If we are to generate a robust account of the borderlands, we need to understand the border from each of its various perspectives. After all, the border can be physical, legal, epistemic, cultural, emotional, spiritual, and gendered in nature. Furthermore, these borders intersect in complex and dynamic ways. Thus, we recognize the plurality and intersectionality of borders.

Michigan State University’s 2020 Graduate Conference explores the concept of borders, with an emphasis on the US-Mexico border. Additionally, the conference strives to cultivate a strong interdisciplinary approach. We hope to bring together a wide variety of scholars and community activists to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and experience between the scholars theorizing about the borderlands and the activists working/living in those lands.

Therefore, we seek a wide range of topics and disciplinary frameworks. Papers can include but are not limited to border theory, Latinx studies, indigenous studies, women & gender studies, sociology, environmental ethics, and international law. In addition, we welcome submissions from community-oriented projects situated within affected communities. Projects may address questions such as: how do the cultural/political borders that govern race interact with border enforcement policy? How does the nature of the physical border (i.e. U.S.-Mexico border) interact with the epistemic and cultural wellbeing of migrants? What kinds of violences are produce through these interactions? And to who are these harms inflicted on? Also, how are communities demonstrating resilience and resistance?

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- Gendered violence in the borderlands
- The precarity of LGBTQ2IA+ migrants
- The ecological impact of migration
- Epistemic and cultural violence of US immigration policy
- The physical violence of US border enforcement
- Economic effects of NAFTA
- Immigration law
- Legal/political inspection of child separation
- The psychology/trauma of child separation
- The lived realities of migrant people
- Health impacts of undocumented migration
- Community resilience and activism
- Community epistemology
- The border sits on indigenous land and violates indigenous sovereignty
- Feel free to add or suggest more relevant areas!
Submission guidelines:

Submissions should be sent to msugradcon2020@gmail.com. Submissions must include 1) an abstract, no more than 400 words, on a page by itself for blind review and 2) an additional cover sheet including author’s name, university affiliation (if any), and email address. We welcome submissions of all sorts of papers, narratives, performances, and more. Send us your ideas. Submission presentations should fit into 40 minutes with an additional 20 minutes for questions and discussion.


Notification of acceptance will be no later than: January 10th, 2020.

Accessibility:

We are committed to hosting a conference accessible to all. Any questions and/or accessibility requests can be addressed to msugradcon2020@gmail.com.