

Seminar 7

Week 8- Lecture 7

Constructivism

Saadia Gardezi

There is no “international society”. There is no anarchy in the international system. How would you support these statements?

Neorealists and neoliberal institutionalists were hard-pressed to explain why the cold war ended without a bang. Their commitment to individualism and materials meant they could not grasp the capacity of ideas to transform world politics.

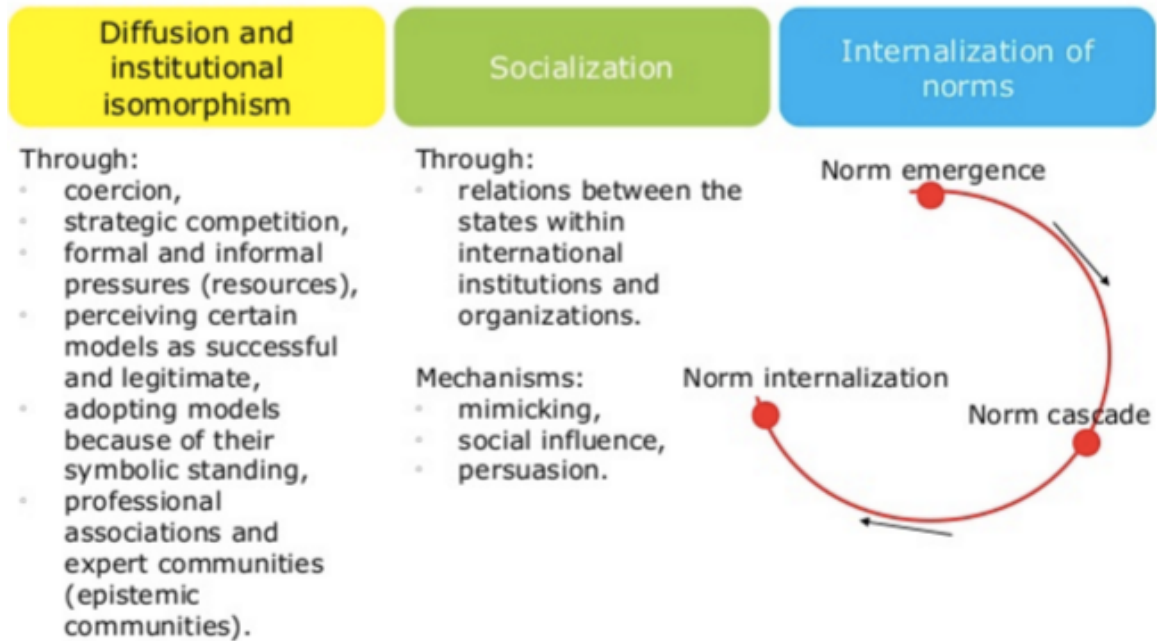
Idealism and the social construction of reality- Wendt

Meanings are assigned to material object rather than them having an essential meaning.

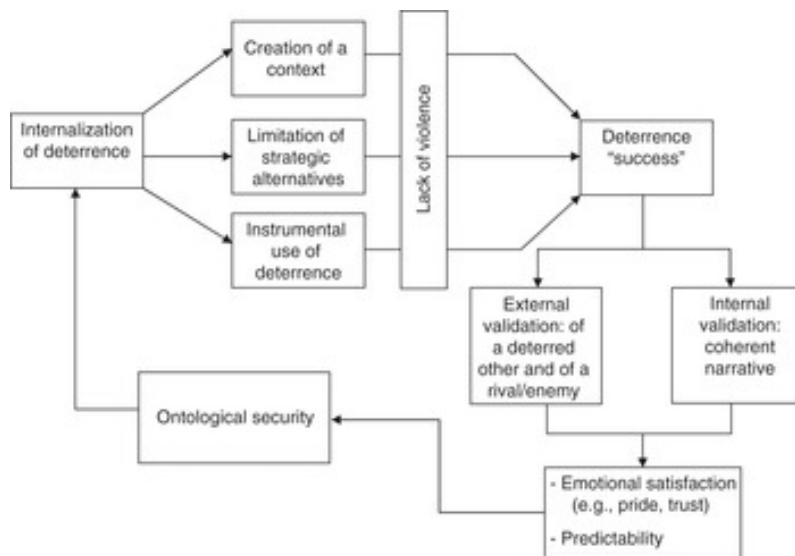
	Geopolitical Realism	Constructivism
Most Resembles	Power projection; strategic buffer	Identity convergence; Gramscian hegemony
Origins	Security requirements; opportunism	In-group solidarity
Mechanisms of Influence	Military power	Narratives; socialisation
Logic of Alignment	Fear; ability to resist	Common affiliation/ affinity through localisation
Logic of Contestation	Military balance; anti-access capabilities	Compatibility of discourses

(in Jackson 2019 [cambridge.org/core/journals/european-journal-of-international-security/article/abs/understanding-spheres-of-influence-in-international-politics/9E75C61DEF10F1DDD2CDF9974BE511F3](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022216X19000033))

Why do we obey the state?



Ontological security: Constructivists have coined the phrase “ontological security”, implying that a state's sense of national identity is as or more important than its physical characteristics in shaping its foreign policy.



(from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/power-of-deterrence/ontological-security-deterrence-and-the-use-of-force/E6ECCA1D394E3D6DC04769CCF1FD62E3>)

- Surveillance, who is suspicious, why?
- Securitisation and speech acts

Do we live in a post-truth world?

Case: Why dictators are afraid of girls

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/11/why-dictators-are-afraid-of-girls-rethinking-gender-and-national-security/>