



ABSTRACT

Clemens Six

Austrian Research Foundation for International Development, Vienna/Austria

Development as Risk Reduction

As the first panel of the conference discusses the relationship between security issues and the public, this intervention focuses on security as an increasingly dominant theme in European foreign relations. As a consequence of changing threat perceptions inside the European Union towards a more globally oriented perspective, questions are currently raised about the role of military interventions as well as development cooperation in order to prevent security risks from transforming into threats or even pre-empt those risks altogether. This “securitisation” of development cooperation and foreign relations on the one hand and the “developmentalisation” of security concerns on the other have severe effects on Europe’s relations with the South as well as on the public discourses inside of Europe on foreign assistance. This input discusses those effects by interpreting security as a social construct where power relations and political motivations play a significant role and thereby illustrates with concrete examples some “external” dimensions of security and the (European) public.