

Masterclass

Solution of Conflicts and Suretyship in an interterritorial Context



The Collaborative Research Centre “SFB/TRR 138 Dynamics of Security – Types of Securitization from a Historical Perspective” is a cooperation of the Philipps-University Marburg, the Justus-Liebig-University Gießen and the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe. Researchers from 19 subprojects investigate how diverse conceptions of security have been developed throughout history, how they found their way into politics and turned into particular policies. The research focuses on both the creation and representation of security as independent, dynamic processes. The concept of Securitization of the Copenhagen School was the theoretical starting-point underlying the subprojects. It was developed by Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver since the 1990s and describes justification of extraordinary measures as a reaction to a situation which has been branded a security issue by a securitizing actor.

For historians working on pre-modern questions it is difficult to adapt this concept, because the state and the speech act as a securitizing move play a central role in Securitization theory. Instead of the modern state we have to cope with more flexible forms of governance in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and Early Modern times. Particularly with regard to interterritorial conflicts and agreements this problem becomes evident.

In their research the subprojects A 01 (Securitization through Hostageship from Antiquity to Early Modern Times) and A 02 (Foundations, Conditions and Regulations for Creating Security between Christians and non-Christians, Latins and non-Latins in the Crusader States, 12th-14thc.) have to cope with these problems of applying the modern theoretical background to the legal practice and normative orders of the pre-modern periods. In what way were agreements reached and how were they secured? What kinds of sureties were set up and how can they be found in normative and narrative sources? Is there a connection between the rise of institutional governance and use of certain security measures in solving conflicts?

A Masterclass in the context of our Collaborative Research Centre is organized by a small group of PhD candidates. Its purpose is to discuss dissertation projects and theoretical issues with experts from outside the SFB and is therefore, supposed to be a direct contribution to the progress of our PhD projects.

The invited expert is asked to deliver a public talk linked to the topic of the Masterclass ("Solution of Conflicts and Suretyship in an Interterritorial Context"). This talk is supposed to be a public evening lecture. On the following day, a small group of PhD candidates participating in the Masterclass will briefly present their research projects and focus on specific methodological problems, which are then to be discussed with the expert in group. A few weeks before the Masterclass the expert will receive the abstracts of the dissertation projects to read in advance.