



Fourth workshop:

Problematizing Danger

Co-sponsored by the Biopolitics of Security Network,
the Emerging Securities Research Unit @ Keele University
and the Centre for International Relations, War Studies Department, King's College London
21-22 February 2011
The River Room, King's College London, Strand Campus

"There is no liberalism without a culture of danger." (Foucault, 2008: 67)
FOUCAULT, M. 2008. *The Birth of Biopolitics: lectures at the College de France, 1978-1979*,
Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.

Threats and risks have become the preferred categories for imagining contemporary security. Practices such as defence, border control and the surveillance of populations, insurance, risk profiling to identify suspicious subjects, and risk assessments to protect objects and systems such as critical infrastructure, rely heavily on well-established paradigms of security. Discourses and practices of threats and risks, with their allied technologies of measurement and calculation, however, relate to the wider problem of danger and its allied concept of 'uncertainty'. Thinking 'danger' relates to understandings of uncertainties, otherness of being, and spaces and environments of protection in excess of those accounted for in the language and metrics of discourses of threats and risks.

What happens, then, if the analysis of security resorts to understandings of 'danger', 'dangerousness', and processes of 'endangerment'? Is it possible to think security by referring ideas of danger to understandings of life, livelihoods and lifestyles, instead of ready-made 'objects' of security such as sovereignty, territory, the nation-state, citizens, borders, and sociological categories such as class and gender? Is it possible to think security in relation to danger away from utilitarian economic categories such as cost-benefit analysis, risk calculus, and rational choice?

The workshop aims to explore these questions and to challenge participants to *wonder* if current policy security priorities such as terrorism, climate change, weapons proliferation, resilience and migration can be thought in relation to 'danger' outside discourses of threats and risks.

In the first three workshops of this seminar series we began to explore an agenda for contemporary biopolitical security research around problems such as mobilities and circulations, resilience, values and processes of valuations in relation to the technologies through which lifestyles and livelihoods are treated as referents of security. In this fourth workshop we intend to spark a conversation around the implications of thinking dangerousness in relation to security and life.

The workshop is based on participants' work and invites a reflection on the following questions:

- How are ideas of danger constituted? What forms of 'data', 'information', and 'knowledge' are involved in constituting a dangerous subject or a dangerous environment?
- What are the preconditions for understanding endangerment in and how do they question the 'new security challenges' of for example, terrorism (and cyber-terrorism), proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, and health pandemics?
- Can discourses and practices of security be different if reflections on the consequences of endangerment are advanced?

Programme:

MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY

12:00 - 12:45 and Lunch

12:45 – 1:00 Introduction

- Luis Lobo-Guerrero (Keele University) and Vivienne Jabri (King's college London)

1:00 – 2:30 Panel 1

Ontologisations of Danger

- Btihaj Ajana (King's College London), Re-ontologising Danger
- Joscha Wullweber (University of Kassel), Strategies of Danger and Dangerous Strategies
- David Chandler (University of Westminster), The Ontology of Danger: Recasting the Human Subject in Discourses of Vulnerability and Resilience
- Andrew Neal (University of Edinburgh), 'The Entropy of Dangerousness'

Chair: tbc

2:30 – 4:00 – Panel 2

Risk managing the dangerousness of terror

- Cerelia Athanassiou (University of Bristol), Changing the Global War on Terror: Who is the 'Ready' Citizen Arming Against?
- Lisa Stampnitzky (University of Oxford), Constituting terrorism: three attempts at rational governance
- Christopher Zebrowski (Keele University), Falling-out: Examining the problematising capacities of danger
- Jonas Hagmann and Myriam Dunn-Cavelty (ETH Zurich), Risk registers and the measurement of everything: Security scientism and the reassertion of modernism

Chair: tbc

4:00-4:30 – Coffee Break

4:30 – 5:30 – Panel 3

Danger's Otherness

- Debbie Lisle (Queen's University Belfast), *Danger's Other: Pleasure, Leisure & Travel*
- Samson Opondo (University of Hawaii at Manoa), *Fearscapes / Securescapes : Urban Anxieties, Securities and the Domestic Scene*
- Carolin Kaltofen and Andreas Karmati (University of Aberystwyth), *Capitalism, Endangerment and the Prostitute*

Chair: Vivienne Jabri

6:00 – 7:30 – Keynote Address

'Speculative Security'

Professor Marieke de Goede, University of Amsterdam

8:00 – Workshop dinner (by invitation)

TUESDAY 22 February

9:00-10:30 – Panel 4

Sites, spaces and strategies of endangerment

- Charlotte Heath-Kelly (University of Aberystwyth), *Counter-Terrorism and the Counterfactual: Producing the 'Radicalisation' Discourse and the UK PREVENT strategy.*
- Cassie Macneill (John Hopkins University), *Danger and un-governed spaces in the US*
- Alex Hamilton (London School of Economics), *'Dangerous tools' in 'dangerous hands': How synthetic biology is imagined as a 'bioterrorist threat'*

Chair: Peter Adey tbc

10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee

11:00 – 1:00 – Final Roundtable and Conclusions

- Mustapha Pasha (University of Aberdeen)
- Marieke de Goede (University of Amsterdam)
- Luis Lobo-Guerrero (Keele University)
- Vivienne Jabri (King's College London)
- Didier Bigo (King's College London) tbc

Organisers:

Dr Luis Lobo-Guerrero (Visiting Research Fellow, King's College London; and Lecturer in International Relations, Keele University), and Professor Vivienne Jabri (Professor of

International Politics and Director of the Centre for International Relations at King's College London)

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