

Annual Conference of the Working Group Geographical Migration Research of the German Society for Geography

22-23 January 2026 in Esch-Belval, Luxembourg

The annual conference of the Geographical Migration Research working group will take place at the University of Luxembourg from 22-23 January 2026. The topic is **'Borders in migration research - far more than territorial borders?'**.

The temporarily reintroduced border controls, the discussions about the future of the Schengen area and the global rise in nationalism are all evidence of this: Borders are back — politically, in the media and socially. Borders reveal themselves not only as lines, but also as dynamic and conflictual social practices that regulate mobility and supposedly organise affiliation, inclusion, and exclusion.

In geographical migration research, this brings questions of bordering, de-bordering and re-bordering into focus. How, where and by whom are borders drawn, shifted or made permeable? What role do state migration regimes, everyday discrimination and (in)visible exclusion play in these processes? And how can such border formations be researched, analysed and critically questioned?

We invite submissions that address the spatial dimensions of border processes in migration contexts from theoretical, empirical or methodological perspectives. We welcome papers that address borders as material, symbolic and political phenomena at different scales (from local to global). Critical, postcolonial and intersectional perspectives are expressly encouraged.

The 2026 conference will take place in neighbouring Luxembourg, a small yet highly diverse country in the heart of Europe with numerous EU institutions. Nestled between Germany, France and Belgium, Luxembourg is characterised by its border locations and intensive cross-border mobility. With an exceptionally high proportion of people from migrant backgrounds (73.7 % in 2023, STATEC) and a lively multilingualism – with German, French and Luxembourgish as official languages, supplemented by English and Portuguese as important everyday languages – the country offers an exciting environment in which to explore issues related to migration and border geography.

Proposals for traditional papers or alternative presentation formats (please specify format) can be submitted with a title and a short abstract (max. 300 words) to jutta.bissinger@uni.lu and birte.nienaber@uni.lu by 15 August 2025. In addition to contributions on the main topics of borders and migration, we also welcome submissions on other aspects of geographical migration research. While the conference language is predominantly German, contributions in English are expressly encouraged.

We look forward to receiving diverse and exciting submissions!