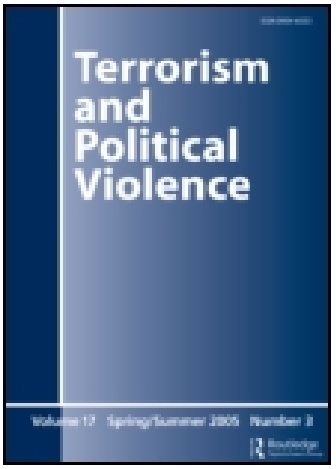
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Claudia Aradau, Jef Huysmans, Andrew Neal, and Nadine Voelkner (Eds.). Critical Security Methods: New Frameworks for Analysis

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Claudia Aradau, Jef Huysmans, Andrew Neal, and Nadine Voelkner (Eds.). *Critical Security Methods: New Frameworks for Analysis*. New York: Routledge, 2015. 230 pp., $44.95 paperback. ISBN: 978-0-415-71295-8.

Reviewed by **Ramazan Erdağ**
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Critical Security Studies (CSS) emerged as in opposition to mainstream international relations (IR) theories. Whereas the traditional IR theories perceived and analyzed security matters within a realist view, CSS proposed a new approach to security studies, broadening the concept with new dimensions beyond military/material-based practices. *Critical Security Methods: New Frameworks for Analysis*, edited by Claudia Aradau et al., presents a new research method in CSS analysis. The book is published as part of the Routledge Series on New International Relations (edited by Richard Little, Iver B. Neumann, and Jutta Weldes). The book is a product of the joint studies in the International Collaboratory on Critical Methods in Security Studies (ICCM), and the International Networking and Training Opportunities project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). In this sense the book has a considerable number of contributors.

The book consists of an introduction and seven chapters. In the introduction section of the book, authors argue that "security threats and insecurities are not simply objects to be studied or problems to be solved, but the product of social and political practices. CSS aims to understand how those practices work and their social and political implications" (p. 1). In this respect the book takes a distance from the "cascading path" (p. 2), and takes a "method as *practice*" approach (p. 3). In other words, the "book approaches methods as experimentation through the concept of methodological *bricolage*" (p. 3). The book maintains that CSS is not simply researching security issues and problems; but rather, it seeks to comprehend how affairs/things become the theme of security issues. It deals in understanding the roots of the construction of (insecurity) rather than with the solving of security problems (p. 6). In this way, the authors call the new framework in CSS "the security life of methods," which means "the performative understanding of security as a securitizing practice" (p. 15).

In the methodological discussion, the book charts a critical "analytical framework" in CSS that is discussed in seven chapters: Mapping, Discourse/Materiality, Visuality, Proximity, Distance, Genealogy, and Collaboration. Each chapter, mostly co-authored and based on long years of research, develops and displays a new approach to security issues combining CSS and empirical practices. The chapters aim to elucidate and draw attention to critical security methodology, method and practice in the cases of the liquid ban at airports, digital biometrics, dangerous drugs, critical infrastructure protection, images and digital development, and police kittling [crowd control] in London. In so doing, *Critical Security Methods: New Frameworks for Analysis* converts "the central characteristics of critical security studies into critical security methods" (p. 15).

Because it contains methodological debates and develops new analysis methods in CSS, the book is written in a language that comes across as having a somewhat severe tone. This makes it difficult to read. Adding new empirical cases and

comparative examples (in particular to chapters two, five, and six) would make the book more understandable. Despite these issues, *Critical Security Methods: New Frameworks for Analysis* presents a new method of analysis, provides a useful handbook, and makes a remarkable contribution to the literature on CSS. This book should be recommended to international relations PhD students, researchers, and scholars who are interested in Critical Security Studies.

Editor's Note

Another new facet of the Book Reviews section will be the occasional inclusion of reviews of the same book by different scholars. It is hoped that in this way the discussion of a particular work will take on a fuller spectrum of views, and accommodate contrasting views of a particular text.

Jeffrey Kaplan, Book Review Editor

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Lisa Stampnitzky. *Disciplining Terror: How Experts Invented "Terrorism."* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. 232 pp., $29.99 paperback. ISBN: 9781107697348.

Reviewed by **Ann Marie Wainscott**
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Lisa Stampnitzky's (2013) *Disciplining Terror: How Experts Invented "Terrorism"* makes an important contribution to the study of political violence. Stampnitzky traces the role of experts in creating the category of terrorism and the concept's deployment in America's War on Terror. She explains how terrorism came to be the "dominant framework for understanding illegitimate political violence" (p. 4). She assesses the implications of this dominance for scholars and policymakers.

The book begins with a discussion of the changing characterization of acts of sabotage such as hijacking airplanes. In the 1950s and 1960s, these acts were seen as crimes committed by "sometimes even honorable" guerrillas or insurgents (p. 4). In the 1970s, the advent of the use of the concept "terrorist" completely altered the moral evaluation of these actors, who started to be seen as "pathological evildoers" (p. 3). With compelling evidence, Stampnitzky identifies the 1972 Munich hostage crisis at the Olympics as a turning point in the shift toward use of the term "terrorist."

The view of terrorists as irrational, and acts of terrorism as inherently illegitimate, had implications for logics of response (Chapter 4). At the beginning of the 1970s, Western governments saw addressing the grievances of insurgents as a reasonable strategy, but by the end of the decade, policymakers embraced the idea that terrorists lacked legitimate demands. This perception led to efforts to quantify or rationalize terrorist acts in order to increase their predictability. Other chapters trace efforts to govern terrorism in the 1980s (Chapter 5) and the 1990s (Chapter 6).

Using interviews and archival materials, Stampnitzky argues compellingly that the shift to calling certain kinds of political violence "terrorism" has taken place, but she does not explain why. I contend that the idea of terrorists as inherently evil