This study has been reviewed and cleared by the McMaster Research Ethics Board.

If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact the McMaster Research Ethics Board Secretariat.

Phone:(905) 525-9140 Ext.23142

Email: ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca

Mail :

c/o Research Office for Administrative Development and Support

McMaster University

1280 Main St West

Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8

My faculty supervisor, Dr. Ellen Badone, can be reached at (905)525-9140 ext 23395 or badone@mcmaster.ca

## About the Researcher

I am a first-generation Canadian, whose family immigrated from the Netherlands in 1978. My previous research has centred on understanding political identities and how these identities relate to the everyday lives of people, I am hoping to extend what I have learned by focusing on the lives of people who live in borderlands. I have a Masters degree in Anthropology as well as in Political Science.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study or would like to participate, please contact Linda Brooymans at my local tel.:

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Or by email at:

brooyml@mcmaster.ca

The results of this study will be available in 2011. You can contact the researcher by email if you would like to receive a copy.

Life on the Border: Local, National and European Identity in Baarle-Nassau/ Baarle-Hertog



McMaster University

Research Investigator

Linda Brooymans

Doctoral Student

Department of Anthropology

McMaster University

Hamilton, ON

McMaster University

# About this Project

During the month of August 2008, as well as from June 2009 to July 2010, I will explore how cultural and political identity relate to the experiences and day-to-day life of local residents living in a borderland area. I hope to explore the ways in which the border as a legal line separating Dutch and Belgian territory affects your life and your sense of identity. While much research has been done on the lives and identities of borderlanders in Eastern Europe, very little borderland research has been done on the original EU countries in Western Europe.

My research will be qualitative and I will be residing in town and attending local events to observe what day-to-day life is like. I will sometimes take notes on these observations. I hope to learn about your life in this unique part of Europe.

Participant’s Role

Individuals are invited to tell me about their experience of life in Baarle, and/or their knowledge of the history of the area. Participants will be asked to speak about how their life as a resident in Baarle relates to their sense of being Belgian/Dutch and European. I am also interested in hearing your opinions about the EU and if it has had any impact on your life or on life in this town.

Individual as well as group interviews will be conducted. Interviews will follow a general guideline, but will be open-ended in order to follow discussion topics as they arise during the interview. Interviews will be approximately 20-45 minutes in length, depending on the availability of the participant/s.

Our interview will take place in a mutually agreed upon quiet and comfortable location. With the permission of participants, I will use a small digital voice recorder to tape the interview.

Confidentiality

All records of my observations, tapes of individual interviews and conversations will be kept private and will only be available to my supervisor and supervisory committee. Records and basic demographic information of participants will be used only for research purposes and will be kept in secure storage. I will use pseudonyms in all publications, and no one will be identified by name in this study. For group interviews every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality, but because of the nature of the interview this cannot be guaranteed.

If at any time local residents feel uncomfortable with my taking observations and notes at local events, they are welcome to let me know and I will make every effort to respect their privacy.

 If there are any questions that participants feel uncomfortable answering or that they would prefer not to answer they may skip over that section or stop the interview. Participation in this research is completely voluntary and participants can decide to withdraw from this study at any time.