

LIMEN

Journal of the Hungarian Migration Research Institute

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Boats of migrants floating on the sea, photo: shutterstock.com

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Book recommendation by Klaudia Tóth

Ingrid Boas: *Climate Migration and Security: Securitisation as a Strategy in Climate Change Politics*. Routledge, 2017

In a world grappling with the urgent challenges of climate change, the nexus between climate migration and security has become an increasingly pressing concern. In her thought-provoking book, “Climate Migration and Security: Securitisation as a Strategy in Climate Change Politics”, Ingrid Boas delves deep into the intricate relationship between climate-induced migration and the security discourse surrounding it. Boas’s work offers a comprehensive examination of how governments and international organizations frame climate migration as a security issue and explores the implications of such securitization for those affected by climate-induced displacement.

Boas, a respected scholar in the field of environmental migration and climate change politics, draws upon extensive research and empirical data to present a compelling argument. She skillfully navigates the complex terrain of climate migration, security studies, and political discourse, shedding light on the multifaceted dimensions of this critical issue.

One of the book’s standout features is its meticulous examination of the concept of securitization. Boas provides a clear and concise explanation of securitization theory and its relevance in understanding how climate migration is framed as a security issue. Through detailed case studies and analysis, she elucidates how climate migration is presented as a threat to national and international security and how this framing influences policy decisions and public perception.

Boas argues persuasively that the securitization of climate migration is not merely an academic exercise but has profound real-world implications. By portraying climate-induced migration as a security concern, governments and institutions may justify harsh measures such as border closures, restrictive immigration policies, and the militarization of borders. The consequences of these policies are far-reaching and often detrimental, particularly for vulnerable populations already displaced by climate change.

One of the strengths of Boas’s book is her global perspective. She explores a wide range of case studies from different regions, highlighting the various ways in which

climate migration is securitized. From the Pacific Island nations facing rising sea-levels to African countries grappling with desertification, Boas provides a nuanced understanding of the diverse challenges posed by climate-induced displacement. This global approach underscores the universality of the issue and its relevance to policymakers and scholars worldwide.

Furthermore, Boas delves into the role of international organizations in shaping the discourse on climate migration and security. She examines how organizations like the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration navigate the securitization debate and the implications of their actions. This analysis is particularly insightful for readers interested in the role of global governance in addressing climate-related challenges.

Boas does an exceptional job of balancing theory with real-world examples. Her case studies bring to life the abstract concepts of securitization and climate migration, making the book accessible to both experts and newcomers to the field. Readers will find themselves immersed in the stories of individuals and communities affected by climate change, which humanizes the issue and underscores its urgency.

One of the book's key contributions is its exploration of the ethical dimensions of securitization. Boas provocatively raises questions about the moral implications of framing climate migration as a security threat. She challenges readers to consider whether securitization is a responsible and just response to a humanitarian crisis. This ethical inquiry is a critical aspect of the climate migration debate and adds depth to the book's analysis.

Boas also addresses the role of climate-induced displacement in exacerbating existing conflicts. She examines cases where competition for resources, displacement, and security concerns intertwine, leading to complex and volatile situations. Her insights into these dynamics are crucial for policymakers and analysts seeking to understand the broader implications of climate migration in conflict-prone regions.

While "Climate Migration and Security" is a thorough and insightful book, it is not without its limitations. Some readers may find the theoretical discussions challenging, particularly if they are new to securitization theory or climate politics. However, Boas makes a commendable effort to explain complex concepts in a clear and accessible manner.

In terms of policy recommendations, the book primarily focuses on critiquing existing securitization practices rather than offering concrete solutions. While this is a valid approach, some readers may wish for more guidance on how to navigate the delicate balance between security concerns and humanitarian responses in the face of climate-induced migration.

In conclusion, Ingrid Boas's "Climate Migration and Security" is a timely and indispensable contribution to the literature on climate change, migration, and security. Her rigorous analysis, global perspective, and ethical inquiry make this book a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and anyone concerned about the profound implications of climate-induced displacement. Boas challenges us to critically examine the securitization of climate migration and encourages a more compassionate and ethical response to one of the defining challenges of our time. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the intersection between climate change, migration, and security.

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