

EU SECURITY IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

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Security in the Digital Economy

- ▣ Geopolitics outside the previously dominant liberal paradigm – notably China and Russia
- ▣ Back to ideological challenges with the push and pull of political and economic factors
- ▣ How far will old geospatial assertions of secure boundaries work?
- ▣ Do we need to develop new forms of diplomacy for digital age that recognize ‘socio-spatial’ (virtual) as much as ‘geospatial’ (physical) interests (Youngs 2007, 2013)

Conceptual and Practical Challenges

- ▣ 'Virtual globalization' (Youngs forthcoming) is a growing reality but concepts and practices fit for it are lagging behind
- ▣ It is not just societies and legal systems that are in catch up mode adjusting to digital realities. It is states at the macro level of international relations
- ▣ Do we need to place more emphasis on cyber diplomacy alongside cyber security?

Digital governance and collective security

- ▣ We need a new framing of collective security fit for the digital age directly addressing the increasingly embedded technologically mediated dimensions of state security, identity and growth
- ▣ EU is a vital 'middle' actor in this scenario not just in political economy contexts but in funding new ground breaking research to navigate the new rules of the virtual game

Digital Political Economy

- ▣ We need political innovation as much as economic innovation and research and practice to connect them more effectively to shape new understandings of collective security and collective interests
- ▣ Discourses to associate at deep forward looking levels the positive connecting forces of ICTs as much as their negative threats in the context of the next stages of international relations

Macro and micro contexts

- ▣ Citizens are increasingly out of the black box of the state in cyber times so their configuration is or can be more active than in previous times
- ▣ Their collective views of the economic and social benefits of ICTs are or can be drivers in new ways
- ▣ We are at the beginning of the limits of state protection being tested and digital citizenship is by its very nature of global as well as national and regional reach

References: Gillian Youngs

- ▣ *Global Political Economy in an Information Age: Power and Inequality*. Routledge, 2007
- ▣ *Digital World: Connectivity, Creativity and Rights*. Routledge, 2007 (edited collection)
- ▣ *Virtual Globalization*. Manuscript in preparation for Routledge.

For further references see:

<http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/staff/gillian-youngs>