

Redefining National Security Using the Case of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

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Outline

- Background and Current Problems
- Methods
- Findings
- Interpretations and Recommendations

Background and Current Problems

- AMR as a worldwide human security challenge is increasingly on the rise.
- The UN's Human Security Concept remains largely inapplicable in states' national security policies:
 - National security connotes with military security.
 - Human Security is an intellectually loose concept.
- However, critical health security cases like AMR can help redefine the national security agenda.

Methods

- Review of the Security Literature.
- Analysis of AMR securitization processes by
 - WHO/UN (4 Reports); USA (1); EU (4); Russia (No Official Document); India (2); South Africa (1); Ethiopia (1).
 - *Country Selection Criteria*: resistance rates; militarisation level; commitment to human security; democracy; development status.
- Comparison of literature to securitization processes.

Findings

- Security lacks a comprehensive definition.
- Leading definitions are subjective, narrow or both:
 - protection of core values.
 - survival in the face of existential threats, urgency and emergency.
 - focus on state-centric external military threats.
 - human security: health, economic, political, community, environmental, personal and food security; individual as referent object (UN, 1994).

Findings

- *Common ground*: Characteristics of a security situation
 - Ultimate Effect: threat to people's (and states) existence
 - Sectoral Dimensions: multiple
 - Temporal Dimensions: short (emergency) and long-terms
- AMR has been declared to present all the above characteristics

Interpretation and Recommendations

- Conventional notions of security are parochial and unrealistic:
 - military security is only one form of security,
 - security situations can arise internally,
 - people, not infrastructure, constitute states
 - suggestion: threshold definition by characteristics
- Broad and vague understandings of the human security concept have hampered research and policy making:
 - Suggestion: Prioritisation (Roland Paris, 2001).
- AMR qualifies as a national security issue