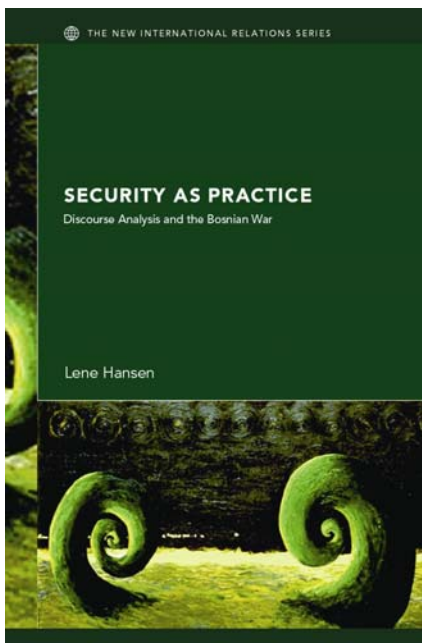


Security as Practice

Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War

Lene Hansen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

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This important text offers a full and detailed account of how to use discourse analysis to study foreign policy. It provides a poststructuralist theory of the relationship between identity and foreign policy and an in-depth discussion of the methodology of discourse analysis.

Providing an introduction to discourse analysis and critical perspectives on international relations, this book will be essential reading for students and scholars of international relations, discourse analysis and research methodology.

Facts do not speak for themselves; discourses matter, some more than others; the formation of national identity and foreign policy are mutually constitutive; diplomacy is a performative act defined by ontological differences; international relations are inseparable from intertextual relations; war is gendered. Some might consider it a sign of maturity, others a symptom of morbidity to talk such talk in IR.

After reading Lene Hansen's Security as Practice, I think most will agree that she has walked the walk like no one else. Where others have confused citation with theorization or causation with explanation, Hansen has provided a lucid exposition of complex ideas, a generous engagement with critics, and a persuasive account of the Bosnian War.

Call it what you want - discourse analysis, critical theory, thick constructivism, or hardcore poststructuralism. I say Hansen takes IR to the Copenhagen School.

James Der Derian, Brown University, USA

This absorbing book is a highly successful attempt to explain the use of post-structuralist analyses in international relations. In doing so, it provides a rare combination of theoretical sophistication, methodological clarity and nuanced empirical analysis. In this gem of a work, Hansen addresses the major criticisms aimed at "post-modern" approaches in international relations in a manner that is highly engaging and enlightening. A variety of readership in international relations, political science, security studies and scholars interested in how inter-state relations are constructed and defined will greatly benefit from it.

Eyal Ben-Ari, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

A meticulously designed theory-led empirical investigation of key social facts where the extant literature, history and philosophy all get their due. Finally an IR book that looks like a proper work of social science. The next time somebody asks me what discourse analysis is, my answer will be 'Have a look at Hansen 2006'.

Iver Neumann, Oslo University, Norway

Contents

1. Introduction

Part I. The Theory and Methodology of Discourse Analysis

2. Discourse analysis, identity and foreign policy 3. Beyond the Other: analyzing the complexity of identity 4. Intertextualizing foreign policy: genres, authority and knowledge 5. Research designs: asking questions and choosing texts

Part II. A Discourse Analysis of the Western Debate on the Bosnian War

6. The basic discourses in the Western debate over Bosnia 7. Humanitarian responsibility versus "lift and strike": tracing trans-Atlantic policy discourses 8. Writing the past, predicting the future: travelers, realism, and the politics of civilization 9. The failure of the West? The evolution of the Genocide discourse and the ethics of inaction 10. Conclusion

