Case studies in the framework of the research project:

Regional development paths in water supply and treatment in rural Romania

Transterritoriality of legislation: Post-Habsburg phantom borders and national legal traditions

Phantom borders in the geography of voting behaviour in Ukraine

Violence, history, geography: Symbolic and functional topographies of Polish hooligans

Triplex confinium. The city and phantom borders in South-Eastern Europe

Phantom borders in the Central Balkans

New borders – old borders: Symbolic demarcation processes and discourses on alterity in Vojvodina in the 1990s

Urban borders in post-Ottoman cities in Southern Europe. Edirne and Niš from a comparative perspective

Nationalisation processes in Upper Silesia

Members of the "Phantom borders in Eastern Central Europe" research network:

Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin
German-French Research
Centre for Social Sciences

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
Department of History / Chair for
Southern European History

Centre for Modern
Oriental Studies, Berlin

Martin Luther University
Halle-Wittenberg / Department
of History

Contact:

„Phantomgrenzen in Ostmitteleuropa"

Dr. Béatrice von Hirschhausen
Centre Marc Bloch
Friedrichstraße 191, D-10117 Berlin
Tel: +49-(0)30-20 93 70712
phantomgrenzen@cmb.hu-berlin.de

www.phantomgrenzen.eu

PHANTOMGRENZEN

IN OSTMITTELEUROPA

Research network
"Phantom borders in Eastern
Central Europe"

„Phantomgrenzen in Ostmitteleuropa"

www.phantomgrenzen.eu
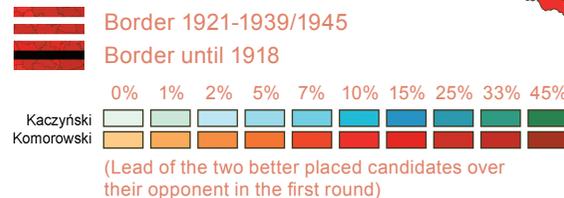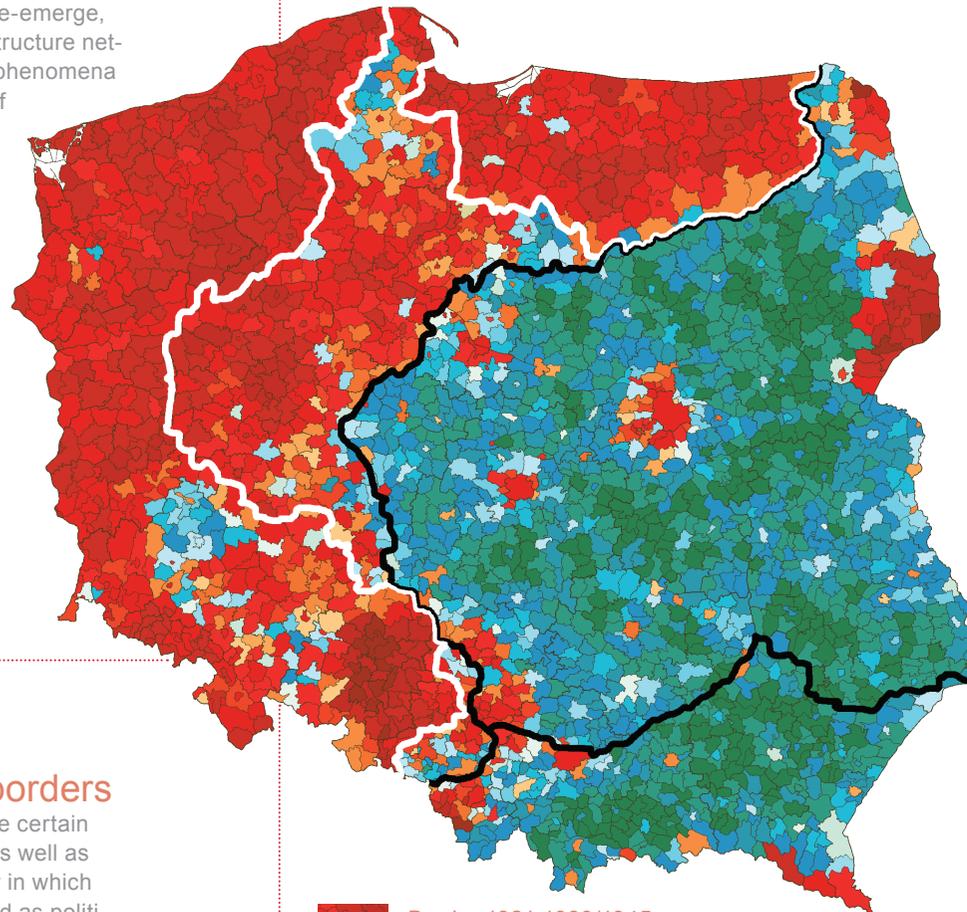
Phantom borders are

former, predominantly political borders that structure today's world. In numerous cases, historical spaces (the Habsburg Empire, Ottoman Empire, the division of Germany and Poland et. al.) persist or re-emerge, such as in form of voting behaviour, infrastructure networks or social practices. These residual phenomena in their various facets are subject matter of investigation for all projects incorporated into the research network for the regions of Eastern Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

Why does the electoral map for the first round in the 2010 Polish presidential election feature strong regional differences regarding election results, thus reflecting not only the impacts of borders that were drawn in the aftermath of the First World War but also of the partitions of the country from the end of the 18th century until 1918?

We understand phantom borders

to be an open model that serves to analyse certain phenomena. Historical long-term effects as well as material and social structures and the way in which former borders were or continue to be used as political instruments are therefore taken into account. The international research network has introduced the term of "phantom borders" into the study of such regional differences, thus aiming to contribute to an understanding of specific characteristics of a region that has been particularly marked by the recent shifting of borders. We analyse different forms of phantom borders: spatial development, legal traditions and cultural or social phenomena.

Electoral map for the first round in the 2010 Polish presidential election

Border 1921-1939/1945

Border until 1918

	0%	1%	2%	5%	7%	10%	15%	25%	33%	45%
Kaczyński										
Komorowski										

(Lead of the two better placed candidates over their opponent in the first round)

Base map: Shilly (http://uselectionatlas.org/FORUM/index.php?topic=106075.135)
Map design: Michael G. Esch

Developing and exploring place and space

Rail and infrastructure networks or urban environments and regional planning provide for material environments capable of surviving political domination. They help to create a local identity, determine both its perception from the outside and its self-conception, as well as to form patterns of behaviour. We aim to find out in which way material heritage and social behaviour are interrelated.

Legislation, standards and institutions

An institutional framework including land registries, bureaucratic processes and also the co-operative and welfare system characterises space. We investigate when and why regional differences in legal traditions, standards and institutions resist national harmonisation processes.

Cultural representations

The ways in which space is structured are conveyed as representations of one's own culture as well as that of other cultures, thus linking them to the political (and material) history of regions. Regional language characteristics, religious and cultural rituals or architectural expressions of local self-images reflect certain historical developments or come to be described as such (by the parties involved). We investigate where and why such spatialisations become effective.

Social behaviour and political instrumentalisation

Policymakers and their conscious or unconscious actions characterise space beyond national borders. Regional and local differences reflecting no longer existing political borders are detected in voting behaviour, demographic developments and also in urban inner logics. Such real yet alleged differences are often exploited and thereby deepened. Through our studies we aim to disclose the historical causes for social fractures.