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**Inbetween Human Rights and Securitization: Forced Migration in ASEAN**

Forced migration and particularly refugee movements are only rarely mentioned in official declarations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The intergovernmental organization rather refers to ‘illegal or irregular migration’ and applies a securitized discourse on human trafficking and smuggling people. Yet, the type of securitization in ASEAN has changed over time. Why has this topic been securitized at these specific moments in time and what actors contribute to the securitization of forced migration in ASEAN? ASEAN’s member states are the key actors in this process: With only two countries out of ten having signed the 1951 Refugee Convention, the member states have differing approaches and preferences and therefore an interest in harmonizing their strategies on a regional level. While most of the countries are aversive to forced migrants on a national level, the countries have different capacities and policies to deal with the situation. In the panel, I will discuss how these preferences have shaped the discourse in the regional organization. While actors like populist right-wing parties, the media and perceived terrorist threats put refugees on the agenda of securitization in the EU, I will define the actors that lead to a securitization of the topic in the ASEAN context. I argue that the securitization of a topic can be ‘locked in’ on a regional level in order to normalize and ‘banalize’ policies on the national level. This leads to what I call a ‘reversed legitimation of repressive policies’ or an ‘inversed norm cascade’: The regional level might lead to a legitimation of repressive policies in its member states. I furthermore argue that the higher a topic is securitized, the less likely the protection of the subject’s human rights: One cannot prioritize the security of a society from subjects and at the same time have the subjects’ protection in mind.