

Threats without a face? The diffuse challenges of transnational security

Where?

Prague

When?

21 – 25 September 2015

Who?

BA, MA and PhD students

DNGPS panel at the IAPSS autumn convention “New Threats to Security”, 21 – 25 September in Prague, hosted by the DNGPS Working Group “International Relations”

Security as concept plays a dominant role in the field of International Relations. But while its ontic presence is undeniable, its ontological character is highly contested and far ranging. The understanding of security and what could be a threat changes depending on theory, study area or methodical approach. Today it seems anachronistic even in the field of IR to limit the range of security to states or even international organizations as actor in security issues. Globalization and the transcendence of the modern state system taking place transform accustomed approaches. As our age is a structural one where even security threats gain an impersonal nature, the source of the security threat is diffuse instead of easily related to a subject.

Despite the facelessness of the source of threats there is another phenomenon. Epidemic diseases or climate change do not stop at national borders and are globally contesting the state system. Terrorism and cyber-warfare transcend these borders as well and are hard to come by with national jurisdiction and frequent political and legal institutions. What sorts of challenge do actors in IR face in the transnational age? How do they meet the transformations of transnationalization and how do they react to or manage these threats? Do diffuse threats trigger cooperative behavior and/or encourage

region building approaches? How and why are some phenomena securitized and how did they change our perception of the world? Do new transnational threats appear at the academic or political horizon? Does linking these phenomena to security concepts make sense at all?

Possible subjects for papers include (but are not limited to):

- Epidemic diseases (e.g. Ebola, HIV, SARS)
- terrorism
- climate change
- environmental disasters/degradation
- migration
- biopolitical threats
- cyber-war

Please send us your abstract of no more than 500 words by [email](#). An abstract also includes the author's name and degree, the title of the paper, a maximum of five keywords, the author's institutional affiliation (home university/institute), and the author's email address. Please note that only BA, MA and PhD students are eligible to apply. Abstracts submitted by researchers holding a PhD cannot be taken into consideration. Abstracts should be submitted by **1 July 2015**. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions left (info@aginternationalebeziehungen.de).

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