# Borderlines

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**NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** 



# **SEABED MINING IS SET TO BEGIN IN TWO YEARS... OR IS IT?**

Laura Trethewey examines the negotiations over mining the international seabed as they enter a fraught endgame.

This past December, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) opened its long-delayed in-person Council and Assembly sessions in Kingston, Jamaica.

The UN-associated agency is headquartered out of a gated compound in downtown Kingston where it oversees 'The Area', the global seafloor beyond national jurisdiction — an area roughly equal to half the planet's surface.

IBRU has been an accredited observer ats ISA meetings since 2016. Part of IBRU's interest in the ISA stems from the way that The Area – a space ostensibly beyond state borders - is defined by the ultimate political bordering: the border between the universe of state territories and the commons beyond. But IBRU is also interested in the ISA and the ongoing negotiations occurring at ISA meetings because they serve as a sort of litmus test for border relations worldwide. The push and pull between rich and poor, capitalistic and socialistic, landlocked and coastal nations all play out at the negotiations where member states have met for over 25 years to discuss how and if seabed mining should proceed. IBRU sponsored my attendance at the December 2021 meetings, as part of an ongoing book project on the politics underpinning the global effort to map the sea floor.



Laura Tretheway inside the council chambers at the ISA

### The Race for a Mining Code

A lot had happened in the long hiatus since the ISA members last convened in February 2020. Although the ISA has been granting exploratory licences for decades, in June 2021 the Pacific island nation of Nauru became the first country to formally request a licence to mine. This triggered what's known as the "two-year rule," compelling the ISA to approve the country's plan to mine the Pacific seabed within two years. Suddenly, after 25 years of haggling, Nauru was asking the ISA to hurry up and finish the industry's Mining Code by July 2023.

As the member states convened this past December, the big question hovering over the proceedings was whether the 2023 deadline was indeed a deadline at all. What's most immediately at stake is an area in the East Pacific known as the Clarion Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ): a vast expanse of underwater territory as wide as the continental United States. For decades now, state-owned, or at least state-fronted, companies have conducted mining experiments in the CCZ, hauling up manganese nodules that could power the electric vehicles of the future. If the ISA approves a Mining Code by 2023, the expectation is that other companies with experimental permits in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans will rush to extraction as well. Environmental groups warn that deep-sea mining is a genie-in-a-bottle situation. Once we unleash it, we can't put it back. Meanwhile, broader opposition to seabed mining is growing in civil society. Deep-sea scientists and major manufacturing brands, including BMW, Microsoft and Renault, are coming out against an industry that will likely destroy the planet's last undisturbed ecosystem and unleash a wave of unintended environmental and social consequences.

### **Negotiating the Road Map**

The second day of the week-long Council negotiations were mostly devoted to discussing a work plan for approving Nauru's application on time. The ISA Secretariat guides the negotiations and its Secretary General Michael Lodge opened the proceedings by urging the room to move from exploration to exploitation. "The world is watching," he said. "The ISA is failing to live up to its purpose if it doesn't become operational." Many delegates, attending in-person and online, voiced concern with the aggressive schedule. "Soundness should not be sacrificed at the altar of speed," said one delegate from Micronesia.

At the last in-person session in 2020, several nations made a push to reform the Legal and Technical Commission – a key decision-making body within the ISA. For years the African Group, which represents 47 nations, along with Fiji, Costa Rica and others, have argued for greater geographic



The ISA in Kingston, Jamaica



A field of manganese nodules. Image source: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 2015 Hohonu Moana

diversity on the LTC, whose members mostly hail from the Global North. There are many unresolved issues like this and the ISA negotiations usually do not go smoothly or swiftly.

On the final day of the Council, many delegates typically leave around lunchtime to catch a flight back to New York before the weekend. This time, the negotiations stretched until the absolute final hour – that is 6 pm when the translators had to sign off. Much of the final day's negotiations happened behind closed doors where, reportedly, a printer broke down after spitting out so many revised drafts of the Road Map. Just after 6pm, the Council approved a Road Map to complete the Mining Code by 2023.

Many took this to mean that deep-sea mining would start in a little under two years. The Metals Company, which owns the Nauru subsidiary company that is hoping to mine in 2023, sent out a newsletter celebrating this "important milestone for our emerging industry..." However, some delegates privately expressed skepticism. The ISA has blown past deadlines before and the ISA's governing document, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, is not exactly clear on what happens when it does.

Deep-sea mining proponents have said for years that the industry is set to kick off any day now. As we appear to edge closer to that day, it's still hard to get a clear look at an opaque industry that plans to operate outside national borders, far from land, and in the pitch-black darkness of the deep sea. Big questions still remain. Do we know enough about the ocean to start mining the seafloor? Wh gets to define 'enough'? "There is one big known," said Patricia Esquete, a deep-sea researcher at Portugal's University of Aveiro. "A lot will be lost."

Laura Trethewey is the author of *The Imperiled Ocean:*Human Stories from a Changing Sea (Pegasus Books, 2019). She is at work on her second book of non-fiction, tentatively titled *The Nadir: The Amazing Global Race to Map the Entire Ocean Floor*, due out from Harper Wave in 2023.

Cover Image: Image by Steph684 from Pixabay

# 2021 Raymond Milefsky Award winners: Friends for Conservation and Development and Asociación Balam

In 2021, IBRU awarded the fourth annual Raymond Milefsky award to Belize-based Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) and Guatemala-based Asociación Balam for their joint work promoting conservation and development in the Belize-Guatemala border region. IBRU's Philip Steinberg interviewed Executive Directors Rafael Manzanero and Bayron Castellanos.

There are many instances around the world where tense relations across borders have hindered efforts to sustainably manage a region's resources. How has the collaboration between FCD and Asociación Balam managed to overcome these tensions to achieve collective solutions?

Rafael Manzanero (FCD): In 2007, FCD took over co-management of the Chiquibul National Park, which is Friends for Conservation and Development the largest protected area in Belize



and has a 43.5 km border with Guatemala. From that point onward, a key strategy was to identify a "brother" organization that could support our effort in Guatemala. That was Asociación Balam. Since then, the confidence building process has been ongoing and consistent, with strong support from both countries' Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Bayron Castellanos (Asociación Balam): Chiquibul is an area of environmental as well as geopolitical significance: it's the most important portion of tropical forest for connectivity of the Selva Maya between Guatemala-Belize and Mexico. FCD conserves protected areas that are threatened by anthropogenic pressures coming from Guatemala, so we share the same mission. The territorial dispute and the lack of understanding between the two countries "forced us" to interact as civil society organizations to address cross-border conservation challenges. The two organizations then decided to "take diplomacy out of the governments' hands" and into the field. Now we work together, promoting the participation of other actors. The agenda is led by civil society organizations, with the support of governments.

FCD and Asociación Balam have demonstrated how cooperating to solve common problems can bring communities together across borders. Is your work also having an impact on how your governments approach the border dispute?

**Manzanero**: I believe so. Our governments realise that civil society organizations have a role in forging



One of the joint projects on the border

partnerships and confidence. For instance, in 2014, when the governments sought to develop a memorandum of understanding to protect the border region's environment and natural resources from illegal resource extraction, they drew on the expertise of civil society organisations, including Balam and FCD.

**Castellanos:** Our strategies for preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage privilege the participation and well-being of local populations. Only then can we be effective. Our governments understand that they cannot do it alone, that they have to let civil society organizations do our job. All they have to do is join us and support our actions. The road is difficult, but the future is promising. The territorial dispute is an issue that will be resolved at a desk, but actions in the field matter, with or without a border.

Although the Belize-Guatemala border dispute appears to be slowly heading toward resolution, it has a history of armed conflict and interventions by security forces. Do border security forces see your work, which explicitly crosses borders, as part of the problem or part of the solution?

Manzanero: They see us as part of the solution. If environmental damage is the driver to conflict then civil society conservation groups like FCD and Balam must be part of the solution. For example, cattle ranching continues to be a major threat and the Government of Belize encourages civil society organisations on both sides of the border to inform the public about its impacts and applicable

regulations. In the case of Belize, the Belizean authorities asked FCD to develop the strategy to address cattle ranching. Also of note is that the Belize Defence Force operates along the western flank of the park in cooperation with FCD Park

Castellanos: The security forces understand that we are not at war. Their role is to prevent conflicts, which aligns with our mission of conserving one of the most important biocultural landscapes of the Selva Maya. These landscapes do not recognize borders, they extend over countries and most importantly connect us; they connect us as friends, brothers and partners. We must work together!

Both of your organisations concentrate on environmental organisations protection and conservation. Is there something about these issues that is particularly conducive to fostering understanding and cooperation across borders?

**Manzanero:** Our programme of collaboration and confidence building is directly connected to nature conservation. We have found that science diplomacy, in particular, can be useful for achieving



In the Vaca Forest Reserve, cover structures are being used to reduce further forest degradation. Farmers have seen the benefits can be useful for achieving conservation amidst the havoc that is sometimes created by problems at the produce better crops.

Castellanos: Conservation of the environment is the means, not the end. The ultimate goal of our efforts is to find a balance between the environmental, social and economic development of the peoples of Guatemala and Belize, so that these heritages are preserved beyond our generation. How can we achieve this? By involving local communities and promoting territorial agendas that foster the economic empowerment of peoples.

What are three lessons for others seeking to conserve shared environments in border regions?

Manzanero: First: Things can easily get out of hand. Field staff must understand the bigger picture so that mistakes can be minimized. Second: Civil society groups can be more agile than governments in initiating bi-national actions and

developing trans-border activities. Third: Where border issues are present, governments must provide the platform (through agreements or protocols established by both countries) for the spirit of collaboration to blossom.

Castellanos: First: Conservation practitioners sometimes focus on building strategies, plans and instruments based on technical and scientific knowledge. Instead, they The FCD training new park rangers. need to build processes that start



from the ideas, knowledge, experiences and needs of the local populations that live around these heritage sites. Second: Public policy must be directed at "solving" the needs of the populations and the environment. This requires opening up participation to civil society early in the process. Third: The work between Balam and FCD has made us "brothers." We are one family solving family problems, so this collaborative work must continue.

# Borders in the news 2021

In January, The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) affirmed that The Chagos archipelago is part of **Mauritius** rather than the United Kingdom

Bahrain opened its airspace to Qatar after an agreement to resolve a dispute between the Arab Nations was signed in January.

In January, **Venezuela** rejected a decision by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in December 2020, charging that the court lacked jurisdiction to settle a claim that **Guyana** had brought forth concerning the 1899 Arbitration Award between the two States

Turkey and Greece resumed the suspended exploratory talks about territorial claims in the Mediterranean Sea.

In February, the **Nigeria** National Boundary Commission (NBC) announced the agency had resolved 30 interstate boundary disputes across the country.

In March, hearings began at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the case between **Kenya** and **Somalia** and the delimitation of their maritime border in the Indian Ocean. Kenya withdrew from the case later in the month, and requested the matter be resolved by the African Union. The hearing concluded without Kenya present

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan moved towards the resolution of their longstanding border dispute with communications opening the way to the completion of the demarcation of the border between the two countries in the Unkur-Too territory.

The border dispute between **Gabon** and **Equatorial Guinea** was taken to the International Court of Justice in March, to determine the specifics of the Special Agreement which had been agreed in 2016 and came into force in 2020.

In April, Indonesia and Vietnam renewed calls to finish ongoing negotiations on the delimitation of the maritime boundary between their exclusive economic zones (EEZ) near the South China Sea to provide clarity and avoid incidents in the waters.

**Greece** agreed to resume talks on demarcating its maritime border with **Libya** in the Mediterranean Sea.

India lodged an objection with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) over the claim by Bangladesh, requesting that the Commission not "consider and qualify" Bangladesh's amended submission.

In May it was reported that border pillars were vanishing along the border between **China** and **Nepal**, intensifying the conflict in the Daulkha District of Nepal.

Also in May, a farmer in **Belgium** inadvertently redrew the country's border with **France**. The farmer, apparently annoyed by the border stone in his tractor's path, had moved it inside French territory.

In June, **Sudan** rejected a proposal from **Ethiopia** regarding the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). **Egypt** also made a new appeal to the United Nations Security Council in its long-running dispute alleging that Ethiopia had thwarted efforts to reach a binding legal agreement on issues related to the GERD that would guarantee the interests of all nations impacted by the Dam.

Germany and Denmark celebrated a border centennial in June, with official events marking 101 years since the two nations delineated their 70-kilometer (44 mile)-long border.

In July, the **Dominican Republic** and **The Netherlands** signed a maritime delimitation agreement which will define the border between the two parties in the Caribbean Sea where the Netherlands Antilles are legated.

The Russian Prime Minister visited the disputed island of Ettorofu Island (Japan)/Iturup Island (Russia) for the first time since Russia made constitutional amendments barring the country from ceding territory to a foreign power. The dispute over the group of islands off Hokkaido has been ongoing since 1945 when the Soviet Union seized the islands after Japan's surrender in World War 2 after Japan's surrender in World War 2

In July, Algeria offered to mediate the continued dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan.

Ghana and Togo resolved a long-standing land boundary dispute at the Pulmakom border in the Pusiga District in July. The Ghana Boundary Commission and Togo Land Commission agreed that as per the national demarcation documents, Colpelig River was the official the Kolpelig River was the offi boundary separating the two countries.

In August, Turkey offered to mediate on the dispute between Ethiopia

Pacific island leaders agreed in August that their maritime borders should be permanent, even if their countries shrink due to a future rise in sea levels caused by climate change. 18 member countries and territories of the Pacific Islands Forum affirmed that once Pacific islands have established and notified maritime zones to the Servatov-Gangeal of the United the Secretary-General of the United Nations, they will be fixed irrespective of changes to the shape and size of islands.

In September, the **Bangladesh** government said that **India**'s objection to their amended submission to The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) on their maritime boundary, asking them not to consider the amend, was not in line with international law. The CLCS are now expected to make a decision considering the positions of both

Venezuela asked for direct dialogue with Venezuela asked for direct dialogue with Guyana in September, over their ongoing border dispute after Guyana called for the dispute to go to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for resolution. Guyana criticised Venezuela for rejecting the International Court of Justice's role in settling a border dispute over Guyana's oil-rich Essequibo Region. Venezuela believe the dispute should be settled through bilateral talks or a United Nations Secretary-General mediation process instead of the ICJ.

Chile released a new version of Nautical Chart 8, covering its Southern waters, that was denounced by **Argentina** as violating the 1984 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the two countries.

The latest hearings in the maritime dispute between **Nicaragua** and **Colombia** opened in the ICJ in September with two weeks of hearings over competing claims that date back to the 1920s regarding the mineral

and fish-rich waters of the Caribbean Sea. **Egypt** stressed the need for a binding deal on the Renaissance Dam as they fear that the process of filling the dam will affect its share of the river's water.

In October, the ICJ ruled on the ongoing maritime dispute between **Kenya** and **Somalia**. The ruling was generally seen to be in favour of Somalia, with a new boundary line drawn by the ICJ closer to the Somalian claim, attributing to Somalia several offshore oil blocks claimed by Kenya.

**Venezuela** reopened its border with Columbia in October after 2 years of closure, to try and improve trade relations between the two states.

In October Israel announced its intention to renew efforts, stalled since May 2021, to resolve its maritime border dispute with Lebanon.

A hearing at the ICJ was concluded in October around the continued dispute between **Colombia** and **Nicaragua** over maritime territory which has been ongoing since an initial ruling by the ICJ in 2012 was not accepted by Colombia. A judgment is expected in 2022.

In November, **Ghana** and **Nigeria** met to start discussions on the delimitation of their maritime boundary.

Bangladesh's Parliament passed a bill in November to establish sovereignty and facilitate search and extraction of marine resources within its maritime boundaries.

**China** and **India** agreed to continue working on their boundary dispute after a series of military altercations.

**Kenya** started the demarcation of their boundary with **Uganda**.

November saw Malaysia and Singapore underline their commitment to resolving maritime boundary issues between the two countries, including the implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Judgment on Pedra Branca, Middle Rocks and South Ledge.

### Seeking nominations for the 2022 Raymond Milefsky Award

The Raymond Milefsky award is now in its fifth year and has highlighted the excellent work being conducted all over the world by boundary scholars and practitioners.

Ray Milefsky was a frequent tutor at IBRU workshops and a great supporter of IBRU's mission of encouraging peaceful settlement of border disputes through education and research.

Ray was one of the leading lights of border studies community and he was kind enough to endow an annual award, to be administered by IBRU, to honour a leading border practitioner. Specifically, the award is for an individual or organisation who:

- Has advanced knowledge of boundary-making or cross-border cooperation, OR
   Has implemented a programme over that past year that has contributed substantively to boundary-making or cross-border cooperation.

The awardee will receive an award of £745, as well as a profile in the next edition of  $\it Borderlines$ .

IBRU is requesting nominating letters of no more than one page in length. They should briefly detail what the individual or organisation has contributed to boundary-making or cross-border cooperation, and how they meet the criteria noted

Self-nominations are permitted.

Nominations should be sent to IBRU's email address (ibru@durham.ac.uk) and must be received by 1 July 2022.

Selection of the awardee will be made by a committee consisting of the members of the IBRU Steering Community, plus one external representative.

Find out more about past winners: https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-bo rders-research/news-and-events/milefsky-award/

### JRV Prescott Student Scholarship **Programme**

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of international boundaries scholar JRV Prescott, IBRU is pleased to announce a scholarship programme to support postgraduate attendance at IBRU professional training

IBRU will award the annual Prescott Fellowship to one deserving postgraduate student to attend an IBRU training

The annual Prescott Fellowship recipient will receive a full waiver of workshop registration fees (typically around £2,000) as well as access to up to £500 to offset costs associated with travel and subsistence.

For more information, including instructions on how to www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/boundarynews/prescottscholarship/

The deadline for applying to attend a 2022 training workshop is 1 May 2022.

### **Professor Steinberg named UArctic Chair**

IBRU's Director, Professor Philip Steinberg, has been appointed as the UArctic Chair in Political Geography for the next five years.

The University of the Arctic (UArctic), established in 1998, is a network of universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations concerned with education and research in and



For more on this initiative, see: https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/current/thought-leader-ship/the-university-of-the-arctic-uarctic-has-appointed-profess or-philip-steinberg-uarctic-chair-in-political-geography-/.

### **New Associate Director of IBRU**

IBRU will say a fond farewell to Associate Director Aoife O'Donoghue in May 2022. Professor O'Donoghue has served as Associate Director since 2014 but is leaving for pastures new

We are delighted to announce that **Dr Henry Jones**, Associate Professor of Law, will be stepping in to the role. Dr Jones is a member of the Durham Law School and plays an integral role in the IBRU online training programme and face to face

### 2022 TRAINING PROGRAMME

Our workshops in 2020 and 2021 were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For 2022, in addition to continuing to offer our online training course, we will be working alongside partners from around the world to deliver a compelling series of face-to-face training workshops.

### **Online Training Course**

IBRU's online training courses complement our world-renowned professional training workshops. They feature IBRU and, Durham University academics, as well as invited expert guest practitioners and provide broad introductions to core topics in international boundaries. They are a great way to learn more about specific topics or simply refresh your knowledge in areas where you may already have some experience. They can be taken on their own or in preparation for attending one of our more focused, practitioner-led, face-to-face workshops. IBRU's onine courses are designed to be completed at your own leisure, at a time and place convenient to you.



Images: Courtesy of Pixabay, Mexico Border Wall courtesy of Estela Parra

# **Online training**

Price £215 per person

£100 per person (if in ful or part-time education)



# Introduction to International Boundaries: Definition, Delimitation and Dispute Resolution

International boundaries are a major source of friction between neighbouring states. Many land boundaries remain poorly defined and fewer than half of the world's potential maritime boundaries have been fully agreed. Governments recognise the value of clearly-defined boundaries, yet the political, economic and social complexities of boundary regions, as well as the details of topography and history, often make resolving competing territorial and jurisdictional claims extraordinarily difficult.

This online training course provides a simple, contextual overview of international boundaries and the practical measures that can be taken to resolve international boundary disputes. Through a series of short online lectures and a final practical exercise, the course explores the relevance of borders and looks at land and maritime boundary disputes, before covering methods available for dispute resolution.

### About the course

The course consists of almost four hours of video content and concludes with an exercise where participants argue why a delimitation line should be drawn at a specific location, as well as outlining negotiation strategy and preferred dispute resolution venue.

The videos can be watched in your own time and will be available for review as long as your licence is active. You will not need to complete the course in one go but can fit it around your schedule as required.

To book your place on the online course please visit our website:

https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-borders-research/training-and-workshops/online-training-courses/

## **Professional Training Workshops**

IBRU's unique boundary training programme has been running since 1996, attracting over 1,600 participants from 123 countries around the world. Our professional training workshops are led by teams of expert tutors and provide a relevant combination of background theory and practical application in an informal teaching environment. Numbers are limited to maximise interaction between tutors and participants so we advise you book early to guarantee your place.

# Professional Training Workshop

6-8 June 2022 The Hague, Netherlands

Price £1950 per person\*

### **Negotiating Maritime Boundaries**

Clearly defined maritime boundaries are essential for good international relations and effective ocean management, yet few coastal states have agreed all their maritime boundaries with their neighbours. Part of the reason for this is that boundary delimitation requires a range of specialist legal and technical skills which are not always readily available to governments. This workshop, led by some of the world's most experienced boundary negotiators, is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills required to conclude a successful maritime boundary agreement.



The programme will be structured around a full-day boundary negotiation exercise in which participants will work in teams to resolve a boundary dispute based on a real-world scenario. The course will also include practical instruction on building and preparing a negotiating team, negotiation strategy and tactics, and drafting an agreement.

# Professional Training Workshop

20-22 September 2022 Durham, UK

Price £2640 per person\*\* including accommodation

### **Boundary Demarcation and Maintenance**

Delimitation of a boundary in a treaty is a crucial first step in boundary-making, but on its own delimitation is of limited value. For borderland populations, boundaries rarely have much meaning until they are identifiable on the ground – and it is arguable that it is only when a boundary has been physically demarcated that it can begin to function effectively.

Many of the world's international boundaries have never been made visible on the ground, and many of those that have been demarcated have subsequently become invisible due to inefficient maintenance regimes. Led by an experienced team of tutors and combining classroom sessions



and practical exercises, this unique workshop will assist policymakers and practitioners in developing strategies for the effective demarcation and maintenance of international boundaries in different physical and human landscapes.

# Professional Training Workshop

14-16 November 2022 Paris France

Price £1950 per person\*



### Preparing for Third Party Settlement of Boundary and Sovereignty Disputes

Although it is widely recognised that boundary disputes are best settled through negotiation, there are times when recourse to third party settlement also needs to be considered as an option. This workshop is designed to help governments and their legal advisors to evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of third party adjudication, and to equip them with information and skills to ensure a successful outcome from the process.

Led by highly experienced international lawyers and boundary practitioners, the workshop will offer practical instruction on topics such as:



choice of forum; assembling and assessing evidence; building and managing a team; presenting your case and rebutting your opponent's case.

The workshop will be of value not only to countries currently involved in boundary litigation or arbitration but also to any country seeking to achieve a peaceful boundary settlement with its neighbours.

IBRU is delighted to be running this workshop in partnership with Foley Hoag, which has one of the world's foremost boundary dispute resolution practices.

- \* price does NOT include accommodation
- \*\* price includes 3 nights accommodation at the Durham Marriott Hotel and is inclusive of UK VAT

### To make an enquiry about our workshops, please contact the IBRU Events Team

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1965 Email: ibru-events@durham.ac.uk

Find out more and book online at:

https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-borders-research training-and-workshops/professional-training-workshops/





Borderlines is the newsletter of IBRU, the Centre for Borders Research at Durham University. It has a readership of more than 3,500 boundary scholars, practitioners and enthusiasts around the world.

Since its founding as the International Boundaries Research Unit in 1989, IBRU has been the world's leading research centre on international boundary making and dispute resolution. Today, IBRU brings together work in international boundary law with the geographic study of borders and bordering in the 21st century.

For more information about IBRU visit our website at: https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-borders-research/

#### Contact IBRU

Department of Geography Durham University Durham DH1 3LE United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 191 334 1965 Email: ibru@durham.ac.uk



