Abstract

In order to research the way differences of expertise are socially and culturally constructed, the Top Citizen Science experiment *Talking borders. From Local Expertise to Global Exchange* brings together two fields of studies. The experiment combines methodologies from border studies and citizen science in order to come to understand the potentials and limits of bringing in non-scientific expertise in the generation of knowledge.

The unique TCS experiment uses the platform of the Association for Borderland Studies 2nd World Conference in order to lift the borders of expertise, age and method in science. The ABS World Conference is probably the largest scientific event on borders and border-related issues on a global scale. In 2018, we will have the unique opportunity to bring border scholars from around the globe together in Vienna in Budapest to discuss the historical and virtual character of borders.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the TCS experiment turns an academic conference into a site of scientific investigation itself, where 100 non-trained experts (bachelor students in the humanities from border regions throughout the ex-Habsburg area) meet 100 trained experts (border scholars working on non-European topics) as equals for a cross-disciplinary (border/citizen science) experiment. The TCS project asks: (1) what do borders mean to border scholars? (2) What do borders mean to young adults from the (ex-) Habsburg area? And: (3) what new knowledge does a global encounter between non-trained and trained border experts reveal? The experiment will gather 100 face to face dialogues about the meaning of borders and launch a global digital café for 100 working days. Here, parts of the 100 talks are disseminated and commented through chatting. The online page will report how scientific knowledge on the global meaning(s) of borders is generated by means of a cumulative collective learning experience.