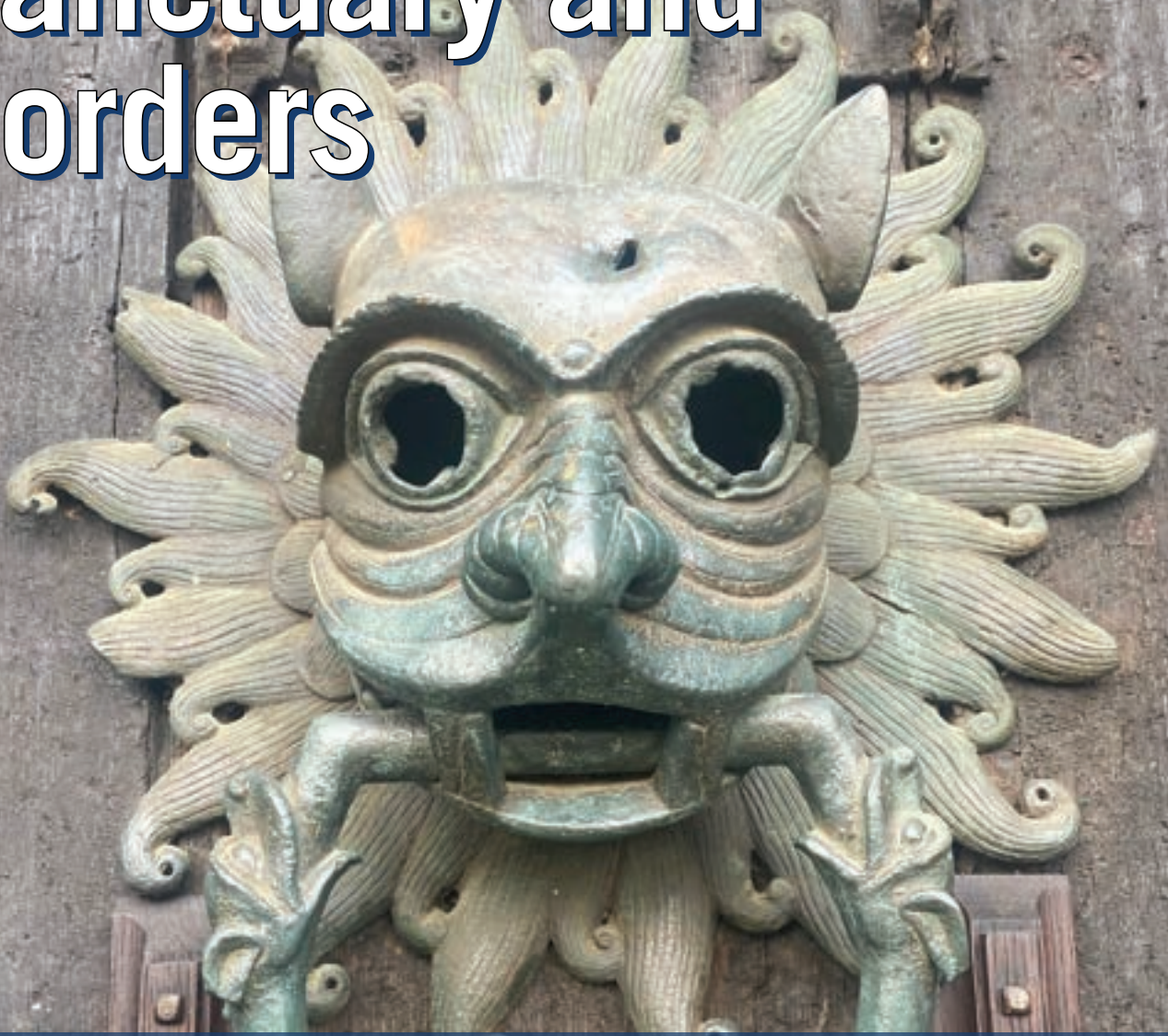


Borderlines

ISSUE 22 • SPRING 2024

NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sanctuary and Borders



The 2024 IBRU
Training
Workshop
Programme

An interview
with the 2023
Milefsky Award
winner



Durham
University

For almost 35 years IBRU has brought border practitioners and scholars to the medieval community of Durham, creating a sanctuary of learning for individuals who, in many cases, are more accustomed to finding each other on opposite sides of a negotiating table or a court room. However, Durham's history as site of both sanctuary and bordering goes back much, much longer. Here, IBRU's Deputy Director Dr Henry Jones expands on Durham's role in advancing the complicated relationship between the border and the sanctuary, from 995 CE to the present.

FINDING SANCTUARY

On the small tidal island of Lindisfarne, 70 miles north of Durham, Celtic monks founded a monastery which became one of the most important centres of early English Christianity. In 793 CE the monks of Lindisfarne witnessed the ransacking and destruction of their monastery by invading Vikings. By 875 CE, the monks had abandoned the monastery on Lindisfarne and travelled as an itinerant community, carrying with them the incorrupt body of St. Cuthbert.



After over a century of itinerance, in 995 CE, the coffin became unmoveable. The monks fasted and prayed, then followed a dun cow to a rocky outcrop on a bend in the River Wear. At this place, the original White Church was built in the centre of what would become the City of Durham. Here, the *haliferfolc*, the people of the Saint, created the Palatinate of Durham bordered by the River Tyne in the north and the River Tees in the south, wherein the Prince-Bishops held powers almost equivalent to those of the King.

OFFERING SANCTUARY

In Durham, the monks of St. Cuthbert not only found sanctuary but also offered it. At the centre of Durham is a large Norman cathedral. On the door of this cathedral is attached an unusual bronze figure. It depicts the head of a lion with a person hanging out of its mouth, the head and feet of this person being bitten by a double-headed snake. The body of the snake forms a ring. This is the Sanctuary Ring. Medieval law provided for a fixed sentence of death for nearly all felonies. Those who were accused could use the Sanctuary Ring to knock on the cathedral door and were offered sanctuary within. Physical, spiritual and temporal borderlines were drawn in this process.

Cover image: *The imposing door knocker at Durham Cathedral.* Image courtesy of Dr Henry Jones

NEGOTIATING SANCTUARY

Opposite Durham Cathedral lies Durham Castle. Its strategic location high on a rock surrounded by a river provided an excellent defensive position. Whilst this region was historically part of the powerful and influential Kingdom of Northumbria, it came to represent the power of the new Norman kings over this region. Built at the end of the Harrying of the North, the castle's primary purpose was to subdue the rebellious Northumbrians under Norman rule, while its secondary purpose was to provide a defence against Scotland. From 1075, the Prince-Bishops of Durham were granted the power to raise armies, mint coins and levy taxes. In exchange for near autonomy, they were responsible for defending England's northern frontier. Prince-Bishops regularly led armies against the Scottish, such as at Falkirk in 1298 and the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346. During the later Middle Ages, Durham Castle became much more of a palace than a military fortification. During the English civil wars, it was used as a hospital and then a prison. It is now part of Durham University, housing one of its colleges.

DENYING SANCTUARY

In 1650, after an English army led by Oliver Cromwell defeated a Scottish army supporting the future King Charles II, around 3,000 young men were taken prisoner and marched to Durham. They were imprisoned in the cathedral. They ate, slept and defecated there. Many died of dysentery. In 2013, Durham archaeologists discovered a mass grave within the cathedral walls, containing an estimated 1,500 bodies. This event profoundly changes the idea of the cathedral as a place of sanctuary, the borders between the secular and profane, as well as reminding us of the real historic force of the border between England and Scotland.

INSTITUTIONALISING THE ABSENCE OF SANCTUARY

Part of the Palatinate status of Durham was a large measure of legal independence. Writs were issued

in the Bishop's name for actions in the Bishop's Court. Durham had its own equitable jurisdiction, and the Durham Chancery courts operated until the 1970s. Justices appointed in the County Palatinate kept not just the King's but also the Bishop's Peace. Records of the court are dated by pontifical years, not regnal, giving the Palatinate law its temporal and jurisdictional borders.

The Chancery building also included a jail, and Durham remains home to a large prison in the city centre, below the castle and cathedral. Built in 1810, it is notorious for housing some of the UK's most high-profile prisoners. Here, executions were carried out up until 1958.

In more recent times, Durham has extended its connection to the absence of sanctuary through the new asylum detention facilities in Hassockfield, which has become the United Kingdom's largest immigration removal centre for women. The Janus-like figure of the asylum seeker, victim for some, source of danger for others, harkens back to the figure of the accused who was once offered sanctuary in Durham Cathedral.

BORDERS AND SANCTUARIES TODAY

Today, borders continue to offer sanctuary to some while denying sanctuary to others. The border remains a space where limits are set, but also where possibilities are dreamed. For over 1,000 years, Durham has played a crucial role in advancing research and practice across the various functions of the border. IBRU is proud to call this medieval pilgrimage site in the northeast corner of England 'home', as well as a sanctuary for all who visit.

A longer version of this essay appeared on the website of the Critical Legal Conference on Sanctuary, sponsored by Durham Law School, September 2023

(<https://criticallegalthinking.com/2023/08/09/critical-legal-conference-2023-sanctuary/>)



An interview with 2023 Raymond Milefsky Award winner Mile Milenkoski

In 2023, IBRU awarded the sixth annual Raymond Milefsky award to Mile Milenkoski, to honour his distinguished career in boundary delimitation and border management in the Balkan region. IBRU's Philip Steinberg interviewed Mr Milenkoski.



You have a background in geodetic engineering and boundary delimitation, but your career has also taken you to diplomacy and the design and implementation of border management policies. How has the technical training that enables you to locate borders assisted you in organising and negotiating their management?

Delimitation itself is by nature complex and multidisciplinary. Diplomacy, international law, geodesy, cartography, history, geography and other sciences and skills need to be involved in order to achieve the desired results. History indicates that the consequences of a mistake made during the delimitation process can be permanent, and sometimes, unfortunately, tragic. Considering my origins are from the Balkans, I don't believe I need to explain the validity of the former statement.

When one moves beyond delimitation to longer-term work on borders, these other bodies of knowledge, beyond cadastre and geodesy, become even more central. The concept of Integrated Border Management (IBM) was established in the Macedonian pearl city of Ohrid, back in 2003. Since then, with the endorsement of the EU, the countries of the Western Balkan region have implemented IBM. In addition to improving cooperation between participating countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally, it has improved interdepartmental cooperation within each country. The goal is to improve border controls, but at the same time to facilitate the flow of people and goods that cross borders legally. IBM has reduced cross-border crime and stabilized border regions.

Much of your work has concerned the role of clearly delimited and managed borders within Europe. Why is the status of borders important to European institutions like the EU and the OSCE?

The approaches to borders that the EU and the OSCE have are essentially different.

The EU is a complicated and carefully constructed structure with a complex policy regarding internal and external borders. There are members that have borders with Turkey, others with Russia, and there are countries that have no external borders. In general, each country has its own priorities and interests in all aspects, including in relation to borders. The cooperation that started modestly and cautiously with the Schengen agreements has led to improved cooperation between the police, customs and consular services. Relinquishing control of one's own borders to partner countries, in the beginning, raised many questions and concerns, but now we have a unique world phenomenon where internal borders throughout the Schengen area are crossed without control, which is one of the greatest achievements of the EU.

The OSCE, on the other hand, prioritises the inviolability of borders and the territorial integrity of states. In a technical sense, within the framework of the

Organization, the focus is on assisting the countries that require support in the area of border management. I will mention one example from my OSCE experience. I moderated a Workshop Session on Delimitation and Demarcation Practices for the OSCE region, 1-3 November 2016, Vienna, Austria. There was great interest from the attendees, including many questions. In fact, I was surprised by the level of interest from representatives of the Central Asian countries, particularly in the details of delimitation and demarcation, as some of them were at the first stage of such processes and some were planning to initiate them. The conclusion was that it is necessary to organize more similar conferences and workshops, due to the lack of modern examples from which positive practice could be learned and applied. Here I would like to offer my personal experience and expertise, where help is needed, especially in the delimitation and demarcation processes, as well as to highlight the role of IBRU, whose workshops have been so helpful to myself and other border practitioners.

As the EU increasingly is challenged at its borders, do you see Europe's borders regime getting stronger or weaker?

The EU is constantly attempting to strengthen the system of external border control to reduce illegal entry and, in recent years, the influx of migrants. More funds are constantly being sought to help solve the essential reasons why people leave their homes and migrate to Europe, and additional funds are sought for countries such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to help them take care of refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Border security cannot be observed separately from other security areas. Cross-border organized crime, smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism are all correlated with external border control policies, but it seems that the activities of FRONTEX in cooperation with other actors in the Border Management system are aimed in the direction of constant strengthening of border control.

And finally, in addition to being an engineer and a diplomat, you're also a published poet. Has your career as a boundary professional influenced your approach to poetry? Has your avocation as a poet influenced your approach to borders?

To be a successful boundary professional, one must be a multidisciplinary person. Ray Milefsky, my teacher and friend, diplomat, polyglot, with great knowledge of cultures and geographies, was such a person. At one of the meetings in Durham we talked extensively about the delimitation of the northern border of North Macedonia, and at our last meeting in Washington DC, about the successfully completed demarcation with Serbia and Kosovo. He knew the details because he was delighted with how the border was made, and he was the author of a "fly-through" visualization of the boundary, which he presented in Skopje.

In 2005, I published a book: *The State Borders of the Republic of Macedonia and Association in the European Union*. I also have two books of poetry in the Macedonian language, one of which was translated into Bulgarian and published in Bulgaria. The third collection of poetry will be published at the beginning of 2024 in Serbia in Serbian language.

Poetry is an imaginary territory without borders, in the essence of which are peace and love in all their forms. Of course, my poetry is not immune to the phenomenon of borders. In my last book, one of the poems is called *The Paradox of Borders*. It expresses that borders separate countries, but there they connect at the same place. At the borders we stop, but at the same time, we continue further from there.

There is a dose of art in making borders and when a Delimitation Agreement is signed, there is a sublime feeling such as when a work of art is born, like beautiful poetry. Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić said: "The purpose of art is to connect the past, present and future, to connect the opposite shores of life, in space, in time and in spirit." Doesn't this remind us of making borders?

Borders in the news 2023

In January, **Vietnam** and **Indonesia** reached an agreement on their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries, paving the way for greater collaboration between the states on overlapping maritime claims.

The people of the **Chagos Islands** claimed their views were being ignored as the Prime Minister of **Mauritius** announced the start of talks with **Great Britain** over the territory's sovereignty.

The United Nations urged guarantor powers of **Cyprus**, **Türkiye**, **Greece**, and the **UK**, to support dialogue and cooperation for the decades-long dispute on the divided island of Cyprus.

Russia's government extended support to a legislative amendment that would classify maps that dispute the country's official "territorial integrity" as punishable extremist materials.

China and the **Philippines** agreed to set up a direct communications channel between their foreign ministries on the South China Sea to handle disputes peacefully.

The National Boundary Commission of **Côte d'Ivoire** joined forces with **Ghana's** Boundary Commission to combat illegal mining activities.

Singapore officials were confident that there will be "significant progress" in resolving outstanding bilateral issues with **Malaysia** in the near future.

Malta granted an exploration licence to an oil company to carry out geological studies in two disputed areas. The licence is for offshore areas with competing claims by Italy and Libya. The two areas cover 18,000sq.km on a part of Malta's continental shelf that includes the Medina Bank.

Russia said it would not hold annual talks with **Japan** on renewing a pact that allows Japanese fishermen to operate near disputed islands, saying that Japan had taken anti-Russian measures. The islands, off the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido and known in Russia as the Kurils and in Japan as the Northern Territories, have been at the core of decades of tension.

In February, an alleged spy balloon spotted over the **USA** was claimed by **China** to be a "civilian airship" which had deviated from its planned route. US defence officials said they believed the balloon, seen above sensitive areas, was in fact a "high-altitude surveillance" device.

South Sudan accused **Kenya** of a 'land grab', igniting a boundary row that risked derailing trade between the two nations. South Sudan claimed that Kenya had illegally taken 42 different points along its Borderline at Nadapal, a settlement on a key crossing point and trade routes between the two countries.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) set 2 May 2023 for **Belize** to file its Memorial in the dispute with **Honduras** regarding sovereignty over the Sapodilla Caye. Honduras was given until 4 December 2023 to file its counter Memorial.

Jordan hosted a meeting between top **Israeli** and **Palestinian** officials aimed at halting surging violence, and to seek to defuse tensions which were fuelling concern of a wider escalation.

Singapore agreed to temporarily suspend development plans and reclamation activities on an island that had been in dispute with **Malaysia**, until both countries had finalised their maritime boundaries.

Recommendations were made by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) on **Russia's** extended continental shelf in the **Arctic**,

and **Russia** quickly followed up with a response to the CLCS recommendations.

In March, **Argentina** asked the **United Kingdom** to restart negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands / Islas Malvinas, which is the latest chapter in Argentina's long-held claim over the British-run islands, located in the South Atlantic about 600 kilometres from the Argentine mainland.

Sudan and **Ethiopia** agreed to accelerate efforts to end the border dispute and reactivate trade between the two countries. Bilateral relations and border demarcation were both discussed in talks.

The **Ghana** Boundary Commission and its counterpart in **Burkina Faso** started the process to reaffirm the boundary between the two countries including the restoration of deteriorating boundary pillars to their former state. Work started on pillar restoration in mid-March.

Kuwait and **Iraq** held a round of legal and technical talks as they looked to end a maritime boundary dispute which, if resolved, could spur economic development between the two states.

Kyrgyzstan and **Tajikistan** said they were close to finding a permanent solution to their longstanding border dispute, a legacy of their Soviet past. Both countries stated that all border delimitations would be completed by May 2023.

Japan recounted its islands and discovered it has 7,000 more than previously thought. Digital mapping by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) recently found there to be 14,125 islands in Japanese territory, more than double the figure of 6,852 that has been in official use since a 1987 report by Japan's Coast Guard.

China's dispute with **Japan** over tiny Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea escalated, with both sides accusing the other of infringing on their maritime territory. China says the islands belong to it and refuses to recognize Japan's claim to the uninhabited chain known as the Senkakus in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. Taiwan also claims the islands, which it calls Diaoyutai, but has signed access agreements for its fishermen with Japan and does not actively take part in the dispute.

Ghana reaffirmed its ties with neighbour **Côte d'Ivoire**, in spite of the maritime boundary dispute outcome that favoured Ghana. The International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), in its judgement of 2017, granted Ghana all of its claimed maritime territory, including extensive offshore oil and gas fields. The ruling upheld the boundary line claimed by Ghana and rejected that proposed by Côte d'Ivoire.

In April, the Prime Minister of **Bhutan** stated that negotiations on the tri-junction issue at Doklam -- a junction point on the border between **India**, **China** and **Bhutan** -- must be done with India's involvement, expressing his belief that Bhutan would be able to demarcate some of its boundaries with China in a "meeting or two". Visits to India were planned to take place in 2023.

The **Netherlands** and **France** approved a treaty that defines the exact demarcation of the border between French St. Martin and Dutch St. Maarten, which would bring an end to a long-time dispute about the border on the Caribbean Island which was initially established in 1648.

Nigeria and **Cameroon** announced they are planning to establish a cross-border world heritage site for the protection of endangered species such as gorillas, chimpanzees, lions and elephants native to both countries.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered its Judgment on the preliminary objection raised by **Venezuela** in the case concerning the Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (**Guyana v Venezuela**). The court found in Favour of **Venezuela**.

Finland began the construction of a border fence on the border with **Russia** after the Nordic country joined NATO as the 31st member of the military alliance.

Greece and **Türkiye** announced they would be willing to start talks on the disputed area in the Mediterranean Sea, which includes a dispute over competing energy rights in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean seas.

Indonesia claimed that fishing vessels from **Vietnam** had been spotted conducting illegal fishing in the waters of the North Natuna Sea despite the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) demarcation between the two states.

Japan filed a protest with **Russia** over its military drills near their disputed islands. The military drills were taking place close to the disputed islands near Japan's Hokkaido.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) issued its judgment on the **Mauritius'** maritime boundary dispute case against **Maldives** on April 28. The dispute concerns a territorial boundary issue that Mauritius had filed with the tribunal. The hearings for this case were concluded last year, and in April 2023 ITLOS delimited a single maritime boundary for the exclusive economic zone (the "EEZ") and continental shelf within 200 nautical miles ("nm") between the two States. Although ITLOS unanimously upheld jurisdiction to delimit the continental shelf beyond 200 nm and found Mauritius' request admissible, they did not proceed with delimitation, finding it was unable to determine Mauritius' entitlement in the Northern Chagos Archipelago Region.

In May, **Belize** met the International Court of Justice's deadline to file a Memorial in the dispute with **Honduras** over the sovereignty of the Sapodilla Caye, 15,618 hectares of territory, which has been a national environmental reserve in Belize since 1996.

In July, The International Court of Justice handed down its Judgment in the case concerning the Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 Nautical Miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (**Nicaragua v. Colombia**). The court found in favour of Colombia and that Nicaragua's offshore rights to 200 nautical miles (370 km) had previously been established, and rejected its call to extend the boundaries.

Iraq rejected a proposed demarcation of borders and maritime areas between **Iraq** and **Kuwait**. Iraq said, however, that the border talks would "continue through various technical committees".

In August, **Vanuatu** said a boundary issue with **France** could be resolved before the end of the year. The dispute is over two southern islands held by New Caledonia, but southern Vanuatu chiefs and politicians say they are sacred to the ni-Vanuatu people.

Egypt, **Ethiopia** and **Sudan** resumed their years-long negotiations over the controversial dam Ethiopia is building on the Nile River's main tributary.

The **Nigeria-Cameroon** boundary dispute committee identified the displacement of a vital international pillar, 113A, in the demarcation of the boundary between the two neighbouring countries, particularly in the Bijua and Danare communities of Boki. It was identified

that the absence of the pillar posed a significant existential threat, as it could lead to the ceding of vital areas of Nigeria to Cameroon.

In September, the **Philippine** coastguard removed a "floating barrier" installed by **China** in a disputed area in the South China Sea, calling it a "decisive action" in "upholding international law" having deemed the barrier posed a hazard to navigation and hindered the conduct of fishing and livelihood activities of Filipino fisherfolk.

The **Venezuela-Guyana** dispute over the 160,000-square-kilometer (62,000-square-mile) region of Essequibo, administered by Guyana, escalated in September 2023 with Venezuela announcing a referendum scheduled for 3 December, asking their people to "vote to ratify the defence of their sovereign territory". Guyana objected to a number of the questions to be asked of the Venezuelan people in the referendum and asked the ICJ to intervene. The ICJ subsequently set 14 November 2023 as the date for holding public hearings into Guyana's request to block a number of questions in Venezuela's referendum. Venezuelan voters subsequently rejected ICJ jurisdiction over the dispute. The Presidents of the two states met in December in an attempt to 'de-escalate the conflict and institute an appropriate dialogue, face-to-face'.

In October, **Singapore** and **Malaysia** had talks to hopefully develop a border economic zone, in a sign of a 'collaborative' boost to ties between the two states.

Further changes were made to **Russia's** continental shelf in the **Arctic** in October to reflect the third revised submission that Russia made to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), on 30 October 2023. This submission was made in response to a CLCS recommendation from February 2023 that excluded the Gakkel Ridge from Russia's extended continental shelf. In the October revised submission, Russia submits further geological evidence for including the Gakkel Ridge and adjacent basins as part of Russia's extended continental shelf.

In November, **India** and **Bhutan** agreed on several new initiatives to bolster collaboration in trade, technology, and cross-border connectivity, including a survey for the first rail link between the two sides to be built with Indian support.

Ghana and **Togo** collaborated to fully operationalize the Noepe-Akanu border checkpoint which will handle customs, immigration, and security operations, facilitating the free movement of goods and people across the border.

Cambodia looked to collaborate with **Thailand** for the renegotiation of a Joint Development Area (JDA) focused on oil and gas exploration within the 26,000 square km Overlapping Claims Area (OCA).

In December, the **Philippines** summoned the **Chinese** ambassador over the latest incidents in disputed waters, denouncing the use of water canons by Chinese ships against Philippine ships in what the Philippines determines to be their EEZ.

The **USA** released a statement in December, affirming that it recognised the extended continental shelf regime detailed in Article 76 of UNCLOS as customary international law and announcing the limits of its continental shelf, using the criteria detailed in Article 76. The USA announced that it would file these limits with the CLCS upon accession to UNCLOS and also that it was 'open' to filing its submission as a non-party to UNCLOS.

Professional Training Workshops

IBRU's unique boundary training programme has been running since 1996, attracting over 1,600 participants from 123 countries around the world. Our professional training workshops are led by teams of expert tutors and provide a relevant combination of background theory and practical application in an informal teaching environment. Numbers are limited to maximise interaction between tutors and participants so we advise you book early to guarantee your place.

Professional Training Workshop

8-10 May 2024
Bangkok, Thailand

Price £2,250 per person*
Developing country price per person: £1,250*

River Boundaries

Three quarters of the world's international land boundaries follow rivers for at least part of their course. In addition, nearly 300 river basins are shared by two or more states. Both the definition of river boundaries and the management of shared rivers generate a multitude of legal, technical, and functional challenges, for which no instruction manual has yet been written.

This unique course is designed to help governments and boundary practitioners develop effective strategies for turning river boundaries and international rivers into assets rather than a source of friction between the riparian states. Led by expert tutors with extensive practical experience of resolving problems associated with shared rivers, the workshop will cover issues such as: defining and demarcating river boundaries; identifying key river features such as the *thalweg*, the 'main channel' and the 'banks'; islands in boundary rivers; monitoring and accommodating physical changes in river boundaries; managing access and resource use in shared rivers; and resolving disputes over river boundaries and international rivers.

The workshop will combine instruction in the principles and practice of river boundary definition and management, detailed case studies and practical exercises.



Professional Training Workshop

11-13 September 2024
Durham, UK

Price: £2,625 per person**
Developing country price per person: £1,625**

Maritime Boundary Delimitation

Clearly defined maritime boundaries are essential for good international relations and effective ocean management, yet few coastal states have agreed all their maritime boundaries with their neighbours. Part of the reason for this is that boundary delimitation requires a range of specialist legal and technical skills which are not always readily available to governments.

Combining lectures, discussions and practical exercises, IBRU's most popular workshop helps participants develop the skills needed to achieve an equitable division of maritime space and clearly defined maritime boundaries.



Professional Training Workshop in partnership with Foley Hoag

6-8 November 2024
Paris, France

Price £2,250 per person*
Developing country price per person: £1,250*



International Boundary Dispute Resolution

International boundaries continue to be a major source of friction between neighbouring states. Many land boundaries remain poorly defined and only just over half of the world's potential maritime boundaries have been even partially agreed. Governments recognise the value of clearly-defined boundaries, yet the political, economic and social complexities of boundary regions often make resolving competing territorial and jurisdictional claims extraordinarily difficult.

Led by experienced boundary negotiators, technical experts and legal advisors, this workshop will provide advice and practical guidance on how to resolve international boundary disputes. Through a combination of lectures and practical exercises, the course will first explore how to overcome deadlock in boundary negotiations. Recognising that an equitable agreement cannot always be reached through negotiations, the workshop will also examine the options of dispute resolution involving third-party mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication.

IBRU is delighted to be running this workshop in partnership with Foley Hoag, which has one of the world's foremost boundary dispute resolution practices.



* price does NOT include accommodation and is not subject to VAT.

** price includes 3 nights accommodation.

A limited number of discounted places are available for attendees from countries classified by UNCTAD as 'least developed'.

To make an enquiry about our workshops, please contact the IBRU Team

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1965 Email: ibru@durham.ac.uk

Find out more and book online at:
www.durham.ac.uk/ibru

Online Training Course

IBRU's online training courses complement our world-renowned professional training workshops. They feature IBRU and Durham University academics, as well as invited expert guest practitioners, and provide broad introductions to core topics in international boundaries. They are a great way to learn more about specific topics or simply refresh your knowledge in areas where you may already have some experience. They can be taken on their own or in preparation for attending one of our more focused, practitioner-led, face-to-face workshops. IBRU's online courses are designed to be completed at your own leisure, at a time and place convenient to you.

Online Training

Price £215 per person

£100 for students/academics

Introduction to International Boundaries: Definition, Delimitation and Dispute Resolution

International boundaries are a major source of friction between neighbouring states. Many land boundaries remain poorly defined and fewer than half of the world's potential maritime boundaries have been fully agreed. Governments recognise the value of clearly defined boundaries, yet the political, economic and social complexities of boundary regions, as well as the details of topography and history, often make resolving competing territorial and jurisdictional claims extraordinarily difficult.

This online training course provides a simple, contextual overview of international boundaries and the practical measures that can be taken to resolve international boundary disputes. Through a series of short online lectures and a final practical exercise, the course explores the relevance of borders and looks at land and maritime boundary disputes, before covering methods available for dispute resolution.

The videos can be watched in your own time and will be available for review as long as your licence is active. You will not need to complete the course in one go but can fit it around your schedule as required.

This course is available in both English and French

To book your place on the online course please visit our website and follow the instructions.

Seeking nominations for the 2024 Raymond Milefsky Award

The Raymond Milefsky award is now in its seventh year and has highlighted the excellent work being conducted all over the world by boundary scholars and practitioners.

Ray Milefsky was a frequent tutor at IBRU workshops and a great supporter of IBRU's mission of encouraging peaceful settlement of border disputes through education and research. Ray was one of the leading lights of border studies community and he was kind enough to endow an annual award, to be administered by IBRU, to honour a leading border practitioner.



Specifically, the award is for an individual or organisation who:

- Has advanced knowledge of boundary-making or cross-border cooperation, OR
- Has implemented a programme over that past year that has contributed substantively to boundary-making or cross-border cooperation. The awardee will receive an award of £745, as well as a profile in the next edition of *Borderlines*.

IBRU is requesting nominating letters of no more than one page in length. They should briefly detail what the individual or organisation has contributed to boundary-making or cross-border cooperation, and how they meet the criteria noted above. Self-nominations are permitted.

Nominations should be sent to IBRU's email address (ibru@durham.ac.uk) and must be received by **30 July 2024**.

Selection of the awardee will be made by a committee consisting of the members of the IBRU Steering Community, plus one external representative.

For more information, including instructions on how to apply, visit the IBRU website.

New discounted prices for professional training workshops

In 2024, IBRU will be offering 10 places per professional training workshop to delegates from the 45 countries who appear on the 'UNCTAD Least Developed Countries (LDC) List', at a reduced cost.

The full list of eligible countries can be found at: <https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>



Places will be restricted to 2 places per LDC per workshop at this reduced rate. Any additional places will be available at the full cost price. Places will be available on a first come first served basis, subject to availability.

Please get in touch with the IBRU team to find out more about the LDC offer.

JRV Prescott Student Scholarship Programme



Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of international boundaries scholar JRV Prescott, IBRU is pleased to offer a scholarship programme to support attendance by early career researchers and practitioners at IBRU professional training workshops.

IBRU will award the annual Prescott Fellowship to one deserving individual who is studying for or has completed in the last 5 years, to attend an IBRU training workshop.

The annual Prescott Fellowship recipient will receive a full waiver of workshop registration fees (typically around £2,250) as well as access to up to £250 to offset costs associated with travel and subsistence.

For more information, including instructions on how to apply, visit the IBRU website.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for the Scholarship by 31 May 2024.



Borderlines is the newsletter of IBRU, the Centre for Borders Research at Durham University. It has a readership of more than 3,500 boundary scholars, practitioners and enthusiasts around the world.

Since its founding as the International Boundaries Research Unit in 1989, IBRU has been the world's leading research centre on international boundary making and dispute resolution. Today, IBRU brings together work in international boundary law with the geographic study of borders and bordering in the 21st century.

For more information about IBRU visit our website at: www.durham.ac.uk/ibru



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