
Centre for Border Region Studies

CBRS is an international research centre committed to high-quality interdisciplinary studies of borders and border regions in a European context. The centre is located in the Danish-German border region. The setting remains essential in the future, but so does the international dimension in our research. We believe in the necessity to move away from a state-centric understanding of borders and apply a comparative, regional and praxis approach to borders and border regions. This epitomises well with our local approach with a global reach.

In our research, we profit from a broad knowledge of other languages and cultures. Academic publications are the foundation of our research, and we strive towards publishing in highly reputable journals and publishers. We are convinced of the relevance and effect of presenting high-quality research in monographs and anthologies. We are also committed to a stronger effort to seek funding and, in particular, to activate our strong international network to secure grants.

The combination of Border and European studies gives our teaching a unique profile. The cross-disciplinary concept focuses on European borders and regions, and the centre has succeeded in reforming the bachelor programme and making it an attractive English-taught programme for Danish and international students, pedagogically coherent and in line with the competencies of the centre. In the coming years, we will continue to develop the programme and to make our highly motivated students engage with their studies as well as with the extracurricular activities we organise. We also aim to consolidate contacts to practitioners, and we want to improve our relations with regional institutions and companies.

Coming from a tradition of close relations to people and society in the border region, we consider it essential to be in contact with and to share our findings with a broader public. Anchored in a regional, cross-border setting with access to relevant societal stakeholders - politicians, public organisations, civil society, labour market - our production of knowledge is, to a high degree, based on interaction with societal actors, and our competencies enable us to ask relevant questions and deliver a critical political analysis. Borders are a policy instrument of government control, identity, culture, and business. These have a constant impact on daily lives, not only in border regions, which makes it highly important to disseminate the centre's research to politics and civil society.

There is no "one size fits all" approach to societal relevance, and we actively seek influence and dialogue in different fora in regional, national, and European contexts. We have a large experience in monitoring and analysing developments in the border region, and with our high-quality research, we can contribute as key experts with political analyses but also with historical and societal contexts.

Centre for Border Region Studies is dedicated to retaining an inspiring and dynamic research environment, open-minded in regards of methods, research themes and disciplinary boundaries. We consider the location in Sønderborg to be important, and we will continue to maintain and further develop our strong bonds with the region. CBRS profits as a whole from individual networks and excellence, and we strive to create synergies and positive spill-over effects. We consider activities such as field trips of utmost importance for a good working environment, research-wise as well as socially. Finally, we want to focus on recruiting younger talents in the coming years.

Research

| Goal | Actions |
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| To strengthen CBRS' singular role as Danish research centre on the role of borders and border regions in Europe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will further engage in network activities at the department and with national and international partners. • We will have biennial common projects in the research group aimed at publication/special issues. • We will be an active partner in international research networks. • We will organise and participate in relevant conferences and workshops. |
| To develop research collectives and be focused on securing external funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will engage stronger in joint publications inside the research group and with department colleagues. • We will peer review funding applications at group meetings and have at least two annual advanced research applications in border and European Studies (Velux, DFF, Marie Curie, Horizon etc.). • We will engage in a pro-active bid to secure external funding. |
| To produce high-quality research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will increase the number of publications in leading journals and publishing houses. • We will encourage the publication of monographs and anthologies. |

Education

| Goal | Actions |
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| We will consolidate the EUS programme and further develop the synergy between Border Research and European Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will formalize the information exchange among teachers in EUS with end-of- and beginning-of-semester meetings. • We will do an annual seminar on issues of teaching, curricula, and synergies in the EUS programme. • We will encourage our students to organize study-related events on a regular basis • We will reduce drop-out rates by encouraging group activities and offering interesting extracurricular activities. • We will create closer synergies with our alumni (invite successful examples for talks, use them for marketing purposes etc.). |
| We will strengthen the position of borders and EUS on the departmental agenda and further develop contacts with relevant practitioners, stakeholders and potential job possibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will contribute to the department's other graduate and undergraduate programmes with co-teaching of programmes in Odense, becoming course responsible for BS/MA courses, and engage with design and development. • We will give the rest of the department the possibility to teach and participate in the EUS programme. • We will create a network of potential employers facilitating graduates' entry on the labour market by offering internships. |

Societal Relevance

| Goal | Actions |
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| Improve our presence in the public debate and be perceived as the key expert on Danish borders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will engage in developing and updating our homepage and further develop our presence on social media. • We will launch a blog on borders. • We will invest more resources in writing articles for the national press. • We will strengthen relations with journalists and relevant media in order to be more present in radio, TV and leading newspapers. • We will explicitly focus on the societal relevance in research projects. |
| Create awareness that European integration is about borders and border regions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to present border issues to a broader public by writing articles, offering lectures and edit anthologies/publications. |
| Involve societal actors in development of research projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will institutionalise a dialogue with regional stakeholders and be more active in communicating directly with societal actors and practitioners. • We will expand the outreach in the regional setting by inviting and including societal actors and practitioners in future projects on regional issues. |

Work Environment

| Goal | Actions |
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| We want to retain and develop the location of the centre in Sønderborg | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work towards a higher level of common activities at the centre. • We will be active in initiatives to strengthen the synergies and cooperation with colleagues from other departments and faculties in Sønderborg. • We will strive to recruit promising and qualified young researchers in order to develop research activities and facilitate a generational change. |
| Development of synergies and the social climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We aim to conduct common biannual research trips in the future. • The members of the research group are encouraged to organize joint participations in conferences to strengthen the impact of the centre. |
| Emphasize group success | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be better at recognizing individual achievements. • To have an annual follow-up on the goals and actions of the strategy. |