



GLCb2020 Environmental threats and security

Environmental security: history and concepts

March 2, 2023

Miriam Matejova, PhD

Agenda

- What makes the world dangerous?
- What is security?
- What is environmental security?

Realism and global danger

- Rational agents with self-interests
- Danger and fear linked to the questions of war and violence

Realism and security

- **Security:** a need to be protected from danger
- Security for states
 - Focused on the concept of sovereignty
 - Usually from military perspective
 - Power understood as military or economic power

Human security

- 1994 UN Human Development Report
- Focus on human life and dignity
- Dimensions: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security

Securitization

- Barry Buzan and the Copenhagen school
 - Security is not only military but also political, economic, social and environmental
 - Securitization agents, using speech acts, turn a problem into a security threat

Hazard, risk, threat

- When do environmental problems become threats?
- **Hazard:** conditions that may “create” disasters
- **Risk:** probability times impact
- **Threat:** potential act or intention to cause harm

Environmental threats and politics

- **Three political dilemmas:**
 - 1) “Threats without an enemy”
 - 2) High cost and economic interests
 - 3) Need for global coordination
- *Should we explicitly link the environment and security? Why yes/no?*



Questions?