Asia and the world as seen by border studies:

Implications for US-Japan Relations

Policy Forum held as part of USJI Week
(http://www.us-jpri.org/en/category/week)

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10:00 – 11:30

at the

USJI Office Seminar Room

2000 M Street, Washington DC 20006

With the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States, borders are back on the policy table in a big way. Pledging to raise the barriers to entry that exist for flows of both people and products from overseas, the opening weeks of Trump's time in office have already demonstrated how the desire to reinforce the state's ability to patrol its putative borders has resulted in broader effects throughout the territory of the United States. In many instances, such effects are felt far from the actual physical borders of the state. All of this is no surprise to border scholars, whose concern with the political effects of broader border processes is now more essential than ever to understanding the course and potential fallout from this newfound concern with shoring up the edges of the nation.

Borders provide both a nexus between national politics and foreign policy and a means of thinking across this artificial divide, allowing us to consider the connections between issues traditionally split between these two spheres. Our Washington meeting will hear from a number of border policy experts on the outlook for US borders following the elections, and the implications of this for Japan and Asia. Not only are the broader patterns of border politics in the United States equally applicable to Asia, whose states also struggle with the question of how best to maintain and manage national boundaries, but the relations of Japan with its neighbours and the United States are shaped by perceptions of the border. This panel will demonstrate the interrelated nature of global border politics, and seek to highlight the implications for US-Japan relations stemming from border attitudes and policies at play in the US, Japan, and wider region