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Anomie and collaboration in intelligence and operational police and border guard work in the Baltic Sea area: In-group mentality and construction of the Other

Introduction

- Project Turnstone.

- 2014 – 2015.

- Baltic Sea area.

- Intelligence and operative police and border guard project.

- Collaboration and control.

The aim

of this study is to analyze how the creation of an in-group mentality (as norm stabilising European officers) was created and contrasted with another category, that of the "norm-dissolving Russian", as a sort of "Other" that reinforces their own in-group bonds among the participating Swedish, Finnish, Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian officers.

Method

- Ethnographic study

- Multiple forms of empirical material: observations and photographs taken during the field work, interviews, documents produced by intelligence and operative personnel, and media coverage concerning intelligence and operative actions.

- Three themes related to the creation of "norm-dissolving Russian": (1) as criminals, (2) as spies, and (3) as a military invasion.

Analysis

- Police and border guards in the Baltic Sea area reinforce in-group bonds
- Develop a professional identity
- Come to understand the moral aims of their collaborative work

by contrasting themselves against the constructed threat of Russian criminals, spies, and military invaders

Continued research

- How the different categories of intelligence and operational police and border guards in Russia pay attention to the significance of Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania?

- Which normative strategies are used for preservation and dissolution of the norms of a society?

- Is there solidarity in the collaboration between the actors that preserves norm stability, resulting in norm resolution, or do the norm stability and norm resolution create the solidarity in the collaboration?

Thank you for your attention and participation!