

## Keynote 2

Astrid M. Fellner

### **The Border Turn in Literary Studies: Border Poetics and Figurations of Border Crossings**

This talk will focus on the role borders have played in literature. Showing how writers have engaged in the negotiation of borders through aesthetic practices, I will argue that the border has become an important paradigm in literary studies. Border figurations have especially become important in narratives of migration and cultural crossings. As I want to show, the newly emerging field of Cultural Border Studies offers theories and methods with which to approach these border narratives. Tracing a series of theoretical concerns and concepts which have been used in order to theorize borders, I will focus on the concept of *bordertextures*, a concept whose genealogy is rooted in conceptualizations of the border as a hybrid zone of inter-woven and continuous existences. Most crucially, *bordertextures* entail the creativity and the energy that emerges from subaltern subject positions. They engage what Walter D. Mignolo has called “border thinking” and have the potential of offering a powerful tool for the analysis of alternative forms of knowledge, which often rest hidden in border narratives, and which can be carved out through decolonial readings of these texts.