



BORDERS IN FOCUS

POLAND, 12 – 16 JUNE 2023



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Since 2021, Poland has seen two radically different approaches to border management. While migrants arriving at the Ukrainian-Poland border encountered fast procedures and a supportive infrastructure, refugees at the Polish-Belarusian border are facing harrowing conditions. When the Belarusian regime transported thousands of refugees to the border, the EU-commission called for “firm” control and Polish state authorities committed to a restrictive migration policy. Since then, humanitarian help for the refugees who are threatened by hypothermia, starvation, or physical injuries, is predominantly provided by activists and civil society organizations. They accuse the Polish administration of carrying out illegal push backs and point out the increasing efforts to intimidate activists and criminalize humanitarian help.

Will other EU outer borders – such as the border to Kaliningrad – see similar developments? How does the management of the Polish-Belarusian border relate to larger discourses on social and physical borders in European societies? How do civil society organizations navigate the terrain between the pressing humanitarian needs of migrants and the increasingly repressing state apparatus? How can public communication about border management resist de-humanizing narratives of migrants and migration?

The **ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius** invites journalists with an interest in these questions to the first “Borders in Focus” seminar. The seminar will take place from 12. - 16. June 2023 in Poland and is part of the ZEIT-Stiftung’s scholarship program Beyond Borders.

Beyond Borders supports research about borders, boundaries, and practices of border management in past and present times. It promotes interdisciplinary exchange in the social sciences and humanities. “Borders in Focus” brings together fellows from the program with journalists to explore how the exchange between scientific and journalistic perspectives may sharpen the analysis of the EU border management. The seminar includes consultations with local experts and civil society organizations as well as excursions to the Polish-Belarusian border region.

Applications from journalists are due May 15th, 2023. Please submit your application via e-mail with a letter of motivation, a sample of your journalistic work and a CV. Attendance of the seminar is **free**. The ZEIT-Stiftung will cover the accommodation and travel cost.

The ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius is a Hamburg based independent charity organization that supports the development of a liberal civil society. The foundation promotes research and scholarship, art and culture, as well as education and training. It also initiates debates on political and social topics and provides forums for digital development. Further investment is aimed at developing a free press in Eastern Europe.

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