The Law of the Neighbor: The Political Demography of International Law

Matilda Arvidsson, *Lund University*
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Sound: Jesper Bryngemark
What might a political demography of international law entail?

from Latin politicus concerning civil administration | from Greek politikos | from politēs citizen | from polis city.

from Greek dēmos people, the populace | + French -graphie, writing | from Greek -graphi, -graphy.
Monday, May 12, 2003. | Baghdad was burning. | As the Air Force C-130 banked above the curve of the Tigris River, I twisted in the sling seat and stared out the circular window of the cargo bay. The capital of Iraq stretched north beneath the right wing, dusty beige, sprawled in the shimmering heat. Dark smoke columns rose in the afternoon sun.
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Boundaries on bodies
outlined, inscribed, written as if
nomos will name, make new
within the polis: a polis.

The sovereign call: I will make new
you as my dēmos, my dēmoi.
Imprint on

bodies on boundaries
in-lined, outscribed, rewritten.
Can there be no outside of this city?

I write onto myself another polis
another nomos