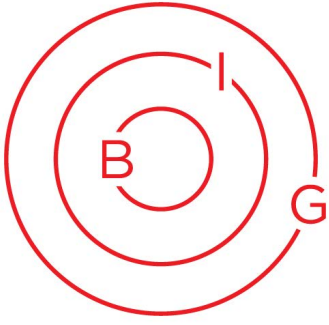




# **BORDERS IN GLOBALIZATION**





**Borders in Globalization Research Project 59**

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**Rohingya Muslims: Citizenship and  
Identity within Myanmar's Borders**

**Devyn Wallenius**



# Rohingya Muslims

## Citizenship and Identity within Myanmar's Borders

Devyn Wallenius / INAF 5402

# Context

- Ethnic divisions manipulated by Burmese leadership (colonial, military) to divide and rule the population
- Muslims in Burma seen as an existential and physical threat to the country
- Constitution provides for formal equality of all citizens
  - BUT: 1982 Citizenship Law prohibits Rohingya from obtaining citizenship



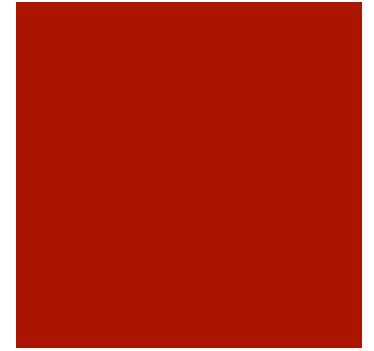
# Research Question

- Case study of Rohingya Muslims in Burma
- If states use borders to protect themselves and the integrity of their territory, how do they respond when the perceived threat to their security and identity is located within their own border?



# Main Ideas / Authors

- Identity politics, territorial identity
  - Myanmar's desire for ethnic/religious homogeneity
  - A. Paasi - Multiple
  - G.H. Herb and D. Kaplan – *Nested Identities: Nationalism, territory and state*
  - D. Sibley – *Geographies of Exclusion: Society and difference in the West*
- Border region, borderland
  - Rakhine state, bordering Bangladesh



# Thesis

- Creation of an internal legal and imagined boundary – similar to an internal “borderland”
- Desire to protect the integrity in Myanmar has led to the current situation of the Rohingya Muslims
  - Citizenship as a geopolitical tool
- Rakhine state as an in-between space at the periphery of Myanmar, bordering Bangladesh



# Limits of Research

- Military dictatorship onwards
  - Excludes period of British and Japanese rule
- Focused on processes within Myanmar
  - Excludes refugees
- Assumption that states retain control over their borders, and that states retain exclusive control over their territory





