March 20, 2011

2010 Faculty Research Grant Final Report

The Faculty Research Grant has enabled me to dedicate the summer of 2010 to working on my research project "Embedding Borders into Flows: Technologies of Control and Risk Management". Much of this research has involved examining the technical literature on border security in order to be able to operationalize the new connections that are being forged between technologies such as biometrics and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and the territorial reorganization of the state-society relationship.

To this end, I dug up and analyzed a wealth of documentation is in the form of memos, notes, and other internal studies made public by various US, Australian and EU governmental agencies, public and private think tanks, as well as private technology and security businesses. This archival research has informed my academic background as a social scientist in a way that has allowed me to engage the technical nature of security technologies.

As an outcome of this research, during Summer 2010 I presented two papers at two international conferences. The first paper, "Rebordering Geographies: Networked Borders, Borderlands and Borderlines" was given at the International Geographical Union's Commission on Political Geography pre-conference Borders, Territory and Conflict in a Globalizing World, held in Beersheba, Israel. The second paper, "Bordering Mobility in the Global Era: Networks, Biometrics, and Remote Control" was given at the International Geographical Union Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Another outcome of this research has consisted in helping me finalize my book project "Bordering and Ordering the Twenty-First Century: Understanding Border Spaces" (Rowman & Littlefield) that is currently at the copyediting stage.

Overall, the Faculty Research Grant has significantly furthered my short and medium term academic goals, as well as my current research agenda concerning the effects the new border spaces of the twenty-first century on democratic life.