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Talking ASEAN on Non-Traditional Security 30 March 2015

**EU-ASEAN Cooperation in the field of Non-Traditional Security:
Prospects and Limitations
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EU-ASEAN cooperation in the field of Non-Traditional Security: Prospects and Limitations

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The EU and non-traditional security

- diffusion between internal and external security after Cold War
- this has led to gradual pooling of sovereignty by EU MS in respective policy fields (EU remains largely inter-governmental hereby)
- also led to increased cooperation between the EU and third states / international organizations
- EU attempts to externalize own respective norms and governance model to its partners (EU claims 'rights-based approach', 'focus on human security')

EU-ASEAN cooperation

- EU-ASEAN cooperation expanded beyond traditional focus on economic cooperation during last decade
- Examples: EU-ASEAN joint declaration on counter terrorism 2003, Nuremberg declaration 2007...
- EU model for RO's in other parts of the world???
- RQ: How can we explain that so little is actually happening with regard to policy transfer between EU and ASEAN?

Traditional explanations for success / lack of cooperation

- degree of Europeanization
- institutions in Brussels
- relative distribution of power
- institutional (dis)similarities w/ third states
 - inward looking: explanation to be found largely within EU
 - assumption: EU = policy innovator; partners = policy taker

My argument

- externalization almost impossible due to 'ASEAN way'; long standing norms, policy paradigms and specific modus operandi in SE Asia
 - 'policies, models and ideas are not moved around like gifts at a birthday party or like jars on shelves, where the mobilization does not change the character and content of the mobilized objects' (McCann 2011, 120)
 - 'policy taker' matters - translates, interprets and ascribes meaning to policy

Research Findings

- EU-ASEAN relations have significantly broadened beyond economic cooperation in last decade
- various key NTS policy fields (terrorism, human trafficking, migration, drug trafficking...) on agenda
- strong rhetorical commitment to cooperation (i.e. EU-ASEAN counter terrorism declaration 2003)
- new forums for cooperation: Senior Official Meetings, Joint Committees...
- but: little policy transfer / policy convergence
- more so: it has been ASEAN, not EU, who transferred its own modus operandi to regional and inter-regional institutions

Conclusion

- embeddedness of supposed policy taker within sets of particular norms, institutional legacies and long-held policy paradigms often overlooked by EU scholars
- need to divert analytical focus away from Brussels and towards the norms and modus operandi of ASEAN
- ASEAN way (sovereignty, regional autonomy and non-interference) has socialized the member states into a strictly intergovernmental, non-legalistic, informal modus operandi
- any policy transfer / convergence heavily constrained by ASEAN way