

Special session proposal:

Hybrid threats and risk governance between safety and security

Description:

The geopolitical situation in Europe changed dramatically with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, immediately causing deep concern about the security of European energy infrastructures. After the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines and hybrid threats towards Norwegian oil and gas installations, it became a stated goal to increase the security of Norwegian and European petroleum infrastructures, both through political, institutional and legal measures.

Politically and institutionally, international institutions, states, state actors and corporate actors now have to collaborate to secure critical petroleum infrastructure. However, collaboration and coordination between functionally different actors on solutions to common problems are often challenging. Differences in objectives, mandate, organisation, sector affiliation and norms for information sharing often create barriers to effective cooperation.

Furthermore, the state is responsible for national and territorial security. However, because incidents target critical subsea infrastructure, and companies in the petroleum industry have become targets of sabotage, companies that own the infrastructure have acquired a role in national security policy. In Norway, this is visible through new legal requirements for some petroleum companies, after infrastructures that companies own and operate have been designated as 'basic national functions' under the national Security Act. Also companies that are not subject to the Security Act must adapt to the new threat landscape. The increased focus on security presents traditionally safety focused companies with a variety of challenges.

This special session is devoted to exploring how the institutional environment within and around maritime energy infrastructures collaborates on security governance. The contributions identify both challenges and opportunities in security cooperation between actors at different levels, including NATO, the EU, supervisory authorities, and petroleum companies. The special session also explores company-internal professional and cultural adaptations to a new, hybrid threat situation that has fundamentally altered the role of the Norwegian petroleum sector. The special session builds on work within the ongoing research project *New geopolitics and the interaction between safety and security in petroleum risk governance* (INTERSECT), led by NTNU Samfunnsforskning AS/NTNU Social Research.

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