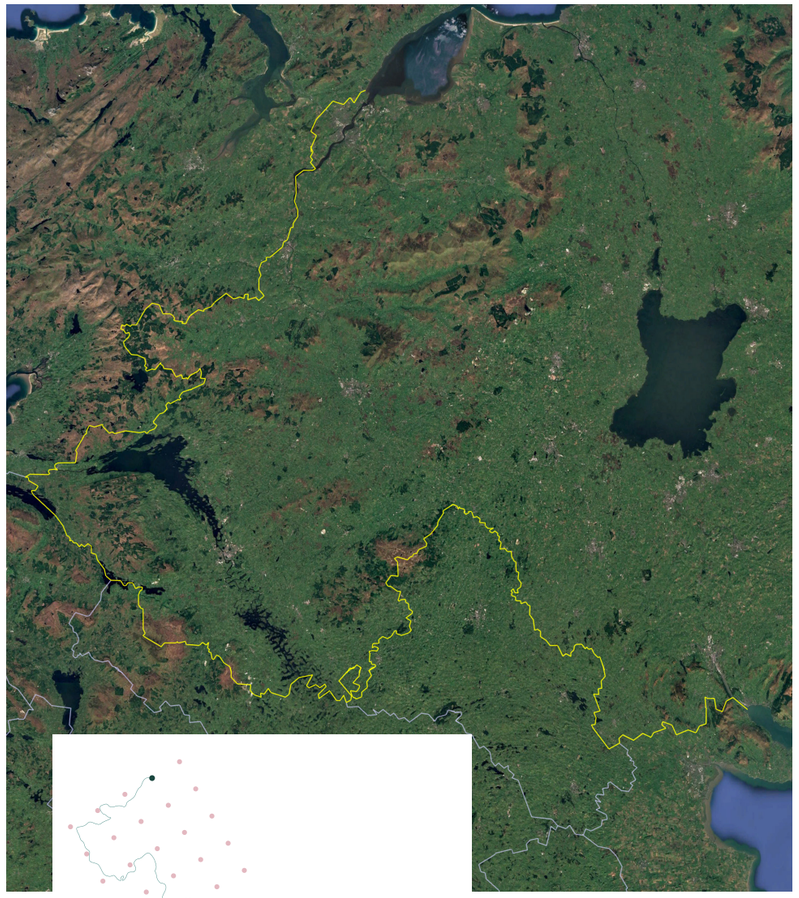
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Title	Women's everyday experiences of border life: A visual representation of women's everyday encounters with the UK/Irish border, past and present
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Women of the Borderlands

A Walking Biographical Study of Women's Everyday Life on the UK/Irish Border

Women's everyday experiences of border life.

A visual representation of women's everyday encounters with the UK/Irish border, past and present.

*The icons are located randomly to illustrate the influences of the border over women living in the region and do not represent the places as such, in order to protect anonymity of our interviwees.

Women of the Borderlands

A Walking Biographical Study of Women's Everyday Life on the UK/Irish Border



LEGEND

Education	Smuggling	Healthcare
Family	Checkpoints	Deliveries
Customs Hut	Friends	Bombs
Surveillance	Passport / Visa	Maternal Care
Border Living	Sport	British Army
Community	Conflict	Abortion Access
Shopping	Paramilitaries	Work
	Disco	Petrol

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Ulster University

CLÁR TAIGHDE THUAIDH THEAS NORTH SOUTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME

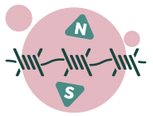
Women's everyday experiences of border life.

Drawing from 53 research interviews conducted for the 'Women of the Borderlands' project, this map traces the experiences and purposes of women's everyday journeys through the UK/Irish borderlands.

The map visually represents the numerous and daily encounters between women and the border as they sought to navigate the often adverse, challenging and militarised conditions of rural borderlands.



Surveillance:
Surveillance was part of everyday life for women. Women were watched by security forces, paramilitaries and the community in their homes and on the streets.



Border Living:
The border is not only experienced by crossing it, but how it shapes women's lives and how partition is embodied in these everyday practices.



Community:
Community has been crucial for women in the borderlands, in the face of rural isolation and segregation.



Shopping:
Women were mostly responsible for household shopping. Everyday life in the border entails crossing for products that might be cheaper on one side or unavailable on the other.



Work:
As in most borderland areas, some women live on one side and work on the other for better opportunities or higher incomes.



Paramilitaries:
Women recalled fear of paramilitary violence and surveillance as part of the border landscape and a constant in their daily lives.



Disco:
Attending discos and the cinema are a key part of Irish youth. Women recalled the checkpoints, the strategies and routes they would take to attend.



Petrol:
Part of living in the border is crossing to the other side for basic needs such as petrol, which is cheaper in the North.



Smuggling:
Women routinely engaged in cross-border smuggling, often for economic survival. Prams were among the creative strategies used to hide purchases at checkpoints.



Checkpoints:
Army checkpoints greatly complicated life for women around the border and contributed to stress, anxiety and a climate of fear.



Friends:
Many women reported how the border strained friendships and created isolation, both through difficult cross-border visits and creating suspicion within communities.



Passport / Visa:
The notion of a soft border is challenged by restrictive immigration rules that prohibit freedom of movement for people from non-EU countries who live here.



Sport:
Women crossed the border to watch, play, and socialise through sports Often the nearest club or pitch was located across the border.



Conflict:
The border became a site of violence and community fragmentation during the Troubles. Participants described attacks on checkpoints and distrust among people and businesses of differing backgrounds.



British Army:
Participants recalled encounters with the British Army. While some described feelings of fear and invasion, others felt reassured and protected by their presence.



Abortion Access:
Due to restrictive abortion access on both sides of the border, activists were forced to smuggle abortion pills across the border.



Healthcare:
Women from both sides of the border described difficulties accessing healthcare services including GPs, dentists, and surgeries and crossing the border to receive care.



Deliveries:
Due to the different jurisdictions, some items can only be shipped to one side of the border. Participants discussed using addresses over the border to overcome this.



Bombs:
During the Troubles, everyday life was also shaped and disturbed by bomb detonations that occurred in different places of the borderlands were people were killed.



Maternal Care:
Maternal care and maternity support groups straddled the border and thus were difficult to access for some women.



Education:
Women crossed the border daily to access education or drive family members to educational facilities, especially at Third-level education.



Family:
Women were often responsible for primary family care as well as social visits to family that lived either side of the border.



Customs Huts:
Customs checks either side of the border were commonplace and a source of anxiety.