

Diploma Thesis Review

Gabriel Olegario: *EU-Belarus border crisis (in)definitions: A case study of Poland*

The thesis under review wants to analyze a quite recent, but nonetheless important issue of the EU-Belarus dispute over sudden increase in number of Belarussian migrants going to Poland since winter 2021. The author utilizes the theoretical concepts of securitization and tries to find out how is Poland using security legitimization of its problematic approach towards migrants coming from Belarus since the end of 2021. In the first chapter the author describes the Copenhagen school theory of securitization. Second part of the thesis deals with the securitization of the migration policy both on the EU supranational level and on the level of the member states. Finally, the third chapter is a case study of Polish policy towards the Belarus induced migration crisis of 2021/22 and its discourse legitimization.

In general, the thesis proves that the author is capable to identify a research problem and subsequently analyze it using proper social science methodology and work with theory. The thesis utilizes enough of primary and secondary sources, and it is logically structured. I also positively evaluate the author's reminder that even though human rights should be the backbone of the EU's core values, in recent years due to high number of migrants these tend to be partially sacrificed because of perceiving migration increasingly as a security issue. However, there are several problematic things with the thesis:

- a) Overall, the level of English writing is acceptable, but there are constant mistakes in writing substantives wrongly with initial capital letters.
- c) In many parts of the thesis, the narrative relies on just one source for several paragraphs. This leads to, one would say, „overuse“ of particular sources and more sources in these passages should have been used instead.
- d) There could have been some helpful discussion comparing the Polish state's approach to migrants from Belarus and significant wave of Ukrainian migration following the start of the war in Eastern Europe in spring 2022. That would enable us to better explain, why the Polish approaches to these kind of migration waves have been so different.
- e) Due to the brevity of the text, readers will not encounter any discussion pertaining to the historical development of securitization (or lack of it) of migration policy in the EC/EU before

the 1990s. It also interesting that the author does not mention the differences in viewing migration and migrants in the old and new member states, especially those in Central Europe.

e) Last but not least, quite curiously, what is mainly lacking in the analytical part of the thesis is more detailed analysis of the *securitization discourse* on the Polish side. I think that there should have been more space devoted to elucidating this topic in more detail (with the use of primary sources), because that was supposed to be the focus of the work at hand.

Despite these shortcomings, Gabriel Olegario in my opinion presented an interesting and engaging text. Therefore, I recommend his thesis for the defense.

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