

# BORDERS & TERRITORIES

MSc3 Borders and Territories Graduation Studio  
*Transient Liquidities along the New Silk Road*



Cosmic Ray Research Station on Armenia's Mount Aragats

## Tutors

Marc Schoonderbeek

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Code	AR3BO010
Credits	55 ECTS
Location	Tashkent, Piraeus, et al.
Excursion	Yes, in EU**
Costs	400 ca

The B&T graduation studio investigates contemporary border conditions within the larger urban and territorial scale. The studio focuses on sites where new spatial conditions have emerged that are teeming with new meanings and unexpected potential but are hardly analysed within contemporary architectural discourse. Nowadays, it seems no longer possible to investigate space without considering global political developments, nor to ignore ecological anxieties, pressured coexistences or even economically driven migratory movements. The studio intends to map these emerging spatial complexities, focusing on the fundamental changes regarding radical spatial differentiation, biodiversity, atmospheric and soil conditions, increased technological spatial control and economic asymmetries. The spatial patchworks of superposed political and economic processes and juxtaposed social and spatial practices will constitute the (almost) solid basis for alternative architectural interventions proposing radical counterstrategies to the current and no longer sustainable status quo.

B&T considers the current developments in the border-territories related to the New Silk Road particularly intriguing testing ground(s) for speculative approaches, as the spatial transformations in these areas between the far East, Africa and Europe are resulting in a fascinating array of spatial changes, where different regimes of spatial planning, (inter-) continental infrastructural projects, political (dis-) agreements, border tensions, global capitalism, extra-state utopias and the like, are re-formatting the contemporary territorial and urban landscapes.

The studio will explore the current state of the New Silk Road by globally cross-sectioning these territories. Central to the investigation and intrinsic to the design elaboration is the production of specific mappings addressing: Border and Migration, Infrastructure and Congestion, Soil and Fault Lines, Water and Aquifers, and Contaminated Ecologies. Possible sites of investigation for B&T's 2023/24 graduate studio: Shanghai, Chongqing, Xi'An, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Khorgas-Horgos, Mogadishu, Liège, Piraeus.