

»Carlos Fuentes' US-Mexican Border: a Line, a Frontier, and a Wound«

Prof. Dr. Efraín Kristal

University of California, Los Angeles
Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation



“Border Temporalities: Doing Literature in a World of Walls” Lecture Series

Inaugural Lecture

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

6—8 p.m.

ZI Lateinamerika-Institut, R. 201

Rüdesheimer Str. 54-56, 14197 Berlin

Organisation: Prof. Dr. Susanne Klengel (klengel@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

A collaboration of: Research Area 1 »Competing Communities« at the Cluster of Excellence

»Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective« (Freie Universität Berlin),

Institute of Latin American Studies (Freie Universität Berlin) and Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Carlos Fuentes' novel "La frontera de cristal" will be discussed in the context of several other novels by the author in which the border is prominently featured. Efraín Kristal will offer nods to some of the metaphors Fuentes has mobilized to refer to the Border: a line that can be moved or expanded into a larger entity, in novels such as "Cristobal Nonato"; a physical or psychological frontier that irrevocably transforms the lives of individuals and communities on either side of the border, such as in "La region más transparente"; or a wound that defines the geopolitical relationship between the two nations, as in "Gringo Viejo". The lecture will also address how the temporal experiences of Fuentes' characters are informed by the spaces they inhabit when their lives are intertwined with the vicissitudes of the border.