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

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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
- Focus groups in EE
- School essays on Europe in EE

For more information, visit the project’s website:
- 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)