

FOREWORD

We are pleased to announce the latest research publication supported by the Eurasia Unit for Border Research (UBRJ) of the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center. Since the unit was established in April 2013, it has helped to develop and promote border studies in Japan and Asia through the journal *Eurasia Border Review*. This publication heralds a new epoch in the development of the unit's international partnerships and is the first research monograph on border studies to be published in the *Slavic Eurasia Papers* series.

In the first instance, this publication reflects our intensive cooperation with the Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland, which is perhaps the leading centre in the European border studies community. UBRJ and its predecessor, the Global Centre of Excellence program 'Reshaping Japan's Border Studies' (2009–2014), developed a comprehensive relationship with the Karelian Institute in the spheres of research and education. This publication could not have been realized without our long-standing collaboration on border-related research in Europe and Asia.

Secondly, our involvement within the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) has enhanced the profile of border-related research across Asia. ABS is a unique organization for promoting border studies and our involvement has served to build the membership of ABS, as well as helped internationalize and professionalize the organization (Japan held the Presidency in 2015–16, with the ABS secretariat based at the University of Eastern Finland). This publication is a symbol of the results of our research cooperation in the context of the world-wide activities of ABS.

Border studies is still in the process of development and this publication aims to promote our goal of developing scholarship across all disciplines and between all regions in order to achieve a truly inclusive border-studies community.

Editors, *Eurasia Border Review*

Akihiro Iwashita and Paul Richardson