**Guest lecture**

"The abducted and gated Europe"

Within the contemporary geopolitical climate in the EU there is strong inclination to narcissistically focus on security, comfort, and cultural identity protection for those who are defined as Europeans. Such forceful abduction and bordering by the European Union re-creates Europe as a gated political community. This process is usually labelled as ‘Europeanization’. Europe is thereby imagined as a socio-political cultural construction with its own geography, history and culture. This includes a self-constructed imagined core and periphery, as well as fear politics regarding Europe’s self-defined neighbours and strangers. Yet, Europe has never presented itself as a single bordered entity supported by a constitution and a clear definition of Europe and non-Europe. Europe is not a people and is neither finite nor restrictive. So, the invention and fabrication of a bounded version of Europe leads to new forms of ‘spatial containerisation’, which is unhelpful in terms of establishing a global openness and realising global distributive justice.

**Film Screening**

**As part of the Filmgrenser/Filmborders series**

**Monday 27th September 18.30 at Verdensteatret kinemathek**

**“Welcome Europa”**

Bruno Ulmer, 2006 (90 mins)


**With an introduction by Henk van Houtum and discussion afterwards**

**Dr. van Houtum’s lecture and the film screening are the result of an initiative by the Border Poetics Research Group (http://uit.no/borderpoetics) as part of the Border Aesthetics Project, and are made possible by grants from the Research Council of Norway.**