
The empirical basis of the dissertation
Cut short by Ebola, this project is based on four months of fieldwork carried out during two stays in 2014 and 2015 among peri-urban communities in the vicinity of the capital Monrovia. Ethnographic material was gathered through participant observation, individual (in)formal interviews, informal focus groups, and solicited diaries.

About Theresa Alin Ammann
Theresa Ammann is a security studies scholar and political ethnographer. She gained her BA in Political Science and Art History (Otago University) and MSc in Human Security (AU). She is the first PhD fellow of the Human Security research programme (Department of Anthropology). She is also a co-ordinator of the Gendering in Research Network that brings together gender-research enthusiasts every month.

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Time and place
Thursday 16th of November 2017 at 1pm
Aarhus University, Konferencecentret, Building 1421, Meeting room 2
Fredrik Nielsens Vej 4, 8000 Aarhus C

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Towards a PostHuman Security Approach:
Exploring Entangled & Changing InSecurity Becomings of Peri-Urban Liberians in the Aftermath of War & Ebola


InSecurity Becomings & The PostHuman Security Approach
In combining the three security approaches and agential realism, Ammann radically redefines (in)security as processes of InSecurity becoming since both insecurity and security are continuously emerging. All matter—human and nonhuman—across time and space is entangled in, affecting, and affected by these processes of InSecurity becoming. Importantly, InSecurity becomings are relational experiences and thus carry ethical responsibilities. This forms the basis of the postHuman Security approach through which Ammann explores InSecurity becomings of the Ebola outbreak.

Ethnographic Findings
- The Ebola crisis emerged through the entanglement of all matter (i.e., the virus, humans, states, technologies, objects)
- This emergence is influencing across, entangled in, and facilitated by time and space (i.e., historical, current, and future factors on all levels facilitated the spread and continue to be felt)
- Victim- and perpetrator-hood emerge through the intra-actions of all matter (i.e., humans and the virus emerged as “victims” and “perpetrators” of the outbreak)
- Showed processes of InSecurity becoming (i.e., while immense insecurity dominated, pockets of security also emerged)

PostHuman Security’s Ethical Agenda
This dissertation concludes that our deeply entangled existence and InSecurity becoming stretches across time and space and is affecting and affected by all matter. Consequently, such understandings should be part of our ethical considerations in security narratives and the everyday. This opens up to a plethora of future research opportunities.

Facts about the field of study
- Liberia is a West African country with approximately 4.5 million people
- Founded in 1847, Liberia was under the repressive, oligarchical rule of its settlers until 1980
- Following years of violence, Liberia plunged into war from 1989-2003
- Since 2003, peacebuilding efforts have dotted the country
- Yet, peace remains weak and most people feel insecure and unhappy with the status quo