

"Illegal Aliens" and the Inconspicuous Geographies of US Immigration and Border Policing within 100 Miles of the US-Canada Border

Mert Coskan, Carleton University

Legal provisions in the US have extended the idea of the border to the inside of US territory. I look at border policing and bordering practices along the northern border of the United States. Border Patrol Agents confront people in different spaces to inquire about their status. I examine how do border agents exercise power and control the movement of people within 100 miles of the border? And, in whose interest is the border, the “nation,” secured? The spaces in which these mobile borders are practiced become the sites where “citizens” and “aliens” are produced, reproduced and contested. These border-policing practices create the illusion of a “nation” that is secured for “our” interests. However, the interests of these vulnerable groups are not reflected in the immigration policy and along the “border. Therefore the very existence of immigrants and their basic right *to be in* the US is undermined.