



Transformative Power Europe
and the missing 'Other'
in EU relations with EE

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Presentation

- ⦿ Introduction
- ⦿ *Transformative Power Europe (TPE): the conceptual ambiguity*
- ⦿ EU construction of '*self*' & the '*missing other*'
- ⦿ TPE: the importance of '*othering*'

ESRC-funded project

*'Europeanising or Securitising the outsiders?
Assessing the EU's partnership-building approach
with Eastern Europe'*, 2008-2010
(RES-061-25-0001)

Methodology:

- ⊙ Surveys: published in EU and conducted in EE
- ⊙ Interviews in EU & EE (2008, 2009, 2010): government officials, MPs, think-tanks, media, NGOs
- ⊙ Focus groups in EE
- ⊙ School essays on Europe in EE

For

more information, visit the project's website:

- <http://ww.aber.ac.uk/en/interpol/research/research-projects/europeanising-securitising-outsideis;>
- <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/minisites/widereurope/page3.html>



TPE: the conceptual ambiguity

- EU official discourse: confusing & contradictory
- Scholarly debate: limited effort to question *modus operandi*
 - Duchêne's 'civilian power'
 - Manners' 'normative power': legitimacy, cohesion and consistency
 - Neo-realist vision of 'securitising power': no 'universal good' for all
 - 'ethical power' of a *responsible Europe*
- Tonra's caveats: of 'misplaced idealisation' & 'competing interests'
- Diez's 'othering': normative power constructed through what it does in relation to the 'other' (2005)

EU construction of 'self' & the 'missing other': project findings

Discrepancies in the EU

- Horizontal differences: EC, MEPs & MS in Brussels
- *Vertical differences*: EU Delegations & MS in EE
 - Limited policy legitimacy
 - No internal cohesion: interests vs principles
 - Limited consistency: is Russia an obstacle? what future for the neighbours?

EU construction of 'self' & the 'missing other': project findings

Discrepancies in the EE

- Limited legitimacy
- Differing meanings: values-gap
- Differing perceptions
- Differing actions

TPE: the importance of 'othering'

- ⊙ Limited conceptual clarity concerning *the nature* of TPE and its *modus operandi*
- ⊙ EU *modus vivendi* – of normative power – is unquestioned
- ⊙ Difficulties on the ground: limited legitimacy, lack of cohesion & coherency
- ⊙ If not addressed, '*normative power may become a self-righteous, messianic project that claims to know what Europe is and what others should be like*' (Diez 2005, p.636)