



Perimeters and Frontiers: Evolving Border Governance on the Canada- US Border

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Beyond the Border Paradigm

- Border conceived as lines and flows—new emphasis on flows
- Governance involves securitizing flows at the “perimeter” as well as “lines” at the frontier
- Can-US border governance is
 - Aligning policy objectives (BtB Action Plan)
 - Intergovernmental cooperation to accomplish objectives (absence of supranational instit.)

Connecting the Perimeter Border with the Frontier Border

- Governance logics

- Perimeter border – a security regime (control flows and mobilities)

- Frontier (territorial) border—historically situated, embedded in social and institutional networks; Openness and fluidity vital

- Implication of differing scales and logics:

- Distancing of border governance regime from socio-historical circumstances of borderlands?

Challenges for Policy: Mitigating the Impacts of Securitization at the Frontier to Improve Mobility

Region-level innovation to improve border mobility

Cascadia Programs Focused on Border Facilitation

- Trusted traveler programs (PACE, Canpass –precursors to NEXUS)
- Enhanced Drivers License (EDL)
- Harmonization of border infrastructure to trusted programs
 - NEXUS: new marketing, flexible lanes, mobile enr.
 - FAST: infrastructure adjustment; preclearance pilot
- Focus on wait time technology
 - RFID; wait time measurement innovations
- Traffic management protocols for emergencies
- Greening the border innovations

Factors Enabling Governance Innovation at the Region Level

- Incrementalist approach– emphasis is on problem solving rather systemic overhaul
 - High acceptance of security paradigm at national and local levels
 - Projects w/ concrete results create momentum toward future change

Factors Enabling Gov. Innovation Cont...

- Regional cross border knowledge networks
 - Organizations with overlapping interests and members, in close geog proximity to each other (regional cluster concept)
 - Exhibit considerable technical/logistical expertise
 - Independent (from government), neutral facilitation
 - Stable funding
- Private sector involvement
 - Carries weight in governmental circles
 - Brings attention to broader (econ) impacts of securitization policies

Potential New Roles for Subnational Governments

- POEs --vital economic assets for states and provinces.
 - Freight and people crossings concentrated at just a few large ports; N/S corridors vital to subnational economies (trips' start and end points)
 - 13 N.A. POEs (out of 106) handle 85% of truck/rail freight flows; 3 on Can-US border handled 50%+ people flows
 - Tourism vital to state and provincial economies
- Stronger subnational role in managing POEs, and therefore borders? (3 Ps; regional commissions, etc)

Conclusion

- Re-shaped Can-US border in response to global security environment
 - Managing/controlling flows in service of national security objectives
 - Frontiers **not de-pressurized**, but **re-territorialized (as security zones)**
 - Tensions between different scales
 - Perimeter architecture is a highly centralized, technologically driven security regime
 - Frontiers are places where people and economies are joined and divided. They are interactive , cooperative and competitive and presume economic development and social cohesion requirements
- Imperative for border governance-- reconcile these different logics



Thank You.

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