

Foreword

We are pleased to announce the latest edition of Eurasia Border Review and to introduce the name of the Slavic Research Center's new institution: the Eurasia Unit for Border Research of Japan (UBRJ). UBRJ [Yu-bridge] was established in April 2013 and will continue developing the main achievements and tasks of the Global Centre of Excellence program "Reshaping Japan's Border Studies" (2009-2014). UBRJ will work to enhance the research and connections of the Japan International Border Studies Network (JIBSN); to develop an Asian/Eurasian research project; and to further integration and dialogue amongst various border studies communities, including the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS), as well as other institutions and organizations related to border studies.

This issue demonstrates the breadth of the border studies community, and includes scholars from North America, Europe, Africa, Eurasia, and Asia. It presents some of the highlights of the Border Regions in Transition XII conference, held for the first time in East Asia, between venues in both Japan and Korea (Nov. 13-16, 2012). The conference welcomed two hundred specialists from forty countries, and included fieldwork on Tsushima, a border island between Fukuoka and Busan. The conference invited different voices from the borderlands and included researchers from various disciplines and fields. This issue presents some of the context, discussion, and scientific results of this meeting. It includes work from established researchers in the field as well as younger researchers who also made an excellent contribution to the conference. We hope that in this issue the reader will discover new opportunities for making the future of border studies.

30 September 2013

Akihiro Iwashita and Paul Richardson (Editors and BRIT XII Coordinators)