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## Fragile cartographies of border fictioning: a place of their own

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Authors	McCloskey, Paula; Vardy, Sam
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## **Border Fictioning / The Territories of Eile**

Our work operates between contemporary art and spatial practice and we explore the new forms of research and critical production that this space and overlap allows.

The Eile Project is a visual art / research project that uses the subjective, spatial, political and imaginative concept of borders/bordering to respond to some immediate political/environmental challenges. The project is sited on the geo-political border between Ireland and the UK; we are a border family as Paula is from Ballyshannon, (Eire). She grew up between Ballyshannon and Enniskillen (NI), as well as living in England, and has traversed the Irish border her whole life. We now return to these places from Sheffield, UK with our own children, each year; the border thus remains at play across generations, time, and space. The context of the Irish/UK border condition is now given renewed prominence within the maligned 'Brexit' negotiations which threatens the peace process on the island of Ireland.

We propose to show a screening of our audiovisual film, *The Territories of Eile*, which offers a speculative fictioning in which Eile makes and unmakes the borderlands; passing through them as they pass through her. Eile's embodied performance gestures utilise organic and inorganic materials on the Irish/UK border territory to distort and create alternate ways of being. The Eile Project offers an interrogation that uses human-bodies and non-human bodies to create a world beyond the present, collapsing durational moments to create a fiction that might impact transformatively on the real.

After the screening (4 mins) we would present a short paper discussing the ideas behind the film and their relation to the urban question. We are concerned with understanding how autonomous territories are made, undone, and remade anew - territories as spatial, sonic and social processes in which power, rather than being fixed and imposed as in sovereign borders (power as *potestas*), can emerge from the site, from the new border imaginaries, in a process of becoming - power as *potentia*.

**Keywords:** Border-fictioning; art practice; de/re-territorialising; ritual; audio-visual; chthulucene

### **Dr Paula McCloskey**

; a place, of their own. (co-founder)

artist

[paula@aplaceoftheirown.org](mailto:paula@aplaceoftheirown.org)

### **Dr Sam Vardy**

; a place, of their own. (co-founder)

Senior Lecturer in Architecture, Sheffield Hallam University

[s.vardy@shu.ac.uk](mailto:s.vardy@shu.ac.uk) / [sam@aplaceoftheirown.org](mailto:sam@aplaceoftheirown.org)

- One A4 page stating the core theme, objectives, methods, case study for paper submission or documentary film submission. These could be findings of a specific theme on 'urbanism at borders', using maximum 300 words, 11 fonts, single spacing, indicating title (no more than 10 words), keywords, author/s names, affiliation, contact email, references if relevant.
- Abstract and full paper will be peer-reviewed by the workshop panellists.
- Full paper description will be posted by 7 March 2018 after the abstract selection has been completed. The outline of the paper will follow the book format of The Urban Book Series, Springer Publishing, Switzerland.
- Confirmation of acceptance of paper/short film subject abstract: 15 March 2018
- Full paper submission/film submission: 15 July 2018
- Papers should be presented in PowerPoint presentation extracting the core information on the paper.
- Short film documentary should be available to present alongside paper presentation.
- Analysis on documentary film should be accompanied by short paper (description will be posted later). In publication, the film will be available as snapshot of selected footings, with a link for full digital films.
- Films can be black & white or colour, in any methods, mobile footage, and full edited film with narrations or text descriptions on each context on the urbanism at borders.

## Interdisciplinary Global Workshop for Research Network

**Robert Gordon University is proud to be hosting the inaugural Interdisciplinary Global Workshop from Wednesday 5 to Saturday 8 September 2018. The event will take place at our Garthdee Campus, on the banks of the River Dee.**

Border research emphasizes on the discourse analysis on critical issues and connotation of separation - demarcation – segregation and conflicts and translated and theorizing these issues in various patterns of urbanism. Borders determine the degree of how regions are positioned in the global maps with the condition with which regions are valued, categorised and marked by its capacity to create individual geographical identities and unique settlement patterns. Borders define socially and economically incompatible systems that influence the nature of mobility of goods, human traffic, and economic transactions that suggest temporal, subdued, blurring socio-cultural entities defined by urban orders. Borders create these blurring urban orders along its boundaries defined by lack of cohesiveness with either sides of a border.

Borders are more than geographically defined separations, but accounts of metamorphoses and metaphors that two neighbouring states are defined by the economy, politics, culture, and religion – manifested by its typological entities.

Mapping Borders reflecting on the following issues:

- Characteristics of social displacement at the borders
- Transient/temporal settlement
- Typologies and Form of Settlement
- Conflict and Cultural hybridity
- The architecture of weak forms on borderlines
- Regenerative architecture as a socio-cultural policy
- A phenomenology of generic places
- Borders invoke centres: is there a new foundation?
- The occupation of place: between reality and authorities
- Crisis communication and the 'architecture' of media
- Quick solutions: the printed habitat
- New Social formation/Social Capital

Borders Research Scopes

- Collaborative research initiation among partnering countries – Intermediate actions
- Collaborative thematic conferences – September 2018
- Publication as monographs – post conference monograph with Springer
- Filming and documentation – part of conference submission
- Design charrette – school-level masters design studio projects