

Abstract

To change the way nuclear weapons are addressed in international politics, proponents of the Nuclear Ban Treaty have called out not only the nuclear-haves, but also states benefiting from extended nuclear deterrence. If the nuclear disarmament norm is central to what constitutes appropriate behavior in international politics, how do NATO member states react to this deliberate stigma imposition strategy? The presented diploma thesis aims to answer this question by examining the cases of Germany and Czechia, showing the discursive strategies they employ to manage the circulation of the potentially discrediting information in regard to their identity as responsible members of the international community. While success of stigma imposition depends on the degree of stigma power possessed by the stigmatizer in the given context, In Germany, the ties of the current political leadership to pro-disarmament non-governmental sector have contributed to a shift from an approach of stigma rejection to a degree of stigma recognition over the examined time period (2013-2023). In Czechia, the lack of such a connection has among other factors prevented the non-governmental organizations from exerting a significant degree of influence on the given political discourse, marking the examined period by stigma rejection, prevalence of strict pro-deterrence approach to security, and a hardened stance towards the nuclear ban initiative in recent years.