

## 4<sup>th</sup> Global Migration Lecture

### **Border Violence: The Case of Melilla**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (18:30-20:00h, CEST)

**Online Lecture via Zoom** – Access will be provided after registration for the event.

Borders are spaces intrinsically invested with a high concentration of state violence or its threat. This constitutive sovereign violence, however, remains mostly hidden and is not actualized through regular border checks. This talk aims at unpacking the citizenship contract that occludes the open deployment of violence, and exposing the ways in which the EU southern borders are, instead, spaces where overlapping forms of violence unfold. Focusing on the case of the so called “fence” around the Spanish exclave of Melilla, on African soil, the presentation discusses three forms of harm that can be related respectively to three different definitions of violence. One is the classical definition of violence as “physical harm” that relates it to the shedding of blood and can be associated to the episodic representation of migrants’ deaths that critical researchers have called “border spectacle”. In second place, and in contrast to that, the notion of “slow violence” developed by Rob Nixon is explored in relation to migrant routes and border related suffering. The third form of violence is epistemic, or symbolic, and re-enacts, both in discourse and in practice, racializing, neo-colonial constructions of African men.

The talk is based on secondary literature and on interviews and observations carried out in Melilla and Nador during a research stay in 2017.

### **Programme**

18:20-18:30 Sign into online video platform

18:30-18:35 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

**Dr Volker Heins**

Affiliate Professor of Political Science at the University of Duisburg-Essen & Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI), Essen

18:35-19:20 **4<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL MIGRATION LECTURE**

**BORDER VIOLENCE: THE CASE OF MELILLA**

**Dr Estela Schindel**

Associate Professor and Academic Coordinator of the Viadrina Institute for European Studies (IFES), Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

**Discussant:** **Dr Bidisha Biswas**

Professor of Political Science, Western Washington University & Senior Research Fellow at KHK/GCR21

**Moderator:** **Dr Volker Heins**

19:20-20:00 Q&A WITH THE AUDIENCE

20:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS AND END OF THE LECTURE

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