

Abstract

This bachelor thesis explored whether the (Hispanic) immigration issue in Arizona in 2010 was securitized – defined as an existential threat with regard to the Arizonan or American society and therefore their identity. The thesis was based on the assumption that conditions for the securitization could work well in a state with high number of illegal border crossings and where Hispanic minority constitute 30 % of the population. Analysis of speeches of political actors and op-ed section in Arizona Daily Star has not proven this hypothesis. The *illegal* immigration, however, was sometimes understood as a weak existential threat - mainly within the GOP. This issue was more often politicized as the allocation of more resources was demanded for tackling the illegal immigration. Democrats and Arizona Daily Star, on the other hand, took more neutral stance or sometimes even de-securitized the (illegal) immigration. A considerable support for the law SB 1070 from the part of both Arizonans and Americans was explained more as a result of frustration over the inaction of the federal government than as a will to securitize immigration that they in general favor. Since the immigration, overwhelmingly Hispanic, is not securitized, the ethnic component do not seem to be understood as a key part of the Arizonan/American identity. It should be therefore defined as a belief in some abstract ideas – however different for republicans and democrats. This different understanding of which of these ideas are more essential for Arizonan/American identity consequently result in different stances towards the SB 1070 bill and the immigration policy in general.