Global Studies Lecture: 
Olivier Thomas Kramsch

1. November 9-11, 1485-123 
(Nobelsalen)

The ‘spatial play’ of contending outlooks around the construction of the *Rio Oyapock* bridge at the ‘ends of Europe’, in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, where French Guiana and Brazil, the European Union and Mercosul, physically touch one another, reveals the peculiar blindness of Europe’s metropolitan gaze *vis-à-vis* indigenous difference and sets the stage for perverse effects of exclusion and disempowerment, which force us to ask a number of wider questions about contemporary borders and border studies;

How can we move beyond the disciplinary ‘b/ordering turn’ in contemporary border studies?

How can we inhabit the entangled landscape of modernity binding Europe and Latin America as a socio-spatial horizon?

What theoretical as well as political possibilities are opened up by such a spatial move?

Olivier Thomas Kramsch is a geographer and border scholar attached to the Nijmegen Centre for Border Research (NCBR), Department of Human Geography, Radboud Universiteit, where he is also member of the faculty. He has written extensively on transboundary regionalism within the European Union, as well as the means by which Europe reproduces postcolonial power relations on its contemporary external frontiers, particularly in the French-speaking Maghreb and French- and Spanish-speaking South America. In 2014 he founded the Radboud Postcolonialism & Race Reading Group, a safe space for postcolonial discussions on our campus.