

Kristýna Divišová

B.A. Dissertation Evaluation

2012

Sekuritizace imigrace v Arizoně

The B.A. dissertation submitted by Kristýna Divišová deals with the issue of securitization of immigration in Arizona. The basis of the work is quite theoretical. Miss Divišová has decided to divide the dissertation into an Introduction, four main chapters, and a Conclusion. There are a number of graphs and, indeed, there is a bibliography. The author clearly states that her initial hypothesis that immigration to Arizona involves securitization does not hold true.

In the Introduction, Miss Divišová defines the concept of securitization and outlines the content of the four main chapters. According to the author, the success or failure of securitization depends upon whether the public as such accepts that the given issue poses an existential threat to the society, which in this case means Arizona or American society in general. The law in question is SB1070, which, according to Miss Divišová, represents a violation of human rights. It is obvious that she has consulted the relevant scholarly works.

Chapter 1 represents a noble attempt to explain how the theory of securitization applies to migration. Reference is made to the “Copenhagen School” and other scholars. I think that the author’s analysis of others’ work is more than sufficient.

Chapter 2 discusses Mexican immigration from an historical perspective. The first section deals with Mexican migration in the American context. The second section addresses securitization. In the third section, the specifics of immigration in Arizona are scrutinized as is Law SB1070, which had to be modified because of pressure from the U.S. federal authorities.

Chapter 3 analyzes the role of individual political actors and media in the securitization of the immigration issue in Arizona. I do wonder whether reliance on

RealClearPolitics and *YouTube* is appropriate and I sincerely doubt that the *Arizona Daily Star* alone can demonstrate journalistic opinion in Arizona. I do not think it would have been that difficult to compare a number of newspapers and, despite the author's claim of lack of time, I believe she could have done some analysis of the visual media. There are other newspapers in the state and television plays a crucial role in the formation of public opinion. Sections dealing with the views and actions of political actors are more promising and I have no problems here. The graphs are interesting.

In Chapter 4, Miss Divišová addresses the roles of people in Arizona and the American public generally in the securitization process. Public opinion, societal self-identification, Anglo-Protestantism, and the idea of the American nation are scrutinized.

The Conclusion recapitulates the main points of the work and emphasizes that the securitization of the issue of immigration did not materialize. Instead, the issue of illegal immigration was heavily politicized.

In my humble opinion, Kristýna Divišová has indeed demonstrated her ability to work with sources and make sound arguments. The dissertation meets the formal requirements. However, I wonder if the sources could have been more extensive. Furthermore, there are many grammatical and typographical errors in the English abstract and summary. I recommend a mark of **excellent** or **very good** depending on the oral defense.

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