

Volcanoes on borders: Potentially explosive geopolitical agents

Amy R Donovan, Clive Oppenheimer

Dept of Geography, University of Cambridge, UK

E-mail: ard31@cam.ac.uk

This poster provides an overview of an ongoing project examining the science and policy questions that relate to volcanoes on international borders. Volcanic eruptions are frequently transboundary events: this was demonstrated clearly for Europeans during the 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajokull. Aviation technology is perhaps particularly vulnerable to these transboundary effects, but there are also a large number of volcanoes globally that are on or close to international borders. These include Nabro and Mallahle in Eritrea, Paektu or Changbaishan on the North Korea - China border, and numerous Andean volcanoes (for example, between Argentina and Chile). A large eruption at any of these volcanoes would affect two or more countries in its immediate impacts (ash fall, pyroclastic currents). We use qualitative social scientific methods and GIS to examine some of the implications of this for global eruption management, both in terms of scientific diplomacy and political issues.