JUSTUS-LIEBIG-
UNIVERSITÄT
GIESSEN

GGS

Gießener Graduiertenzentrum
Sozial-, Wirtschafts- und Rechtswissenschaften

Lecture as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2021

Security Studies – Historical approach. Theories, Methods, Examples

Organizational details

Instructor: Sain, Mario

Date: May 19th 2021, from 2-4pm

Location: Online (link will be sent in advance to the lecture)

Content

Lecture about historical approach to security studies has three main components. The first is the theoretical development of security studies. The second component of the lecture will demonstrate methods necessary for historical research and overcoming historical discontinuity. Using relevant examples, students will be able to comprehend how modern-generated theory can be applied in authentic historical reality.

Over time, security has merely been defined as the *absence of insecurity and threats*. Our focus in this lecture will be on the achievements of Copenhagen and the Parisian School of Security and their theoretical approach to security as *self-referential practice* based on the theory of *speech act,* that is, on the theory of *pragmatic moment*. Many relevant scholars determined that this theoretical comprehension of security is based on the political thought developed during the time of the emergence of modern nation-states. Thus, historians are facing massive impediments in implementing these theories to a certain historical reality. Scholars are warned to pay attention to the implementation of modern terminology in historical discontinuity. Moreover, historians must overcome the gap between modernity and historical duration by developing new methods and approaches to transcend the modern approach. The lecture will demonstrate the practical usage of the methods developed over time, using examples of securitizing confessional minorities, based on primary sources. We will see what can be defined as a security issue in historical discontinuity and what is necessary to make historical research of security matters feasible and justified. The main research questions this lecture will raise are:

- Is it possible to conduct scientific research in a certain historical discontinuity by using modern-based theory?
- What are the main impediments a scholar faces when dealing with security issues in historical reality?
- Should we disregard the historical approach to security studies as iniquitous and uncalled?
- What are the new approaches to the issue?

Key words: Security, Copenhagen School of Security, Paris School of Security, speech act, pragmatic moment, diachronic misuse, confessional minorities, historical discontinuity.

Learning targets:

- Basic understanding of security theory and its development.
- Knowledge and perception of what historical research of security issues requires.
- Insight into the relevant literature on the subject.
- Comprehension of the relevance of similar inquiries.

Target group

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties

Course language

English

Registration

Please register by **9th of May 2021** via e-mail at info@ggs.uni-giessen.de.