

Introduction to the second seminar: Spaces, regions and borders (Strasbourg, 26 June 2009)

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The notion of spatiality is at the heart of this second 'Against Europe?' seminar. This idea is analysed in its many senses - that of place as a space for the materiality of social identity, but also that of territory, in which power relations and political and societal issues are shaped. The seminar focuses on wide-ranging questions including EU enlargement and border and regional areas in Europe, with the main thread being whether the border may be considered as the embodiment of resistance to European integration or rather as an opportunity for developing relations. Georg Simmel's metaphor of the bridge and the door also helps shed light on the concept of the EU's external and internal borders as a space with social substance and effects.