2004, "Conference on Borders and Emotions", 27-28 May, Queens University of Belfast, Centre for International Border Studies.

Mapping and Picturing the Turkish Border: Cognitive and Emotional Dimensions

This paper analyses perceptions of the Turkish border in East and South East Turkey by young Turkish citizens. During a fieldwork project on border identity in two Turkish border towns, I asked about 100 pupils and college students to picture their towns and map the state borders. Although the maps produced by formal state organization or institutes, such as the army, civic services, and governmental services, normally construct images of borders as straightforward dividing lines between two neighbouring countries, the maps produced by the youngsters constructed complex multi-dimensional images. The paper examines cognitive and emotional dimensions of this mapping process, and will demonstrate – contrary to globalisation theory – that national borders are still playing an important role in the daily life of borderland inhabitants.