

The securitisation and politicisation of migration

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Lecture overview

- Define securitization and politicisation
- Examine the politicisation and securitization of migration
- Consider the impacts of politicisation and securitization at multiple levels (primarily focusing on Europe from 2015)
 - Within high level politics
 - On public responses to migration



Politicisation

- The rendering of an event, action or phenomenon as a political issue
 - Migration becomes a focus of political debate
 - A range of positions/opinions on migration are expressed
 - Migration policies are initiated or developed in order to address multiple concerns



Securitisation

- The rendering of an event, action or phenomenon as a security issue
 - Migration is defined as a threat (e.g. to society, to state sovereignty)
 - Migration moves from low to high politics (an extreme form of politicisation)
 - Migration policies move out of the democratic process (expedited, intelligence driven policy-making)



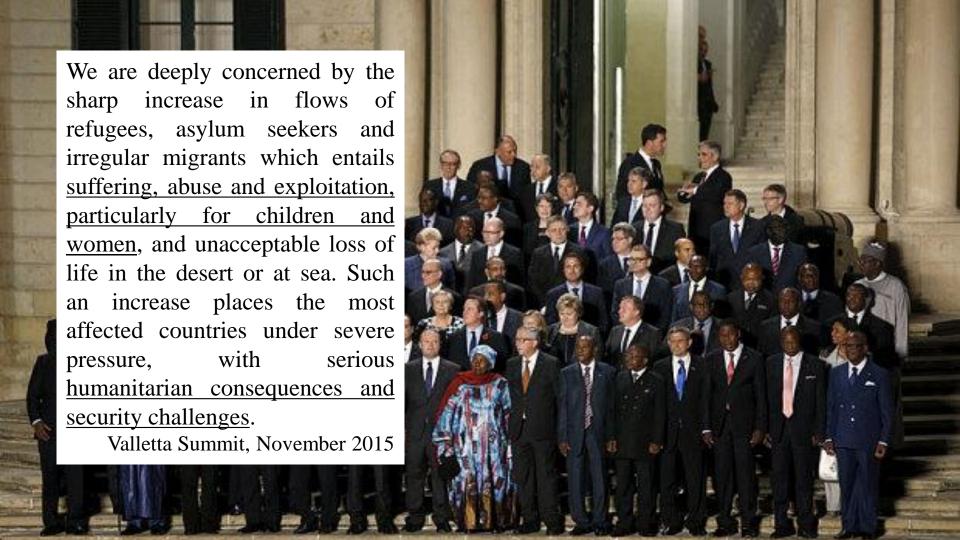
The securitisation of (illegal) migration

- Context for securitisation in Europe (1990s onwards)
 - End of the Cold War/geopolitical shift
 - Globalisation/increasing cross-border dynamics
- Securitisation/criminalisation of unwanted migration (linkage of security/policing mechanisms)
 - Concerns over increased asylum applications/migration GS
- Combination of state security/human security approach (linking of border control/aid)
 - Migration-development nexus



The current migration and security challenges know no borders, and require a truly European approach. Where Frontex used to be limited to supporting Member States in managing their external borders, the new Border Agency will go beyond this. What we are creating today is more Europe: to manage our external borders, to step up returns of irregular migrants, to allow our asylum system to function properly for those in need and to strengthen checks at the external borders of the European Union. The Border Package we are presenting today will increase security for our citizens and ensure high standards of border management.

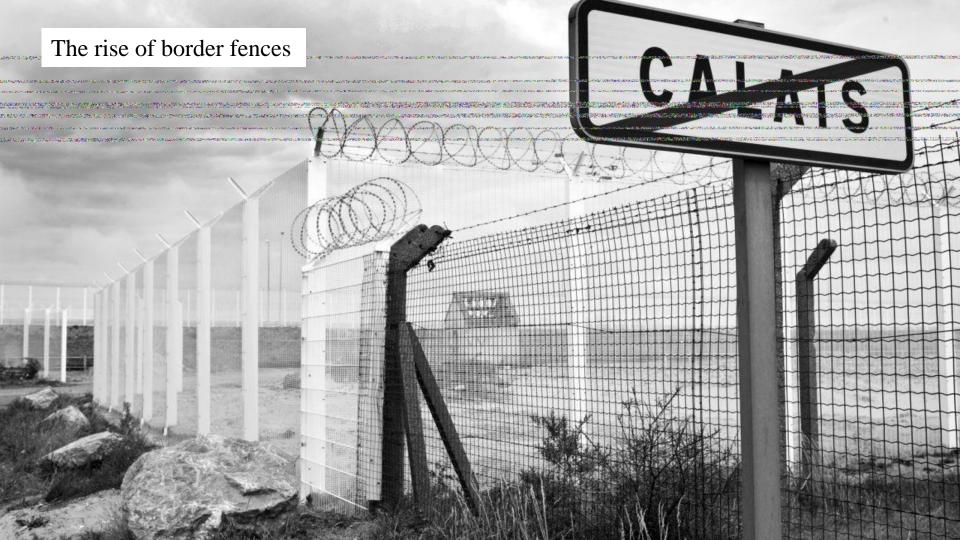
> Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos December 2015





Migration as a security threat?

- Whose security? (Security of what/whom, from what, by whom and by what means?)
 - Security of the state (sovereignty)
 - Security of society/citizens (identity, culture)
 - Security of [vulnerable] people (human security)





Those arriving have been raised in another religion, and represent a radically different culture. Most of them are not Christians, but Muslims...This is an important question, because Europe and European identity is rooted in Christianity... Is it not worrying in itself that European Christianity is now barely able to keep Europe Christian? There is no alternative, and we have no option but to defend our borders.

> Hungarian Prime Minister, Victor Orbán September 2015



Germany acted humanely and correctly in a very difficult situation. It was a question of averting a humanitarian catastrophe

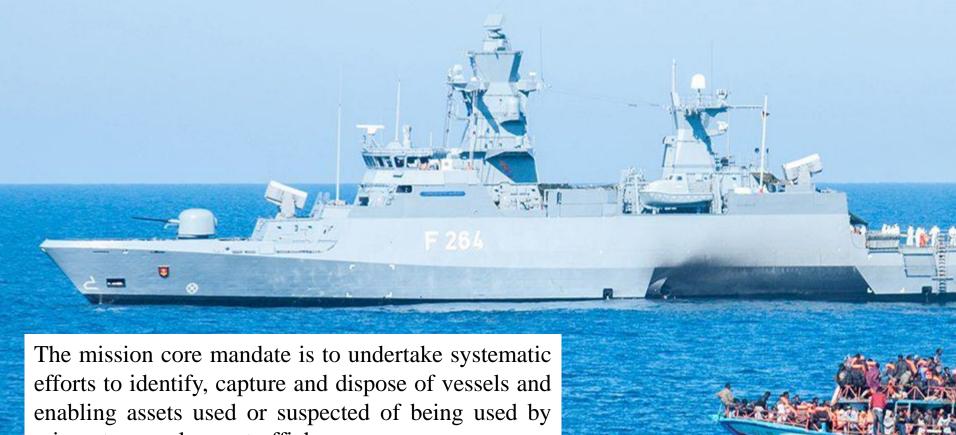
Angela Merkel German Chancellor August 2017



Modes of securitisation

- Securitisation emerges in various modes:
 - Linkage of migration with terrorism
 - Military and intelligence based action
 - Emergency and anticipatory interventions
- Policy interventions driven by fear or unease
- Increased linkage with humanitarianism





migrant smugglers or traffickers...

EUNAVFOR Med





I will suggest to Member States that we change the name of our Operation: instead of calling it EUNAVFOR MED, I suggest we use the name: Sophia. To honour the lives of the people we are saving, the lives of people we want to protect, and to pass the message to the world that <u>fighting the smugglers and the criminal networks is a way of protecting</u> human life

High Rep of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
European Commission Vice President
Federica Mogherini
September 2015





Politicisation and securitization

- Where does politicisation end and securitization begin?
- Does the securitisation of an issue become cumulative over time (associative vs explicit securitization)?
- Is desecuritisation possible what does re-politicization mean, and how can this be achieved?



We are at the peak of two crises – security and migration – and while they overlap in timing they should not be confused. Those people who arrived on our shores are fleeing precisely the same terror that struck the heart of Europe.

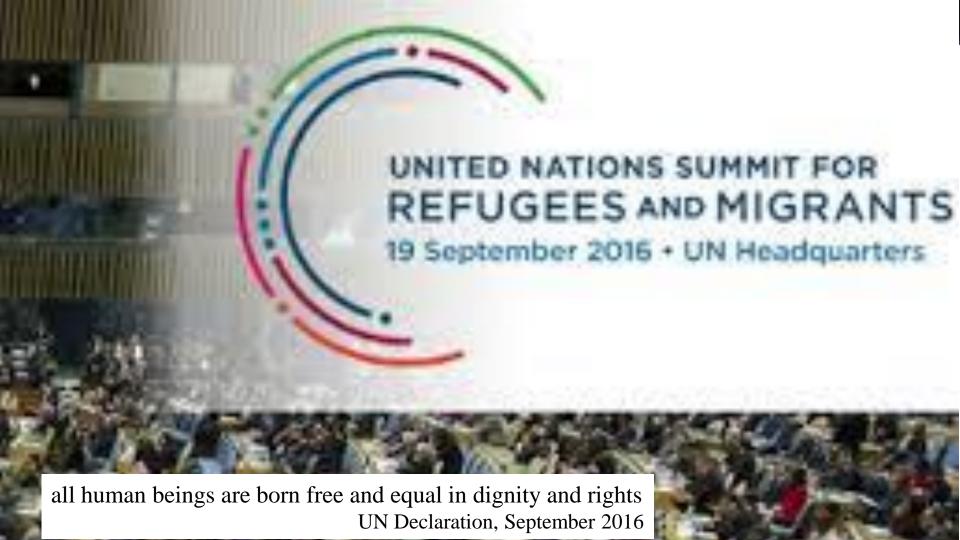
Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos March 2016

Commission europeenne European Commission













Summary

- Securitisation as an extreme form of politicisation – but also involves depoliticisation
- Difficulties of desecuritisation long-standing association of migration and security, proliferation of a politics of fear
- High level conflict over migration and public responses caught in antagonism



Thank you!