Abstract

The thesis explores an engagement of a UN peace operation with a local political order. It builds on understanding of peacekeeping as policing of certain vision of international and local order and on that basis, it explores practices and politics of keeping peace. Drawing on the study of UNIFIL II, the UN peacekeeping operation deployed in South Lebanon, the study focuses on practices by which peacekeepers perform their policing duties in the local order, which is marked by entanglements between state and non-state ordering authorities and different practice of stateness. By doing so, it seeks to advance the research on the everyday practices of peacekeeping, as well as the research on local hybridity of peace operations and engagement of liberal actors with the local difference. Drawing on the debates in critical peace studies and works on practice-oriented approaches to research on liberal governmentality, it makes the case for focusing on the peacekeepers’ engagement with the ‘local’ order on the level of strategies of governmental intervention, localized practice and justificatory narrative.

The first of these levels concerns discourses of peace and order and programmes by which they seek to mitigate local disorder. The thesis argues for taking the contextual shaping of practices of intervention seriously and demonstrates how the shape and extent of the policing intervention need to be constantly legitimised, calibrated, negotiated with multiple local actors. While localized and locally-shaped practices used by the peacekeepers are needed to ensure acceptance by the other actors, the public face of the mission and order it creates is managed through carefully crafted
narrative which seek to reconcile the actually existing hybrid order with the broader discourse of (liberal) peace. The study points out how these levels co-constitute the phenomenon of international peacekeeping.

By providing a practice-based perspective on the role of an international peacekeeping operation in a local political order, the thesis aims to shed a new light on the processes of international engagement with the local context, adaptation to it as well as on the role of international actor in its management, transformation and legitimation. With respect to this broader goal and the particular case study, the thesis has four main aims: 1) to situate the contemporary practice and form of the political order in the southern Lebanon in the trajectory of localized state-formation process and point out the politics of setting boundaries between the state and ‘non-state’ in Lebanese context, 2) to analyse how is the internationally envisioned policing mandate of the peacekeeping mission translated, assembled and practised in the specific local setting, 3) to point out the strategies of legitimation used to by the mission to justify its practices, 4) to highlight the hybridity of the liberal intervention.

**Keywords:** International Peacekeeping, Statebuilding, Liberal Peace, Hybridity, Lebanon, State-formation

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