

**DYNAMICS
OF SECURITY**

SFB/TRR 138 „DYNAMICS OF SECURITY“

INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

„HISTORICIZING SECURITY“

22-23 OCTOBER 2020, ONLINE



HISTORICIZING SECURITY

Since the beginning of pre-modern state building processes, security has been one of the most important ends of governance and the object of societal expectations towards politics. Today, the concept encompasses a vast variety of meanings. Security is conceived of as an ‘abstract programmatic concept’, as a ‘socio-cultural symbol of value’, or as a ‘catch-all-term for the modern world’. Since the dangers of the so-called ‘global risk society’ are being increasingly perceived as a threat, it is argued that the insecurity *de nos jours*, an ‘erosion of security’, rules the political discourse as well as the political agenda. Thus, it is beyond question that security is not only an individual and collective good, but that it has become a powerful *topos* in the course of history, being capable of legitimating a vast number of political actions. Hence, we do not adhere to any certain underlying, static definition of security: security has always been the object of competing interpretations and interests, a societal construct and a historically changeable, varying concept.

Our multidisciplinary and international conference “Historicizing Security” aims at bringing together and provoking reflections upon the communication, organization and institutionalization of security from a historical perspective. We would like to discuss how diverse conceptions and notions of security have been developed throughout history, how they have been communicated, and how they have found their way into politics and turned into particular policies. Starting from dif-

ferent approaches in the field of Critical Security Studies, we conceptually designate these interdependent, dynamic processes as processes of securitization. We understand securitization as a process in which actors define situations as security-relevant within the framework of a collectively binding or shared situational definition. Our aim is to make a conceptual contribution to the field of Critical Security Studies by focussing on the historical perspective, which involves underlining and explaining the crucial importance of historicizing security. Historicization, here, entails more than an analysis of security dynamics in particular historical situations and constellations. It refers to, firstly, the analysis of the historicity of the dynamics of security and of perceptions and representations of security (including forms and types of securitization). In this understanding, historicization articulates the historical processes that have materialized situations in the present. Secondly, historicization implies the historical contextualization of understandings and representations of security and insecurity (for instance and most notably, as conditions for the analysis of securitization and security cultures). This second approach to historicization builds on the conviction that we cannot formulate notions of security and insecurity as neutral definitions and abstract them from the stream of history in which they are embedded and have been emerging.

Thursday, 22nd October 2020

- 13:00** Address of Welcome
- 13:15** **Marian Füssel, Göttingen:** ‚without any manner of security or defense‘ .
Historicizing Practices of Securitization in the Seven Years War (1756-1763)
- 14:30** **Beatrice de Graaf, Utrecht:** Historicizing security as ‚usable past‘: towards a new mode
of ‚applied history‘ in international relations and security studies.
- 15:45** **Eleonora Rohland, Bielefeld:** Invisible Networks of Security: The Emergence of Pro-
fessional Reinsurance Companies during the mid-19th Century.
- 17:00** **William Walters, Carleton, CA:** Postsecrecy

Friday, 23rd October 2020

- 09:00** **Arndt Brendecke, München:** Historicizing Vigilance: Revealing the Sediments of Time
- 10:15** **Peter Geimer, Berlin:** The All-Seing-Eye. Photographic Tools of (In)Security
- 11:30** **Luis Lobo-Guerrero, Groningen:** Securing Globality and the Western creation of the
Southern Cross in the XVIC
- 12:45** *Lunch break*
- 14:00** **Maria Mälksoo, Kent:** Militant Memocracy in International Relations: Mnemonical Sta-
tus Anxiety and Memory Laws in Eastern Europe
- 15:15** **Johannes Völz, Frankfurt/ Main:** The Politics of Security and the Aesthetics of Insecu-
rity in American Cold War Liberalism
- 16:30** **Stefano Guzzini, Uppsala:** Critical Security Studies between Peace and Power
- 17:30** Concluding discussion
- 18:00** End of the conference

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and you'll get access to the virtual room.