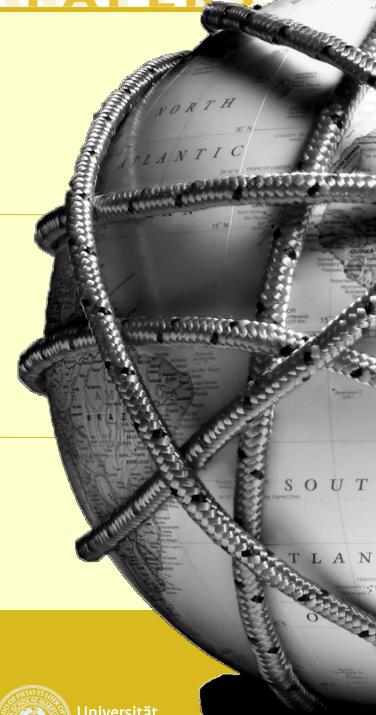
CCS WORKING PAPER

Niklas Sense

FROM COPENHAGEN TO KAMPALA

UNDERSTANDING
SECURITIZATION THROUGH THE
POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXT



No.21







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Niklas Sense

From Copenhagen to Kampala -

Understanding Securitization through the Postcolonial Context

ABSTRACT

With their concept of securitization, the Copenhagen School has introduced an ontological, epistemological, and methodological turn in the academic field of security studies that produced a wide body of literature by broadening, widening, and deepening the discourse. Especially more sociological scholars have stressed the importance of social contexts and illustrated how the inclusion of those allows for a better understanding of securitizing processes. Yet, despite the enormous increase and prominence of postcolonial works, securitization scholars have failed to properly incorporate and adapt to this postcolonial turn. This article sets out to bridge this missing link between securitization, social contexts, and the concept of the postcolonial. Combining a wide range of secondary literature, this article proposes an analytical framework of the postcolonial context that functions as an intersectional site which encompasses the interconnectedness of discursive, material, and power structures (socio-linguistic and socio-political dimensions of context) and that includes a temporal (pre-colonial, colonial, and post-independent) as well as spatial (local, national, regional, global) dimension. The securitization of homosexuality in Uganda functions as a helpful case to illustrate both the benefit and necessity of applying the underlying conceptualization of the postcolonial context to securitization theory. Not only does it help to better understand matters of homosexuality in the Ugandan context, but it also offers an innovative contribution to the general discourse on securitization and facilitates to extend its application to non-European settings.

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NIKLAS SENSE

FROM COPENHAGEN TO KAMPALA

UNDERSTANDING SECURITIZATION THROUGH THE POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXT

1. INTRODUCTION

"A nation is secure to the extent to which it is not in danger of having to sacrifice core values, if it wishes to avoid war, and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by victory in such a war"

(Lippmann 1943: 51).

"[...] security means protecting fundamental freedoms [...]. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military, and cultural systems that together give people the building block of survival"

(Report of the Commission on Human Security 2003: 2).

Arguably, considerations of security and insecurity have always been constituent parts of social realities. Consequently, they have also been part of the academic engagement with these realities. However, as the two quotes above illustrate, what is meant by using the terms is far from clear. Indeed, conceptions of security "derive from different underlying understandings of the character and purpose of politics" (Booth 2007: 119, emphasis in original). Thus, as other such 'derivate concepts', understandings of security depend on one's outlook political and philosophical worldview (Booth 1997). Within the field of security studies, the realist conception of security, which is mirrored in Lippmann's quote above, has long been the dominant paradigm and has fundamentally been shaped by the works of Hans Morgenthau

(1948), Kenneth Waltz (1979), Stephen Walt (1987), and John Mearsheimer (2001). This paradigm was "derived from a combination of Anglo-American, statist, militarized, masculinized, top-down, methodologically positivist, and philosophically thinking" (Booth 2005: 13) and resulted in an academic field that mainly focused on strategic problem-solving approaches for the protection of the state from military threats. Since the 1990s, however, this traditional paradigm has increasingly faced criticisms from feminist, constructivist, postmodernist, poststructuralist and scholars. Despite being comprised of varying ontological, epistemological, and methodological assumptions themselves, these critical approaches to security studies have all claimed that the traditional narrow conception security is neither of philosophically nor practically tenable any (Krause/Williams longer Consequently, these critical scholars have proposed to widen the security agenda: on the one hand, they claimed that the state is and should not be the only referent object of security (deepening the agenda) and on the other hand, they demanded to move away from the narrow focus on the military sector and include other sectors, such as the economic, environmental, political, and societal spheres (broadening the agenda) Peoples/Vaughan-(Wyn Jones 1999; Williams 2010: 4). This wider agenda, reflected in the quote from the UN Commission, has increasingly informed political and academic discourses and was heavily shaped by works of Ken Booth (1991), Richard Wyn Jones (1999), and Steve Smith (1996), who are commonly referred to as the Aberystwyth or Welsh School.

Within this particular discourse, it has especially been the works of Barry Buzan, Ole Waever, and Jaap de Wilde (Buzan et al. 1998), referred to as the Copenhagen School, that has introduced an "innovative, sophisticated, and productive research strategy" (Williams 2003: 528) which combines a constructivist notion of security with a traditional element of exceptionality and survival. Their concept of securitization introduced a specific logic of security and can best be understood as a strategic speech act performed by a securitizing actor, in which a given referent object is presented as being existentially threatened, thus legitimizing the implementation of extraordinary countermeasures. Indeed, their concept of securitization has been important contribution to the field of security studies; due to the various critiques, modifications, and extensions, it has produced a broad body of literature. In particular, more sociological approaches have enriched the discourse by stressing and extending the role of social contexts in processes of securitization (Huysmans 2000; Balzacq 2005; Stritzel Williams 2003). This move has allowed to conduct more in-depth analyses of the relationships between the threat, securitizing actors, and the relevant audiences in specific contexts (Canefe 2008; Jackson 2006; Sickinelgin et al. 2010). Additionally, it has allowed a move away from analyses of European cases and apply the theory to non-European settings (Caballero-Anthony et al. 2006; Wilkinson 2007; Olesker 2014; Vuori 2008). Yet, while these works have been an interesting and important contribution to the field of securitization theory, what seems to be missing is the incorporation of the postcolonial context. This is particularly surprising, given the increasing emergence of postcolonial studies literature and

especially the "postcolonial moment in security studies" (Barkawi/Laffey 2006). In the light of these developments, the following paper aims at illustrating in how far the postcolonial context can help to understand processes of securitization in non-European settings.

First, the paper will briefly outline the concept of securitization theory, illustrate the missing link between securitization, social contexts, and postcolonialism and introduce the underlying conceptualization of the postcolonial context. Second, the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda will be illustrated before the third part of the paper will apply the analysis of the postcolonial context to this illustrative case. It will be argued that by combining the temporal and spatial dimensions with the socio-linguistic socio-political and dimensions, the analysis captures the complexity of discursive, material, and power structures that fundamentally shapes the relationship between the given threat, audiences. The analysis actors. and illustrates that securitization processes in such complex contexts can only be fully understood if one applies an equally complex framework. Instead of focusing on only some actors and their narratives as well as audiences, the proposed framework captures the interconnectedness of all relevant actors, narratives, and audiences. Further, it allows to show how different linguistic narratives are being strategically combined by this network of national and transnational actors to instrumentalize a variety of audiences for their own political, religious, and/or cultural means. Lastly, the paper will outline these benefits as well as the analysis' limitations and conclude with thoughts on further research. Given that the analysis is based mainly on secondary literature and then enriched by a limited but selection of primary material relevant (public speeches and legislation), the paper's generalizability is potentially limited. By building on this limitation and conducting more systematic discourse analyses, however, the paper offers an innovative starting point for further research on securitization theory.

2. SECURITIZATION THEORY AND THE POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXT

2.1. SECURITIZATION AND THE ROLE OF CONTEXT

Securitization as a theoretical concept and analytical approach is mainly based on the works of Ole Waever (1990, 1995, 1998, 2000), Barry Buzan (1991) and cooperative work (Buzan et al. 1998; Buzan and Hansen 2009; Buzan and Waever 1997, 2003, 2009; Waever et al. 1993), commonly referred to as the Copenhagen School. While the Copenhagen School see their approach in the tradition of those critical security studies scholars that aimed at widening the conceptualization of security, they equally acknowledged that this academic move "endangered the intellectual coherence of security, putting so much into it that its essential meaning became void" (Buzan et al. 1998: 2). Rather than providing a fixed definition of security, the Copenhagen School have instead proposed a particular logic of security (ibid.: 4). According to the Copenhagen School, securitization can then best be understood as a strategic speech act performed by a securitizing actor, in which a given referent object is presented as being existentially threatened, resulting in the legitimated (i.e. accepted by the relevant audience) implementation of extra-ordinary countermeasures.

By introducing the concept of securitization, the Copenhagen School has indeed formulated an "innovative, sophisticated, and productive research strategy" and framework for analysis (Williams 2003: 528). Especially due to their combination of constructivist and realist elements, Buzan et al. (1998) provided an approach that resulted in the emergence of a broad body of academic literature. Yet, it is also exactly this constructivist-realist notion of the approach that resulted in a wide range of criticism: for proponents of the traditional understanding of security, the approach was too broad and constructivist, whereas scholars aiming at widening the agenda perceived it as too narrow and traditional. This range of critiques is equally true for the degree to which the theory has been criticized: On the one hand, scholars have asserted the Copenhagen School to be "sociologically untenable" (McSweeny 1996: to be "encapsulating questionable assumptions" (Knudsen 2001: 358), or to be generally and morally ambivalent as well as politically irresponsible (Erikson 1999). On the other hand, a variety of scholars have formulated more nuanced and constructive critiques which aim at specific concepts used by the Copenhagen School. These critiques were concerned with specific elements of the theory and have mainly organized around the existential threat (Abrahamsen 2005; Coker 2002; Huysmans 2000, 2006; McDonald 2008; Rasmussen 2001; Stritzel 2007; Vuori 2008; Wilkinson 2007), extraordinary measures (Amoore and De Goede 2008; Basaran 2011; Bigo 2005, 2006; C.A.S.E. 2006; Ciuta 2010; Huysmans 2006; Olesker 2014; Roe 2012), speech acts (Stritzel 2007; Hansen 2011; Olesker 2014; Williams 2003), and the role of contexts and audiences (Balzacq 2005, 2011; Salter 2008; Stritzel 2007; Williams 2003).

The most productive criticism has been put forward by more sociological approaches to securitization and has centered on the role of the context in such processes. In stark contrast to the internalist view of context provided by the Copenhagen School – "what is decisive for security is what language constructs and, as a consequence, what is

'out there' is thus irrelevant" (Balzacq 2005: 181) - critics have pointed out the "deep embeddedness of security articulations in social relations of power" (Stritzel 2007: 365). Indeed, understanding securitization as intersubjective processes, it is important to analyze the specific settings in which securitizing actors and audiences interact. With the introduction of the theoretical component of facilitating conditions, the Copenhagen School has attempted to stress the importance of the securitizing actors' social capital. While this is certainly true, it does not properly capture the complexity of social realities because it misses two crucial points: For one, given that securitization is only successful if it is being accepted by the relevant audience, Buzan et al. (1998) have said very little about these audiences (Balzacq 2005). It has been correctly pointed out that in most cases, there is a multitude of different relevant audiences who are receptive to different arguments, and have specific types of resources and powers (Balzacq 2011: 7). In fact, these audiences are not limited to the public alone; rather, there is a network of social groups, bureaucrats, parliamentarians, or officials that must be convinced about a given referent object being threatened and that the proposed countermeasures are appropriate (Salter 2008: 328). For another, and very closely linked to this point, the success of a securitization also depends on the "particular dominant narrative, constitutive characters, and the structure of the setting itself" (ibid.: 330). Indeed, different settings function according to their own languages and logics to which the securitizing actors need to be sensitive. Since securitization processes are relational rather than self-actional (Emirbayer 1997), different settings produce specific mutually constitutive relations between securitizing actors and audiences. Therefore, securitization is not only contextshaping, but also highly context-dependent: without understanding the context in which these processes take place, neither the securitizing actors, nor the audiences, referent objects, or securitizing moves as such can be properly understood (Williams 2003: 514).

Particularly the critiques regarding the role context have both fundamentally strengthened and broadened securitization theory. It has allowed for the emergence of a diverse body of scholarly work that has focused on specific kinds of context, for instance the regional context (Canefe 2008), context international (Jackson 2006), political-historical context (Huysmans 2000), or gendered context (Sickinelgin et al. 2010). Similarly, there have been many important contributions that applied the theory to non-European settings (Caballero-Anthony et al. 2006; Wilkinson 2007; Abrahamsen 2005; Vuori 2008; Olesker 2014; and Karlström 2012). Yet, taking these developments into account, it is surprising that the analysis of the postcolonial context has not yet been applied to securitization theory: not only has there been an increased interest in thought generally postcolonial more (Reuter/Villa 2010) - also indicated by the emergence of academic journals postcolonialism and a rise in academic institutes for postcolonial studies - but also a "postcolonial moment in security studies" more specifically (Barkawi/Laffey 2006). Thus, this paper aims at approaching this innovative endeavor by examining in how far the postcolonial context can help to understand processes of securitization in non-European settings.

2.2. THE POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXT

First, however, it is essential to specify the conceptualization of the 'postcolonial context', because for one, a clear conception of the term will provide a structured framework for the following analysis. For another, it will help to point out what the

paper does *not* mean when talking about 'postcolonial context'. Although it might seem rather tautological, this is particularly important: the term 'postcolonial' increasingly been used and applied in the studies of international relations (Barkawi/ Laffey 2006), but its widespread usage is problematic, because the term is often not properly specified, or - if it is - contains a variety of different meanings. For instance, 'postcolonial' often refers to a field of study (postcolonial studies), implies a mode of resistance (synonymous with 'anticolonial'), or is used as a merely temporal term (synonymous with 'post-independent') (Ashcroft et al. 2007: 170). Therefore, this section will outline the underlying conceptualization of the postcolonial context to properly illustrate the aim and scope of the following analysis

First and foremost, it needs to be stressed that the aim of this paper is neither to apply a postcolonial perspective nor to conduct a postcolonial analysis: although this would be an interesting attempt, the following analysis will, for instance, not deconstruct the discourse on securitization theory in the sense of critically assessing how the concept is fundamentally Eurocentric and is thus reinforcing given power asymmetries within and outside of academia (Reuter/Villa 2010). Rather, 'postcolonial' will be thought of and used as an analytical category that is, in its core logic, quite similar to Crouch's (2004) usage of the prefix 'post' in his concept of 'post-democracy'. proposes the image of an historical parabola through which a concept that is attached to the prefix 'post' can be understood as moving. In rather abstract terms, Crouch (2004: 20) explains how

"[t]ime period 1 is pre-X, and will have certain characteristics associated with lack of X. Time period 2 is the high tide of X, when many things are touched by it and changed from their state in time 1. Time period 3 is postX. This implies that something new has come into existence to reduce the importance of X by going beyond it in some sense; some things will therefore look different from both time 1 and time 2. However, X will still have left its mark; there will be strong traces of it still around; while some things start to look like they did in time 1 again."

Therefore, postcolonial is a category that is distinct from both the pre-colonial and the colonial. Yet at the same time, it is a category which is characterized by the combination of certain discursive, material, and power structures that can each be found in the pre-colonial and colonial, respectively. As such, it describes current power and dominance relations but these can only be understood as a result of historical and global developments (Quijano Therefore, 2008). the postcolonial encompasses temporal dimension, a because it can only be understood as appearing after both the pre-colonial and the colonial. It should not, however, be understood as a synonym for 'postwhile independent': post-independent describes a merely temporal category (the time that followed the independence from colonial rule), the postcolonial stresses the interconnectedness and junction of specific structures. As such, it does not just mean an 'after' the colonial, but also a 'beyond' (Hall 2002). It needs to be noted that this temporal dimension does not imply a linear historical development (Varela/Dhawan 288). Rather, the postcolonial highlights the "entangled histories" of precolonial, colonial, and post-independent realities (Conrad/Randeria 2002: 17). Thus, the postcolonial acknowledges that each of these categories has structural effects on the one that follows and that each category can only be understood in relation to the preceding ones (Varela/Dhawan 2015: 16). The fact that certain structures can be traced back to particular historical settings

(pre-colonial or colonial) but are still in effect today (in combination with other structures) also implies a spatial dimension, because different social structures are then prevalent different levels: on some structures (political, social, economic, cultural, discursive etc.) can be found on the local level, others on the national, regional, or global level, respectively. These different levels can be understood as "ontological referents" that enable one to locate particular actors. processes, values. discourses and so on (Buzan et al. 1998: 5-6). As such, it mirrors what Quijano (2000) termed "coloniality": in contrast to the mere temporal term "colonial", he describes coloniality as a specific *mode* that structures all fundamental aspects (political, social, economic, cultural, religious, academic) of social life without which modernity is unthinkable. Therefore, by merging the temporal and spatial dimensions, the postcolonial functions as a category that captures both the complexities and peculiarities of social realities (Crouch 2002: 20; Demmers 2012: 21).

Regarding the understanding of social contexts, scholars have increasingly stressed the relationality of agents, structures, and texts (Stritzel 2007,:369; see also Hay 2002: 89-134; Demmers 2012: 118-122; Halperin/Heath 2012: 92-94). Indeed, as Skinner (1978: xii-xiii) has highlighted for language as one kind of structure,

"[...] the problem facing an agent who wishes to legitimate what he is doing at the same time as gaining what he wants cannot simply be the instrumental problem of tailoring his normative language in order to fit his projects. It must in part be the problem of tailoring his projects in order to fit the available normative language."

Based on such a broadly defined structurationist understanding of social contexts, Stritzel (2007) makes a useful

distinction between a socio-linguistic dimension and a socio-political dimension of context, thus capturing both discursive and extra-discursive elements. The sociolinguistic dimension of context refers to the narratives and linguistic reference points which actors can exploit in order to frame and legitimate their particular (speech) acts: "We can therefore often observe that securitizing actors speak to and from a broader linguistic context by framing their arguments in terms of the distinct linguistic reservoir that is available at a particular point in time" (ibid.: 369). This dimension is a rather fluid aspect of sociality, which essentially helps to understand and contextualize a given speech act. In contrast, the socio-political dimension of "concerns context the often sedimented social and political structures that put actors in positions of power to influence the processes of constructing meaning" (ibid.). It includes material, discursive, and power structures that help to explain both the asymmetric access to political agency and the ability to construct collectively held meanings. While it is analytically helpful to distinguish these dimensions, any analysis of context will have to take into account how these dimensions are mutually constitutive and thus "not reducible to the sum of structural, agential or textual factors treated separately" (ibid.).

Therefore, the postcolonial context can best be understood as an intersectional site that encompasses the interconnectedness of discursive, material, and power structures (socio-linguistic and socio-political dimensions of context) and that includes a temporal (pre-colonial, colonial, and postindependent) as well as spatial (local, national, regional, global) dimension. The following analysis thus aims at illustrating conceptualization that this postcolonial context offers an analytical framework for extending securitization theory to non-European contexts and for better understanding securitization processes in such settings.

3. HOMOSEXUALITY IN UGANDA: AN ILLUSTRATIVE CASE

Essentially, the focus of this paper is a theoretical argument, namely that the analysis of the postcolonial context is a helpful tool for extending securitization theory to non-European settings. Yet, the paper aims at illustrating this argument by applying it to an empirical case. Using the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda as an illustrative case has been chosen for a variety of reasons. These reasons will be outlined in the following sub-section before a brief overview of the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda will be provided.

3.1. HOMOSEXUALITY IN UGANDA

When extending analyses, including securitization theory, to non-European settings, one is often confronted with postindependent nation states, important actors and as a unit of analysis. In such settings, decision-making powers are increasingly shifting from the political (the state) to the economic (neoliberal and globalized market) sphere. As a result, political elites tend to experience a decrease in agency and, subsequently, legitimacy: consequently, it is increasingly culture that becomes the main reference point for political constituency building which thus 'market' for identity-based "opens a politics" (Demmers 2012: 68). Indeed, postindependent states and their conditions for sovereignty are increasingly structured by questions around ethnicity, gender, and notably sexuality (Wahab 2016: 694). Sexuality becomes more important because its normative dimension is deeply rooted in historical conceptions of kinship, lineage, and community (Boyd 2013: 704). It is particularly homosexuality that creates a spatial and temporal boundary which places the "homophobic Other" in opposition to "Western modernity" on the historical (Western) path of progress (Puar 2007). Indeed, as scholars such as Tamale (2013), Coly (2013), Nyong'o (2012), and Oliver (2013) have illustrated, it is homosexuality and its condemnation that is being used by post-independent nation-states political strategy: Firstly, targeting nonconforming sexualities as scapegoats functions as a means to divert attention from socio-economic deficits, thus shifting the reference point for national anxieties (Bosia/Weiss 2013: 3). Secondly, ceremonial "performs a of protectionism that secures the [...] state's image of legitimacy [...] and political stability" (Wahab 2016: 704). It offers the government a means to publicly enforce its self-presentation as the legitimate and forceful protector of the state. And lastly, it is being used as a site of resistance to Western cultural, political, and economic supremacy (Kahlina/Ristivojevic Equally, concepts such as the "gav conditionality" - conditioning aid and donations on ending the legal bans on homosexuality (Rao 2012) - illustrate how homosexuality has also become important for political and economic considerations of Western states. What is at play, therefore, is the logic of using homosexuality as a cultural standard differentiate, to categorize, and rank countries in global political contexts (Stivachtis 2015; Puar 2007). As Kahlina/Ristivojevic (2015) have thus rightly concluded, "[...] the interplay between LGBT rights and geopolitics implies that LGBT rights have been turned into an important site where the on-going restructuring of symbolic and geopolitical hierarchies at the global level has been played out." This is particularly true for the African context (Hodes 2012).

Focusing on an African case for the analysis of the postcolonial context makes further sense, both because of Africa's history under colonial rule as well as - and closely linked to – the importance of religion across the continent. Philosophical as well as empirical research suggests that there is a strong relationship between religiosity attitudes towards homosexuality (Jäckle/ Wenzelburger 220). Indeed, 2015: especially "[...] in sub-Saharan Africa, at least nine-in-ten [...] believe homosexuality should not be accepted by society" (PRC 2014: 3). Equally, countries in sub-Saharan Africa generally have harsh legal provisions regarding same-sex acts, a result of colonial regulations that have been adopted by the post-independent states and implemented in their constitutions (Johnson 2015: 710). Regarding all three aspects - religiosity, attitudes, and legality - Uganda stands out: indeed, "[...] perhaps more than any other country, Uganda is legally and socially hostile to homosexuals" (Jjuuko 2013: 388). According to the National Population and Housing Census of 2014, only 0.2 per cent of the population is listed as practicing 'No Religion' (UBS 2016: 19). Additionally, representative studies have shown that Uganda scores particularly high in negative attitudes towards homosexuality: 96 per of the population believe that homosexuality should not be accepted by society (PRC 2014: 2), 97.2 per cent do not believe that homosexuality can be justified, and 75 per cent do not want homosexuals as neighbors (Jäckle/Wenzelburger 238). Furthermore, the proposition of the Anti-Homosexuality-Bill (AHB) in 2009 (which included the death penalty for certain same-sex acts) and the implementation of the revised Anti-Homosexuality-Act (AHA) in 2014 (which replaced the death penalty with life imprisonment) recriminalized same-sex conduct and established particularly harsh

penalties for newly framed aspects of (Nyanci/Karamagi homosexuality 26). Consequently, Uganda has gained massive international media coverage and has become the site for transnational activism, both for proponents opponents of this legislation. As Johnson (2015: 709) has pointed out: "Few statutes enacted by national legislatures generate the scale of global attention and debate that has resulted from the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) 2014 passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda."

Lastly, from a more analytical point of view, the case of Uganda is helpful in that the processes of securitization are relatively clear: the main securitizing moves have been clearly and publicly articulated, the referent objects are explicitly expressed, and related countermeasures have proposed (Karlström 2012: 7). Therefore, the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda will provide a fitting case to illustrate the importance of analyzing the postcolonial context to better understand securitization processes in European settings.

3.2. SECURITIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN UGANDA

The following section will illustrate the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda. Yet, it will not provide an in-depth analysis of the process as such; rather, it will briefly outline why and in how far one can talk about this case as a securitization process in the first place. Before doing so, however, two terminological issues should be noted, namely the problematic nature of the terms 'homosexuality' and 'homophobia'. The usage of the term 'homosexuality' is problematic in this specific context because it ignores the diversity of the effectively targeted individuals; it homogenizes and reduces all non-heteronormative gender identities and sexual orientations to the misleading category of 'the homosexual'. While fully acknowledging this problem, the term will nevertheless be used in this paper because it is helpful for understanding the process of securitization as such. It is argued that rather than simply applying the term, the securitizing actors deliberately construct this homogenizing category: First, it allows to distinctly and visibly present 'the threat' to the relevant audiences. Second, it enables the securitizing actors to strategically apply the term to individual that even slightly deviates from the equally constructed 'norm'. Third, talking of only homosexuality permits to deny or disregard the existence of other non -heteronormative gender identities and sexual orientations. As such, the term 'homosexuality' becomes an integral part of the securitization discourse because it is the term itself - comprised of whatever elements are strategically useful - that is being securitized. Equally problematic is the term 'homophobia' because it reduces and transforms a complex socio-psychological and socio-political phenomenon to a sheer psychological condition (i.e. a phobia). Since this paper aims at illustrating the complexity of this phenomenon, the term "anti-queer animus" (Thoreson 2014) is regarded more appropriate and will be used instead.

Now, as Karlström (2012) has correctly pointed out, homosexuality in Uganda is a classic example of securitization in the societal sector. According to Buzan et al. (1998: 119), "societal insecurity exists when communities of whatever kind define a development or potentiality as a threat to their survival as a community." In such cases, the referent object is usually the identity of the community, which in itself is constituted partially by presenting it as

being threatened (ibid.: 120). Furthermore, they have pointed out that "if national identity is tied to specific cultural habits, a homogenizing 'global' culture [...] will be threatening" (ibid.: 124). Indeed, this can be clearly observed regarding homosexuality in Uganda. Although same-sex sexual conduct has been illegal in Uganda ever since the establishment of the British Protectorate of Uganda in 1894 (Johnson 2015: 710), the current public discourse has been shaped by the intensified construction homosexuality as a serious threat to Uganda. Presenting Uganda as a Godfearing, politically and culturally independent as well as morally superior African nation-state, political and religious leaders have constructed the 'homosexual Other' as a neo-imperialist Western import that is fundamentally threatening the Ugandan state, its citizens, and its values, in short: its national identity (Karlström 2012; Sadgrove et al. 2012; Bahati 2009; Boyd 2013; Nyanci/Karamagi 2015; Wahab 2016; Sharlet 2010). Within this discourse, Uganda has been positively linked to Christianity 'Africanness', and while homosexuality is constructed as a two-fold threat: For one, it is a cultural threat because it imposes an un-African culture that aims at destroying Uganda's traditional and Christian culture. For another, it is a physical threat because homosexuals are presented as recruiting children and youths for same-sex sexual offences (Karlström 2012: 18). The proposition of the Anti-Homosexuality-Bill (AHB) and implementation of the Anti-Homosexuality-Act (AHA) in 2009 and 2014, respectively, can be seen as the major securitizing moves: they reinforced the "[...] mantra of safeguarding Uganda's sovereignty from neo-imperialism symbolized by the imposed decadence Western homosexuality" (Nyanci/Karamagi 2015: introduced respective 33), and countermeasures.

¹ The term *animus* refers to "a usually prejudiced and often spiteful or malevolent ill will" (Merriam-Webster) and to a "hostility or ill feeling" (Oxford Dictionaries).

In 2009, David Bahati (Member of Parliament) introduced the Anti-Homosexuality-Bill as a private-member bill into parliament. The bill aimed "strengthening the nation's capacity to deal with emerging internal and external threats" (Bahati 2009: MM) and was designed to fill the gaps in the provisions of existing laws. The AHB has made no progress by the time the parliament was dissolved in May 2011, but was reintroduced to the new parliament where it received a first reading in February 2012 (Johnson 2015: 717). Due to some national and especially international pressure, the bill was partially changed – most notably by substituting the death penalty with life imprisonment (Nyanci/Karamagi 2015) and the revised version "proceeded through Second Reading, Committee of the Whole House, Report stage and Third Reading in less than one hour" (Johnson 2015: 721). With the parliament passing the revised bill in December 2013 and President Museveni signing it in February 2014, it entered into force as the Anti-Homosexuality-Act as from March 2014 (ibid.: 722). Although the Constitutional Court of Uganda declared the AHA unconstitutional and ineffective on 1 August 2014, it can still be regarded as a successful securitization: For one, Court's decision was based on the grounds that there had been no quorum in parliament at the time the legislation was passed. Thus, rather than declaring the content of the law unconstitutional, the merely opposing decision was technicalities of the enactment (Nyanci/ Karamagi 2015: 31). Additionally, although members of the respective parliamentary committee published minority report in which they call for an end of interfering with private relationships, it still shares the negative presentation of homosexuals (Johnson 2015: 719). Similarly, most of those religious leaders opposing the AHB and AHA did so because of the gravity of the proposed measures and

not because of the intent and motivation behind them (Anderson 2011: 1596).

Although there has also been strong opposition by individuals, groups, and international actors to the legislation, these objections have successfully been instrumentalized by the securitizing actors: For instance, "[...] the withdrawal of foreign aid from public budget also had the unforeseen effect of transferring blame for public financing deficits onto already stigmatized LGBTIQ Ugandans" (Nyanci/ Karamagi 2015: 36), thus supporting the idea that homosexuality is a Westernsponsored concept (Wahab 2016: 711). The consequences for these Ugandans have been devastating: not only have they experienced a decrease in access to social services (Oliver 2013: 85) but also "beatings, disappearances, 'corrective' rapes lesbians, blacklists in a national tabloid, vigilante squads and church crusades [...]" (Sharlet 2010: 36). According to a report by Sexual Minorities Uganda, there has been an increase of 750 to 1,900 per cent of such violent anti-queer animus between 2012 and mid-2014 (Bowcott 2014). Therefore, it can be argued that these securitizing moves have created a "culture of extreme and violent homophobia" (ibid.), in which the construction of homosexuality as a serious threat for Uganda's national identity has generally been accepted by the relevant audiences. Yet, the question remains: In how far can the postcolonial context help to understand these processes and what are the benefits of analyzing it?

4. THE SOCIO-LINGUISTIC DIMENSION OF THE POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXT

There are three grand narratives that function as linguistic resources for the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda, namely 'Uganda as African', 'Uganda as Christian', and 'Uganda as Independent'. homosexuality and the role of religion in Metz/Gaie 2010: 279). Uganda, these narratives were inductively derived. Additionally, they were deductively tested against a limited but relevant selection of primary sources, including legislation, public speeches/interviews, and publicly accessible self-presentations (websites) of the actors involved. The following section will outline these narratives and illustrate how they are being used - individually as combined to construct homosexuality as a threat to Uganda's national identity.

Uganda as African 4.1.

Uganda's deep-rooted traditional personhood, identity, and humanness as persons', which means that one cannot realize one's true self in opposition to others or even in isolation from them" (Metz/Gaie 2010: 275; Van Zyl 2011: 338). According to this thinking, the appropriate way to relate to others is through a combination of solidarity and identity with one's community (Gyekye 2004: 16). Only through the submission of individuals to networks of kinship can important concepts such as ekitiibwa (honor) and empisa manners) be practiced (Boyd 2013: 705). Thus, honoring one's community through marriage and procreation becomes essential duty and ensures the future of

Based on secondary literature on both humanity and culture (Mbiti 1969: 133;

Consequently, homosexuality is presented as unnatural "within an essential, pure, and timeless 'African' culture" (Wahab 2016: 698). It poses a threat that exceeds the individual, because it brings shame to the individual and its family and it undermines social traditional relationships obligations (Boyd 2013: 711). Homosexual relationships are constructed in opposition to the duty to marry and procreate; further, they alter traditional gender roles and question the social and cultural power invested in these roles (Otiso 2006: 93). well-documented There are, however, In the 'Uganda as African' narrative, instances where the physical aspects of and traditional Ugandan homosociality (men cultural legacy is presented as the main who hug, kiss, hold hands, or have sex) were characteristic of national identity; therefore, acknowledged and accepted (Epprecht 2013: it has its main point of reference in the pre- 59). Yet, current same-sex acts are either colonial. It is mainly based on an "Afro- problematized because they imply the claim communitarian theory" on morality called for a universal right: although they existed, Ubuntu (Metz/Gaie 2010: 273). Ubuntu same-sex acts have traditionally indicated stresses the ontological priority of society "freedom from cultural norms, the selective over the individual and conceptualizes access to which marked social status [the king] or distinction [foreigners]" (Boyd 2013: essentially relational (Menkiti 2004). It is 706). Or, they are problematized because the aspect of belonging to the extended they imply a non-heteronormative identity: family and the community that gives homosexuals define themselves not through meaning to the individual's existence: "One an act but through an identity, which becomes a person solely 'through other promotes a lifestyle that opposes traditional moral duties (Sadgrove et al. 2012: 120).

> This narrative functions as a linguistic resource in instances where homosexuality is presented as "barbaric acts which are dehumanizing" (Mutebi in New Vision 1999, emphasis added), "unnatural offences" and "a threat to the traditional family" (Bahati 2009: MM). Indeed, when the AHB claimed that "there is a need to protect the children and youths of Uganda who are made vulnerable [...] as a result of cultural changes" (ibid., emphasis added), it is particularly the cultural dimension of the anti-queer animus that is highlighted.

4.2. **Uganda as Christian**

been not Christian teachings which have spreading in Uganda alongside colonialism; as such, it has its main point of reference in the colonial. Indeed, within colonial Uganda, by the time of independence in 1962, Christianity had become an integral part of Dada in females who are supposed to live heterosexual relationships aimed at marriage, procreation, and worship; thus, any form of premarital, extramarital, or non- Thirdly, the 'Uganda as Independent' heteronormative intercourse is against the narrative highlights the image of a cultural, will of God (Sivertsen 2016: 15). By living in economic, accordance with such Christian morals, independence that has followed the fight values, and customs, a "morally upright and against colonial rule and has resulted in the spiritually-inclined Uganda" is presented as formation of the Ugandan nation-state; the most "God-fearing society" (New Vision therefore, the main point of reference is the in Sadgrove et al. 2012: 113-114).

Homosexuality is then viewed as "in breach of Christian teaching" (Anderson 2011: 1597). Homosexuals are depicted practicing sodomy and living a promiscuous lifestyle that is violating and therefore threatening these teachings, particularly regarding Christian family values (ibid.: 1598). Consequently, homosexuality, along with other societal ills, is presented as a sin to God (Ward 2015: 132). Since the Christian values are seen to be "subverted by a rich and amoral 'gay lobby'", Uganda is presented as the most important battleground for preserving these values (ibid.: 137; Sadgrove et al. 2012: 124).

This narrative is clearly resorted to when homosexuality is presented as a threat which The 'Uganda as Christian' narrative, in needs to be countered, for instance to assure contrast, stresses Uganda's embeddedness in that "the most Christian country in Africa take the wrong ideological direction" (Hunter in Sharlet 2010: 43). It becomes equally apparent in cases where MP David Bahati claimed that "we should kill both the Anglican and Catholic church them because the wages of sin is death. developed into "quasi-establishments" and Whether it is the state to kill them, or we use any other way, they should die" (Bahati in 2014). Thus, homosexuals Ugandan society (Ward 2015: 129). In this understood as a symptom of an even bigger highly protracted "enculturation of the threat, namely a government by the people Gospel in African society" (ibid.: 141), social and not by God: "if we had an opportunity to life in Uganda has increasingly been equated implement what is in the Bible, that would with Christian teachings and vice versa. be a perfect position" (Bahati in Sharlet Further, according to Christian teachings, 2010: 48). It is particularly the religious God created humans as either males or dimension of the anti-queer animus that is being highlighted in this narrative.

4.3. **Uganda as Independent**

particularly and post-independent. Ever since its independence, the Ugandan state presented itself "as an agent of modernity in terms of economic and cultural progress and the custodian of tradition morality" (Oliver 2013: 97, emphasis added). As such, it claims the legitimacy and capacity to provide and defend the nation's socioeconomic prosperity and political stability (Wahab 2016: 704). This notion of a national collective identity, then, needs to protected by an independent government that naturalizes a rhetoric of national security (Bosia/Weiss 2013: 3). In this postindependent identity and sovereignty, it is especially the discourse on sexuality that functions as an expression of ideological independence from the West (Oliver 2013:

resistance to Western supremacy that is both Integrity James Nsaba Buturo stated that the conditions for Uganda's independent sovereignty (Wahab 2016: 694; charity Kahlina/Ristivojevic 2015).

By equating homosexuality with Western norms, any attempts to grant people their Western 4.4. rights are seen as impositions (Kaoma 2013: 76). Therefore, homosexuality is constructed as a threat to Individually, these three narratives function funding from Western donor agencies and discourse on homosexuality in Uganda. Yet, suspension of international social imperialism that stresses the "colonial nature" of foreign media, Western agents, single 'postcolonial narrative'. and Western concepts of humanity and society (Nagarajan 2014). Economically, these international fundings are presented as preying upon young people's economic vulnerabilities to separate them from their families (Boyd 2013: 710). This poses both an existential and symbolic threat because it redirects economic resources into new networks and ignores established meaningful channels of inheritance and social cohesion; it challenges the nation's capacity uphold its independent to organization of domestic socio-economic relations (ibid.: 122-124). Lastly, Uganda's homosexuality is a threat to independence because it is presented as threatening the nation's physical existence as such: homosexuality is understood as a Western strategy to stop procreation, thus slowly reducing the population of Uganda (ibid.: 118).

The 'Uganda as Independent' narrative is utilized, for instance, when homosexuality is as "remnant of imperial nation-state described a colonialism" (Archbishop Orombi

98). Thus, opposing Western values can be Uganda" (in Sharlet 2010: 42). Hence, when understood as an anti-imperial move of former Minister of State for Ethics and an opportunity and a necessity for reworking Western donors "can keep their money and post- their homosexuality because it is not about at the expense of our [...] destruction" (in Sadgrove et al. 2012: 105), it is the political dimension of the anti-queer animus that is being highlighted.

Uganda as Postcolonial

Uganda's independence, particularly due to as prominent linguistic resources in the aid. what makes the securitization Ideologically, this is regarded as a form of homosexuality especially successful is the strategic combination of these narratives to a

Of course, the individual narratives each provide an idealized version of social realities: Firstly, presenting homosexuality as un-African ignores the sexual pluralism and diversity that comprise Ugandan culture and tradition (Oliver 2013: 99; Kaoma 2013: 76). Secondly, promoting an image of the Christianity not only homogenizes the Christian heterogeneity of Uganda's denominations and their teachings, but also ignores all the non-Christian religions and worldviews that exist in Uganda (UBS 2016). Thirdly, constructing Uganda as absolutely independent ignores the fact that the state is heavily dependent foreign on aid, particularly regarding the health and educational sectors (Bompani 2011). Additionally, the combination of the three narratives ignores how certain elements contradict and mutually exclude each other. For instance, Christianity is a colonial product that has been imposed on Uganda, which is equally true for the notion of the itself (Oliver 2013: in Similarly, Christian teachings of monogamy Anderson 2011: 1592) or when MP David have never been accepted as the only Bahati claims that "the homos use UNICEF available form of marriage in Uganda: "The - this is true! - to attempt to colonize churches have, in fact, always struggled to

persuade their congregations that specific story (the Martyrs refused to have sex with Christian understandings of marriage are Mwanga either practical or desirable" (Ward 2015: considerably outlines how this relatively 134). Yet, the securitizing actors involved recent narrative intentionally ignores the were successful in constructing a narrative political circumstances as well as historically which strategically combines elements of African tradition, and notions morality, of independence (Thoreson 2014: Consequently, this process has constructed had different social meanings for 19than essentialist understanding of Ugandan century Baganda compared to those of the identity and Christianity as a mutually missionaries and current commentators constituting site, promoting an idealized (Hoad 2007); equally, it disregards how image of an independent, African, and gender was intertwined with political power Christian Uganda.

As a result of "denialism [...] and national forgetting" (Wahab 2016: 698), this postcolonial narrative functions resource for both narrow and broad kinds of securitizing moves. For instance, in the Memorandum of the Anti-Homosexuality-Bill, Bahati (2009: MM) explains that

> "the Bill further aims at providing a comprehensive and enhanced legislation to protect the cherished culture of the people of Uganda, legal, religious, and traditional family values of the people of Uganda against the attempts of sexual rights activists seeking to impose their values of sexual promiscuity on the people Uganda" (emphasis added).

commemoration of the 'Ugandan Martyrs'. homosexuality in Uganda. Rao (2015) has exhaustively illustrated how traditional narratives of the massacre of 1886 – when Mwanga II, then-ruling King of Buganda, ordered the execution of 31 young Christians after they had refused to renounce their alliance to the Christian missions been increasingly sexualized stressing the "sodomitical" dimension of the

II) in public memory. selected and culturally defined conceptions of gender Christian and sexuality in Uganda at that time to fit political current agendas (ibid.: 3). For instance, it 29). ignores that Mwanga II's physical intimacies and space rather than sex, which means that same-sex conduct might not have been understood as such by the Baganda (Nannyonga-Tamasuza 2005). Therefore, this usage of a "rhetoric that is politically salient rather than historically accurate" (Rao 2015: 13) becomes apparent in cases such as President Museveni linking Mwanga's rule to the political tyranny of his predecessors Amin and Obote, as well as Archbishop Orombi asserting that "we will never be shaken by any immoral teachings infiltrating our country. They [martyrs] never compromised their faith, we will not compromise ourselves" (in Rao 2015: 7).

Thus, the postcolonial narrative offers such powerful resources not only because it combines references to the pre-colonial (African tradition), the colonial This is but one example of how securitizing (Christianity), and the post-independent actors strategically intertwine the three (independence), but also because it provides narratives to approach multiple audiences at references for the cultural, religious, and once. Additionally, an example from the political dimensions of the anti-queer wider discourse on homosexuality is the animus apparent in the securitization of

5. THE SOCIO-POLITICAL **DIMENSION OF THE POSTCOLONIAL CONTEXT**

illustrated above. been resources for the securitization homosexuality in Uganda. Yet, it is the particularly successful in the light of Uganda,

(3) American faith-based organizations, (4) the Kabaka² of Buganda, and (5) the media. Additionally, a last sub-section will then highlight how these actors form what can be understood as a postcolonial "field of (in) security professionals" (Bigo 2006).

THE GOVERNMENT OF 5.1. **UGANDA**

Although the AHB was introduced as a private-member bill, both MP David Bahati and former Minister of State for Ethics and James Nsaba Buturo Integrity highlighted that the bill had been a collective party-wide product (Sharlet 2010). This is hardly surprising, given that the National

2 Kabaka is the royal title assigned to the king of Buganda, one of five pre-colonial kingdoms in Uganda that remain constitutional status in Uganda today (Kalyegira 2013).

Resistance Movement (NRM) led President Yoweri Museveni has held power since 1986, providing the government with a robust parliamentary majority that allows for an extensive control over policymaking the (Thoreson 2014: 28). This parliamentary postcolonial narrative provides the linguistic majority is continuously presented as an of indicator national unity for particular organization of social relations Uganda's problematic history of nationalism: between the securitizing actors and their Before Uganda's independence, there had audiences that explains whether securitizing already been a long-standing tradition of moves are salient enough to be successfully local nationalisms which organized around accepted. Thus, the following section will ethnicities and traditional kingdoms and analyze the socio-political dimension of the when Uganda became independent in 1962, postcolonial context and will organize it was still fractured, and divided by ethnic, around the securitizing actors. As Buzan et linguistic, and regional cleavages (Lancaster al. (1998: 40) have pointed out, it is both 2012). Consequently, President Milton Obote difficult and shortsighted to disaggregate (1966-1971 and 1980-1985) and President Idi actors into individuals, because collective Amin (1971-1979) attempted to enforce a actors need to be understood as more than sense of nationalism, for instance by the sum of its members. Therefore, in part executing thousands of intellectuals and understood as collective actors, these are (1) political opponents, exiling the Kabaka of the Ugandan government, (2) the Churches Buganda and abolishing the traditional kingdoms in 1967, restricting the churches' through the secularization educational institutions, and ordering the expulsion of all Asian Ugandans to create an "all-black Uganda" (ibid.). Thus, with the gaining power and announcing NRM Museveni President of Uganda in 1986, the constantly repeated narrative of Museveni liberating and uniting the Ugandan people was born. Indeed, Museveni and the NRM were quite successful in promoting this image: firstly, Ugandan churches and their members were re-empowered and reintegrated (Ward 2015: 130). Secondly, the five traditional kingdoms were restored in the constitution in 1993 (Kalyegira 2013). Thirdly, through his "democratic rhetoric" (Sharlet 2010: 37), Museveni managed to open the country for the neoliberal global market, promising economic growth for Uganda. Due to his successful reception by the elites, he managed to consolidate his power, for example by removing the presidential term limits from the Constitution in 2005 (Nyanci/Karamagi increased opposition from international 2015: 33). partners who threatened to cut their aid

Yet, this image was increasingly threatened by domestic social protests which criticized Museveni's inability to counter-act the "deepening inequalities accompanying global neoliberalism" (Oliver 2013: 100; Boyd 2013: 701). Indeed, according to the National Population and Housing Census 2014, the country is facing serious socio-economic challenges (UBS 2016). Museveni and his government have long used the scapegoating of others to drive processes of state-building, national unity, and retrenchment (Bosia/Weiss 2013: 2). As Sharlet (2010: 43) provocatively put it:

"Still, he [Museveni] is a dictator and dictators need enemies. For years, the enemy was a vicious rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army, but the LRA has been reduced to a few hundred child fighters. Enter the homosexual: singular, an archetype – a bogeyman."

Thus, this form of state-sponsored antiqueer animus can be seen as a "political resource" (Wahab 2016: 703), which, given socio-economic Uganda's situation, particularly successful, since "people who are fighting to survive are generally less tolerant of minority groups" (Jäckle/Wenzelburger 2015: 216; Kelley 2016; Štulhofer/Rimac 2009). Within this process, however, increasingly Museveni was facing the challenge to balance his national support of local Ugandans, the globalized protest community, as well as power struggles within the NRM (Karlström 2012: 19). This explains both his clear support for the motivation behind the AHB and his mixed position on the proposed countermeasures. From the start, he promoted the fight against homosexuality to boost his popularity among Ugandan voters and to build solidarity networks with other anti-imperialist opponents of homosexuality in the region (Nyanci/Karamagi 2015: 33). Yet, facing

partners who threatened to cut their aid budget, Museveni articulated a critical stance on the proposed measures, particularly the death penalty. This, however, allowed both Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi Speaker of the House Rebecca Kadaga to publicly voice their unconditional support for the bill; given that both politicians intended to challenge Museveni in upcoming elections, it provided them with a strategic move to gain public support (Dada 2014). By misrepresenting scientific findings homosexuality, Museveni successfully postponed his decision on the death penalty and managed to push and sign the revised AHA that excluded the death penalty. Consequently, he managed to maintain his public support while equally mitigating international pressure. As for the internal disputes, Museveni accomplished discredit Kadaga on the grounds of her procedural failures in the legislative process of the AHA and to un-ceremonially remove Mbabazi from office in September 2014 (Nyanci/Karamagi 2015: 34).

Thus, through the strategic balancing of internal, national, and international concerns, Museveni appropriated the antihomosexuality legislation as a political bargaining resource and successfully made the securitizing moves fully tailored to the normative languages of the relevant audiences (Karlström 2012: 24).

5.2. THE CHURCHES OF UGANDA

With the first British and French missionaries arriving in Uganda in the late 19th century, both the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church began to spread in the region alongside colonialism. As "the two traditional pillars of Ugandan Christian Life", both churches have become deeply established in colonial Uganda (Ward 2015: 128). Since the regulation of familial, gender, and sexual relations has been central to

theological and missionary connections and in the light of domestic and structures (Anderson 2011: institutions, governmental seated sense of propriety of Ugandans as a Communions of modern their use Pentecostal churches have Ugandans (Sadgrove 2012:117). While in 2002, roughly 4.5 per histories, and concerns (Boyd 2013: 702). cent of the population affiliated themselves with Pentecostal churches, their number increased to 11.1 per cent in 2014 (UBS 2016: 19).

colonial rule, the arrival of the British in the This high level of religiosity, especially when 1890s has helped to assure the political it is extrinsically instigated, partly explains dominance of Anglicanism (Oliver 2013: 92). the high degree of anti-queer animus After Uganda's independence in 1962, both (Jäckle/Wenzelburger 2015: 225). Yet, the churches were able to resort to older increasing hostility has to be understood also 1601). developments. Domestically, Ugandan Consequently, they were the most important churches face severe competition to retain or provider of education and their members attract new members (Oliver 2013: 94). This occupied important positions in political competition does not only stem from the the increasing popularity of Pentecostalism, but judiciary, and civil service (Ward 2015: 129). equally from the spread of Islam in the While the churches lost some of their region, with the number of Ugandan influence under the regimes of Amin and Muslims increasing from 12.4 per cent in Obote in the 1970s and early 1980s, they 2002 to 13.7 per cent in 2014 (UBS 2016: regained their influence when Museveni took 19). Globally, Christianity is increasingly over power in 1986. Today, the two churches shaped by both demographic developments together comprise more than 70 per cent of and globalization (Anderson 2011: 1591): the Ugandan population, with the Catholic With more governments and media of the Church encompassing 39.3 per cent of the Global North developing positive attitudes population and 32 per cent being affiliated towards homosexuality, religious leaders, with the Anglican Church (UBS 2016: 19). especially in the Global South, see their Both churches regard themselves as national values threatened. Comprising more than churches; as such, they claim that their one third of the Anglican Church's members voices should be heard in national debates, worldwide, African bishops, for instance, believing that they are "expressing the deep- have become "prominent players in Anglican politics, especially whole" (Ward 2015: 141). In addition to the defending biblical orthodoxy on matters of two traditional churches in Uganda, there is human sexuality" (Oliver 2013: 90). Given a continuous growth in the number of these domestic and global developments, the renewal churches, especially Pentecostal and churches' combination of performative charismatic ones (Sivertsen 2016: 14). After displays of power and "antigay rhetoric is churches had been banned by one way for religious leaders to build their President Amin as "religious sects" in the public standing by demonstrating their 1970s, Pentecostalism was able to flourish commitment to biblical morality and their again from the late 1980s onwards (Ward refusal to submit to perceived Western 2015: 128). Through their celebration of sexual norms" (ibid., 94); these spectacles "acquisition and prosperity", their teachings are not just aimed at members of their of the "gospel of health and wealth", and national churches but also at regional and technology, the global partners (Anderson 2011: 1590). The become religious leaders in Uganda are particularly particularly popular among the young and successful in doing so because of their ability et al. to draw on culturally specific discourses,

> Taking all denominations together, 85 per cent of Uganda's population are selfreported Christians. Due to Christianity's

strong presence throughout the nation, many congregations of the Global North and issues of ethical concern, and also serve their financial, physical, church" (Ward 2015: 131).

AMERICAN FAITH-BASED 5.3. **ORGANIZATIONS**

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) have proliferated expanded and alongside economic neo-liberalism and their charitable contributions remain a critical source of welfare (Bompani 2011). Particularly in Africa, FBOs attempt to compensate for the governments' inability to provide basic social services: astonishing 50 per cent of health and education services in sub-Saharan Africa are provided by FBOs (World Bank 2008). Many of these organizations are U.S.-American, which is particularly true for the ones active in Uganda (Bompani 2011). Although these FBOs have a long tradition of religion-driven activism in Uganda, it is especially developments in U.S. politics and Christianity that increased the American FBOs' involvement in Uganda (Wahab 2016: 692): While these FBOs, often promoting conservative Christian values. had enormous influence on world politics due to their well-established relationship to administration, especially Bush regarding domestic politics in Uganda, the liberal the stance of Obama administration limited this channel of power (Thoreson 2014: 28-29). Indeed, the Obama administration legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, strengthened rights for the transgender community, and implemented national health care, all of which challenged conservative Christian understandings of gender, sexuality, family, and morality (Oliver 2013: 89). Additionally, globalization developments within global the Christian community have led to more liberal attitudes towards sex and sexuality in program that aims at "preparing the nations

Ugandan churches constitute important and (ibid.: 91). Given their formerly established powerful securitizing actors: they "both ties to Uganda, the Christian Right in the mediate local perceptions on national events U.S. increasingly used their FBOs to move political, to articulate the received traditions of their ideological resources directly to Uganda (Kaoma 2009, 2012). Focusing mainly on and morality homosexuality, these organizations "began to see Uganda as an important battleground for the preservation of Christian values on a worldwide scale" (Ward 2015: 136). They managed to successfully use social structures in both the U.S. and Uganda to provide a "morally responsible materialism" and to globalize the "U.S. 'culture wars'" with Uganda as a proxy (Wahab 2016: 692, 705).

> When Kapya Kaoma (2013: 76) claims that "U.S. religious conservatives' ideologies and activism are behind the growing violent homophobia in Christian Africa", he mainly refers to a network of U.S.-Americans that organize around **FBOs** such International House of Prayer and The Fellowship (often referred to as The Family) (Anderson 2011: 1595). This network organizes around prominent individuals, such as the pastors Scott Lively, Rick Warren, and Lou Engle, as well as selfproclaimed ex-gay activists Don Schmierer and Lee Brundidge (Dada 2014; God Loves Uganda 2013). By combining their ideological and material resources and networks, they send "money, missionaries, and ideas": Indeed, in the past 15 years, these FBOs have poured millions of dollars into "leadership development", schools, and churches in Uganda (Sharlet 2010: 37). They send hundreds of young missionaries, organize workshops on "Homosexuality and the Homosexuals' Agenda", or bring together tens of thousands of believers to pray against sexual sin (Oliver 2013: 88; God Loves Uganda 2013). Additionally, they distribute propaganda through institutions such as the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), a

through mass media" (CBN in Oliver 2013: a securitizing actor in Uganda. 89). Although they carefully distanced themselves from the proposed death penalty, they supported the intent and motivation behind the AHB; this can be seen as a strategic move to maneuver between their religious followers in the U.S. and the wider, arguably more liberal, general U.S. public.

Thus, (particularly U.S.-based) FBOs and (Kalvegira 2013). In the early years of their networks are important and powerful Uganda's independence, Buganda managed securitizing actors who use their resources to to sustain its position of prevalence: it was securitize homosexuality in Uganda. They granted federal status and the Kabaka are successful in doing so by strategically became the President of Uganda (Lancaster instrumentalizing both national transnational structures and audiences in struggles between the President and Prime religio-political fight homosexuality.

The Kabaka of Buganda 5.4.

In the Republic of Uganda, the five traditional pre-colonial kingdoms Ankole, Buganda, Bunyoro, Busoga, and Tooro have constitutional status. As the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2016: 4) explains, "some cultural groupings are headed by traditional kings or chiefs who are not politically elected but have an indirect role in community governance and moral build up." With 5.5 million people (16.5 per cent of the national population), the Baganda - belonging to the kingdom of Buganda - are the biggest and most influential ethnicity in today's Uganda (ibid.: 20). As Boyd (2013: 705) has despite the dramatic social illustrated, changes due to the introduction Christianity and colonial rule. demonstration of traditional values still defines proper personhood and appropriate Being very aware of its limited room for status, it is the kingdom and its Kabaka of these values. Thus, given his still

of the World for the coming of Jesus Christ Mutebi II, the current Kabaka of Buganda, as

Historically, the relationship between Buganda and the central government (both, of the British Protectorate and the Republic of Uganda) has always been tense. As the biggest of the traditional kingdoms, it was able to claim special representation at consultative meetings and councils and 2012). This, however, soon led to power against Minister Milton Obote, who highlighted the President's conflict of allegiance (the nation vs. Buganda). Obote decided to enforce the ideal of national unity upon Buganda by gradually dismantling its institutions and position of advantage (ibid.). These struggles amounted to a military assault on the Kabaka's Palace in 1966, the exile of the the abolishment of the Kabaka and traditional kingdoms in 1967 (Kalyegira 2013). Directly after Yoweri Museveni succeeded in his coup in 1986, the Baganda showered him with their ideological and political support (ibid.). Consequently, Museveni allowed the return of Crown Prince Mutebi II in 1986 and, after consolidating his own hold on power, restored the traditional kingdoms in 1992 (Lancaster 2012). With the coronation of Mutebi II in 1993, the Buganda kingdom was completely and officially re-established in the Republic of Uganda.

behavior. In addition to its constitutional political agency, the Mutebi monarchy has used both subtle political support as well as (king) that represents the institutionalization subtle withholding of support to restore "glory and viability" (Kalyegira 2013). Thus, prevailing importance and the history of his when Mutebi II, for instance, equates kingdom, it is surprising that little scholarly homosexuality with defilement and rape and work has focused on Ronald Muwenda claims that he "strongly condemn[s] such barbaric acts which are dehumanizing and

they must be stopped forthwith" (Mutebi in 2017). Despite this amount of media outlets, New Vision 1999), he actively participates in freedom of press is not fully granted: Uganda the securitization of homosexuality. Equally, is considered only "partly-free" (ibid.) and by attending the Martyrs' Day celebrations as ranked 112th (out of 180) countries in 2017 a guest of honor, he publicly supports a (and even ranked 139th in 2012) (RSF 2017). narrative that condemns homosexuality (Rao Indeed, since Yoweri Museveni began his 2015: 11). At other times, however, Mutebi rule in 1986, many journalists who opposed has been careful to be neutral on that matter the government line have faced assaults, in public. His motivation for doing so is thus which included being suspended, stripped of a strategic balance of intentions: on the one their equipment, or violently attacked by hand, his neutrality on the topic can be seen politicians and security as an attempt to not divide the Baganda in Additionally, Museveni is favoring and strengthen cohesion and, subsequently, its political and encouraging cultural strength and relevance. On the one journalists (Freedom House 2017). Despite hand, his participation in the securitization the notable influence of state-run media and is to be understood as a move to present the restrictions by the government, and himself not as a threat but a source of influenced support to the central government.

Thus, due to his representative function of traditional Ugandan life, and despite his limited political agency, the Kabaka of Buganda needs to be understood as an important securitizing actor regarding homosexuality in Uganda.

The Media 5.5.

Buzan et al. (1998: 124) explain that "with its attraction to simple stories, the media will often tell the news in terms of 'us' and 'them' [...]. When ethnic or religious categories are established as the interpretative instruments for understanding a situation, the media has often played a role in this." This is both very true for the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda. Particularly in the colonial period, Christian churches played a vital role in introducing, controlling, and shaping Ugandan media. Yet, by the 1950s "a vigorous newspaper industry was beginning to make the churches' role abundant, as far as providing information on national affairs" (Ward 2015: 131). Today, Uganda has almost 200 private radio stations and dozens of television stations and print outlets (Freedom House

forces the community's exploiting the state-run media and implicitly self-censorship among competition by the transnational news agencies, Uganda's print media environment has become increasingly competitive (Oliver 2013: 89). Consequently, their "publications have become competitively sensationalist in their attempts to survive" (Sadgrove et al. 2012: 111), resulting in "media-constructed panics" to "make home and social affairs newsworthy" (McRobbie/Thornton 560). Indeed, newspapers such as New Vision, Rolling Stone, and Red Pepper have increasingly reproduced and emphasized the postcolonial narrative by claiming Uganda's moral decay, Western neo-imperialism, and the dangers of homosexuality (Sadgrove et 2012: 105). These moves included publishing personal details of homosexual individuals and instructions to physically, psychologically, and economically harm them (Oliver 2013: 85; God Loves Uganda 2013).

> Thus, in their attempt to survive the competition and the governmental restrictions and penalties, the media have become an important securitizing actor that successfully constructed homosexuality as a Western threat to Uganda's national identity.

5.6. The Postcolonial Field of (In) Security Professionals

Individually, these securitizing actors have contributed to the securitization homosexuality in Uganda. Yet again, it is the combination of these actors to a network of securitizing actors that has made this securitization particularly successful. The Paris School, particularly Bigo (2000: 195), has pointed out that fields of (in)security are "constituted by groups and institutions that authorize themselves and that are authorized to state what security is." Indeed, this network of actors that attempts to "monopolize the truth about danger and unease through the power -knowledge nexus" (C.A.S.E. 2006: 457) becomes fairly visible in Uganda. As Ward (2015: 135) has illustrated, the emergence of homosexuality as a problematic issue in modern Ugandan life can be traced back to 1997, when American FBOs organized and facilitated a series of study conferences for African bishops to instruct them on matters homosexuality for the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in 1998. Equally, the churches in Uganda have become important "spiritual homes" for many conservative U.S.-Christians and have consolidated strong personal relationships between U.S.-activists like Rick Warren or Lou Engle and Ugandan pastors like Julius Oyet or Martin Ssempa (who studied in the U.S. and splits his time between homes in Kampala and Las Vegas) (Dada 2014; Oliver 2013: 91; God Loves Uganda 2013). The FBOs also have strong connections to Ugandan politicians: Regarding the timing of the AHB, for instance, it was just introduced months after Scott Lively, Don Schmierer, and Lee Brundidge led a seminar for politicians in Kampala on "Exposing the Truth about Homosexuality and the Homosexuals' Agenda" (Oliver 2013: 88). As Sharlet (2010: 41) has pointed out, the bill followed the talking points of these three activists "with remarkable

precision". Additionally, American representatives of mainly Evangelical FBOs have given a multitude of talks, distributing quasi-scientific 'facts' about homosexuality to African political audiences, most notably Scott Lively's five hour talk in the Ugandan Parliament in March 2009 (Walker 2014). Furthermore, the FBO The Fellowship/The Family has found its way into the Ugandan Parliament in order to directly shape legislation: headed by MP David Bahati and closely linked to its American model, it was precisely this parliamentary group that was behind the drafting of the AHB (Karlström Sharlet 2010: 2012: 17; 37). organization has close ties to President Museveni and his wife and continuously strengthens other personal relationships, for instance between David Bahati and Bishop Julius Oyet (Anderson 2011: 1595; Dada 2014). These strong connections between Ugandan politicians, religious leaders, and American **FBOs** intentionally made very transparent. Media outlets, especially New Vision, routinely makes alliances between the state and religious leaders visible to strengthen the narrative of Uganda as a God-fearing nation (Sadgrove et al. 2012: 113). These bonds and with it the success of the postcolonial narrative - also become evident at public such as the Martyrs' events. Day celebrations. where religious leaders welcome political and cultural leaders, such as Members of Parliament and the Kabaka of Buganda, as guests of honor (Rao 2015: 11). In line with Boyd (2013), it is true that these actors may aspire to the same goal; their motives and moral frameworks, however, are not interchangeable. It follows that it is through this postcolonial field of (in)security professionals that the securitization of homosexuality becomes such a complex and powerful process.

6. IMPLICATIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

As the analysis has illustrated, both the socio-linguistic and the socio-political dimension of the postcolonial context help explain the securitization homosexuality. Although they were analyzed separately, it needs to be stressed that they are mutually constitutive. The securitizing move is only successful because of the positional power of the securitizing actors and their ability to access existing and prevalent discourses. These discourses are constructed, modified, and amplified by actors according to their interests. In turn, actors often rely on existing discourses to establish and/or maintain their position within given social structures. Equally, audiences' support relies heavily on both socio-linguistic and socio-political structures; a change in either of these dimensions, however, can also lead to the emergence of new actors (e.g. the Kabaka) and audiences (e.g. U.S.-Evangelicals). In short, securitization processes can only be fully understood by the mutually reinforcing combination of "the performative force of articulated threat texts", "their embeddedness in existing discourses", and "the positional power of actors who influence the process of defining meaning" (Stritzel 2007: 370). As Nyanci/ Karamagi (2015: 36) have correctly claimed, the securitization of homosexuality in Uganda is "really about nationalism, sovereignty, morality, propriety, control, political expediency, politicking before voters, foreign relations, bilateral aid, neoimperial power, human rights, and piety." Similarly, Thoreson (2011: 36) has pointed out that analyses of anti-queer animus need to include

> "language, the relevance and intensity of Christianity, Islam, and indigenous traditions, the legacy of

colonialism and relationships with the North, the stability, transparency, and diversity of political systems, the presence of factionalism, [and] the freedom and integrity of the press [...]."

By applying the postcolonial context as an analytical category, this analysis illustrated how it is precisely the interaction of all these factors that construct this highly complex process of securitization. It has shown how different linguistic narratives have been strategically combined by a network of national and transnational actors to instrumentalize a variety of audiences for their own political, religious, or cultural means. As such, the analysis has provided an important contribution to a better understanding of the complex antiqueer animus in Uganda. Of course, this analysis has faced certain limitations that need to be acknowledged: For one, given the limited space, the paper was only able to provide an overview. Indeed, much more could and should be said about both the socio-linguistic dimension and especially about the socio-political dimension; this is particularly true for the relationships between the securitizing actors and the audiences they address. For another, the analysis focused on the securitizing actors, their motivations and resources. Very little, however, has been said about the people targeted by the securitization, such as the Ugandan queer individuals, activists, and their transnational allies. This would have been an interesting addition to the analysis, because they often resort to the very same linguistic resources used by the securitizing actors, and because it would shed light on the power asymmetries and the "silenced" voices within these discourses (Hansen 2000). Analyzing the opponents of the securitizing actors would additionally prove helpful because their activism can be seen as influencing and shaping the securitizing actors' space for agency and vice versa; thus, the dynamics of the securitization

processes can only be fully understood by diversity examining how the interactions securitizing actors and securitized actors and thus highly audience-centered, the mutually reinforce each other.

One might further claim that the underlying postcolonial conceptualization of the context is only helpful because it was modelled after the illustrative case. While it is true to some extent that the postcolonial context was conceptualized with the case of Uganda in mind, I would strongly argue that it provides an analytical tool that is helpful for other cases of securitization in non-European settings: With its inclusion of the temporal dimension (pre-colonial, colonial, post-independent), acknowledges the "entangled histories" of postcolonial realities - something all postindependent states experience – while also giving room to the specific histories of the respective cases. Further, its inclusion of the spatial dimension highlights the glocal momentum that increasingly characterizes political realities; it includes local, national, regional, and transnational structures and highlights their mutual extra-discursive elements securitization processes and acknowledges starting means of for instance in the case of Uganda, have security" (Bilgin transnational (often Western) without denying national (often non- to and closely related to the actors, applying application to non-European settings. the postcolonial context illustrates the

of audiences: given that of securitization processes are intersubjective postcolonial context provides the necessary awareness of such audiences, including their embeddedness in structures, their concerns and needs. Here, further research could apply the analysis of the postcolonial context to the targeted queer individuals: it can be argued that the queer community in their Uganda and allies themselves securitize the Ugandan state as a serious threat to their queer Ugandan identity. Examining how these two processes of securitization are then mutually reinforcing would further enrich the discourse on homosexuality in Uganda. While conceptualization of the postcolonial context has been formulated narrowly enough to function as an analytical framework, it is equally broad enough to be applied to other cases in non-European settings where securitization is increasingly used for state-building and strengthening the state's political legitimacy.

constitution. Whether it indeed proves helpful in other Additionally, it illustrates both discursive cases, only further analyses can tell. Thus, of this analysis can best be understood as a point for further political investigation. Regardless of whether one communication. Especially regarding the follows the Copenhagen School in their goal securitizing actors, it further captures the to "desecuritize politics" or the Welsh complex nature of agency: while scholars, School in their attempt to "politicize 2013: 103), what is either blamed transnational actors (Oliver essential to any critical approach to security 2013, Kaoma 2009, 2012, 2013) or national is to properly understand the underlying actors (Nyanci/Karamagi 2015; Ward 2015; processes, structures, and agents of given Johnson 2015) for the securitization, the security phenomena. As this analysis has analysis of the postcolonial context allows illustrated, the suggested conceptualization to highlight not only the influence of of the postcolonial context provides an actors innovative and helpful analytical framework the complex capture Western) actors their agency, but also that it securitization processes. As such, it indeed is their interaction that makes certain offers a contribution to the discourse on securitizing moves salient enough. Lastly, securitization theory and helps to extend its

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