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**Report of the ATACD-Workshop „Global Topology and Territoriality: Border as a Method in Law and Economy“**

The workshop was held on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Institute for Political Science of the University of Bologna. It was organized by Sven Opitz and Ute Tellmann (both University of Basel) and Sandro Mezzadra (University of Bologna) within the ATACD-Network. Approximately 30 persons participated actively in the workshop.

The workshop was successful in applying the concept of topology to the study of legal and economic spatiality. In their introduction the organizers summarized the recent discussions on topology in the research network and set the agenda for the day by posing the following questions: If topology is a means for thinking spatiality beyond topography, how is global law and global economy to be thought topologically? How has the notion of territoriality to be altered? And is it apt to diagnose “a new *nomos* of the global”?

Especially the latter question was taken up in the guest lecture, “Carl Schmitt and the Global Age” presented by Carlo Galli (University of Bologna). In his detailed reading of Schmitt’s concept of the *nomos*, he showed that the current order of the global is characterized by the disappearance of the traditional “statist” connection between politics and space. Instead, Galli pointed out, the global space must be conceived of as a “logic of instantaneousness and ‘punctuality’”. Galli framed his diagnoses explicitly in topological terms: “global war is the fact that space, by now non-euclidian, is not travelled along paths but along fractures, which put different times and spaces into immediate communication” (Galli).

The following discussion related Galli’s presentation especially to Saskia Sassen’s “Territory, Authority, Rights”. It was proposed to understand the fractured spatial order of the globe in terms of a new articulation of differentiated territorial zones that dissolve the unity of the nation state. According to Tellmann and Opitz a new type of territoriality emerges in contemporary law and economy whose rationale is topological: diverse territorial forms such as export processing zones or camps inscribe themselves as differential relays in the planetary horizon of liberalism in order to structure the global circulation of goods and humans. The traditional notions of inside and outside are inverted in this process. This diagnosis supplemented Sandro Mezzadra’s argument on taking “border as a method” in the analysis of

the multiplication of labour. During the workshop, the epistemic perspective provided by the border proved to be fruitful in analysing the mutations of capital and labor in the current global transition. The multiplication of control devices is linked to the multiplication of labor regimes that create forms of differential inclusion through dispersed and flexible bordering processes. Relations between liberal government(ality) and sovereignty have to be re-conceptualized. Eventually, the discussion on material borders and space was also extended to the role of the human rights regime in world policy: As a universal, deterritorialized form, human rights still need territorialized forms of power to be enforced. Conversely, heterotopian territorial forms are more and more deployed in a strategic way to suspend basic rights.

The workshop ended with a presentation by Gennaro Ascione on the concept of “human redundancy”. The concept of redundancy was traced back to classical theories of the population, signifying the “many to many” since Malthus. Today, “redundancy” is taken to be a problematization in discourses on migration. By dismissing traditional quota systems, migration regimes seeks to foster a non-redundant, diverse population. The border becomes a strategic point for strategies of social sorting.