Call for Contributions for the 16th Ethnosymposium: 18-21 June 2020 in Bayreuth

We are incredibly excited to invite you to this year’s Ethnosymposium in Bayreuth. Since 2004, this event has been hosted by students at a different university in the German speaking region each year. The invitation is open to everyone who is interested in or is a student of social and cultural anthropology, ethnology, and related disciplines. Together we wish to create a space for creative exchange, new input and for connecting with one another.

Following last year’s symposium in Munich on the topic of resistance, this year’s theme will be:

**GrenzenÜberBrücken** (This is a play on words meaning “borders over bridges”, but also “bridging borders”)

In Munich last year, the questions about the boundaries and intersections of scholarship and activism emerged as a central theme of discussion. This led us to think more about the meaning of creating and/or dissolving borders.

At the end of last year a petition was filed by the Bayreuth division of the activist organisation “Seebrücke” to declare the city as a “safe haven” for refugees. The group demanded the city of Bayreuth to seriously commit to a more humane politics at communal, national and European levels.

We are deeply concerned as we witness a global trend towards authoritarianism in politics coupled with the reinforcement of borders. In the German and European contexts, “fortress Europe” has especially been mobilized to pursue an anti-social politics of exclusion.
However, our symposium isn’t just about political borders. What about the borders or limits of our own bodies, for instance? Or the border between “us” and “the Other”? To what extent might the differentiation between culture and nature, human and the environment be viable? What other borders can we imagine? Can or must they be dissolved? To what extent can attempted or proposed “bridges” also be selective and elitist?
What are borders, how can we define them, who draws them and who dissolves them? Who makes them visible? Are they subjective? What processes create categories of difference and how are they related to mechanisms and processes of power? How about decolonization? And finally: Where are the boundaries of anthropology itself? And what differences can it bridge? In this regard, we are especially concerned with the understanding of border-making and -unmaking as processes.
These questions and many more could be discussed in Bayreuth. We are very excited to hear about your ideas and input.

The Ethnosymposium wouldn’t be possible without your contributions of any kind. You are completely free to choose the format of your submission, whether it be presentations, workshops, installations, performances or anything else. Contributions in English are also very welcome!

**Format of your abstract**

In order to be able to compile a program, we request you to submit a short abstract (max. 2000 characters), including:

- Your name and contact information (email and phone)
- Title and short summary of your contribution
- Required time slot
- Preferred date and time slot during the symposium
- Required technical equipment or other material

**When and where to?**

Deadline for contributions is the 1st of April 2020

To: ethnologiesymposium@gmail.com
Subject: CONTRIBUTION: Title of your contribution

We are looking forward to divers submissions – take the chance to share your fascinating topics of interest or field work with us!

See you soon,
Team Ethnosymposium Bayreuth