Extradisciplinary Approaches to Security: A Selected Bibliography

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Introduction

The field of Security Studies has, in recent years, become increasingly preoccupied with the concept of security itself. This has been occasioned as much by the demise of the Cold War context which attended the birth and evolution of the field as by the growing mélange of epistemological challenges raised against the traditional foundations of the concept of security. The result has been a period of unprecedented disciplinary introspection within Security Studies which has turned principally on an invigoration of the referent object of security debate. Much of this deliberation, however, has been confined to discussions about whether this or that issue is appropriately admitted to the field for consideration and study as a bona fide security concern. Precious little attention has been devoted to questions about the adequacy of the field, as presently constituted, as an intellectual terrain upon which to (re)envision security; of whether Security Studies is, by itself, possessed of the conceptual tools and the empirical range necessary either to reconceptualize security or to reconfirm traditional conceptions. We would suggest that the potential contribution to be made in this regard by insights and conceptual innovations cultivated elsewhere in the academy is belied by the disproportionately meager attention which they have received in Security Studies.

None of this is intended to hold out the import of insights, perspectives, or methodologies developed in other disciplines as a panacea for Security Studies, though the field would undoubtedly benefit from such undertakings. Nor should it be taken as a call for a messianic campaign to alert those working in other disciplines to the importance of their engagement with the concept of security. Much to the contrary, substantial and growing literatures dealing with security already exist in a range of other academic disciplines, most notably Human Geography and Sociology. Curiously, however, very little cross-pollination has taken place between these literatures and those more readily identifiable with Security Studies. Indeed, there is scant evidence of mutual familiarity – or acquaintance for that matter – to be found on either side of the disciplinary divide.

Arising from a concern with the disciplinary ‘ghettoization’ of the concept of security, this selected bibliography was undertaken as a preliminary inquiry into the extent and character of engagements with the concept of security elsewhere in the Social Sciences. As such, it may be read as an implicit entreaty toward the initiation of a transdisciplinary dialogue on security.
However, its immediate aims are somewhat more modest: as a prefatory effort, it is hoped that this may serve as a basis for the transdisciplinary introductions which must necessarily precede any fruitful conversation.

What follows is not intended as a comprehensive pointer to extradisciplinary writings having a direct bearing on the subject matter(s) and core conceptual concerns of Security Studies. Rather it is meant to provide something of the flavour of the varied approaches to security developed beyond the pale of its dedicated discipline. Accordingly, there is certainly much more of relevance to be found in each of the disciplines surveyed, to say nothing of those which are not explored herein. Drawn solely from explicit references to “security” in the subject indices of a number of disciplinary abstracts spanning the period 1985-1998, this compilation has been confined to articles published in English-language scholarly journals. Some will be familiar to scholars working in Security Studies; many will not. Though we do not wish to impute disciplinary affiliations to particular authors (to say nothing of journals) and are equally reluctant to reify often-arbitrary disciplinary boundaries, the bibliography is organized under the disciplinary headings of Anthropology, Development Studies, Human Geography, Sociology, Urban Studies, and Women’s Studies. These affiliations are based on the enumeration of individual works in the comprehensive abstracts of these disciplines, and are in no way intended to suggest their exclusivity to any particular academic realm. Rather, the point is to underscore

7In a few instances, the same article was found listed in two different disciplinary abstracts. Similarly, an article published in the Journal of Anthropological Research appeared not in the Abstracts in Anthropology but in the Sociological Abstracts.
the highly problematic nature of precisely these designations inasmuch as they have the effect of foreclosing engagement between scholars working in areas of obvious mutual relevance.

The selection criteria used here are determined most fundamentally by those of the indexers of the disciplinary abstracts surveyed. That is to say, our own compilation was restricted to works specifically identified in the indices as dealing with “security” or direct qualifications thereof – i.e., “security community,” “security policy,” “security threats,” etc. Articles listed by way of a pointer under the main heading “security” – i.e., “see also social security” – were also included in the bibliography. In order to retain, as much as possible, a sense of the nuances of different disciplinary approaches to the concept of “security,” these sub-headings have been reproduced in the bibliography. However, a range of relevant articles have missed being included herein owing to their having been indexed separately under such headings as “environmental security,” “international conflict,” “international cooperation,” or “national security” without any cross-reference to the “security” subject heading. While this may appear as problematic, our interest lies not in assembling an exhaustive reference source – a project which would likely require that a disciplinary standpoint be brought to bear in order to determine which of these other subject affiliations ought to be counted as akin to “security” – but in highlighting the particular usages of the concept of security in other disciplines.

The decision to restrict the bibliography to articles published in English language journals is in consequence of inconsistencies in the types of works listed across the various disciplinary abstracts surveyed. While all included journal articles, the inclusion/exclusion of books, conference papers, and works published in other languages varied. Although this too has had the effect of making the bibliography less comprehensive, we think it methodologically sound lest some disciplines become artificially over-represented. An unfortunate outcome, however, is the exclusion of Philosophy wherein sporadic occurrences of “security” as an index heading referred only to a few book-length works.8

The selection criteria had some other curious results which deserve comment. First, several disciplines could not be included herein because their relevant disciplinary abstracts do

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8The Philosopher’s Index (Bowling Green: Philosopher’s Information Center), 1985-1998.
not index “security,” as such. The surprising result was that disciplines/fields such as Environmental Studies, Race and Ethnic Relations, and Refugee Studies were excluded, notwithstanding that even a brief perusal of their respective abstracts reveals rich engagements with conceptual concerns and empirical interests which would variously have resonance with both mainstream and critically inclined students of Security Studies. There was also a significant – and somewhat unexpected – imbalance in the number of references found even across the disciplines included in the final bibliography. Simultaneously, a number of authors/works expected by the compilers to have appeared in certain abstracts either were found enumerated elsewhere or were not listed at all. While this would be problematic in terms of a comprehensive bibliography, we are as keen to draw attention to what might seem to be missing as to what is not. In different contexts, this bespeaks both the limitations of disciplinarity and some prospects for its transcendence. In particular, we were gratified to find references to works by scholars well known to students of Security Studies as these are suggestive of important existing bases for interdisciplinary inroads which may not otherwise be appreciated.

Though there most certainly are others which we think equally important and which are deserving of greater attention in regard to the study of security, the choice of disciplines selected for review was based on the comparatively low degree of currency of each within Security Studies. In our initial investigations, a premium was placed on works which treat the concept of security in a theoretically-informed way. That said, we are pleased also to have been able to include a broad sampling of writings which engage with more concrete issues, and hope thereby to shed light on the ways in which the idea of security is articulated in purposeful application across the disciplines. Notwithstanding that much of this latter body of materials bears a traditional orientation concerned chiefly with diplomatic history and/or policy-relevance, it is important in the present context to the extent that it contributes to a sociology of knowledge vis-

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á-vis the concept of security – even if, in some instances, there is no explicit articulation of a particular understanding of how the concept is framed.

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Anthropology

Security


**Security Community**


**Security Concerns**


**Security Policy**


**Security Risks**


**Security Risks, Marital**


**Security Treaties**

Development Studies

Security


**Security and Development**


**Security Cooperation**


**Security Dilemma**


**Security Expenditure**


**Security Forces**


**Security Hypothesis**


**Security Management**


**Security Motive for Fertility**

**Security Policy**


**Security Sector**


**Security Service**


**Security Strategy**


**Security System**
Security Threat


Human Geography

Security


Security Agenda


Security Alliance


Security Arrangement

Security Change


Security Concept


Security Conditions


Security Cooperation


Security Council


Security Crisis

Security Danger

Security Discourse

Security Fear

Security Implication


**Security Interest**


**Security Issue**


**Security Management**


**Security Measures**


**Security Pact**

Security Perception


Security Policy


### Security Position


### Security Problem


### Security Protection


### Security Provision


### Security-Related Problem


### Security Relations


**Security Relationships**


**Security Risk**


**Security Role**


Security Scheme


Security Situation


Security Stabilization


Security System


Security Threat


Sociology

Security


Urban Studies

Security


Security Architecture

Women’s Studies

Security


Economic Security


Social Security


**Job Security**


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