



Rhino Poaching, Border Patrol, and the Dual Militarization of South Africa's Kruger National Park

Last year South Africa saw the poaching of 448 rhinos, over half of which were killed in its world-renowned Kruger National Park. These numbers are unprecedented, leaving the state scrambling to understand the problem and to find a solution. One response has been the re-introduction of the military inside the park. In this talk, I explore the complexities of the militarization of Kruger. I examine how Kruger is being transformed through a dual militarization, the first effected by the poachers themselves and the second by the state response. I also consider how this is further complicated by the park's multi-layered spatiality: the borders to be protected are not only park borders but, significantly, the international border with Mozambique, which forms Kruger's eastern boundary. Finally, I reflect on the potential impacts of this militarization on the larger Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park as well as on undocumented migrants moving through this increasingly militarized conservation space.

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