

Balancing Regulation with Security in the Balance: How Public Policies Affect Cross-Border Human and Environmental Security

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Numerous attempts have been made to “theorize” borders. Scholars have focused on the social construction of borderlands, institutional arrangements, and power relations across national divides. While these works have illuminated our understanding of borders and how these dynamic areas function, the hypotheses that they forward do not always explain cases in different geographic areas or policy arenas. Moreover, these differences significantly affect policy formulation and implementation. For example, border controls may impact migration flows one way but environmental issues another. This presentation which is part of a multi-year research project on human and environmental security in cross-border regions discusses the state of policy-making in these fields in Europe, North America and South America. It contends that policies aimed at ensuring cross-border human and environmental security require a state of balance that is rarely found in cross-border regions in order to reconcile competing dynamics.