



CONFERENCE

The Social Construction of Threat and The Changing Relation between Liberty and Security

5 & 6 June 2008

Centre for European Policy Studies, CEPS
Place du Congrès 1, 1000, Brussels, Belgium
Conference Room

With the end of the Cold War, security institutions and professionals as well as the academic world of security studies lost the political relation that organized much of their work for four decades: the enmity between the Soviet Union and the United States and the bipolar organization of world politics around two competing ideologies and geo-strategic blocs. For those used to looking at the world in these terms, international relations were suddenly in radical flux. The construction of threats seemed to have become a more open field. Defining threats and hierarchies between them – i.e. which threats require most urgently attention – became the object of intensive struggles between various actors. Established categorical distinctions between policing and defence, private and public, threat and risk, national and international, deterrence and pre-emption, market and state, to name a few were being renegotiated and reconstructed in processes constituting new insecurities. These developments took place in a wide variety of policy fields: humanitarian intervention, environmental politics, migration, terrorism, border controls, development aid, weapon proliferation, etc.

The violent destruction of the Twin Towers and a wing of the Pentagon on 11 September 2001 and its subsequent politicization catapulted the question of a changing relation between liberty and security onto the political agenda. In many western countries it became a key issue through which security policies and the construction of insecurities was politicized. Since then the question of the social construction of threat – i.e. what insecurities are constructed by whom – has been intertwined with debates about how securitizing processes redefine freedoms and what effects they have on the institutional mechanisms through which freedoms are constituted and protected.

This conference brings together work that has been done in both COST Action A24 'The Evolving social construction of threats' (2004-2007) and CHALLENGE (The Changing Landscape of European Liberty and Security) a research project funded by the 6th Framework Research Programme of DG Research of the European Commission. This event will be the final Conference of the COST Action 24 and it will address key developments in the social construction of insecurities and the reconfigurations of the relation between liberty and security as a central stake in security policies. The conference will look at policy developments in the areas of counter-terrorism, privatization of security, insurance and risk, migration and borders, and foreign policy of and within the EU. The conference will also present conceptual and theoretical work that offers better tools for understanding the re-constitution of insecurities in the last two decades.

FIRST DAY

5 June 2008 (Thursday)

09.30 - 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 10.30 **Opening Address:** Elspeth Guild, Jef Huysmans and Didier Bigo

10.30 - 12.30 **Roundtable One: The Changing Relationship of Liberty and Security in Europe**

Chair: Angela Liberatore (European Commission)

Didier Bigo, Philippe Bonditti or/and **Christian Olsson** (Sciences Po), *The mapping of the European internal security agencies*

Ole Waeber (University of Copenhagen)

Vivienne Jabri (King's College London), *Anti-terror legislation, practices of government, and the politics of security*

Peter Burgess (PRIO), *Security as ethics*

Open Discussion

12.30 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 – 14:30 **Keynote Speech:**

Marian-Jean Marinescu (European Parliament), *The European Commission Communication on preparing the next steps in border management in the EU* (TBC)

Roselyne Lefrançois (European Parliament), *The EU Action on Antiterrorism: Facing the Challenges?*

Chair: Elspeth Guild

14.30 - 16.00 **Panel I: Terrorism & Risk**

Chair: Peter Burgess (PRIO)

Karen Lund Petersen (University of Copenhagen), *Communicating security: strategies of persuasion, silence, visibility and invisibility*

Anastassia Tsoukala (University Paris V – Sorbonne), *Threat assessment processes in criminology and IR*

Luis Lobo-Guerrero (University of Keele), *Technologies of Risk and Contemporary Security*

Mark Lacy (University of Lancaster), *Risk, design, and the politics of security*

Open Discussion

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30- 18.00 **Panel II: Migration, borders and mobility**

Chair: Sergio Carrera (CEPS)

Stefano Bertozzi (European Commission), *Past achievements - Future Challenges*

Judit Tóth (University of Szeged), *Impacts of the extended Schengen zone on mobility and borders*

Juliet Lodge (University of Leeds), *Are biometrics the solution?*

Galina Cornelisse (University of Utrecht), *The Power to Detain Irregular Immigrants and Asylum Seekers: A "Necessary Adjunct" to an "Undeniable Sovereign Right"?*

Open Discussion

SECOND DAY

6 June 2008 (Friday)

09.00 - 09.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.15 **Keynote Speech:** Jose Luis Gomez Del Prado (UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries) *The elusive public-private distinction: A discussion on the activities of the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries*

10.15 - 11.45 **Roundtable Two: The Social Construction of Threat since the Cold War**

Chair: Jef Huysmans (The Open University)

Claudia Aradau (The Open University)

Stefano Guzzini (University of Uppsala)

Anna Leander (Copenhagen Business School)

Rens van Munster (University of Southern Denmark)

11.45 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 - 13.00 **Panel I: Critical Approaches to Security in Europe**

Chairs: Francesco Ragazzi (Sciences-Po Paris & Northwestern University) & Stephan Davidshofer (Sciences-Po Paris)

Felix Berenskoetter (Dartmouth College) and **Holger Stritzel** (London School of Economics), *Critical approaches and policy making: an uneasy relationship*

Julien Jeandesboz (Sciences Po Paris), *Beyond Schengen? Managing insecurities in the European Neighbourhoods. CASE in practice.*

Discussant: Tara McCormack (University of Westminster)

Open Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 - 15.00 **Panel II: The EU as a Global Actor: Critical Reflections**

Chair: Maria Stern (Goteborg University)

Pertti Joenniemi (Danish Institute for International Studies - DIIS), *The European Union is not what it used to be; once a 'Peace Project' and now a 'Force for Good'*

Dovile Jakniunaite (Vilnius University), *Shared Neighbourhood Space: Baltic States between the EU and Russia*

Thomas Diez (with **Michelle Pace**) (University of Birmingham), *Normative Power and Conflict Resolution: Unfulfilled Promises*

Open Discussion

15.00 - 16.30 **Panel III: Eclipsing the public-private distinction? Conceptualizing the role of non-state actors in the social construction of threats and trust**

Chair: Anna Leander (Copenhagen Business School)

Till Förster (University of Basel), *"Maintenant, on sait qui est qui"*

Gregor Dobler (University of Basel), *Constructing "crime" as public enemy in Namibia: the interplay between 'public' and 'private' actors*

Christian Olsson (Sciences Po, Paris), *Market sovereignty or Privatisation of the State? Private Companies for Counterinsurgency*

Luke A. Patey (Copenhagen Business School), *The Limits of Compassion: The United States, China, and the Sudan Divestment Campaign*

Open Discussion

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.00 **Open discussion on the social construction of threat and the changing relation between liberty and security**

Led by Didier Bigo and Jef Huysmans

Closing Remarks by Elspeth Guild