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*ACADEMIC INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES /
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**ACADEMIC INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES – AISS 2010:
MAKING SENSE OF THE NEW GLOBAL SECURITY
(NOVEMBER 19-20, 2010, BUCHAREST)**

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Abstract

An introduction to this special issue, the paper addresses the complex new agenda of academic intelligence and security studies, arguing that the relation between theoretical research upon and the practice of intelligence have become increasingly interconnected.

Keywords: academic intelligence, security studies, new security agenda.

The last two decades are marked by the continuous transformation of what was once a subject treated exclusively by militarized institutions: the intelligence activity, a secret layer which was always present and rarely taken into account by the scientists - theorists of security studies, international relations, political science. Without losing their supremacy on the subject, intelligence agencies agreed to extend their approach on specific issues (most of the time centered on the problem of national security). As secrecy could not have been completely replaced, it was added the paradigm of openness. The intelligence agency's endeavor for evidence was thus related more then ever with the scientific approach: the secret rests in the way one approaches the avatars of reality and is not the reality per se, always available to all. Facing the increasing complexity of the security environment, the intelligence agency responded with a more complex approach - yet fallible, as science is too.

As an independent domain of research, academic intelligence has arisen through a natural evolutionary process, at a speed specific to the knowledge society. To name just a few of the path breakers, we remind of Sherman Kent – “intelligence is knowledge, knowledge is power”, Vannevar Bush – “Science: The Endless Frontier”, Stevan Dedijer – “Bacon's Science of Science”, Harold Wilensky – “organizational intelligence”, Karl Weick – “sensemaking”, Robert Steele – “open source intelligence”, and so on. The academic intelligence can't be conceived in a rigid

manner, with crystal clear delineated scientific borders. Its spirit rests in the fusion of knowledge based processes. Academic intelligence responds to the new complexity of security challenges by dealing with Observation through interdisciplinary spectacles, treating the Orientation necessary for knowledge based action within a multidisciplinary framework, aiming at Decision Making through a transdisciplinary vision, and always being focused on closing the cycle through Action (John Boyd – OODA cycle).

Defining academic intelligence as a research domain which does not elude action, we definitely agree with the contention of those scientists who notice that in the development of different theoretical approaches around security issues, the theory has outstripped the pace of case study and practical research. It's in the mission of the academic intelligence domain to assure an adequate equilibrium between scientific endeavors and reality's constrictions, often represented by security challenges.

Of course, there comes the need for the existence of a research environment capable to foster projects which join academic and non-academic partners and interests (public institutions, companies, NGOs, etc.). Security studies could not be conceived in any other way, as even ivory towers have started to lose their strength in face of the new security challenges.

The purpose of this collaborative project is to provide a focussed framework for joint research into aspects of the new security agendas of the 2000s. These include human security, energy and food security; issues concerning migration and minorities; and questions about how complex emergencies which might arise from these security issues are managed. It also includes problems that arise from environmental problems and 'new' wars arising from ethnic or religious or identity conflicts (in their social and legal as well as political character). This does not necessarily preclude 'older' security issues, physical and territorial security, and their geopolitics, which are often wrapped into new security issues. It also necessarily touches on important questions of how institutional frameworks manage the new security agendas including questions of governance and the relationship between public and private authority, as well as an evaluation of the effectiveness of cooperative international bodies and non –governmental bodies in addressing specific security questions. The theory of new security agendas has been developing in a wide range of approaches and debates since the 'Copenhagen school' emerged in the early 1990s. Debates about securitization and desecuritization have found an important place alongside arguments about specific policy making and management issues. And the discourses of new and old security and the geopolitics of security has attracted much attention in political geography, political sociology and international relations journals.

The present volume put together some of the participants belonging to both academic and professional perspectives on intelligence and security studies, coming from United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Turkey and Romania.