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Borders in IR: Reflecting on the Last Decade, Reimagining the Next

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A decade ago, the so-called 'migration crisis' was at the forefront of news media across the globe. As thousands of people arrived on the shores of Europe seeking safety, calls for solidarity and dignity spread across continents. But while, the summer of 2015 became known as the long summer of migration, 2016 signified a long winter of border politics. The erection of border walls within Europe; the election of nationalist and far-right governments; the vilification of the migrant; attacks on solidarity and social movements; and a wider securitisation can be seen as an impact of border politics. While the discipline of IR was called to address these issues, its approach on the border remains limited –despite calls for re-evaluation throughout the years.

This roundtable brings together scholars whose work has largely focused on borders and migration who will reflect on borders in IR during the last decade and will attempt to re-imagine the border for the next. Some of the questions they will try to address are: What lessons have been learnt during the last decade? Why does IR resist a more critical conceptualisation of the border? In what ways can the border be re-imagined and what would it look like in the decade to come?

Track Classification: International Politics of Migration, Refugees and Diaspora Working Group