

Thinking about Boundaries

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Course description

This class aims at studying a wide variety of boundaries, moral, social, and political. My claim is that to understand political boundaries we need to look at the way we construct, apprehend, and conceptualize boundaries in other areas. We will look at the distinction between sacred and profane or between normal and abnormal; at the way we negotiate and revise boundaries (gender boundaries or boundaries of race, religion, or ethnicity); boundary-rituals and rites of passage; the boundaries of morality; and the boundaries between disciplines.

We intuitively think about boundaries as lines of separation (inside/outside, left/right, sacred/profane, black/white), as markers of disjunction. Some are visible and thick (such as walls), others are discreet and almost invisible (think of the inconspicuous differences between neighborhoods: you hardly notice them, neither on the map, nor on the ground, but they are distinctive). Boundaries also protect and grant rights: individuals are protected by their citizenship status, "the right to have rights" as Arendt puts it (think of the hardships faced by refugees or stateless migrants).

However, while boundaries organize space and separate, boundaries also reflect what two entities have in common ("what color is the line of demarcation between a black spot and its white background?", asks C.S. Pierce). Boundaries connect (borderlands or contact zones), they are relationships. Boundaries are dynamic, flexible, contextual, and change over time (the boundaries of war zones have been revised, territories have been renegotiated). Boundaries are artefacts (think of African boundaries drawn by colonizers and ethnographers, or the straight lines of the US state boundaries: is the Mason-Dixon line a boundary? of what kind?), but they have specific social effects (ascription, exclusion, stigmatization). Boundaries can be crossed (but at what cost?).

In short, boundaries are spaces of encounter, they generate specific practices, and create ambiguous spaces. Art for instance is a marvelous example of boundary-blurring.

Political boundaries are hotly debated, and we will look at the justifications for closed *versus* open borders, specifically regarding democratic border-theory.

We will look at the essence of boundaries with philosophers; the utility of boundaries with sociologists and bible scholars; the deconstruction of our Western understanding of boundaries with anthropologists; we will try to understand spatial boundaries and segregation with scholars of urbanism and architects; track the multiplicity and plasticity of boundaries with cultural studies and post-colonialism; tear down the walls of classes with critical theory; and question political boundaries with scholars of liberalism, democracy, and justice.

Prerequisites: none

Assignments and grading

- 1. Group presentations (2-3 students give a presentation based on the readings)
- 2. Discussion of the presentations (another group of 2-3 discuss the presentation)
- 3. Final (short) paper (based on the presentation, the discussion)
- 4. Bonus for participation in class
- ightarrow every student is required to take part in one presentation, and in one discussion

General outline / Timetable

	Date	Торіс	
1	MO	Introduction #1 Boundaries, bridges and doors	AvB
	18/3		
2	TH	Introduction #2 The original boundary: sacred and profane	AvB
	21/3		
3	MO	Negotiating Boundaries. Insiders and outsiders	
	25/3	Boundary Rituals and thresholds. Purity and danger	
4	TH	Boundaries of intimacy, limits of the body	
	28/3	Boundaries of humanity: the moral circle	
5	MO	The urban fabric of boundaries	
	1/4	Fictional spaces?	
6	TH	Boundaries of democracy (1)	
	4/4		
7	MO	Boundaries of democracy (2)	
	8/4		
8	TH	Conclusion. Boundaries of democracy (3)	
	11/4	Boundaries against the global poor: Emergency, environment and	
		hospitality	

1. Introduction (1): "What color is the line of demarcation between a black spot and its white background?"

General Introduction on conceptualizing (political, social, intellectual) boundaries: dividing, uniting, trespassing.

Readings

- Abbott, A., « Things Of Boundaries », Social Research, Vol. 62, No. 4, Defining the Boundaries of Social Inquiry, 1995, p. 857-882
- Simmel, G., « The Social Boundary », *Theory, Culture & Society*, 24/7–8, London, Sage, 2007, p. 53–56
- Simmel, G. "Bridge and Door", Theory, Culture & Society, 11/1, London, Sage, 1994, p. 5-10
- Schütz, A., "The stranger. An essay in social psychology", American Journal of Sociology, 46/6, 1944, 499-507.
- Sahlins, P., « Natural Boundaries Revisited: France's Boundaries since the Seventeenth Century », *The American Historical Review*, 95 / 5, p. 1423–1451, 1990
- Searle, J. R., Making the Social World, Oxford University Press, 2010, chap.5
- Tilly, C., « Social Boundary Mechanisms », *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, vol. 34, 2004, p. 211–236

2. Introduction (2) The foundational division: sacred and profane

Readings

- Durkheim, E., *The Elementary forms of religious life* (1912), Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, Intro
- Hertz, R., "The preeminence of the right hand. A study in religious polarity" (1909), HAU Journal of Ethnographic Theory, 3/2, 2013
- Arendt, H., Chap. 5 "The Polis and the Household", Chap. 9 "The Social and the Private", in *The Human Condition* (1958), Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1998.
- Vernant, J.P., *Myth and Thought among the Greeks*, Boston, Zone Books (The MIT Press), 2006, chapter 6, "The Pure and the unpure".

3/A. Negotiating boundaries

Required Readings

- Barth, F., *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The social organization of culture difference* (1969). Bergen/Oslo. Universitetsforlaget. London. George Allen & Uwin (Introduction)
- Elias, N., Scotson, J., The Established and the Outsiders, London, Sage, Chapter 7 "Observations on Gossip"
- Merton, R., « Insiders and Outsiders: a Chapter in the Sociology of Knowledge », The American Journal of Sociology, 78, 1, 1972, p. 9–47
- Arendt, Hannah, "Reflections on Little Rock", Dissent, 1959

Further Readings

- Ford, R., "The Boundaries of Race: Political Geography in Legal Analysis", in *The Legal Geographies Reader* 87
- Hall, S. (ed), *Representation: cultural representations and signifying practices*, London, Sage, 1997, Part IV, Introduction, Chap. 1-4. (Nicholas Blomley et al. eds., 2001) pp. 87-104
- Hall, S., « The Spectacle of the Other », in S. Hall (dir.), *Representation: Cultural representations* and signifying practices, London, Sage, 1997

Lévi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques, transl. J. Russel, New York, Criterion Books, 1961

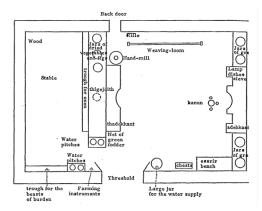
- Loury, G., The Anatomy of Racial Inequality, Cambridge (MA), Harvard University Press, 2002
- Tilly, Ch., « Social Boundary Mechanisms », Philosophy of the Social Sciences 2004, 34/2, 211-236
- Wallman, S., « The Boundaries of 'Race': Processes of Ethnicity in England », *Man*, New Series, vol. 13, n°2, 1978, p. 200-217



3/B. Boundary rituals and Rites of passage

Required Readings

- Bourdieu, P., "The Berber house or the world reversed" (1970), *Social Science Information*, Sage Journals, 9/2, 1970, p. 151-170
- Geertz, C., "Deep play: notes on the Balinese cockfight", *Daedalus*, 134/4; Research Library, 2005.
- Douglas, M., Purity and Danger, London, Routledge, 1996, available here: <u>http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/his/schloesser/HS041-042/fall/w04/resources/DOUGLAS_Purity-</u> Danger.pdf
- "From Rumspringa to Marriage," in Donald B. Kraybill, Karen M. Johnson-Weiner, and Steven M. Nolt, *The Amish*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.
- Clastres, P., Chronicle of the Guayaki Indians (Chronique des indiens Guayaki 1972), trans. Paul Auster, Cambridge MA, the MIT Press, 1998. On the initiation rite (*jaycha bowo*)



Further Readings

Arnold Van Gennep, The Rites of passage, available online at https://archive.org/details/theritesofpassage/page/n2/mode/2up

Illustrations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw70VIx09lg

Ritual

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DdoS-rWb1c

Liminarity

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49VtI3SN9UM

Frazer, J. *The Golden Bough, Study in Religion and Magic*, abriged ed., Chapters 19-22 (Tabooed Acts, Tabooed Persons, Tabooed Words, Tabooed Things), New York, Dover, 2002

Geertz, C., Local Knowledge: Further Essays in Interpretive Anthropology, New York, Basic Books, 1983

Calame, Cl., « Le rite d'initiation tribale comme catégorie anthropologique (Van Gennep et Platon) », *Revue de l'Histoire des Religions*, 220/1, 2003, p. 2-67

Lévi-Strauss, C., The Savage Mind, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1966, Chap. 1, 2, 3

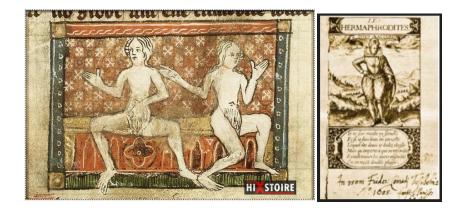
Turner, V., The Ritual process, Structure and Antistructure, AldineTransaction, 1995, accessible online here: https://monoskop.org/images/9/90/Turner_Victor_The_Ritual_Process_Structure_and_

4/A. Boundaries of intimacy, limits of the body

Anti-Structure.pdf

Required Readings

- Barbin, H., Herculine Barbin: Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth-century French Hermaphrodite, intro Michel Foucault, trans. Richard McDougall. New York, Pantheon Books, 1980
- Butler, J., Undoing gender, New York, Routledge, 2004, Chap 2 & 3
- Goffman, E., *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*, Touchstone, 1986, Chapter 4 3the Self and it's Other", p. 126-140
- Barthes, R., The Neutral (1978-79), Columbia University Press, 2005 (Intro)
- Geertz, C., *Local Knowledge, Further Essays in Interpretative Anthropology*, New York, Basic Books, 1983, Chap. 4 (Common sense as a cultural system), p. 73-93



Further Readings

Hall, E.T., The Hidden Dimension, New Yoprk, Doubleday, 1966, Chap. 11

- Latour, B., « How to talk about the body? The normative dimension of science studies », *Body & Society*, vol. 10, n°2-3, 2004
- Malinowski, B., Argonauts of the Western Pacific; An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea, London, Benediction Classics 2010
- Mead, M., Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization, New York, Harper Collins (1928), 2001
- Mead, M., Male and Female, A Study of the Sexes in a Changing World, New York, Harper Collins, 2001
- Philips, A., « It's My Body and I'll Do What I Like With It: Bodies as Objects and Property », *Political Theory*, vol. 39, n°6, 2011, p. 724-748

4/B. Boundaries of humanity: the moral circle (environment / non-human animals, robots) Required Readings (choose your approach)

- Stone, Ch., Should Trees Have Standing?: Law, Morality, and the Environment, OUP, 1972 (classic)
- Coccia, E., The Life of Plants: A Metaphysics of Mixture, Polity, 2018
- Singer, P., "Utilitarianism and vegetarianism", Philosophy and Public Affairs, vol.9, n°4, 1980, p. 325-337
- Coeckelbergh, M., « Robot Rights? Towards a Social-Relational Justification of Moral Consideration », *Ethics* and Information Technology, vol.12, 2010, p. 209-221
- Donaldson, S., Kymlicka, W., Zoopolis : a political theory of animal rights, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013
- Callicott, J., « Moral Considerability and Extraterrestrial Life », in *In Defense of Land Ethics: Essays in Environmental Philosophy*, Albany, State University of New York Press, 1989
- Payson Evans, E., Animal Trials, Hesperus Press Ltd, 2013



Further Readings

- Callicott, J., "Elements of an Environmental Ethic: Moral Considerability and the Biotic Community", Environmental Ethics, I, 1979, p.71-81
- Latour, B., "How to talk about the body? The normative dimension of Science Studies", *Body and Society*, 10/ 2-3, London, Sage, p. 205-229
- Nussbaum, M., Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, Species Membership, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007

Movies

Movie #1 *District 9* Movie #2 *Solaris*

5/A. The urban fabric of boundaries



Required Readings

- Henry Lefebvre, The Production of Space (1991) pp. 26-33, 38-43, 53-57
- Harvey, D., Social Justice and the City: Revised Edition, University of Georgia Press, 2009
- Sennett, R., Building and Dwelling. Ethics for the city, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2018 (Intro)

- Young, I.M., « City Life and Difference », (Ch.8), p. 226-256, in *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, Princeton University Press, 1990

"Cafés instead of seminar rooms", Conversation with R. Sennett, *Raisons Politiques*, 2020/3 N°
79, 93-104, <u>https://www.cairn.info/revue-raisons-politiques-2020-3-page-93.htm</u>

Videos

(Sennett) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3ivQjP4BvM

Further Readings

Douglas, M., « Symbolic orders in the use of domestic space », in P.J. Ucko, R. Tringham, G.W. Dimbleby (eds), *Man, Settlement and Urbanism*, Londres, Duckworth, 1972

Georg Simmel, The Metropolis and Mental Life in ON INDIVIDUALITY AND SOCIAL FORMS pp. 324-339.

- M. Weir, H. Wolman, T. Swanstrom, « Creating Justice for the Poor in the New Metropolis », in Justice and the American Metropolis, C. Hayward, T. Swanstrom (eds.), University of Minnesota Press, 2011, p. 237-256
- M. Weir, H. Wolman, T. Swanstrom, « The Calculus of Coalitions: Cities, Suburbs, and the Metropolitan Agenda », *Urban Affairs Review* 40(6), 2005, p. 730-760 ; 2011.

Max Weber, The City, pp. 71-96 ("The nature of the city").

Michel Foucault, "Questions on Geography" in *Power/Knowledge* 63 (Colin Gordon ed., 1980) pp. 70-73

- Sassen, S., « Old Borders and New Bordering Capabilities: Cities as Frontier Zones », SCIENZA & POLITICA, vol. XXVII, no. 53, 2015, pp. 295-306 **OR** Saskia Sassen, *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*, pp. 3-34.
- Simmel, G., "The Metropolis and Mental Life (1903) in The Metropolis of Modern Life in Levine, D. (ed) Simmel: On individuality and social forms, Chicago University Press, 1971.
- Wirth, L., "Urbanism as a Way of Life", *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Jul., 1938), p. 1-24.

5/B. Addendum: Fictional Spaces and the art of boundaries

Required Readings

- Astrid v. Busekist, Portes et Murs, Paris, Albin Michel, 2016 (Introduction, conclusion)
- Metzger, J., « The Eruv : Can Government Constitutionally Permit Jews to Build a Fictional Wall Without Breaking the Wall Between Church and State ? », *National Jewish Law Review*, IV, 67, 1989, pp. 67-92
- Cousineau, J. (2005), « Rabbinic Urbanism in London: Rituals and the Material Culture of the Sabbath », Jewish Social Studies, 11, 3, pp. 36–57



Video:

https://www.cc.com/video/1jsrl7/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-the-thin-jew-line Exhibits:

- https://www.danikaravan.com/portfolio-item/mythos-ritual-18/

- https://www.timeout.com/israel/things-to-do/defense-lines-maginot-bar-lev-and-beyond
- https://www.lensculture.com/2017-lensculture-borders-juried-show
- Defense lines (on file with professor)

Further readings

- Bechhofer, Y.G., *The Contemporary Eruv: Eruvin in Modern Metropolitan Areas*, BookSurge, 2006 (2^{ème} ed)
- Cooper, D. (1996), « Talmudic Territory ? Space, Law, and Modernist Discourse, *Journal of Law and Society*, 23, 4, 1996, pp. 529–548
- Friedman, M., « Haredim confront the Modern City », in P. Y. Medding (ed.), *Studies in Contemporary Jewry, vol. II*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1986, pp. 74-96
- Schaffir, W. (1995), « Boundaries and Self–Presentation among the Hassidim », *New World Hassidim*, J.S. Belcove–Shalin (ed.), Albany, N.Y., The SUNY Press, pp. 44–45
- Schaffir, W. (2002), « Outremont's Hassidim and their Neighbours : An Eruv and its Repercussions », *The Jewish Journal of Sociology*, 44, 1&2, pp. 56-71
- Schlaff, S.J., « Using an Eruv to entangle the boundaries of the supreme court's religion clause jurisprudence », *Journal of Constitutionnal Law*, 2003, pp. 831-900.
- Searle, J. et Smith, B. (2003), « The Construction of Social Reality. An exchange », American Journal of Economics and Sociology, 62, 1, pp. 285–309
- Smith, B., « On Place and Space : The Ontology of the Eruv », C. Kanzain (ed.), *Cultures : Conflicts Analysis Dialog*, Frankfurt, Ontos Verlag, 2007
- Susman, A.L., « Strings Attached : An Analysis of the eruv under the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act », University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class, vol. 9, 1, pp. 93-134

6. The "boundary problem" (1) Closed boundaries

General/classic

- Agnew, J. « The territorial trap: The geographical assumptions of international relations theory », *Review of International Political Economy*, 1994, Vol.1, n°1, p.53-80.
- Glick Schiller, N., Wimmer, A., « Methodological nationalism, the social sciences, and the study of migration: an essay in historical epistemology », *International migration review*, 2003, vol.27, n°3
- Newman, D., « Borders and Bordering. Towards an Interdisciplinary Dialogue », *European Journal* of Social Theory, vol. 9, n°2, 2006, p. 171–186
- Newman, D., « On Borders and Power: A Theoretical Framework », *Journal of Borderland Studies*, 18/1, 2003, p. 13-25.
- Newman, D., « Those Lines that continue to Separate Us : Borders in a Borderless World », *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 30, n°2, 2006, p. 143-161.
- Sahlins, P., « Natural Boundaries Revisited: France's Boundaries since the Seventeenth Century », *The American Historical Review*, 95 / 5, 1990, p. 1423–1451.



Required Readings

- Blake M., « The right to exclude », Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy, vol. 17, n°5, 2014, p. 521-537
- Miller, D., « Immigrants, Nations and Citizenship », The Journal of Political Philosophy, vol. 6, n°4, 2008, p. 371-390
- Walzer, M., Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality, Basic Books, 1983, Chap. 2 "Belonging"
- Margaret Moore, "Which people and what land? Territorial right- holders and attachment to territory », International Theory, 6/1, 2014, p. 121-140.

Further Readings

- Kymlicka, W., Banting, K., "Is there really a retreat from multiculturalism policies? New evidence from the multiculturalism policy index", Comparative European Politics Vol. 11, 5, 577– 598
- Miller, D., « Immigration: the case for limits », in A. Cohen, C. Wellman (eds) *Contemporary* Debates in Applied Ethics, Oxford: Blackwell, p. 193-206
- Miller, D., « Territorial rights: concept and justification », *Political Studies* 60 (2), 2012, p. 252-268
- Miller, D., « Why immigration controls are not coercive: a reply to Arash Abizadeh », *Political Theory* 38 (1), 2010, p. 111-120
- Miller, D., *National Responsibility and Global Justice*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007 ; S. Huntington, 2004, *Who Are We?*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2004.
- Walzer, M., « Liberalism and the art of separation », Political Theory, 12/3, 1984, p. 315-330

7. The "boundary problem" (2) Open boundaries



Required Readings

- Abizadeh, A., « On the Demos and it's Kin », American Political Science Review, Vol. 106, No. 4 (November 2012), p. 867-882
- Benhabib, S., « Borders, Boundaries and Citizenship », *Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 38, No 4 (October 2005), p. 673-677
- Carens, J., « Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders », The Review of Politics, vol. 49, n° 2, 1987
- Ypi, L., « Justice in Migration: A Closed Borders Utopia? », The Journal of Political Philosophy, vol. 16, n°4, 2008, p. 391-418
- Boudou, B., "A Political Anthropology Of Hospitality", Revue du MAUSS, 2012/2 No 40, p. 267 284 (<u>https://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_RDM_040_0267--a-political-anthropology-of-hospitality.htm</u>)

Further Readings

- The case for open borders, *The New Yorker* : <u>https://www.newyorker.com/culture/annals-of-inquiry/the-case-for-open-borders</u>
- Balibar, E., We, the People of Europe? Reflections on Transnational Citizenship, Princeton, Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2004
- Bauböck, R., « Global Justice, Freedom of Movement and Democratic Citizenship », *European Journal of Sociology*, vol. 50, n°1, 2009, p 1 31
- Bauböck, R., « Morphing the Démos into the Right Shape. Normative Principles for Enfranchising Resident Aliens and Expatriate Citizens », *Democratization* (*Voting Rights in the Age of Globalization*), 22/5, 2015, p. 820– 839
- Benhabib, S., "Another Universalism. On the Unity and Diversity of Human Rights," in *Dignity in Adversity, Human Rights in Troubled Times*, Cambridge, UK and Malden (MA), Polity Press, 2011;
- Benhabib, S., The Rights of Others. Aliens, Residents and Citizens, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2004
- Goodin, R., « Enfranchising All Affected Interests, and Its Alternatives », *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 2007, vol. 35, n°1, p. 40-68
- Newman, D., « Those Lines that continue to Separate Us : Borders in a Borderless World », *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 30, n°2, 2006, p. 143-161
- Oberman, K. « Immigration as a human right », in Fine, S., Ypi, L. (eds.), *Migration in Political Theory : The Ethics* of Movement and Membership, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2016
- Pogge, T., « Migration and Poverty » in R. Goodin, P. Pettit (eds), *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An* Anthology, Oxford, Blackwell, 2005
- Ypi, L., « Justice in Migration: A Closed Borders Utopia? », *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, vol. 16, n°4, 2008, p. 391-418

8. Boundaries against the global poor. Emergency, environment and hospitality

Required Readings

- Butler, J., Frames of War. When is life grievable?, London, Verso, 2010

- Isin, E., Rygiel, K., « Abject Spaces: Frontiers, Zones, Camps », in E. Dauphinee, C. Masters (eds.), *Logics of Biopower and the War on Terror*, Houndmills, Basingtoke, Hampshire, Palgrave, 2007
- Pogge, T., « Migration and Poverty » in R. Goodin, P. Pettit (eds), Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology, Oxford, Blackwell, 2005
- Singer, S., « Famine, Affluence and Morality », Philosophy and Public Affairs, 1/3, 1972, p. 229-243

- Kukathas, C., « Why open borders? », Ethical Perspectives, vol. 19, n°4, 2012, p. 649-675



Further Readings

Arato, J., "Corporations as Lawmakers", Harvard Journal of International Law 56, 2, 2015, 229-295

Beitz, C., « Cosmopolitan Ideals and National Sentiment », *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 80, n°10, 1983, pp. 591-600

Burridge, A., « 'No Borders' as a Critical Politics of Mobility and Migration », *ACME*, vol. 13, n°3, 2014, p. 463-470 Butler, J., *Precarious Life. The Powers of mourning and violence*, London, Verso, 2006

Carens, J., The Ethics of Immigration, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013 (Introduction)

Cole, P., *Philosophies of Exclusion. Liberal Political Theory and Immigration,* Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2000 ;

Doreen Lustig, D., Benvenisti, E., "The Multinational Corporation As "The Good Despot": The Democratic Costs of Privatizing in Global Settings", *Global Trust Working Paper Series* 2013, 1 (2013)

Kukathas, C., « Why open borders? », *Ethical Perspectives*, vol. 19, n°4, 2012, p. 649-675

Nagel, T., « The Problem of Global Justice », Philosophy and Public Affairs, 33 2005, p. 113-147

Pogge, T., « An Egalitarian Law of Peoples », *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 23, n°3, 1994; « Cosmopolitanism and Sovereignty », *Ethics*, vol. 103, n°1, 1992