

**REVISTA CIDOB d'AFERS
INTERNACIONALS 82-83.**

**Boundaries: Transience and
intercultural dynamics.**

Introduction.

The CIDOB Foundation's Intercultural Dynamics Programme presents this issue of the *CIDOB Journal of Afers Internacionals*, which includes the contributions and debates from two international seminars held in 2007 on the subject "Borders: 'transience' and intercultural dynamics".

The aim of both events was to situate intercultural dynamics within a reference framework capable of introducing new concepts for reflection; we proposed the concept of "boundary" as a metaphor, as the space of identification where the decision is made as to what is similar and what is different. Something that all we, human beings, have in common is our difference from others and, through a shared "boundary", we discover what we are and what we are not, as well as the fact that "our" similarity is "their" difference. To this end, we have situated our reflections within a present-day situation that is cosmopolitan, and which needs a cosmopolitan view to observe the increase in interdependence, to understand the new landscapes of identity, and to question ethnicity or the social organisation of difference. Identity is not an accumulation or a synthesis of several components, but a space of different forces that interact to determine what is similar and what is different. What about hybridity? Could this be the space in which the elements meet up and transform?

The first seminar was held on 9 March 2007 with the title "Absence of Boundaries: the cosmopolitan view", while the second was held on 20-21 September of the same year with the title: "Volition for Boundaries: identity considerations and expressions of otherness". Both meetings featured the participation of internationally renowned essayists and thinkers, including Ulrich Beck, Gerard Delanty, Daniel Innerarity, Nada Švob-Đokić and Kevin Robins (in the first seminar), and Jacinto Choza, Nouredine Affaya, Burhan Ghalioun, María Elósegui, Ferhat Kentel and Rik Pinxten, in the second. The Forum of Doctoral Students contributed in the events with the participation of Enrique Diaz Alvarez and Yago Mellado.

In order to give readers the opportunity to enjoy the contents in their original versions, we decided to publish the texts in English for the first seminar and in French, for the second one. We hope that this will help to ensure a wider diffusion and understanding.