

Abstract

This thesis examines the understanding of the concept of resilience in urban security with focus on countering terrorism and emergency planning in London between 2000 and 2015. It analyses the implementation of the concept and the results of it. The thesis first describes the theoretical backgrounds of the concept and creates a classification based on the evolution of the concept. A discourse analysis of security strategies and other official documents is done to demonstrate how resilience was conceptualised in the United Kingdom and how it evolved. Also the influence of private actors is evaluated. The same discourse analysis is done on the level of the city of London. The thesis then describes the specific implementation of resilience that impacts everyday lives of London citizens and it shows that the measures penetrates every aspect of it. The International Political Sociology and the theory of securitization is used to assess the findings. It concludes that resilience is used as a governing tool enabling the UK government to produce an appearance of decisive governing, while it transfers the actual responsibility for everyday security to the citizens and their communities. The transfer is not accompanied by providing appropriate tools and consequently an atmosphere of insecurity and permanent unease is created.