

Knowledge and Power: Political Science Research on “European Internal Security” and its Implications – Illustrated Through Future Scenarios

Note:

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“The purpose [in the political sciences] is not, as in the physical sciences, irrelevant to the investigation and separable from it: it is itself one of the facts. In theory, the distinction may no doubt be still drawn between the role of the investigator who establishes the facts and the role of the practitioner who considers the right course of action. In practice, one role shades imperceptibly into another. Purpose and analysis become part and parcel of a single process.”

“Political thought is itself a form of political action. Political science is the science not only of what is, but of what ought to be.”¹

Edward Hallett Carr

1. Research Question

This dissertation will deal with the political science literature (published between 1997 and 2005) on the European Union’s (EU) internal security policies. More specifically, the implications of this research on the future of the policy field “European Internal Security“ will be examined. To put it in extreme terms: Does political science research in this area generate knowledge supporting and legitimizing the EU (“Herrschaftswissen”), or rather knowledge criticizing and delegitimizing the EU as an actor in this field (“Oppositionswissen“)? The rather ambiguous term “implications“ has been chosen deliberately. It refers to the potential effects of the political meanings contained in this body of literature on the very policies it covers. But it also encompasses possible scenarios for the future development of these policies, as reflected in the corresponding political science discourse.

Underlying this research question is the assumption that there is indeed a close relationship between the policy field “European Internal Security“ and the respective political science research field. The goal of this dissertation is to highlight this power-knowledge-nexus, focusing on the potential influence of academia on policy, while not neglecting the influence of the EU on political science research.

¹ Cox, Michael (ed.). *E. H. Carr, The Twenty Years' Crisis: Introduction to the Study of International Relations, 1919-1939*. Palgrave, 2001, 5 (quote 1) und 6 (quote 2).

2. Theoretical Foundations

In this dissertation, the notion of “security“ is perceived as an “essentially contested concept“. Therefore, the study is built on the concept of an “ontology of becoming“. Its goal is not to unearth an alleged “essence“ of the phenomenon “European Internal Security“. Rather, the analysis will focus on the role political science plays in constructing this policy field and on possible implications of the corresponding discourse.

The topic will be analyzed from a constructivist perspective, with research conceived as an “encounter“ with the world. Within this framework, research takes on a dual character: it produces knowledge of the world (in Carr’s terminology: “analysis“/“what is“) and at the same time political meaning (“purpose“/“what ought to be“).

3. Research Design

According to this concept, the dissertation will consist of two main sections:

Section B will address the knowledge dimension of political science research on “European Internal Security“. It will give a comprehensive overview of both the policy and the research field based on a detailed analysis of the research literature and official documents. This can be best achieved through qualitative content analysis.

In section C, the political meaning of political science research on “European Internal Security“ will be extracted and future scenarios for this policy field developed. Based on the results of section B, the selected texts are to be analyzed from a new perspective and with a new approach. Firstly, the political meanings will be uncovered through discourse analysis, thus identifying basic building blocks for future scenarios. Secondly, in a scenario building exercise, these elements will be composed into fully fledged future scenarios.

A comparison of the various scenarios will offer insight into the relationship between “knowledge“ and “power“ in the policy and research field “European Internal Security“.

Annex 1: Draft Structure

Section A: Introduction

1. Research Problem and Question
2. Research Objectives and Interests
3. Ontological and Epistemological Foundations
4. Research Context and State of the Art
5. Research Design and Dissertation Structure
6. Target Groups and Relevance
7. Ethical Questions
8. Scope, Limitations and Potential

Section B: Structuring the Political and Research Field

1. The Research Landscape
2. The Policy Field from the Perspective of Political Science
3. The Policy Field from the Perspective of the Author
4. Conclusion: "Areas of Contestations"

Section C: Future Scenarios of the Policy Field

1. Future Scenarios Based on EU Documents
2. Future Scenarios Based on Political Science Literature
3. Alternative Future Scenarios
4. Conclusion: Analysis and Evaluation

Section D: Summary and Conclusions

1. Summary
2. Putting the Results in Context
3. Ethical Implications
4. Outlook

Annex 2: Curriculum Vitae

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Education:

- Johann Wolfgang Goethe - Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2006-present):
Ph.D. Student in Political Science
- The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA, U.S.A. (1998-2000):
International Relations, Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy
- Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg/Br., Germany (1997-1998):
Modern History, Political Science and Public Law
- Universität Augsburg, Germany (1995-1997):
Modern History, Political Science and Constitutional/International Law, Intermediate Exams

Fellowships:

- Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (1997-1998):
Scholarship from the Department for the Sponsorship of Gifted Students of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation
- Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (1998-2000):
Konrad Adenauer Fellow at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

Work Experience:

- SAP AG (2005-present):
Doctoral Student
- Consulting (2000-2005):
Most recently as a consultant focusing on public management issues