

Abstract

In this dissertation, my aim is to unpack the relationship between deviant behavior and normative change in global nuclear politics. I draw on the interactionist approach in sociology to conceptualize “stigma politics” as an interactive, dynamic process of the social construction of deviance in international affairs. I connect these insights with contemporary IR theories on norm contestation to theorize the way how (re)constructions of deviance contest and affirm boundaries of appropriate behavior in social orders. I employ this theoretical perspective to study the (re)constructions of “nuclear deviance” in global nuclear order, and the dynamics of norms and rules in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime.