>

Paper abstract deadline: 15 January, 2025

Paper proposals must consist of:

- a paper title
- the name/s and email address/es of author/s
- a short abstract of fewer than 300 characters
- a long abstract of fewer than 250 words

Proposals must be submitted online (not by email) via the workshop list available through the following link: <https://tagung.dgska.de/en/rules-infos/>