Abstracts

Thorsten Bonacker

Situated Security. Towards a Methodological Situationism in Critical Security Studies

The Copenhagen School has repeatedly been criticized for clinging to the idea of an ahistorical grammar of security that can be used to enforce extraordinary measures to protect objects of reference in different political constellations under certain conditions. In contrast, a sociological reading of securitization theory has argued for a more contextualist understanding of securitization, but without providing it with a consistent, analytical foundation. The article proposes a methodological situationism for such a basis, which allows to focus more on how security becomes a component of social and political contexts of effects. To this end, it draws on theoretical traditions of pragmatism and interactionism, but supplements them with a perspective on trans-situational mechanisms, the functioning of which is explained using the example of research on the security-development nexus.

Keywords: Securitization, situation, pragmatism, interactionism, security-development nexus

Sebastian Hoppe

International Historical Sociology and Historical Social Science in German and Anglo-American IR

On the Relevance of a Parallel Debate for Foreign Policy Research

Ongoing for more than 30 years, the Anglophone debate over the contribution of Historical Sociology (HS) to the analysis of international politics has, with few exceptions, not yet been taken up in the German IR community. This article takes this desideratum as an opportunity to first outline central points of discussion in the research field of International Historical Sociology (IHS). Building on this, it recapitulates hitherto unreflected links to the older, Historical Social Science (1960s – 80s) and the neo-Weberian tradition of Historical Sociology (since the 1990s) in German IR. The paper argues that the substantial contributions made within the field of IHS provide a basis for further reflection, especially for a critical methodology of foreign policy research. Finally, the article argues for conceiving of foreign policy as a historical process category and indicates the methodological registers of

a Historical Sociology of International Politics that requires a distinct focus on conflictual social relations and the historicity of regional and global orders.

Keywords: International Historical Sociology, International Relations in Germany, conflict, foreign policy, methodology

Philipp Söker
A question of leadership style?
How President Barack Obama and President Donald J. Trump handled the Iranian nuclear deal

On May 18, 2018, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would withdrew from the ‚Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action' (JCPOA). This multilateral agreement was negotiated under the Obama administration and adopted by the UN Security Council on July 20, 2015. This presidential decision raises the question whether the president's leadership style is crucial for the compliance with multilateral agreements. Using the leadership trait analysis (LTA), the leadership styles of President Obama and President Trump are identified and compared. This study showed that Presidents Obama (PO) and Trump (PT) share an identical leadership style. However, both presidents differ substantially within the leadership traits 'distrust of others' (PO scores low) and 'task focus' (PT scores low). The study concludes that differences in handling the JCPOA are explained best by interpersonal differences within the leadership traits. Thus, the LTA reveals the empirical relevance of individual dispositions in US foreign policy.

Keywords: Leadership trait analysis, Barack Obama, Donald J. Trump, political psychology, JCPOA

Katja Freistein/Frank Gadinger/Christine Unrau
Behind Walls and Inside Houses: How Right-Wing Populists Narrate Anti-Globalization

The appeal of right-wing populist parties and movements cannot be easily accounted for, for instance by looking at economic grievances. A central motif, which we see as relevant from a perspective of International Relations research, is the role that anti-globalisation plays for these groups. By pointing to 'threats' from 'the outside' they mobilise support, but also distract from a lack of concrete policies and the domestic nature of many problems. With interpretive methods of narrative, visual and metaphor analysis, we contribute to the performative turn in populism studies. Metaphors are entry points to broader narratives, as their ambiguity resists interpretive closure and allows for different significations. We highlight three dimensions of the metaphor, the 'Outside', the 'Inside' and the 'Father of the House'.

Our analysis of powerful metaphors reconstructs how this ambiguous narrative mode generates emotional consent to extreme political goals but also opens up avenues for resisting these claims.

Keywords: (Anti-)Globalization, populism, narrative analysis, emotions, visuality

Katharina Krause
Seeing 'bodies in pain': images, emotions, and the health-security nexus

Pathogens are invisible for the human eye – but disease becomes visible through the marks it leaves on the human body. But what exactly is the seeing of the body in pain doing to our understanding of health crises? This article discusses this question with reference to the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic and by bringing into conversation two hitherto rather separated strands of literature: the study of emotions in IR via visual representations and the literature on the health-security nexus. Drawing on the analysis of three award-winning image series, I show that images of the body in pain resonate simultaneously with the emotional registers of pity and fear. This finding suggests that the body in pain can be both, referent object and existential threat and thus create distance and proximity with the viewer. I argue that pity and fear here are no contradictory but interdependent emotions that shape the health-security nexus.

Keywords: Visuality, emotions, health-security nexus, the body in pain, Ebola

Matthias Leese
How to deal with technology? On the reorganization of an analytical field in International Relations

Over the past decade, we have seen a number of technological innovations with broad implications for global politics and their study in International Relations (IR). This article attempts to provide an overview of current debates that have revolved around the question how to properly accommodate technology in the study of the international. Three larger trends are identified: The first one consists of a broad critique of predominant determinist ontologies in IR, leading to an analytical externalization of technology. The second trend is characterized by an increasing conceptual turn towards Science and Technology Studies. The third trend involves a methodological move towards qualitative field research methods to study technology in concrete contexts and use-cases.

Keywords: Review, technology, Science and Technology Studies, theory, methodology