

Bourbeau, Philippe, 2017. Handbook on Migration and Security. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 429 pp. £ 140.00 (Hardback).

The movement of people across state borders is as old as recorded history and has been a security issue ever since. Globalisation, technological progress and rising multidimensional security threats in the second decade of the 21st century have made international migration one of the most important topics of political and academic debate. Combined with other aspects of globalisation, its deep and wide social, economic, cultural, environmental, health and political effects (or the perception of its effects) have facilitated the processes of politicisation and securitisation and its overwhelming political influence on a global scale.

Although the issue of international migration can be (and is) viewed through different epistemological and ontological approaches, this edited volume entitled *The Handbook on Migration and Security* is predominantly oriented toward Securitisation theory and concepts of the Copenhagen School. The main rationale lies in the definition of its main subject that is to provide clear and comprehensive analysis of migration-security nexus in a globalised world. The idea of the editor and contributing authors is to research and explain the main links between international migration and security and its effects on the societies affected by them, as well as to provide interdisciplinary and multifaceted academic dialogue in order to contribute to the better understanding of the securitisation of migration (p. 1).

The book is divided into four parts in nineteen edited chapters written by twenty-six authors mostly from institutions from the US, UK and Canada. The first part examines the importance of migration as a global phenomenon and the conceptual exploration of the link between security and migration. The second part is dedicated to the understanding of the securitisation of migration through various approaches and perspectives, such as the political economy, ethics and urban planning. The third part is dedicated to the multiple facets of the securitisation of migration such as family detention centres, environmental refugees, human smuggling, racism, health issues, etc. The last part looks at spatial (regional) and institutional (international organisations) aspects of the security-migration nexus.

As an introduction to the research on the security-migration nexus, the first two chapters introduce the concept of international migration as a social and political phenomenon that has global outreach. They introduce the main characteristics, types and a cost-benefit

analysis of international migration, pre-eminently having in mind the state as the main international actor. The authors examine the ways, instruments and motives of the main political factors within the securitisation process (primarily political elites, public opinion and media), as well as the implemented (anti-)migration policies. Fear for identity, socio-economic status and physical security are the main factors that drive the process of the securitisation of migration, thus „crisis of immigration“ is more a „subjective, episodic and selective set of challenges predominantly founded upon unrealistic and/or contradictory immigration expectations“ (p. 32). They point out that the differentiation between the state and human security perspective and examine different approaches to the conceptualisation of migration security through answering question such as: whose security is in question, what security entails, what is the threat and how is security to be achieved. The main focus is on political discourse and the role of language that politicises and securitises international migration, claiming that language in migration discourse gives value to objective reality and that the categorisation of migrants is politically relevant and the labels applied to certain types of migrants (labour, secondary, humanitarian/forced or irregular) can have effects on shifting/prioritising between different objects of security.

The second part starts with Robert Mundell's substitution theory through the examination of the substitution between trade and migration, claiming that this theoretical paradigm is not supported by empirical evidence. Then Lauren Wilcox claims that the human movement across national borders is affecting how these (human) bodies are gendered and sexualised since the migration security regimes use biometric readings and all non-conformity (LGBTQ+) with programmed (body) characteristics is considered a security threat. Bourbeau tries to reconcile the two distinctive logics (exception (discourse) and routine (practice)) of looking on securitisation, saying that neither logic taken separately is adequate, but taken together and focusing on security performance and path dependence they can be much more effective. On the other hand, the main normative and ethical challenge to the ethics of migration is how to balance human rights and the need for security, especially taking in mind the “methodological nationalism” (receiving state being the subject and object of security). In this respect authors present a three dimensional ethical policy framework (position (teleological/ontological), perspective (cosmopolitanism/nationalism) and four target groups (migrants, national citizens, receiving society and society of origin and transit)) for analysing the migration-security nexus. There is also read an interesting study on how contemporary neoliberal urbanisation policies affect securitising migration through gentrification, social mixing and the regulation of public behaviour in the cases of Toronto and Vancouver.

Part three of the edited volume provides nine different views on the policies and actors that constitute and explain the security-migration nexus, these being migrant family detention in the US or the notion of environmental refugees as a relatively new concept that may have more impact in the near future. Also the notion of refugee camps as places of (positive and negative) resilience introduces the concept of resilience as an analytical tool of this topic. The problem of human smuggling is becoming more important by the day especially since the escalation of the latest “migrant/refugee crisis” in the Mediter-

anean. Thus we observe the emergence of a transnational governance framework that looks at smuggling as a criminal activity as such, without regard to its wider social roots and effects. International migration management is creating vast surveillance and control systems for controlling movement through international borders, but such tools, such as the comprehensive security databases in the EU that endanger human rights or the right of movement or privacy. Many security practices and policies either affect or reflect deep racial biases and xenophobic tendencies mostly directed toward the “other” that is culturally, religiously, ethnically or racially different and thus dangerous to self-identification. Although global health problems, such as pandemics have been deeply connected with the movement of people since biblical times, taking into account the globalisation processes and transport technology this is more so today, but empirical evidence shows that travel and tourism are far more dangerous activities than migration flows. The authors also examine the role of political elites, public opinion and the media as securitising agents, claiming that they reinforce each other and that constructing immigration as a security concern is the product of interaction between securitising moves by political elites and the disposition of the public (p. 274).

The last part examines the (controversial) role of international organisations in securitising migration with their focus on governance, control and discipline which promotes the idea of controlled migration flows and that what they say and what they do are usually not one and the same. Two final chapters deal with migration flows and the securitisation of migration in geographical areas that were neglected by other contributors, such as Russia, Central Asia and Latin America.

This edited volume, with its relatively diverse methodological approaches to the securitisation of migration and the different levels and sectors of research represent an interesting and useful read for researchers and students of migration and security. It is also the testimony of one of the prevailing topics in contemporary academic and political debates. The editing is its weak point, since there is a large difference between chapters in style, language, referencing and not enough difference in ontological approaches (it rarely uses realist and objectivist approaches and clearly prefers the human security to the state security approach). The lack of a synthetic conclusion is also its detriment. Nevertheless this book is a worthy contribution to the study of the security-migration nexus and it opens many new and interesting questions to be answered by future research.

Uroš Živković is a doctoral candidate in International and European Studies at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences. E-mail: uros_ziv@yahoo.com.