THE BELLINI COLLOQUIUM



Dr. Robin Ellis

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"Intimate Exchanges: Interpreting Borders in Hans-Christian Schmid's Distant Lights (Lichter, 2003)"

Interpreting is an embodied act of translation frequently employed in border zones as a means of enacting and enforcing geopolitical borders. At the same time, translation can open up new spaces of meaning and mobility, calling the stability of such borders into question.

Hans-Christian Schmid's 2003 film *Distant Lights* (*Lichter*) takes place along the German-Polish border and features two interpreters whose embodied, affective labor is linked to other acts of border crossing and transgression, and who function as both gatekeepers and facilitators of transnational movement and exchange.

