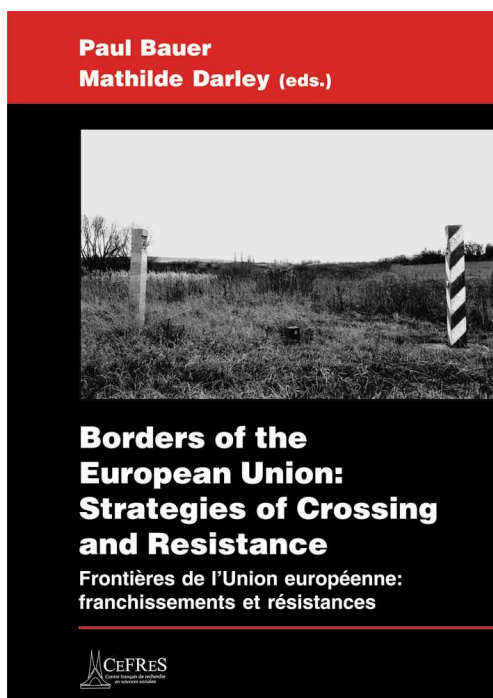


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In the European post-Cold-War context, marked by the end of the bipolar world order which had played an essential role in the sacralization of borders, is the national border as a producer of spaces and representations to disappear, transcended by processes of economic and political integration at local and European level? Or do we observe, at the local scale, a relative autonomy of the way of living the "limit" and of its representations vis-à-vis national and regional policies? Are lines of rupture similar within the European space and at its periphery? Are they becoming more and more numerous and multiform or are they, on the contrary, harmonizing as a result of a global political approach of "transborder" practices? The texts gathered in this book should not be seen as a collection of answers to contemporary interrogations that the "frontier phenomenon" raises in a territorially, politically and economically mutating Europe. But they contribute to nourish a common reflection, through the exposition of different border situations at the margins of or within the European Union: the one of the relation between, on the one side, the emergence of a "European model" of border development and control, and, on the other, local economic needs, the historical thickness of local and national experiences, and the construction of identities.

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