

Title of BIP: Borders & Boundaries: Practices of Categorisation

General information

Objectives and Description:

The “Borders & Boundaries: Practices of Categorisation” BIP focuses on the practices of producing, controlling and resisting categories. Categories are always the outcome of a process of classification, that is the action of tracing a line. This process is crucial as we understand the world and the reality that surrounds us through categories, by distinguishing one thing from another. These very categories which help us make sense of and structure reality, also constrain our very borders & Boundaries: Practices of Categorisation existence. That is to say, our existence is framed by the fact of being defined as “something”: a woman, a worker, an Italian person. Nonetheless, these definitions are never exhaustive of our individuality and agency: we are never only a woman, a worker, or an Italian person. Sometimes we embrace these categories, sometimes we resist or negotiate them. Against this backdrop, this BIP proposes to look at categories and understand them in terms of practice, that is, the process of categorisation defined as the act of bordering, creating a boundary.

The BIP explores three main dimensions of borders and categories:

- i) various dimensions and scales of borders and boundaries, from micro to macro: international and institutional borders, social and individual boundaries;
- ii) the specificity and commonalities of different processes of categorization, such as gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, social class, etc.;
- iii) the epistemological and theoretical frames available to think about borders and categories.

The “Borders & Boundaries: Practices of Categorisation” BIP, entirely taught in English, has an interdisciplinary approach. Its classes will discuss borders, boundaries and categories from multiple angles, including socio-cultural, linguistic, historical and political factors. In line with the mission of the UNITA hub Inclusive Societies, the BIP seeks to reflect on the role of borders and categories to go beyond pre-established social realities.

Methods and outcomes:

The “Borders & Boundaries: Practices of Categorisation” BIP is very appealing for students from several areas in Social Sciences and Humanities, including Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Law, Modern Languages, Geopolitics, International Relations, Geography, Human Geography, Area Studies, and History, but will be of interest to other areas as well, as its themes may also suit the interests, academic profile and background of non-specialists. Given its international and interdisciplinary nature, the “Borders & Boundaries: Practices of Categorisation” BIP aims to foster intercultural and inter-linguistic understanding, comprehension and dialogue between students from different universities and nationalities on a set of issues that concern the lives of all communities at both (inter)national and socio-cultural levels.

Field of Education:

Social Sciences

Target audience / Participants profile:

MA students and PhD students in any area of Social Sciences and Humanities

N° of ECTS issued: 3 ECTS

Language of instruction and requirements:

English: the minimum requirement to apply is English language Level B2. Participants must be students in any field of social sciences and humanities. Applications from students in other disciplines may be considered, but priority will be given to students in the social sciences and humanities.

Dates for physical activity: 29 June – 03 July 2026

Location of physical activity:

Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, Lungo Dora Siena 100, University of Turin, Turin 10153, Italy.

Dates for virtual component:

26 June 2026 and 6 July 2026

Virtual Component Description:

2 online synchronous meetings.

Friday 26 June 2026: morning: online meetings, introduction to the course, general welcome

Monday 06 July 2026: final online meeting: discussion and feedback

Organizing Board

Receiving/Host university:

University of Turin, Italy (angela.zottola@unito.it and julie.abbou@unito.it, in cc unita.students@unito.it ; Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, Javier Gonzalez Diez, Silvia Nugara)

Inter-Alliance Coordination:

University of Saarland, Germany - Transform4Europe European University Alliance

Sending/Partner universities:

P1. University Paris 8, France (Eric Fassin)

P2. Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain (Miguel-Angel Benitez-Castro)

P3. University of Savoie Mont Blanc, France (Emma Bell)

P4. Universität des Saarlandes, Germany (Astrid Fellner and Eva Nossem)

P5. Oxford University, England (Pekka Hämäläinen)

P6. University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada (Elisabeth Vallet)

P7. Università di Catania, Italy (Massimiliano Demata)

And **CNRS** (Karim Hammou)

Detailed programme

1. Planned activities during virtual component:

Friday 26 June, morning: online meetings, introduction to the course, general welcome

Monday 06 July afternoon: final online meeting: discussion and feedback

2. Planned activities during physical component:

Time/day	28/06/2026	29/06/2026	30/06/2026	01/07/2026	02/07/2026	03/07/2026
Morning		Class	Class and workshop	Class and workshop	Class and workshop	Class and workshop
Afternoon	Welcome reception, Olimpia Residence	Class and workshop	Class and workshop	Class and workshop	Class and workshop	Student's presentations

Application procedure

How: Nomination can be sent to unita.students@unito.it

Deadline to apply: 04/05/2026 at 23:59 CEST