

HENK VAN HOUTUM AT UIT

DR. HENK VAN HOUTUM IS CO-FOUNDER AND HEAD OF THE NIJMEGEN CENTRE FOR BORDER RESEARCH



Professor dr Henk van Houtum is co-founder and head of the Nijmegen Centre for Border Research (www.ru.nl/ncbr), and associate professor of geopolitics and political geography at the Radboud University

Nijmegen, the Netherlands and research professor of geopolitics at the University of Bergamo. In addition, he is editor of the *Journal of Borderlands Research*. He has published extensively on the ontology and morality of borders, on identity, on migration routes, camps and on cross-border developments inside and on the borders of Europe. He is the co-editor of various books including *The Disoriented State: Shifts In Governmentality, Territoriality and Governance*, (with B. Arts and A. Lagendijk, 2009), *B/ordering Space* (with O. Kramsch and W. Zierhofer, 2005) and *Routing Borders between Territories, Discourses and Practices* (with E. Berg, 2003). His most recent research articles include "Waiting before the Law; Kafka on the Border", *Social and Legal Studies* (2010), "Human Blacklisting: the global apartheid of EU's external border regime", *Society and Space* (forthcoming, 2010), while he has prepared a special issue on EU's external neighbourhood policy in *Geopolitics* (forthcoming, 2010). Previous articles have appeared amongst others in *Antipode*, *Geopolitics*, *Political Geography*, *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie (TESG)*, *Regional and Federal Studies*. See also: <http://www.henkvanhoutum.nl/> Henk van Houtum is a participant in the Border Aesthetics Project at the University of Tromsø.

**WEDNESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
13:15-15:00 IN ROOM E.0105
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

GUEST LECTURE

"THE ABDUCTED AND GATED EUROPE"

WITHIN THE CONTEMPORARY GEOPOLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE EU THERE IS STRONG INCLINATION TO NARCISTICALLY 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
FILMGRENSENER/FILMBORDERS SERIES
MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 18.30
AT VERDENSTEATRET CINEMATEK**

"WELCOME EUROPA"

BRUNO ULMER, 2006 (90 MINS)

ET KUNSTNERISK MESTERVERK. UNGE MENN FRA MAROCCO OG ROMANIA MIGRERER TIL EUROPA FOR ET BEDRE LIV, BARE FOR Å BLI MØTT MED DE HARDE REALITETENE FOR INNVANDRERE. DE MÅ LÆRE SEG GATAS LOV FOR OVERLEVELSE I ET FREMMED LAND. DEN PRISVINNENDE DOKUMENTAREN VISER HVORDAN EKSTERN GRENSEPOLITIKK OG INTERNASJONALE SOSIALE SKILLER, SPILLER EN ROLLE I DAGLIGLIVET.

**WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY HENK VAN
HOUTUM AND DISCUSSION AFTERWARDS**