

Abstracts

Temanummer: Det moderne Rusland i krig

Russia's self-asserting foreign policy: On Russia's military interventions in the Kosovo and Ukraine crises

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Why did Russia intervene militarily in Kosovo (1999) and Ukraine (2014)? I claim that Russia intervened to assert a meaningful vision for a post-Soviet self – assert a meaningful post-Soviet identity. Despite the significant adverse impact of the interventions on Russia – particularly Russia's material security and international reputation – I argue that the preceding inner Russian dialogue among various voices shows that precisely interventions seemed meaningful in averting perceived threats against Russia's ontological security – perceived threats against Russia's post-Soviet self-understandings. Self-understandings left vulnerable in the existential void created by the Soviet Union's – and Soviet self's – collapse. Have Russia's interventions contributed to asserting a more ontologically secure Russian self after the intervention in Ukraine compared to the period before the intervention in Kosovo? Yes and no. On the one hand, the interventions have contributed to asserting a more self-assured Russia. On the other hand, the divide between outward- and inward-looking visions for the Russian self remains significant.

When Russia conducts war in the cognitive domain

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This article offers a glimpse into the Russian thinking about influence operations as this thinking is presented in politics and in research. The background is an understanding in Russia of an on-going “information war”, waged by the West against Russia, and much of the thinking presented here is designed to help Russia handle this alleged war.

The article takes a closer look at the relationship between sender and recipient as well as at platforms and means and types of communication. Russian information operations are often – and for good reason – associated with disinformation, but there is also a considerable use of regular information presented in a biased format. The operations show great variety but the aim is always the same: To influence a recipient.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding the effect of the operations. Some of the Russian researchers express skepticism as far as the effect is concerned. They recommend for instance that the information policy of Russia be coordinated much more than is the case today and that the field be given more funding and more research-based knowledge. There is, however, a general agreement that information operations have such a vast potential that in the future states will engage even more in this.

Cultural Diplomacy in Transformation – Revisiting the Instrumentalization Debate

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Instrumentalisation of culture, the use of culture and art as a means to attain goals in other than cultural areas, has long influenced the field of cultural policy and cultural diplomacy has been no exception. Taking the case of Denmark and Danish cultural diplomacy in the United States as its main focus, this article explores the practical and substantial implications that follow from an increased attention to the commercial potentials of culture and art in Danish international cultural policy. The central argument presented by this article is that the debate on instrumentalisation builds upon anachronistic disciplinary divides. As a result, the debate is too narrowly emphasising the negative implications of instrumentalisation and perceiving it as a threat to the intrinsic values of culture or *art for art's sake*. Rather, there is a need for acknowledging the complex dynamics of instrumentalisation and taking into perspective the positive contributions that instrumentalisation might make to the field of culture and art.

Crowdfunding in Denmark: From niche to mainstream financing

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Crowdfunding represents a growing source of alternative financing for a variety of both for- and non-profit ventures that through incremental

contributions from a large and dispersed group of individuals have changed the funding opportunities for diversity of projects. Based on data from eight crowdfunding platforms that have financed projects with almost 223 million DKK this article tries to map crowdfunding in Denmark. The article introduces the phenomenon of crowdfunding, some descriptive characteristics, as well as an analysis of which factors predict the likelihood success. The article finds that while crowdfunding is portrayed as a democratizing force its resources are concerted primarily around metropolitan areas. Conversely, crowdfunding is democratizing in the sense that women have a significantly greater chance of success as compared to men. These results provide some initial insight into crowdfunding in a Danish context, as well as which individuals and areas benefit.

Nudging and public policy: Possibilities and pitfalls

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Nudging offers important possibilities in relation to public policy. Nudges are often low-cost interventions that can supplement traditional policy tools. But there are also pitfalls to nudging. An important derived effect of the introduction of nudging as a tool in public policy is that it illustrates a need to generally consider behavioural assumptions in public policy, so that one does not simply assume that humans act as a rational homo economicus.