

# IMAGINARY BORDERS

SPATIAL SUBVERSION  
& CULTURAL RESILIENCE

DESIGN REPORT  
HEITOR LAFORGA





# Acknowledgements

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**MA Design for Change**

IADT | Institute of Art, Design and Technology

# Abstract

This thesis embarks on an exploration of borders, specifically focusing on imaginary borders, as multifaceted lenses through which human experiences intersect and diverge. Shaped by prior college projects and personal background the study delves into the complexities of migration narratives, resilience, and adaptation. In a globalised world marked by unprecedented mobility, the study seeks to unravel borders not only as territorial demarcations but as dynamic entities influencing daily lives.

Precarity, synonymous with uncertainty, frames the context of the research problem and addresses the need to comprehend the cultural dynamics giving rise to imaginary borders, with a specific focus on the historical repercussions of European colonisation and the phenomenon of ethnic islands.

Expert interviews offer insights into Dublin's urban development, spatial planning, and cultural ge-

ography. The experts discuss real estate speculations, private sector dynamics and the city's historical colonial legacy. The interviews anticipate future challenges, including climate refugees, the rise of far-right sentiments, and the development of a cosmopolitan Dublin.

The study's objectives include investigating the cultural significance of imaginary borders, understanding the historical repercussions of European colonisation, exploring factors contributing to border formation and erasure, and analysing ethnic islands' manifestation in Dublin; subjective, dispersed, and reflective of the city's historical context. The study aims to contribute nuanced insights into the interplay between historical legacies, urban development, and cultural borders.

Driven by a personal desire to understand the power of borders in shaping societies, the researcher aspires to produce a thesis reflecting intellectual rigour and

empathy. The study envisions laying the foundation for potential PhD research and promoting positive change through design.

In conclusion, this thesis provides a comprehensive examination of borders, emphasizing their role as transformative agents in the context of migration and Dublin's urban fabric. The research contributes to a nuanced understanding of cultural dynamics, offering recommendations for inclusive and harmonious spaces in the face of historical injustices and contemporary challenges.

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In the kaleidoscope of human experiences, the phenomenon of borders emerges as a multifaceted lens through which individuals, cultures, and communities intersect and diverge. My journey into the exploration of borders has been deeply influenced by both previous college projects, and personal experiences, converging on a focal point that sparked curiosity and interest in borders and imaginary borders. This thesis serves as a testament to the point where academic pursuits, shaped by a prior project on an overlooked migrant community living in Dublin, my own voyage as a migrant and international student, and another manifestation of precarity intersect each other.

Once involved in the complexities of migration, I found narratives of resilience, adaptation, and strength. This experience acted as a trigger, sparking a profound interest in understanding the role of borders not merely as geographical demarcations but as dynamic agents actively shaping the lives of those who cross them.

My personal journey ran into the broader narratives of mobility and transition. Living at the crossroads of cultures and still being able to find much of my own culture and people, 9000 km away from home, made concepts of identity, belonging, and the ever-evolving concept of familiarity gain a new meaning. Therefore, Dublin became at some point in the research the focal point of investigation; busy streets, people from everywhere, whole communities coexisting inside the same borders and leaving marks on the same urban space. Dublin, serves not only as a geographic threshold but as a conduit through which cultural identities and narratives happen.

In the backdrop of a globalised world, characterized by unprecedented mobility and interconnectedness, the new age of migration demands a nuanced exploration of borders. Beyond their conventional role as territorial boundaries, borders emerge as dynamic entities influencing the everyday lives of individuals. This study seeks to unravel borders under a new perspective and a historical legacy lens, offering insights into how they act as transformative agents, and manifest under different contexts.

### **The Charrette**

From “In what ways does the concept of borders affect the sense of belonging, identity, and decision-making of individuals engaged in migration processes?” to “How can we understand cultural identity issues and imaginary borders stemming from historical European sovereignty?”.

The Charrette, or better saying, the workshop was designed to be a performance in facilitation and an experience that blended research, experiential activities, and group discussions. The workshop aimed to touch specifically the perception and personal experience of the participants with the subject in a sort of fellowship approach, and check a mandatory box of the MA programme in the primary research context.

The group consisted of 8 undergrad students from 2 different years, all enrolled in the Business Management programme, Irish nationals and an even age range. Looking at the team as one is keen to point a “reserved” and somewhat apathetic attitude, with exceptions, but still very prone to collaborate under request.

As the workshop facilitator with previous experience in the role, an effort was made to navigate towards a desirable outcome, making adaptations, when necessary, even though not all were entirely successful. Trying to take advantage of the participants’ strengths and

bring the subject close to their niches, was the main strategy throughout the activities.

Without expecting any solutions or recommendations, the preferable outcomes of 2 days of work were strictly related to the further development and shape of the research topic (point of success) and raise relevant discussion and consciousness among the participants.

Considering the results and outcomes, there was not much gathered for further use in the proposed research or as stakeholder insight. Despite the frustration in this sense, belief is held that the group itself was not the central issue. Rather, it had more to do with circumstances, including individual backgrounds, the mandatory nature of participation, the perceived disconnect with the subject matter and especially the conceptual and intangible nature of the research topic.

Cultural dimensions of border-making and border-crossing, and the implications for the freedom of movement. The research project aimed to explore the cultural dimensions of border-making and border-crossing, investigating how imaginary borders affect the cultural experiences and aspirations of individuals and communities when migrating. Examining how borders are imagined, represented, contested, and the relationship between frontiers, decision-making, and migratory flux.

The workshop and subsequent review of notes yielded a few relevant observations. While they may not include useful primary research

on the theme, they did succeed in shaping the research topic and its scope. In summary, the experience served as a dynamic platform for self-reflection, illustrating the incapability to manipulate the original scope of the project in the current context and scenario.

The topic was narrowed down to an investigation of the cultural identity issues as products of borders and a straightforward study of these same borders under the determinant factor of looking at both as potential results of European sovereignty, a colonial heritage.

### **Precarity, the Status Quo**

Precarity is synonymous with uncertainty and unpredictability, particularly 'the unpredictability of terror' (Ettlinger). Manifesting itself in various ways: violence and abuse, authoritarianism, various forms of surveillance, ecological disasters, cultural deprivation and social cohesion.

**According to the UN's World Migration Report 2022, the global number of displaced people increased from 84.8 million in 2019 to 89.4 million in 2020, representing approximately 1.1% of the world's population.**

The movement of people across national borders has become a central issue in global politics and culture, with significant implications for human rights, social justice, and economic development.

Migration, beyond its demograph-

ic implications, is a dynamic force that intimately intertwines with global systems, contributing to the precarious nature of our reality and is now more than ever fuelled by rising economic inequalities. Borders, both physical and imaginary, stand as tangible (and intangible) markers of this phenomenon, reflecting the complex web of socio-economic, political, and environmental challenges that individuals and communities face on a global scale.

The experience of migration often arises from precarity itself, individuals seeking refuge from economic instability, political unrest, environmental crises, and unsettling urges to find something. These movements across borders underscore the vulnerabilities inherent in our interconnected world. The physical act of crossing a border becomes a powerful metaphor for the resilience and adaptability required in the face of uncertain circumstances and on some level resistance to being absorbed by the system.

World precarity, exacerbated by fac-

tors such as inequality and social change, intersects with migration in multifaceted ways. It is not merely about the movement of people; it is about the underlying conditions that drive these movements and the narratives and realities drawn by them. The problem underlying this re-

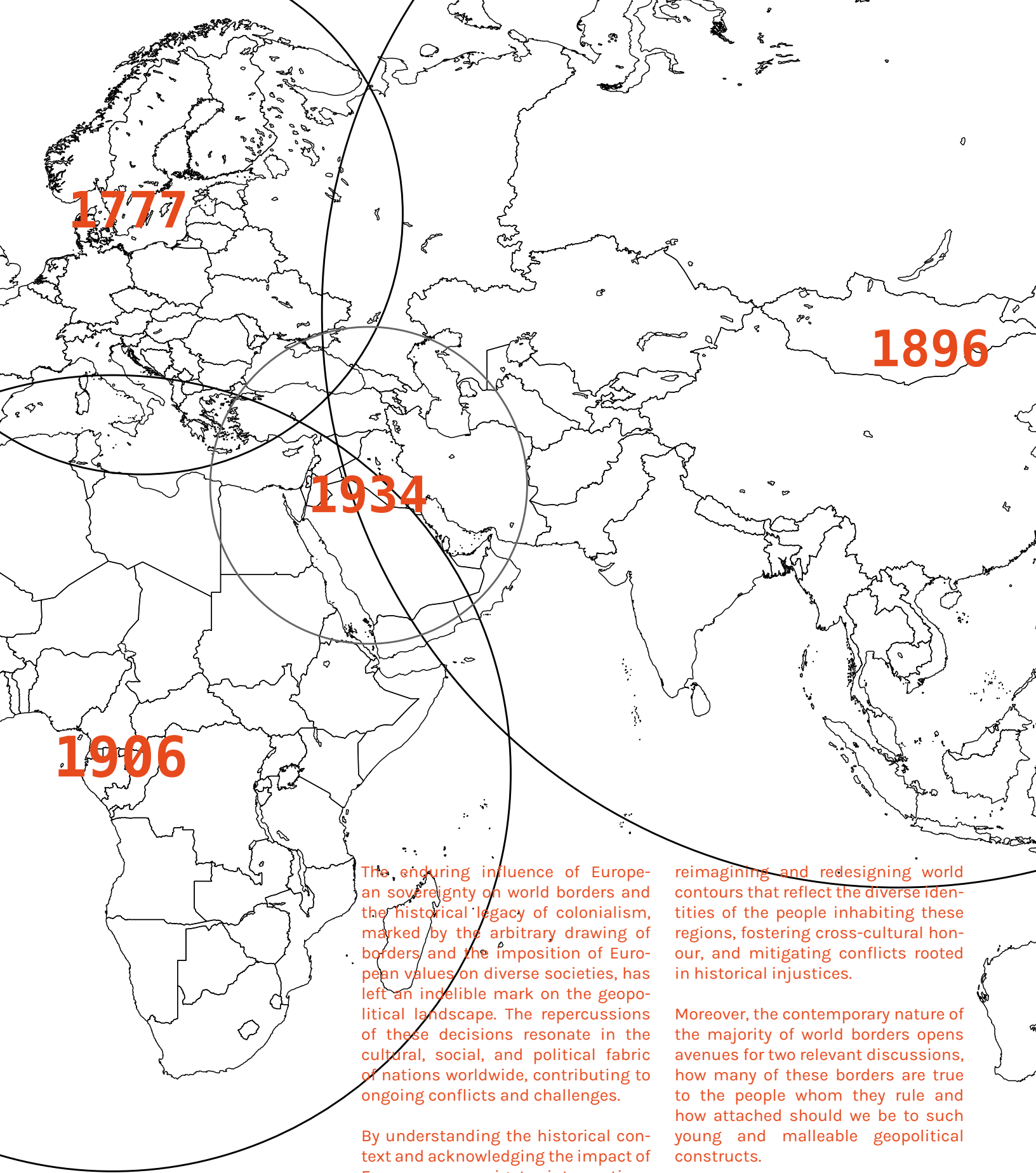
search is backed up by the need to comprehensively understand the cultural dynamics that give rise to (imaginary) borders, focusing specifically on the historical repercussions of European colonisation in the world borders. The initial research question, “How can we understand cultural identity issues and imaginary borders stemming from historical European sovereignty?” has evolved to address a more specific inquiry: What are the intricate factors and historical, social, and economic dynamics contributing to the establishment and sustenance of ethnic islands?

This research problem encapsulates the challenge of unravelling the complexities inherent in the formation of these ethnic enclaves, examining how historical European sovereignty has left a lasting imprint on the urban landscape and has manufactured and erased different boundaries.

The rationale lies in the need to develop a critical and nuanced understanding of how imaginary borders are constructed and how they play out in the urban fabric. Research has focused on the legal, economic, and political aspects of border control and migration management. This project seeks to contribute to the human and cultural aspects of knowledge, examining how borders are imagined and experienced.



Numbers represent the average age border by region, Western Europe, Asia, Middle Eastern, Africa, North America, Central/South America



1777

1896

1934

1906

The enduring influence of European sovereignty on world borders and the historical legacy of colonialism, marked by the arbitrary drawing of borders and the imposition of European values on diverse societies, has left an indelible mark on the geopolitical landscape. The repercussions of these decisions resonate in the cultural, social, and political fabric of nations worldwide, contributing to ongoing conflicts and challenges.

By understanding the historical context and acknowledging the impact of European sovereignty, interventions can be recommended and contribute to the creation of more inclusive and harmonious spaces. This may involve

reimagining and redesigning world contours that reflect the diverse identities of the people inhabiting these regions, fostering cross-cultural honour, and mitigating conflicts rooted in historical injustices.

Moreover, the contemporary nature of the majority of world borders opens avenues for two relevant discussions, how many of these borders are true to the people whom they rule and how attached should we be to such young and malleable geopolitical constructs.

## Objectives

The study aims to investigate the cultural significance of imaginary borders and the role they play for foreign communities/individuals residing away from their homeland.

As Dublin serves as the focal point, the research further delves into the unique context of the city, arrangement and background (European city but still the capital of a colonised nation), how ethnic islands or equivalent flourish in Irish lands, why do they do so and how they manifest themselves in Dublin.

By accessing the cultural dynamics of these spaces, the study aims to contribute nuanced insights into the complex interplay between historical legacies, urban development, and the cultural manifestation of borders as an agency.

## Personal Objectives

I am driven by the desire to understand the phenomenon of borders in the context of immigration as an individual whose life is deeply influenced by my origins and historical heritage. My primary aim is to elucidate the power that borders weave in shaping societies, particularly the cultural and sociological impacts they impose. Through this introspection, I hope to better understand how these borders influence my perceptions, interactions, overall worldview and livelihood.

# 01

Understand the Historical Repercussions of European Colonization on Imaginary Borders: Investigate the historical legacy of European colonization and its influence on manufacturing and erasing different boundaries.

# 02

Explore the Factors and Dynamics Contributing to the Formation and Erasure of Borders: Identify and analyse the intricate historical, political and economic factors as well as agencies related to the cultural significance of borders, addressing their role in the maintenance of the system as known.

# 03

Analyse the Manifestation of Ethnic Islands as an Imaginary Border in Dublin: Investigate the representation of ethnic islands within the urban fabric of Dublin and to the foreign communities to which they are linked.

In crafting a piece of work for my thesis I aspire to produce a body of knowledge that I am genuinely proud of – a work that reflects not only intellectual rigour but empathy. I envision my project laying the foundation for potential PhD research and showcasing the relevance of my work as a professional whose impact can promote change by designing for good.

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To ensure the validity and reliability of the research findings, triangulation was employed, combining knowledge from multiple sources (authors, experts and governmental agencies) and methodologies. Regular revision exercises were also conducted to acknowledge and mitigate potential biases, envisioning the credibility and trustworthiness of the study.

My position as a researcher inevitably shapes the lens through which I perceive and interpret the data. My background, experiences, and perspectives may influence the framing of research questions, the selection of methodologies, and the interpretation of findings. I recognise the importance of reflection and strive to be aware of and transparent about my own biases throughout the research process. I acknowledge that despite diligent efforts to minimise biases, unintended biases may still be present. It is my responsibility as a researcher to recognize these limitations and to encourage future researchers to approach the topic and my own work with a critical perspective.

Ethical considerations were of the greatest importance throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants (where interviews were conducted), foremost ensuring confidentiality and anonymity stories were crafted to communicate any other informal insights gathered from stakeholders during observations and immersive visits. Based on the content and research focus of this thesis, and the fact that it does not target any specific at-risk or vulnerable group, ethical approval wasn't necessary.

The aim of this project is not to provide an in-depth description of personal understanding, but rather to gain a deeper understanding of the topic at hand, as I gain knowledge myself as the writer. Standard approval has been obtained from the relevant programme chair, and the study adheres to all essential ethical guidelines expected in academic research.

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The concept of borders, their existence, and the question of why they exist and how they were created is multifaceted, drawing on diverse perspectives from academics across different specialities.

Historically, the creation of borders can be traced back to territorial disputes, conquests, and treaties. In a review of the seminal work "Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992", the emergence of the modern state system is argued to be twisted with the use of coercion to define and defend borders (Tilly). Wars, he says, played a crucial role in shaping the boundaries of nation-states.

**"In an anthropological spirit, then, I propose the following definition of nation: it is an imagined political community - and imagined as both inherently limited and sovereign." (O'G 5)**

Anderson and his exploration of nationalism shed light on how the concept of the nation-state, often marked by clear borders, was socially constructed. Imagined as a community with shared values and identity, the nation-state required distinct territorial demarcations, therefore the concept of borders is nothing but a social tool of belonging reassurance.

Political geographers, such as Neil Smith and David Harvey, emphasize the geopolitical aspect of borders. On one side the concept of "territorialisation" underscores how borders are central to the organization of political power (Smith). Neil argues that states use borders not only for defence but also as instruments of control and governance. On the other hand, the idea of "spatial fix" delves into the role of borders in managing capital and economic resources. Borders, in this approach, are strategic tools in regulating the movement of goods, labour, and capital, reflecting the economic interests of nation-states and reinforcing their power (Harvey). With a similar argument but in a different academic field, sociologist reinforces the idea of borders as a tool for regulation and dominance, this time taking the symbolic representation of social cohesion, imposing mastery

over people not only capital (Durkheim).

Critical scholars challenge traditional views on borders and stem different approaches to the agency. "Territory, Authority, Rights," explores the role of global cities and transnational networks in redefining traditional notions of territoriality (Sassen). The concept of "scapes" in "Modernity at Large" emphasises the deterritorialisation of cultures, suggesting that borders are not only physical but also cultural and imaginary constructs (Appadurai).

John Ruggie, an international relations expert, has explored the role of states in creating and maintaining borders. He proposes the concept of "embedded liberalism" in "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change" suggesting that the establishment of borders is linked to the creation of regimes that govern international economic relations (Ruggie). These regimes, reflecting the interests of powerful states, contribute to the delineation of a nation's frontiers, border policies and agreements.

## Policies and Construction of Borders

The legal frameworks governing policies and the delineation of borders exhibit considerable diversity and substantial variations across countries and regions globally. These frameworks are intricately shaped by historical, political, and geographical factors, thereby encapsulating the distinctive interests and priorities of each sovereign nation.

On a global scale, salient aspects of the legal frameworks of border delineation can be identified, with a particular emphasis on immigration laws as the most tangible policy regulating the entry and residency of foreign nationals. Additionally, international agreements, come in various forms, including bilateral, regional, and multilateral treaties.

### Immigration Laws

The historical trajectory of immigration laws is crucial for understanding their evolution. Early immigration policies were often linked to economic needs, that said the formation of these policies has been always subjective to the context of state-building processes.

The legal frameworks underpinning immigration laws are critical for assessing their impact on the human experience. Explorations of the tension between state sovereignty and the protection of migrants' rights within international legal frameworks in "The Legal Practices of International Migration" raise questions about the balance between national security concerns and the obligation to uphold human rights principles.

While imperative for national governance, these laws also underscore potential drawbacks such as the reinforcement of stereotypes, the fostering of discrimination, and occasional restrictions on the benefits of cultural diversity. Immigration laws are scrutinised through the lens of social justice in "Rights Across Borders" (Jacobson). He argues that restrictive immigration policies can

perpetuate social inequalities, creating a hierarchy of rights based on nationality. Peggy Levitt posits that migrants may still encounter challenges in fully integrating into host societies, accessing services, and experiencing social inclusion even when receptive immigration laws are in place (Levitt), adding to the discussion proposed by Jacobson questioning until what point policies of open borders are enough.

Contemporary debates often revolve around issues like refugee resettlement and changes in their Temporary Protected Status (TPS). These designations often prompt debates over whether individuals should return to their home countries or be granted more enduring solutions, with decisions frequently made irrespective of individual case particulars or time considerations. In a distinct context, policies regulating voluntary relocation come under scrutiny, particularly selective immigration policies based on wealth, nationality, education, and skills. Such policies face criticism for perpetuating socio-economic inequalities, favouring specific demographics, and instigating brain drain in home countries. This opens up

the discussion to the argument that these policies can even contribute to the formation of illegal migrant streams (Massey).

From social analyses to methodological examinations of human rights implications, there are ongoing discussions about the role of immigration laws in shaping societies, economies, and individual lives. As migration continues to be a defining feature of the contemporary world, the current literature agrees on the necessity of revising immigration laws to meet evolving challenges and ensure social justice.

### International Agreements

Scholars often trace the evolution of international agreements to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, which marked the beginning of the modern state system. The Westphalian order laid the foundation for the negotiation and ratification of treaties between sovereign states.

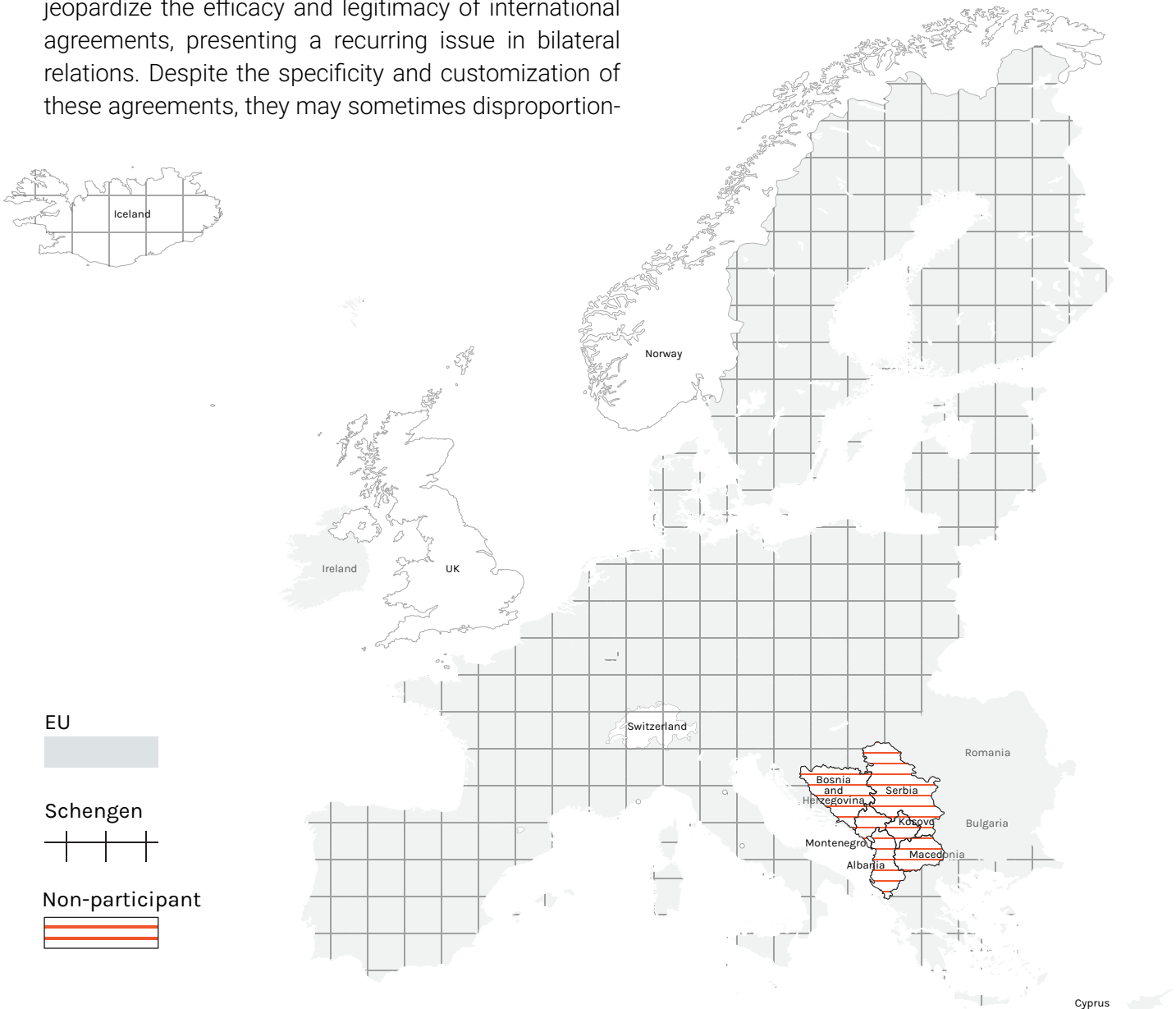
Anne-Marie Slaughter's work, "A New World Order," examines the emergence of a new form of global governance through networks of agreements and institutions. Her idea lies in the potential of these

networks when addressing issues which cross national borders and are beyond the capacity of a state individually (Slaughter). An example of this is the Kyoto Protocol which signifies collaborative efforts to tackle cross-border environmental challenges and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights treaties. Multilateral agreements such as those generally possess a global or regional scope, the European Union (EU), through the Schengen Agreement, is illustrative of regional cooperation and an evolution of different treaties over time.

A central theme in the literature revolves around power dynamics during negotiations and the unequal distribution of benefits. The concept of structural power, as delineated in "States and Markets," emphasizes how powerful states shape the terms of agreements in their favour (Strange). These power imbalances frequently jeopardize the efficacy and legitimacy of international agreements, presenting a recurring issue in bilateral relations. Despite the specificity and customization of these agreements, they may sometimes disproportion-

ately favour the dominant party involved. Critics, exemplified by David Kennedy in "The Dark Sides of Virtue", contend that such practices can lead to the formulation of international laws that perpetuate global inequalities, exacerbating problems instead of resolving them (Kennedy).

Issues such as the uneven distribution of benefits, the potential for human rights abuses due to border enforcement, and the influence of power dynamics must be scrutinized. Moreover, it is pertinent to note that while these agreements benefit the involved nations, they can cast a shadow upon neighbouring nations excluded from these arrangements.



## Manifestation and erasure of borders

Borders, once perceived as immutable markers of territorial demarcation, are undergoing a transformative evolution in the realm of strategic design. The manifestation of borders is no longer confined to physical barriers alone; instead, it encapsulates a multifaceted interplay of socio-political, economic, and technological factors. Borders have become multifaceted imaginary constructs.

Conversely, the erasure of borders is a compelling aspect to be addressed particularly in the context of global integration initiatives and economic interests. This involves understanding how policies, regulations, and identity constructs contribute to the delineation of spaces, impacting communities and individuals. One noteworthy example is the European Union (EU) and the Schengen Area. The Schengen Agreement has dismantled internal borders among member states, fostering a sense of unity and interconnectedness.

This erasure of physical borders facilitated the free movement of people but has also created a new border under the presence of a new authority, the European Commission. Through the dynamic landscape of global events, political, and economic integration the EU's evolution presents itself as a mark of shifting geopolitical tides. From its foundational treaties to the expansion of member states and the establishment of a potency, we witness the manifestation and erasure of a continent's borders. It's consid-

ered a progressist step towards collaboration and unification inside Europe, despite the initial ideals, a shift in the past few years underscores neoliberalist tendencies and fundamentally capitalist arrangements as seen through the trade agreements with big economic potencies since the mid-2010s.

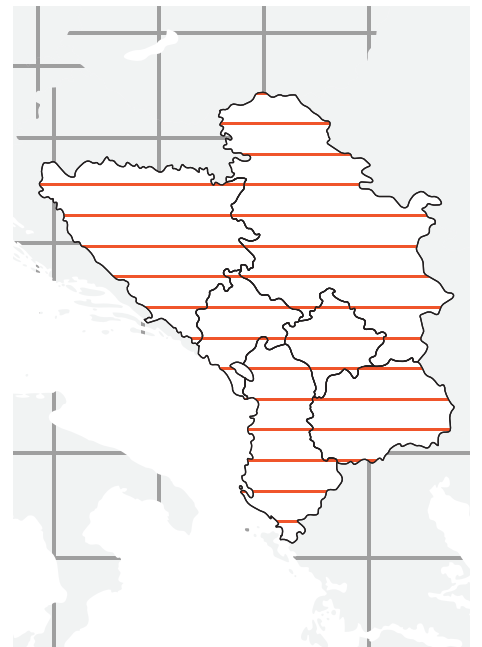
Despite the economic aspects, the openness expected within the rise and evolution of the EU (and Schengen Area) seems to have the opposite effects in the European landscape, over 30 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, member states have constructed more than 1000 km of walls and fences across the continent. "Edifices of fear, both real and imaginary, are being constructed everywhere fuelling a rise in xenophobia and creating a far more dangerous walled world for refugees fleeing for safety." (Benedicto and Brunet).

## Europe has now more than the equivalent of 6 Berlin Walls in its territory.

The contemporary landscape presents a paradox where, on one hand, we witness the continued manifestation of borders driven by political and economic powers, far-right ideas, and antimigration movements, on the other, the erasure of borders propelled by the pursuit of unity, that's still harmful to excluded nations.

Balkan area, showing Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania and Serbia.

Countries so far excluded from EU and Schengen agreements for not meeting "economic criteria". Area surrounded by sea in one side and EU nations elsewhere.





### **Mechanisms and Tools of Border Reinforcement**

In the century of peace that followed the Napoleonic Wars, there was minimal state intervention in migration practices. During this time, working individuals who desired to cross borders had generally the freedom to do so. There were few to no governmental limitations on international migration, everyone had the freedom to travel, reside, and work in any location of their choosing without encountering obstacles based on nationality.

## **The European era of practical internationalism was at its peak.**

The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) played a crucial role in shaping the European order after the wars. Governments began to see the need for better control over movement, and passports as we know today started being issued to a broader segment of the population, including merchants and other travellers.

Often considered simple travel documents, passports wield significant influence over individuals' global mobility and play the role of a symbol of power. The Henley Passport Index reveals a stark global disparity, illustrating how citizens from certain countries benefit from visa-free travel, economic opportunities and even safety reassurance under extraordinary situations such as humanitarian crises and natural disasters while others face extensive restrictions. This mobility hierarchy is deeply intertwined with socio-economic inequalities, shaping a global landscape of disproportional distribution and access to education, employment and cultural exchange. Such discrepancies reinforce existing power dynamics and contribute to social injustice on a systemic scale.

Aligning with the influence and power of different passports, visas are official endorsements or stamps affixed to these first ones, granting the holder permission to enter or stay in a foreign country for a specified purpose and duration. By requiring individuals to obtain a visa before travelling, countries can assess the eligibility and intentions of visitors. This control is a key aspect of the security facet of borders, allowing the screening

of applicants for potential security risks, criminal backgrounds, or ties to illicit activities. Practice that became especially common after the events of 11th September 2001.

The visa system is also designed to deter illegal immigration. By establishing legal channels for entry and requiring individuals to submit themselves to a formal application process, countries aim to reduce the incentive of illegal border-crossing, as the legal footprint and grating of a visa affects directly the access to different services and work market. Despite this, Visa Waiver Programmes have become a common convention as part of diplomatic efforts and agreements. These programmes allow citizens to enter determined countries, mediate treaties, without a visa for short and long stays or undergo visa processes within the destination country after arrival, e.g. Ireland's concession of Student Visas.

The use and requirement of passports and visas are only necessary faces to the existence of the tangible barriers to be crossed, the manifestation of the prior concept of borders itself, world walls and fences. Beyond controlling migration, these barriers create symbolic divisions among communities. This 'walling off' contributes to an "us versus them" mentality, fostering distrust and mining shared identities. Communities displaced by these partitions often find themselves residing in areas along the same borders, referred to as borderlands,

**creating opportunities for the exploitation of vulnerable individuals and a distinct dynamic of power and insecurity, again manifestations of precarity are perceived.**

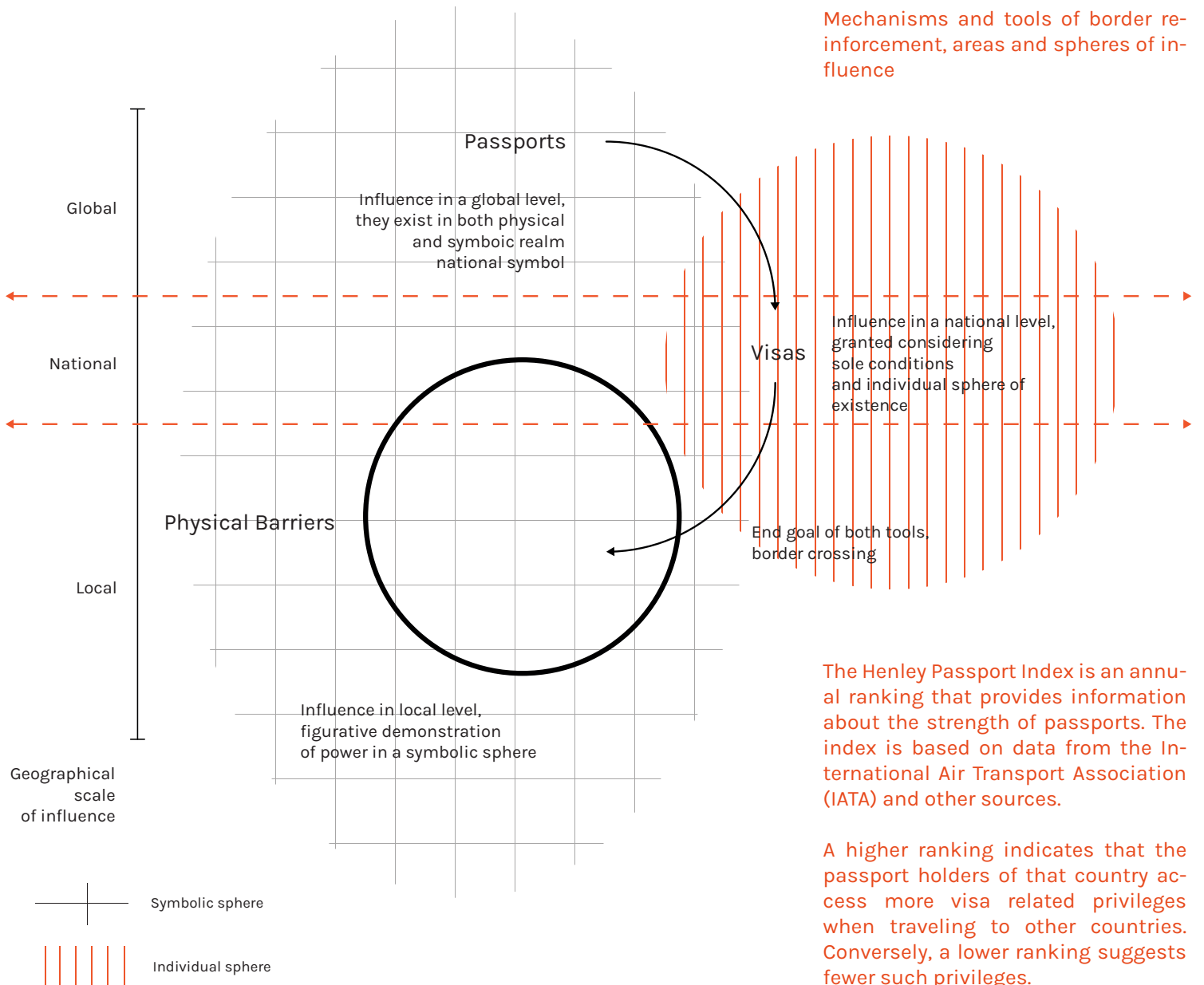


All three mechanisms operate within an interconnected dynamic, exerting influence across three distinct spheres of perception. Geographically, passports, visas, and physical barriers impact the mobility, experiences and realities of communities and individuals, manifesting across a spectrum ranging from local, national and global, overlapping here and there. E.g. A passport influences someone's international mobility but in a national scenario doesn't stand for anything rather than an identification document.

Symbolically, physical barriers and passports share a common function, presenting themselves as a reflex of a nation's sovereignty and its corresponding political

and economic influence. Although within different settings as one symbolises borders to be crossed and the latter the opportunity to do so.

Lastly, visas exert a more personalized influence, significantly affecting individuals on an intimate level, as they are granted considering factors beyond macro-level aspects such as nationality. Pertinent aspects include reasoning, economic standing, ethnicity, and class, all of which contribute to the nuanced determination of visa outcomes.



The Henley Passport Index is an annual ranking that provides information about the strength of passports. The index is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and other sources.

A higher ranking indicates that the passport holders of that country access more visa related privileges when traveling to other countries. Conversely, a lower ranking suggests fewer such privileges.

The following map uses the Marker representation excluding from it all 12 main European colonisers. United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Norway and Belgium.

Leeward Hawaiian Is.



Guadalupe Is.  
Alijos Rocks  
Revillagigedo Is.



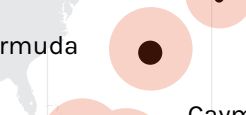
Line Is.



Clipperton Is.



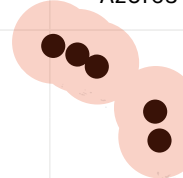
Bermuda



Sable Is.



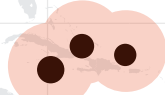
Azores



Madeira  
Savage Is.



Cayman Is.  
Navassa Is.  
Swan Is.



Cape Verde



Liberia

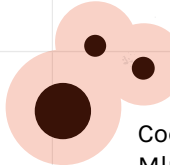


Sao Pedro &  
Sao Paulo Is.



Princi  
Sao T  
Annol

Coco Is.  
Mipelo Is.  
Galapagos Is.



Fernando de  
Noronha



Ascension



Desventuradas Is.



Juan Fernandez Is.



Trindade &  
Martim Vaz



St. Helena



Pitcairn Is.



Tristan da C  
Gough Is.



Falkland Is.



Bouvet Is.



Peter I Is.

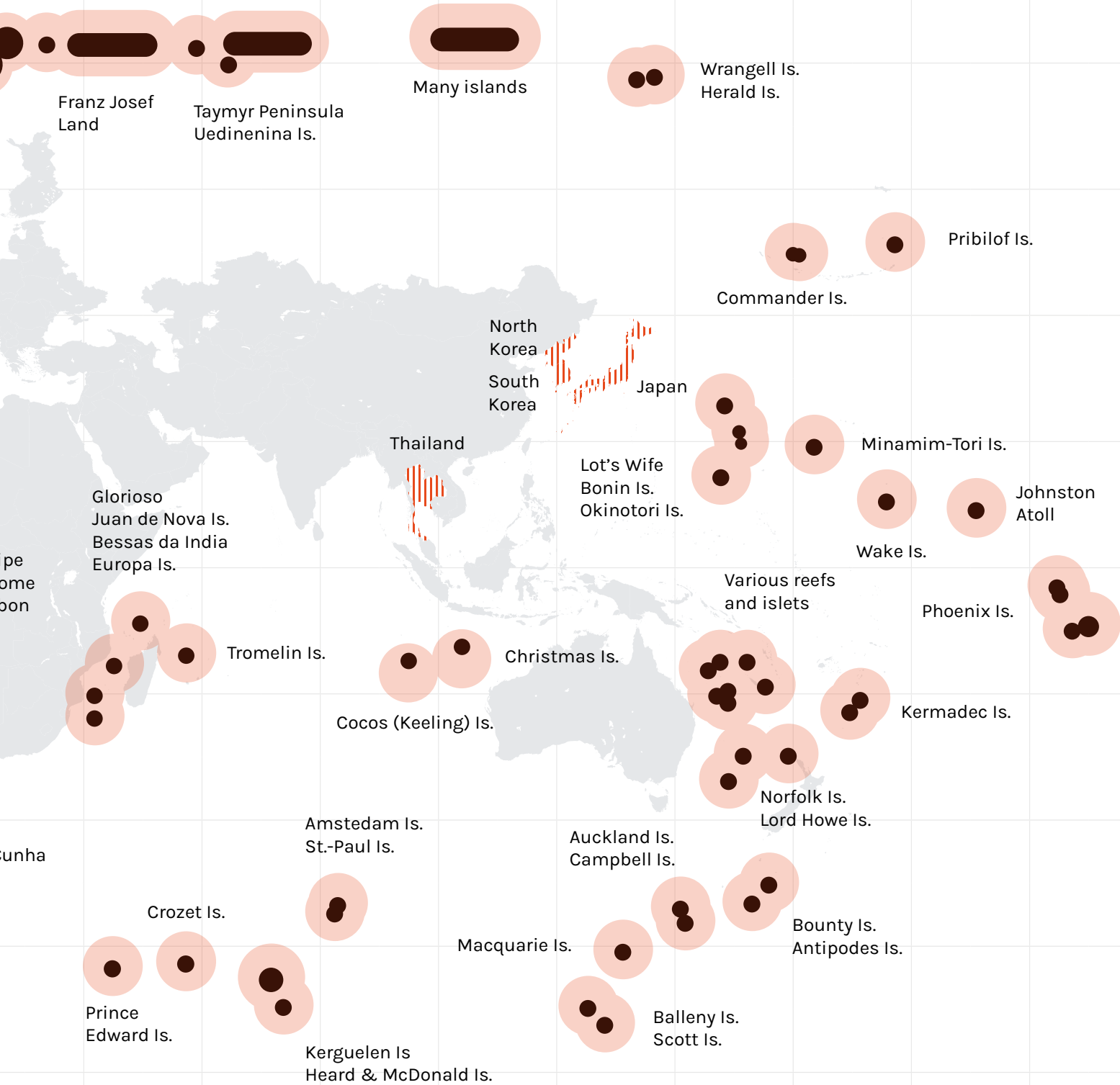


Shad and Black Rocks  
S. Georgia Is.  
South Sandwich Is.  
South Orkney Is.  
South Shetland Is.



In the pursuit of understanding the impact of European colonization, it is essential to critically examine the vast territories that were brought under its control. Most of the world's land was, at some point, subject to European rule. European colonisation was not solely about the expansion of borders into uncharted territories; it also involved imposing authority over regions that had long-standing indigenous populations and established governance structures. Entire nations were merely claimed instead of actually discovered by European nations, read as lands unknown by humans before the Age of Exploration (15th to

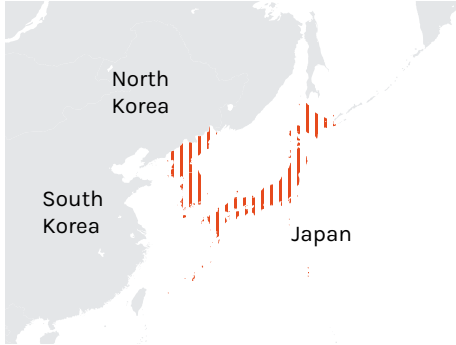
17th century). This latter correspond to 0,14% of the world's total territory, an area of 213,342 km<sup>2</sup>, represented essentially by small islands and archipelagos outside the mainland of colonised nations (Rankin).



The notion of borders as a natural construction of civilized society underscores the complexity of the colonial legacy. European powers reshaped existing borders and imposed artificial (imaginary) divisions that often did not align with the historical or cultural realities of the regions they colonized. These borders, reminiscent of

colonialism, reflect a lasting imprint on the geopolitical landscape, influencing not only the territorial integrity but also the cultural, social, and economic structures that continue to shape narratives to this day.

-  Areas/Islands discovered by European
-  Colonised areas and/or areas under European control and influence at some point
-  Countries never colonised or ruled by European power



Countries never colonised or exposed directly to European control and influence.

### Postcolonial Borders

Postcolonial borders represent a critical discourse within the realm of the postcolonial theory, it suggests the examination of enduring legacies of colonialism on the geopolitical and socio-cultural landscapes.

“Orientalism,” serves as a foundational text that unveils the inherent power structures embedded in colonial encounters (Said). Edward’s analysis of the Eurocentric gaze and the creation of ‘the Other’ lays

the understanding of how postcolonial borders were shaped by imperial imaginations. The theory of the “Coloniality of Power” extends the discussion by emphasizing the enduring nature of colonial structures even in postcolonial contexts. This framework challenges conventional views of decolonisation, asserting that Eurocentric systems of power continue to shape social hierarchies and cultural identities within postcolonial borders which can be related to capitalism as a reinforcement of old colonial ideals (Quijano).

Postcolonial geographies prompt the consideration of how the physical layout of postcolonial territories can either perpetuate or challenge historical injustices, opening the discussion to a different sphere of spatial justice (Soja). Redefining traditional concepts of fixed and static borders and challenging conventional notions, leaving the tangible sphere, academics claim for advocacy and recognition of the dynamic nature of spatial relations that subvert traditional borders, introducing the deterritorialisation of culture (Appadurai).

While the term “postcolonial” is traditionally associated with regions outside of Europe, the European continent itself is not exempt from the legacies of colonial histories. The dissolution of empires, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian, the aftermath of World War II and the collapse of the Soviet Union exemplify historical legacies and contemporary geopolitics in the realm of postcolonialism in Europe, illustrating cultural identity crisis, nationalism, and transnationalism movements.

The Irish context encapsulates the complexities of identity, power, and territoriality that emerge from the historical colonial legacies, specifically the British colonial rule. The partition of Ireland in 1921, resulting in the creation of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland), encapsulates the imposition of borders through colonial strategies. The division was not merely a geographic demarcation, but a manifestation of political, religious, and cultural tensions instigated during centuries of British rule. The creation of this artificial border had profound implications for the Irish and Northern Irish, fostering a legacy of sectarianism, conflict, and a contested sense of national identity.

The Good Friday Agreement of 1998, a pivotal moment in postcolonial Ireland, sought to reconcile the divided communities and transcend the deeply ingrained colonial divisions. This agreement reflects the acknowledgement that the artificial borders drawn during colonial times require reevaluation and effort to reshape boundaries in a way that reflects the communities and voices involved. The Good Friday Agreement, while not erasing the physical or political borders, provided an immediate framework for cooperation and power-sharing.

Furthermore, the postcolonial re-drawing of Irish borders underscores the importance of addressing the socio-cultural implications of border delineations and the colonial motivation behind it, focused on divide and rule.

# YOU ARE ON NATIVE LAND

A lasting statement popularised by the postcolonial movement and its activists intending to ignite conversation amongst non-Indigenous communities. Summarises the idea of entitlement to a space as part of a legacy and right.

## Unseen Borders

In the design for change paradigm, we confront the subtle, yet impactful, barriers these elements pose to individuals seeking to navigate new territories and experiences. Often overlooked, the impact and dimensions of language and currency as invisible barriers are pivotal to understanding the idea of belonging and culture as the opportunity to access these new spaces in a world dictated by capital power.

Language, a powerful tool for connection and expression, can also represent a significant frontier to overcome in unfamiliar environments. From a communication aspect, it can impede access to essential services, employment opportunities, and community integration. In a more subjective and intangible way, it can represent a challenge under the lens of idioms being a tool of emotional expression and cultural conventions.

'Speech as a personality trait', acknowledges that apart from innate biological factors and emotional state it's impossible to access someone's personality traits without knowing basic social norms and context of the original community of this someone (Sapir). An interesting take on this approach is the role played by culture and cultural differences between countries with the same predominant language when absorbing foreign individuals, as it can still represent a border to be crossed by these when connecting with new communities and stabilising relations.

The financial landscape, governed

by diverse currencies and economic systems poses another set of unseen borders for migrants. Currency exchange complexities, banking access, financial literacy gaps, and especially the dominance of Western currencies, such as the Euro and Dollar, create hurdles that impede economic participation and financial inclusion.

Language and currency are inherently interconnected, shaping the experiences of individuals in nuanced ways and representing key aspects of their cultural and economic realities. They both underscore traits of a system where the access to a foreign language, in the face of countries with different idioms, is directly related to your economic power, reaffirming class privileges.

## Ethnic Islands

Ethnic islands refer to geographically concentrated areas where a specific ethnic or cultural group resides that maintain a distinct identity within a larger cultural milieu, metaphorical enclaves within a broader cultural landscape. These islands can manifest in urban or rural settings, and their boundaries are often defined by shared language, markets, traditions, and historical ties. Notable examples include Chinatowns, Little Italies, and Jewish neighbourhoods. The historical roots of ethnic islands can be traced to migration patterns, forced displacements, or intentional community formations.

Economic opportunities, religious freedom, or escape from persecution have historically driven groups to cluster together for support and cultural preservation, nowadays can be added to this list the rising of the far right and its xenophobic ideals. For instance, Chinatowns in the United States originated during the mid-19th century as Chinese immigrants sought refuge and economic opportunities during the Gold Rush, a similar phenomenon can be observed in Southern Europe as a result of the displacement of people due to climate

reasons. Following the World War II this areas became rapidly associated with certain ethnic groups, taking over whole neighbourhoods of European capitals and cities (Timothy).

One key factor contributing to the surge of ethnic islands is the desire for cultural preservation and the maintenance of a distinct identity. Policies that promote multiculturalism, inclusivity, and support for minority groups can contribute to the growth of these enclaves. Conversely, political instability, discrimination, or exclusionary policies may lead to the formation of ethnic islands as communities seek safety and solidarity.

## **Either of the roots escalate to the same outcome, the concentration of a particular ethnic group allows for the sustenance of traditions, language, and customs, providing a sense of belonging and security.**

This protectionist approach shows itself essential in the face of globalisation and cultural assimilation pressures. In the face of crescent cultural and religious intolerance, an ascending number of displaced people around the globe and the reinforcement of a system which only sustains inequalities,

**these spaces became an act of resistance and subversion, a sort of passive activism,**

communities have been taking control of their own narratives, honour-

ing and making themselves presents (Walia).

The establishment of businesses, community centres, and support networks within these enclaves fosters social cohesion and economic resilience. This phenomenon is evident in the growth of Indian diaspora communities in Silicon Valley, where a concentration of talent and resources has led to economic success. In a different scope, small communities and groups tend to gravitate around places of familiarity, being markets, barbers, and butchers, each culture would have its own personal link with a reminiscent part of the homeland.

While these spaces can provide a sense of community and cultural continuity, they also present chal-

lenges. Issues of segregation, limited integration with the broader society, and the potential for reinforcing stereotypes are notable concerns.

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In the pursuit of depth and insight, expert interviews stand as the foundation, providing a platform for engaging with individuals possessing great knowledge and experience in different fields. With this in mind, these interviews are envisioned as a dynamic way for accessing different layers of understanding, using these professional specialities as the lens of investigation.

The voices of these experts promise not only to illuminate the theoretical landscape but to enrich the study by offering new perspectives, experiential insights, and a depth that extends beyond academic conventions. As the study takes place, these expert interviews serve as a vital way to build future recommendations and design opportunities.

**Prof Mark Boyle** is a geographer specialist in urban development in the face of migration and colonial and post-colonial geographies. He lectures at Maynooth University and provides great insights on the matter of Dublin's imaginary borders, ethnic islands in the Irish context and on the future of the phenomenon.

“There’s this whole stigma about South/North Dublin and how they are perceived in a very different way, I would say the most tangible ‘imaginary border’ that we see in Dublin.

So I’m looking at your expertise in development and spatial planning, I would like to know how do you perceive these phenomenon in Dublin urban space, particularly considering the manifesta-

tion and erasure of borders inside Dublin?”

“Yeah, it’s interesting question because spatial planning in a formal sense has been very weak in Ireland, or planning in general.

We know that Ireland has developed as a small, globalised, open kind of liberalised economy for capital to flow in and flow out, particularly from the United States. And so Ireland has never really had a labour tradition or a socialist tradition, and the strong kind of spatial planning framework [...]. Certainly they’ve (planners) been blind to communities and borders that only these communities would recognise.

**Now, I don’t think planners therefore, have been particularly manipulative [...]. But I do think the private sector has.**

And the north-south division in Dublin is one example where housing market actors, have been perpetrating the idea of the north-south divide.”

“Still on this topic of imaginary borders. We have this phenomenon of Chinatown and Little Italy and those kind of neighbourhoods, nominated ethnic islands, and it has been a subject of study and something that has been growing inside European capitals and I also like other major cities like New York and Toronto. It’s kind of an interesting take looking at the manifestation of the culture of colonised countries inside a place where the coloniser came from. So I would like to know your perception and intersection with your expertise in terms of post colonial studies.”

“[...] it’s a horrible moment when there’s a kind of far right active in the city [...] they (ethnic islands) give migrants a foothold in the city and speed up integration and settlement or whether they make migrants more visible and target by concentrating them to one area.

**I’m not sure if we have them in Ireland or Dublin quite like that.**

We don’t have a Chinatown. We don’t have a little India. We don’t have a Little Italy. So we have, for whatever reason, decided not to go down that road. Henry St has some flavour of that and Temple Bar has a very commercialised, sanitised version of Cosmopolitan identity, but nothing like the the Chinatowns or the Little Indias, and so on.

Now the other angle you said was post colonial, I think it's different for Ireland because Ireland and one hand was a colony of Britain [...]. So Ireland is some experience of the other way round migrating to a colonial heartland and finding themselves trying to make a life and settle down, plant new roots in those more hostile environments.

## **Given that, I'm not sure if global populations in Dublin experience the colonial pressures**

that say Indian populations would do in London or Algerian populations do in Paris or Argentinian, Mexican populations in Madrid?"

When asked about the lack absence of these ethnic islands in Dublin, Mark makes a great point relating the city organisation back to real state speculation and private initiative.

"Dublin and Ireland have generally a very poor history of social housing and it also has a very steep increase in rental values closer to the city centre. There's no real neighbourhoods that would be slum areas in the city centre with cheap rent where working class ethnic migrants could come and stay. [...].

With Ireland, if you're a migrant coming with very little resources, you certainly can't get social housing. And then if you go into

the private rental market there's no cheap rents anywhere in the Dublin or concentrated in any part of in the city of Dublin, so people have just worked their way into parts of the city,

**so it may be in function of the housing market and the structure of private rental [...] that determines why there'll be no ethnic quarters in Dublin, the way they have elsewhere."**

Mark also speculates about the future of Dublin under potential migratory influx of people in the coming years and the repercussions of that in the city.

"[...] current migrant communities are nothing, nothing compared to climate refugees that we're going to have coming to Ireland. The most conservative estimative are that by 2040 they'll be 250 million global climate refugees [...]. Dublin and Ireland is destined to get more cosmopolitan.

**It can't be any otherwise because of the inevitability of climate refugees."**

He argues about the rise of the far right in face of nationalist movements in different parts of the world and how this will play a decisive role in the organisation and experience of migrant communities inside Dublin and elsewhere.

**"So I think we're in a very 1930s dangerous moment in which wise heads will need to prevail."**

And I fear that we might have these ethnic neighbourhoods, whether we like it or not, whether it's decided or not, whether it's chosen or not, I think there's a place for it.

Perhaps in Dublin's case it would be better having a kind of cosmopolitan space [...] of celebration of the great variety of people now.

[...] I think they could be doing something imaginative around that. I think that would be a good thing to do, but at the moment politicians are so sensitive of visibilising anything that's migrant related or ethnic related. I don't think planners would be overly keen or politicians to badge an area by ethnic markers."

**Dr Philip Lawton** is a researcher, geographer and Assistant Professor at Trinity College, expert in cultural geography, spaces and urban sociology he discusses nuances of how migrant communities represent and effectively shape the urban space as well as the different faces and border expressions inside the city of Dublin.

As an introduction to his work Dr Philip explains his publication 'Residential Preferences of the Creative Class', it sets a ground by saying people don't move around just for hard factors, such as affordability, highly educated people are now influenced by soft factors such as moving to open, tolerant types of cities. Reflecting on Dublin he says:

**“I think there's probably a difference in terms of if you are a migrant coming to Dublin and where you are located in the city based on your education and your social class position.”**

When enquired about his view on the way ethnic islands tend to manifest inside the city of Dublin Dr Philip extends the discussion from Marks arguments.

“I think you have to look at the city at a bigger scale that goes beyond just the centre, if you know what I mean. And there's certainly in West Dublin areas that are much more kind of what you could say places of migration and if you look at kind of the stats around non-white Irish you see parts of the city that are outside the centre showing up much more than other parts.”

Philip argues that the casual nature of why different groups come together in the city or why you end up with Parnell St being kind of a mini Chinatown are more

nuanced than just individuals choosing to be around each other. He mentions the political economy of the city and how it shaped different parts of its territory, the affordability and bigger availability of housing on the North Side, the geographical position of this area, as being the shopping centre and again the role of a postcolonial legacy.

Enquired about the imaginary border between North and South side in Dublin, Philip elucidates points out a bigger picture and the evolution of this contours.

“[...] before people arrive, there's discussion of you don't want to be in the north (side), because of its long histories and associations. That's stigmatisation in action.

It comes down to social class, deprivation, and levels of affluence in Dublin, when we talk about a division in reality, it's sort of south-east and north-west. And so one of the things I think that's often missing in those narratives, it's that they are very much framed around the city centre.”

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The city of Dublin stands as a testament to the intersection of history, culture, and the ongoing global conversation surrounding immigration and policies of open borders, especially in a post Covid-19 context. In recent years, Dublin has undergone significant transformations, demographically and socially, reflecting the challenges and opportunities associated with migration.

Dublin's history is deeply connected with migratory fluxes that have shaped the city over centuries. From Viking settlements to Norman conquests and English rule, Dublin has been a melting pot of diverse influences. The Irish diaspora, driven by factors such as famine and economic instability, has also played a crucial role in shaping the city into what it is today. As a result, Dublin has emerged as a dynamic and inclusive hub that reflects its diverse range of residents, migration trends triggered by global events and agenda, and the goal of becoming more of a cosmopolitan city under European standards.

Dublin's new "cosmopolitan" character has mostly redefined its economic landscape but could also contribute to what it could become, a vibrant cultural scene. The exchange of people and presence of different cultures fostered a sense of openness and tolerance, which ruled the perception of the city until recently.

In the past 20 years, Dublin has experienced a new wave of immigration, driven by economic opportunities, education, and the city's growing reputation as a tech hub

and its welcoming attitude towards newcomers. The influx of immigrants caused a demographic shift, diversifying the city's population and enriching its social fabric. This diversity is shown when walking around the city, it only takes listening to the range of foreign languages spoken, the cuisines available, and the people on the streets.

However, the interplay between immigration and borders also presents challenges. Dublin, like many cities, grapples with questions of social integration, welfare, and resource allocation. The issue of housing, in particular, has become a pressing concern in the Irish context. Striking a balance between welcoming immigrants while ensuring the well-being of existing residents and first ones.

The concept of borders extends beyond the physical boundaries of the city. Dublin serves as an interesting case study of a city with its own universe of imaginary borders. The South/North Dublin border is a perfect example of the mitigating power of borders, even when they only exist as a concept diffused by mouth. This border is related to a range of causes, going from the lack of urban planning that allowed the city to grow under no standards at all to real estate speculation which aligned to profit-making goals privileging the development of certain areas, aiming to leave certain demographics out.

Dublin's evolution into a multicultural hub has led to a captivating phenomenon within its urban landscape, the emergence of ethnic is-

lands. These enclaves, such as the bustling Chinatown on Parnell and Capel St, the Polish markets, butchers, and afro hair salons all around the city centre or the diverse markets around Moore Street, have become focal points for the preservation of traditions, cultural exchange, and culinary.

Essential to highlight here is the character of food as a socialisation tool and cultural manifestation that is shared unanimously for different communities all around the globe. This character make restaurant with international cuisines and supermarkets with foreign products individual ethnic islands by themselves.

Unlike the more pronounced ethnic neighbourhoods observed in other European and global capitals, Dublin's ethnic islands take on a unique character. Rather than manifesting as distinct and concentrated neighbourhoods, they are subjective and sparse, growing throughout the inner north city. Different from the traditional takeover of entire neighbourhoods like London's Chinatown or Little Italy, Dublin's manifestation of these spaces is more nuanced.

This decentralised manifestation reflects a departure from the historical context of Ireland's colonised background. In times past, ethnic islands served (and still serve in other contexts) as reactions and strategies to access and cultivate safe spaces. Dublin then for its unusual background may offer some relieve of the colonial pressures experienced for foreign communities elsewhere. Despite the absence of clearly de-

fined neighbourhoods, Dublin’s multicultural identity makes itself present and bright, with different ethnic communities sharing spaces and thriving together.

This unique manifestation highlights a sense of tolerance, setting Dublin apart from other cities in colonised nations. It presents ethnic islands emerging under a new context, as subversive but pacific manifestations of activism in the new era of migration. In this reality, Dublin’s ethnic islands are spaces that offer a sense of comfort, familiarity, and belonging.

In the absence of physical spaces for connection, the online realm takes place. Facebook and WhatsApp groups populated and created by foreigner communities are a common practice, and act as “digital ethnic islands”, providing guidance and a support network for individuals which just arrived in the city or are planning to make this move.

Dublin’s lack of planning and policies in the discussed context show case how imaginary borders shape not only the cultural essence and narrative of communities but also the urban space of the city regardless of favourable or contrary conditions.

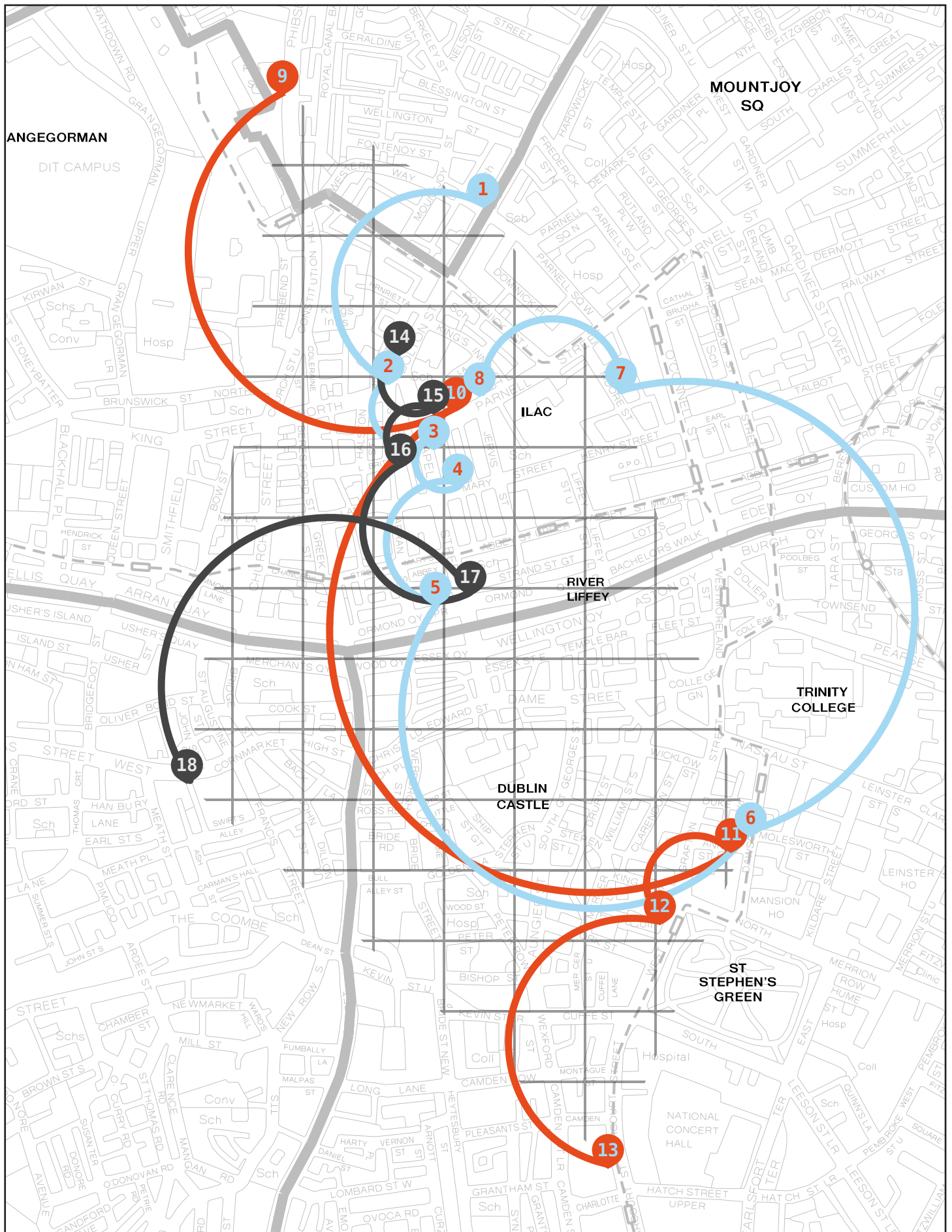
					<b>Food</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>Paulista Dublin Pizzas</b>			
	<b>2</b>	<b>Tia Maria</b>			
	<b>3</b>	<b>Padoca</b>			
	<b>4</b>	<b>Brazil House</b>			
	<b>5</b>	<b>La Rocha Restaurant</b>			
	<b>6</b>	<b>BAH33</b>			
	<b>7</b>	<b>Tucano Restaurant</b>			
	<b>8</b>	<b>Fabi’s Grill</b>			
					<b>Music</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>McGowans of Phibsboro</b> (Pagode Wednesday)			
	<b>10</b>	<b>The Wool Shed ‘Australiano’</b> (Pagode Saturday)			
	<b>11</b>	<b>Twenty Two Night Club ‘22’</b> (Segue o Baile)			
	<b>12</b>	<b>The Well</b> (Baile de Favela)			
	<b>13</b>	<b>Dacey’s Garden</b> (Brazilian Sunday)			
					<b>Markets</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Sampa Market</b>			
	<b>15</b>	<b>Brazil Market</b>			
	<b>16</b>	<b>Mercado Brasileiro</b>			
	<b>17</b>	<b>Real Brasil Market</b>			
	<b>18</b>	<b>Brazil Market and Coffee Shop</b>			

Considering the preceding research, personal experiences, and immersive engagement within the city, an examination of the Brazilian community as a fraction of Dublin’s international community provides relevant insights into the cultural dynamics discussed in the Irish scenario and show case a practice for exploration and mapping of Dublin’s ethnic islands.

In the context of the subject matter, the presence of this particular population is shown in the city through their growing *ethnic web*, summarised in the map on the right.

Drawing these observations under a cultural lens, a pattern becomes ap-

parent, these places of reconnection and comfort, for Brazilians, primarily revolve around three pillars of their culture: Music the communal joy of Food as a cultural expression, and the treasure of Markets offering a taste of home.



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This exploration delves into the intricate idea of borders, both real and imaginary, within the context of migration and evolving urban landscapes. The discussion establishes and sheds light on the dynamic interplay of historical legacies, cultural nuances, and capitalist principles in shaping borders. The trajectory of individuals and communities intersecting and diverging within these borders unfolds narratives of resilience, adaptation, and subversion. The concept of imaginary borders discussed, not only delineates geographic spaces but serves as a powerful agent shaping cultural identities and narratives.

Dublin, a city at the crossroads of history and migration, emerges as a microcosm of the globalised world. The study underscores the challenges faced by the city, including social integration, resource allocation, and the pressing issue of housing as catalysers of imaginary borders inside the city. The South/North Dublin divide, though intangible, encapsulates the broader issues of urban planning deficiencies and real estate speculation, emphasizing the need for higher-up attention and a holistic approach to city development.

The absence of traditional ethnic neighbourhoods in Dublin, replaced by subjective and dispersed ethnic islands, reflects the city's unique response to its historical context and challenges in the housing market, as well as its capacity to evolve and adapt to all sorts of challenges and obstacles. From the current scenario an important take is the potential for what Dublin can become under better conditions of development.

As we conclude, the call is for a reimagining of urban spaces, spaces that embrace people, challenge the system, and foster a sense of belonging and safety. The borders we encounter, whether physical or imaginary, don't need to be erased or perceived as barriers but opportunities for coexistence.

## Next Steps

This MA project serves as a foundational exploration, paving the way for more in-depth, rigorous and focal investigations. Two specific aspects which came out of this report can lead to future PhD current and relevant research.

# 01

Delve into the impact of climate refugees (to come) on Dublin's cosmopolitan character, forecasting and speculating potential shifts in demographics and social dynamics. Exploring the nuanced relationship between the recent rise of the far right and the future of Dublin's social fabric due to these two events.

# 02

Investigate deeper into the intersection of social class and urban arrangement. This can provide a nuanced understanding of the forces shaping the city's landscape. A research focused on the evolving narratives of ethnic islands and their role as community-building agencies would contribute to a comprehensive understanding of urban dynamics and potential urban planning.

## Recommendations

These recommendations are not only practical but they are also based on a very speculative outlook to the subject. They aim to infuse diversity in the approach to Dublin's response to its multicultural identity, envisioning future and long term change rather than immediate band aids to those wicked problems.

The measures proposed are thought to access different areas in a systematic appeal, ranging from policymakers to the private sector, the communities residing in the city of Dublin, its own people, and physical space.

### Climate Refugee Preparedness

Develop strategies to address the coming influx of climate refugees, recognizing the inevitability of global climate migrations and the responsibility of Dublin as a global city in taking part in this future.

This recommendation is directed to policy makers as first stakeholders. The development should reach two main spheres, advocacy for inclusive urban planning that addresses housing disparities and provides affordable living spaces for diverse communities challenging real estate speculations and the dominance of the private sector in the rental market.

Secondly, policies to encourage the controlled development of cultural districts within the city, fostering a sense of belonging and security and preventing the emergence of these spaces as a some sort of ghetto and marginalised areas.

### Tech-Savvy Integration Platforms

Leverage technology to create platforms that facilitate the integration of migrant communities, providing information on local services, events, and resources, as well as connecting these newcomers to their ethnic community if they exist in Dublin.

By encouraging the development of digital spaces for cultural exchange and giving these individuals a voice, communities become entitled to their own narratives and culture, promoting integration without erasing stories. This recommendation also highlights a business opportunity for the private sector.

The map on page 39 delineates a conceptual idea and sketch of what could become an online resource available for newcomers as a guide to Dublin as a foreigner, the idea sparkles from the importance of building a support network and finding your way in a new environment. The Hoodmaps is a great reference of what is envisioned here as a final product.

### Culinary Diplomacy

Establish food-related initiatives that encourage residents to explore and honour the rich tapestry of global cuisines within the city. Use food as a tool for diplomacy, backing up on the fact that food is a common ground of socialisation in any culture.

Rather than a marketing strategy this movement aims to allow and tool up communities with a potential way to thrive economically while also fostering with locals a sense of appreciation for different cultures.

E.g. Further development of spaces that show a sparkle of this kind of movement, such as Capel Street and Parnell Street.

# Disclaimer

This research project is an earnest attempt to delve into the multifaceted aspects of borders, cultural identities, and historical legacies. Given that, certain limitations inherent in the research process and choices made need to be acknowledged.

The exploration of such a complex and nuanced topic in an MA research represents relevant time constraints. The depth of the subject matter demands continuous inquiry and evolving perspectives. Therefore, this research represents a snapshot and foundation of understanding at a particular point in time and may not comprehensively capture the dynamic nature of the phenomena under study.

The study recognizes the ethical responsibility associated with the investigation of migration and while efforts have been made to approach the research with sensitivity, it is essential to mention the potential oversight of vulnerable populations, such as war refugees.

Throughout the research, maps using the Mercator projection have been employed to visually represent various aspects of the study. It is important to note this projection, has inherent distortions, readers should be aware of its limitations in accurately representing sizes and shapes, particularly about geopolitical and cultural contexts, as it was developed by and for European power. It is also relevant to note that these maps are interpretive and speculative in nature. They serve as tools to illustrate existing data and literature only.









