“We didn’t cross the border, the border crossed us.”

Nicholas De Genova

Future city: what do security barriers and guards imply?

“One of the readings of [the Central St Martins College of Art and Design, Kings Cross] building is to see it as a future city. To see it as the way cities may be constructed to encourage creative thinking and experimental approaches. That is the TID, Head of Central St Martins.

To imagine an art college as a city, as a future city, as an exploratory space. From Augustus’s City of Campagna (a new form of city). The idea is present, expectant with new possibilities for living, working, in, and reconfiguring of the city in the ‘polis’ – the Greek word for ‘city’ – would suggest, such utopias...”

Luther Blissett, Fine Art Tutor, CSM

Citizen Artist News: Nicholas, you mentioned earlier your research workshop at Goldsmiths College called ‘Migrant Struggles, Policy Futures and the Geographies of Techniques of Bordering.’ In many of the sessions, guest speakers have touched upon the discursive and physical forms of violence, such as incarceration, surveillance, borders. What is your view on the role of border management and control in part due to the involvement of the social sciences and all that this entails. The concept of the ‘Border as a Problem’ has been described by Sarah Melzer in her observation here that being becoming ‘deteriorated’ as Sandra Mezzadra would say, ‘with- out ceasing to invent particular places.’ Mazzarà, as I understand him, sees this as a consequence of a State’s commitment to servicing a particular interest. I have also involved analysing political subjectivity, of which your own work on the political authority of migrants in the US has opened up other ways of thinking about the notion of political subjectivity and ‘belonging.’ And finally, the notion of ‘border’ here has been, I believe, has been raised: a concept used to better understanding the politics of bordering and migration.

Given this rich discourse, I am extremely curious to know what one might understand the University as a border regime. First, I want to ask you that there is something paradoxi- cal about the notion of a group gathering to discuss border management and control in part due to the involvement of the social sciences and all that this entails. The concept of the ‘Border as a Problem’ has been described by Sarah Melzer in her observation here that being becoming ‘deteriorated’ as Sandra Mezzadra would say, ‘without ceasing to invent particular places.’ Mazzarà, as I understand him, sees this as a consequence of a State’s commitment to servicing a particular interest. I have also involved analysing political subjectivity, of which your own work on the political authority of migrants in the US has opened up other ways of thinking about the notion of political subjectivity and ‘belonging.’ And finally, the notion of ‘border’ here has been, I believe, has been raised: a concept used to better understanding the politics of bordering and migration.

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