The securitisation of migration is a topic that has been researched in depth, especially in relation to events such as 9/11 or the so-called Migrant Crisis. These events connect migration to traditional security threats, such as terrorism and transnational crime. However, migration has also (traditionally) occurred for economic reasons. Between 9/11 and the Migrant Crisis, a major event happened in the field of economics: the 2008 Financial Crisis. This event is yet to be discussed in relation to the securitisation of migration. The United Kingdom (UK) was one of the European countries that experienced a large flow of immigrants after the 2004 A10 EU accession, which continued throughout the Financial Crisis. It is also one of the countries in which there was a clear and ongoing anti-migrant rhetoric present in the media.

This dissertation will examine the securitising discourse on immigrants, in the UK, from the 2004 EU accession to 2007, and from the 2008 Financial Crisis to 2012. These discourses will be compared to uncover how the Financial Crisis changed the securitisation of migration. A special focus will be on the economic, societal and traditional security sectors and how the Financial Crisis shifted the focus between these sectors. Within the broader framework of securitisation theory, it has been chosen to analyse the diagnostic frame present in four British newspapers and political actors. This examines what is presented as a security threat, and to whom. A quantitative textual analysis has been made of the 1,715 media articles and editorials to create visual representations of the use of certain securitising language and to which sector of security the data refers. Furthermore, one expert interview with Chris Huhne, former Liberal Democrat MP, was conducted to add a more nuanced and anecdotal account to the research.

The dissertation will show that the 2008 Financial Crisis caused a greater focus on the economic sector as a security challenge, in relation to migration. This is especially the case when economic growth, and low-skilled and young British workers’ jobs are threatened. However, it will also show that some of the newspapers’ and political actors’ discourse contains conflicting research, and data on migrant numbers. It will also give an indication of how complex the topic is to research, due to its highly political nature, and because of the use of (overexaggerated and fear-mongering) anti-immigrant rhetoric for personal political gain. Furthermore, the different categories of migrants, and the economic, societal and traditional sectors of security, tend to get rolled up into one large general issue surrounding immigration, the economy, and societal and national security. Throughout the research period, migration is viewed as a threat; following the 2004 EU accession the discourse is at its most general.

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1 Although this fact is contested by certain actors discussed in this dissertation.
describing ‘migrants’ as a threat to ‘British jobs and society’. However, after the 2008 Financial Crisis, the discourse becomes more nuanced and specific, describing more precisely who or what is potentially under threat. It is also recognised that the issues surrounding migration may be a symptom of a larger problem within the wider political system and its immigration policies.

**Keywords**
securitisation, migration, 2008 Financial Crisis, United Kingdom