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Sub-Disciplines in Security Sciences: On the Need to Distinguish Them

Abstract: The article attempts to address the issue of the need to distinguish sub-disciplines in security sciences. A scientific discipline is a basic and lowest-order category within the classification system of individual fields of science. Security science in Poland has been classified as one of many disciplines in the field of social sciences. The problem was formulated as a question: based on which criteria can sub-disciplines be distinguished in the security sciences? The aim is to identify the basic sub-disciplines in security sciences and to propose a criterion for their distinction. Critical literature analysis and research design were adopted as the primary methods. There is no established criterion for the division into individual sub-disciplines in Poland. The author proposes to distinguish sub-disciplines based on the following criteria: theoretical, practical, types of institutions, and levels of organization of different security sectors. It is based on the assumption that security sciences require a clarification of the substantive scope within sub-disciplines through which the discipline's identity can be built up, and research can be carried out as part of further scientific work.

Keywords: security sciences, subdisciplines, scientific discipline

Introduction

Since its establishment in 2011, security science in Poland has become a discipline with a largely undefined research field. The notice of security issues (after the attack on the WTC in 2001) became the impetus (on Polish soil) for the creation of the discipline of security science. However, it perhaps does not fully justify its name due to the undefined research subject. (Gierszewski, 2023, p.17) Hence, alongside publications that are correct in terms of the scope of research, there are works (including dissertations) that point to the possibility of researching anything connected to *security*.

The lack of a clear delineation of the subject suggests a broad research scope and thus creates permission for methodological compilations, making security science an attractive discipline also for those researchers whose publication output is inconsistent.

The security sciences can also be accused of failing to explicitly refer to paradigms and specific theories, most of which have been developed or 'adapted' for the scientific discipline. And yet, like other disciplines, they are subject to methodological rigour, and thus their thematic area and scope must be defined by leading theories and concepts that are subject to scientific verification.

It is impossible to understand security as a process that leads to a specific (non-permanent) state and the developmental capabilities of the security subject (state?) if scientific theories are not taken into account. Taking into account theoretical approaches and the ever-changing field of research, attention was drawn to the need for sub-disciplines in security science.

The aim of the publication is to propose basic sub-disciplines in security sciences based on different criteria. The author assumed that security sciences require a clarification of the substantive scope within sub-disciplines through which identity can be built and research can be carried out, new solutions can be discovered, and knowledge of the broader research subject can be expanded. It was assumed that the current state of security sciences and their future development justify the need for sub-disciplines within them, which are relatively permanent research specializations.

Reasons for the lack of acceptable delineation of sub-disciplines

To date, there is no universally accepted proposal for distinguishing sub-disciplines in security sciences. Several reasons for this can be identified. Firstly, the security sciences combine the achievements and traditions of many fields of science and disciplines (mainly in the social sciences and humanities). They borrow methods, paradigms, theories, and different research perspectives from them.

Secondly, it is often treated as a discipline with a poorly defined research subject that has not developed its research methodology or even a universally accepted object of knowledge. The very interpretation of 'security' limited to the state, process and free development of the security subject is very broad. Such a broad definitional object of research condemns the discipline to eclecticism.

Thirdly, security sciences are incorporating more and more new research areas that have hitherto been the subject of research in other disciplines (political and administrative sciences, international relations, legal sciences, etc.) with established theoretical and methodological traditions. Admittedly, in doing so, it is opening up to new theories and research concepts, but the pace at which its research fields are expanding is not conducive to identifying an individual (disciplinary) research focus and, thus, to distinguishing sub-disciplines.

Fourthly, the security sciences attempt to institutionalize the subject of research. In this sense, the field of research is limited to the institutions of the uniformed services or, more broadly, emergency service groups. Rather, the object of research thus delimited indicates

the 'field of interest' of researchers who do not necessarily identify with security sciences (sociologists, psychologists, educators, political scientists, etc.). As a result, works such as the professional identity of soldiers, the well-being of police officers, the organization of the Prison Service, etc., can arise from other scientific disciplines.

Of course, nothing prevents a discipline of science from being linked to other disciplines. The linkages may relate to the subject matter of the research, the conceptual grid, and the research methods used. In principle, three relationships are possible between related scientific disciplines: interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary (Gierszewski & Pieczywok, 2020, p. 63). Each of these terms denotes a completely different type of scientific activity. Therefore, through the research interest of the sub-disciplines of security sciences, the subject matter, purpose, and methodology can be looked at from the point of view of the different disciplines interacting in research. However, in order to speak of interdisciplinarity, one must also have certain rules on how to perform cognitive activities. There is probably no discipline that is only inter-, trans – or multidisciplinary.

Security sciences as interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary sciences

From the word 'discipline' comes the concept of interdisciplinarity, which means that research goes beyond disciplinary knowledge. Interdisciplinarity in the security sciences means that in the research conducted, there is a main, or primary, discipline and an additional, or supporting, discipline that is treated auxiliary. This understanding of interdisciplinarity means referring to theoretical approaches, research methods, and conceptual models drawn from other disciplines. Thus, interdisciplinarity refers to the use of knowledge, categories and research methods from at least two disciplines. In names such as 'security sociology' or 'security history', the interdisciplinary nature of security sciences can be traced to the use of theories and methods from sociology and history. From these disciplines, a coherent whole of the problem under study is formed. At least it should.

Multidisciplinarity can mean that a particular security fragment is studied from the cognitive perspectives of at least two disciplines, which remain in a relationship of relative equivalence to each other in the research being carried out. Multidisciplinarity occurs when different disciplines work on the same research field but without attempting to synthesize research approaches. State security can, therefore, be studied by representatives of different scientific disciplines who use different scientific methods. Each brings knowledge from his or her discipline to the problem under study. None of them goes beyond their discipline. They present the problem from their disciplinary perspective.

Transdisciplinarity, on the other hand, seeks to go beyond the boundaries of individual disciplines and to challenge traditional divisions, thereby developing a new theoretical and methodological approach to the problem under study or, more broadly, to the object of

cognition. Transdisciplinarity in the research field of security (rather than safety) sciences refers to research integrated by means of common methods and theoretical assumptions of different scientific disciplines. Transdisciplinarity strives for unity of concepts and methods in the field under study. One might assume that a new, fully-fledged discipline should be created at the end of transdisciplinary research, but this is not the case. Security science should also be intra-disciplinary, where the problem is studied within a single discipline. This is the only approach where the researcher does not draw on the achievements of other disciplines.

There are sometimes many conflicts and factions within the same discipline. Perhaps the separation of sub-disciplines of security sciences can reconcile this.

Figure 1. Ideal separation of security sciences as a scientific discipline
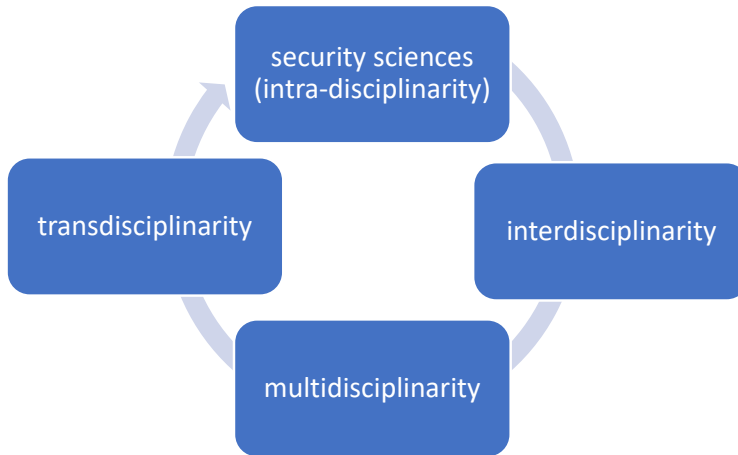
Source: own research.

Each of these terms denotes a completely different type of scientific activity. Thus, we can assume that the complexity of the issues related to the object of research does not allow the study of this phenomenon from the perspective of a single discipline. If all perspectives can be reconciled, then the results of their research in relation to each other should be at least incompatible, and most often complementary. strives for such unity of concepts and methods in an area.

The multiplicity of admissible positions results in different orders of distinction of sub-disciplines operating simultaneously within different scientific disciplines.

In the legacy of security studies so far, it is important to note two concepts that are constitutive of it: the concept of security (and its definitions) and the concept of a security system, which has been attempted to be defined many times. Most often drawing on the achievements of *security studies*.

In international relations, for example, the core sub-discipline is international security. The need for its distinction arose from the need to answer questions: "about the causes of wars and armed conflicts, the conventional and nuclear arms race, i.e. all that poses threats to the existence of states and societies." (Haliżak 2017, p. 9).

Mieke Bal is based on the conviction that classically conceived interdisciplinary research, i.e. research that is based on at least two different research perspectives, each of which remains completely autonomous, retaining a specific methodology and a distinct object of study, cannot cope with the challenges posed by having to deal with an increasing number of concepts, categories or research cases that are difficult to classify. The study of the cause of wars and armed conflicts need not be the domain of a single scientific discipline. The theory and practice of research created by M. Bal is a kind of response to the phenomenon of overexposure to established boundaries of disciplinary divisions. However, these boundaries are no longer obvious or entirely useful (after Nycz 2006, p. 30).

In contrast, the basic dilemma of security sciences can be reduced to the question of whether security sciences are to be a discipline of science with its own methodology or an eclectic conglomeration of security knowledge described in a single scientific discipline. After all, there are no – inter, – multi, or transdisciplinary disciplines. The only thing that researchers have in common is research topics related to the vague concept of 'security'. Thus, the study of causes and armed conflicts may be carried out on the grounds of various scientific disciplines, but they should differ in the methodology of research and the problems posed. The view that different cognitive perspectives, which are complementary to each other and not in competition, contribute to a better understanding of the studied object, seems to be legitimate. The multiplicity of acceptable positions only results in different methodological orders within different disciplines.

The phenomenon of security, by its very nature, in different contexts and at different levels of complexity of the reality under consideration, takes different forms. Hence, the phenomenon is perceived differently in the different strands of research conducted in this discipline. This can be explained by the idea of traveling concepts, as security situates itself between certain scientific disciplines, not being assignable to any or existing as an inalienable part of more than one. It cannot, therefore, be the object of a single scientific discipline.

So contrary to popular opinion – not everything is security. If this were the case then there would be a unification of science. Of course, it can be assumed that every institution has been set up to provide certain security (societal, financial, energy, health, etc.), and everything we do, we do for security. After all, there can be consequences for any action (or inaction) relating to security as a need, value, interest, etc.

Bal's invoked concept of traveling concepts may be a useful research tool for security studies rather than an object of security science research. The very process of the movement of security concepts as research categories from one discipline (e.g. political science and administration) to others (security science, sociology, psychology, etc.) is neither linear nor static. Concepts are constantly evolving, changing under the influence of the methodology

of the discipline in which they operate, as well as under the influence of specific research problems. At the same time, they also change the discipline into which they have arrived. Security is not only present in a specific scientific discipline but, above all, in everyday practices and experiences, in ways of interpreting the world. This, therefore, means that it has the capacity to evolve and move between disciplines. It is important to emphasize again that security cannot be the subject of the study of a single scientific discipline.

Discipline, according to the accepted definition, is a basic category, then – as in the case of the genus in a taxonomic system – a lower level can be distinguished within it, referred to in the case of the systematics of science as a sub-discipline.

Attempt at Classification

The research field of security is extremely broad. On the basis of the observation of various processes, a distinction was born between the individual subject (the human individual), the collective subject (society), i.e., those to whom acceptable security should be provided, and the state subject (i.e., those who are to provide security for themselves and others). However, on this basis, it is difficult to say whether the interest of security science concerns family security or universal access to weapons, or perhaps the safety culture of road users or national interests. To this can be added theoretical concepts associated with realism, neorealism, or constructivism (Gierszewski, 2019). The questions therefore seem legitimate:

1) How should one think about the object of research in security sciences?
2) How should the security of the human individual, social group, and state be studied in this scientific discipline?
3) Which methodological and theoretical approaches are most attractive to security sciences?
4) What are the disadvantages and drawbacks of studying personal and structural security?
5) How should the knowledge of other disciplines be used in the study of security science problems in order not only to broaden the research perspective but to consolidate the identity of the scientific discipline?
6) What is the relevance of sub-disciplines and supporting sciences to the development of security sciences and further scientific work?

Of course, science can also develop on a case-by-case basis without labeling researchers to a particular discipline, e.g., in the case of domestic violence, family safety science, and in the area of environmental protection, environmental science, etc.

A holistic view of the problem in security science requires systems thinking and consideration of issues such as security sectors or the institutionalization of security. The problem of security sectors was introduced by representatives of the Copenhagen School. Classical security institutions (guards, services, military) are different from international institutions, which often have different values and national interests.

Hence, one can conclude that security is a value, a need, and a good of human beings and social groups, which is primarily to be provided by the state. Only a definition (or postulate) formulated in this way is common to many scientific disciplines. The question arises about the subject of research in security sciences.

Alexander Wendt concluded that the state can also be personified, i.e., it can be ascribed to characteristics inherent in humans, such as rationality, identity, and interests (Wendt, 2004). This observation is also relevant in the context of the relationship between the security of the human individual and the security of the state. Do they share the same interests, values, and needs? If one assumes that the highest value of a human being is life and health, why does he or she lose them in the defence of the state?

The social disciplines, like the natural sciences, always use a palette of sub-disciplines. It is difficult to imagine studying certain problems without a knowledge of history, organizational structures, or psychology.

One may wonder whether the distinguishing feature of security science as a scientific discipline is the aforementioned security knowledge. It is, after all, a truism to say that accumulated security knowledge is valuable, imperishable, etc. Only then would the security sciences not have the status of a scientific discipline.

Andrzej Misiuk stated that: "The problem of this young scientific discipline is the lack of internal specialization. Such a logical attempt is to distinguish two basic sub-disciplines: internal and external security (not to be narrowed down to military)." (Misiuk, 2018, p. 15) Such a division directly relates to the source of the threat, which arises inside the security entity (here: the state) and outside. Today, threats have different sources. If the attack on the WTC had an external source, the terrorist acts in London or Madrid had an 'internal' origin. It is assumed that internal security is part of state security. In this case, the state as an object of study has an environment ('inside') and a surrounding ('outside'). Both are related to a single security entity, which is the domain of many academic disciplines, e.g., international relations.

When we look closer at the possibilities of learning about this phenomenon, it can be seen that the object of reality we are studying has too broad a research field. Representatives of the security sciences must be aware of what object they are studying and from what research perspective. Scientific cognition of "security" differs from colloquial cognition in that this object of cognition is realized and understood. Social policy probably also has human well-being in mind and can describe it regarding social and community security. What is the difference between social security problems studied in political science and administration or public policy? Security science should be oriented towards the challenges and risks the state faces in specific areas of its functions (protection, defense, and support of the security system at different levels of its organization).

Two sub-disciplines can be identified in security sciences: external security and internal security. These arise not only from the identification of the source of the threat, but from the historical separation of the security sciences from the military sciences. Security (implicitly

of the state) is an overarching concept concerning internal security (non-military aspect) and external security (military aspect). If this is the case, state security may be one of the sub-disciplines of the security sciences linking these threats.

Figure 2. Intuitive division of security sciences
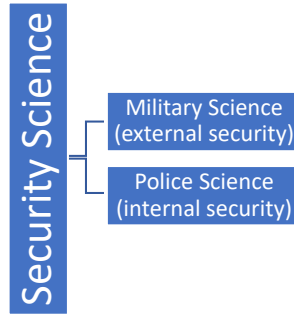
Source: own research.

Military science refers to a system of knowledge about the characteristics and laws of war, the preparation of the armed forces and the country for a possible war, and the ways of waging it. The object of study was the armed struggle conducted during the war (Kitler, 2013, p. 64). Another sub-discipline, military security and general security, can be distinguished.

Police science refers to a set of activities, mainly governmental, for the broad security and order in the state and the prevention of civil conflicts. From here, another sub-discipline can be derived – public security.

Today there are many definitions to define what a scientific discipline is. Taking the institutional criterion into account, it can be seen that many universities include 'security' in the name of departments, institutes, or chairs (See *Research Profiles of Polish Security Chairs and Departments*, 2018). In this way, distinguished scientific disciplines form the basis for the names of the organizational units of universities and, in turn, the activities of the discipline councils determine the further development of the discipline. Consideration should, therefore, be given to defining the identity of the discipline of security sciences in the context of transparent distinguishability from other scientific disciplines. This should be done by conducting an in-depth theoretical reflection on its own object of cognition and articulating it clearly.

The security sciences have become a largely dispersed discipline in publishing, creating a potential acquiescence to unlimited methodological compilations, by individuals whose publication output is inconsistent. Perhaps this results from the lack of a universally recognized proposal for delineating individual sub-disciplines within security sciences.

As noted, this may also be due to the eclectic nature of the discipline's traditions and output. Perhaps because they are intensively developing and evolving in response to the needs of practice, which translates into their greater dynamism compared to other academic disciplines with established traditions. Extensive institutionalization is essential for the development of any discipline.

When distinguishing sub-disciplines, it is important to consider different cognitive perspectives complementary to each other (congruent with the discipline's research object) rather than competing. I propose that a multi-criteria approach should be considered when distinguishing sub-disciplines, assuming all possible sub-disciplines must be distinguished. A diagnostic approach to the "general to specific" principle is helpful.

The first criterion should be the division between theoretical and empirical research. Within the theoretical stream, the following sub-disciplines can be distinguished: security theory and security research methodology. Security science is rather descriptive in nature, lacking a clear theoretical and methodological framework, and it is difficult to identify the paradigms or approaches that underpin the research of this scientific discipline (Gierszewski, 2023). The delineation of disciplines should help to clarify identity and contribute to the development of methodological theory.

Within the practical stream, there is greater differentiation. Additional criteria of division can be applied. The first may relate to the types of institutions functioning as so-called 'uniformed services' or emergency service groups linked to the state security system at different levels of its organization. Hence, the following sub-disciplines can be proposed:

– Defence system institutions (covering the functional level),
– Protection system institutions,
– Support system institutions.

The development of security science is linked to security institutions in the broadest sense. Which are most often assessed based on a praxeological approach (effectiveness of actions). The sectoral focus (security domains) and levels of organization mentioned in the article allow further sub-disciplines to be distinguished:

– State security (covering strategic level),
– Public security (covering the operational level),
– Common/General security,
– Military security,
– Societal security, etc. (depending on the established security sectors).

It may be recalled at this point that security was initially associated mainly with the military dimension (defense) and later with the protection of specific values (prosperity, independence, health, etc.).

Referring to the criteria of systems analysis, it can be said that security at the system level (of the state security system) includes levels of analysis related to the security of the human individual (social groups) and structural security (institutions).

The concepts associated with these sub-disciplines need to be clearly distinguished and defined. How to understand state security, societal security, etc. in the security sciences. This is because it is a hybrid, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary research space (as mentioned above). Demonstrating the distinctiveness of the sectoral nature of issues in the security sciences is important because of the interpenetration of different disciplines and the diversity of aspects of this state security issue. Against the background of a similar research object, the distinctiveness of the research problem should be demonstrated. On the other hand, the elements that unite and ensure the coherence of this discipline should be the theoretical and methodological foundations, the research instruments, and the utilitarian purpose of the research results for improving the functioning of the state security system.

If the object of study is assumed to be the state security system (military and non-military) covering the various security sectors at different levels (international, national, regional, or other, e.g., local) and the institutions set up to provide it.

Figure 3. Security science sub-disciplines
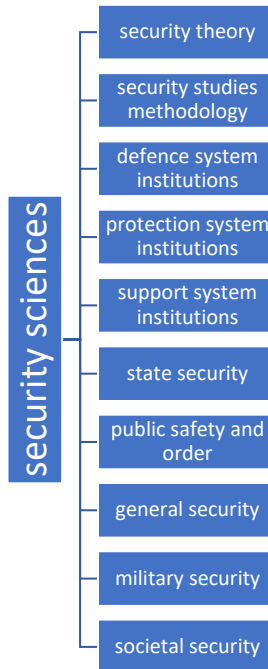
Source: own elaboration.

Thus, within the theoretical stream, a distinction can be made between security theory (theoretical research criterion) and security research methodology (methodological criterion). Within the practical stream, sub-disciplines can be distinguished based on the

criterion of types (functions) of institutions and security sectors. The latter criterion is similar to the object of research.

However, it should be remembered that these separate sub-disciplines have different thematic research scopes. Thus, the criterion for distinguishing types of security institutions may be dominated by a formal-legal orientation, assuming that state security is the activity of military and non-military institutions (emergency service groups) striving to ensure it in statutorily defined areas (fields). Theory, on the other hand, may focus not only on security theory but also on the philosophy or history of security, which may be given the status of auxiliary sciences.

The distinction between security theory and methodology should encourage more activity in defining the discipline's identity. The proposed division separates the subject of research into different fields, where a more detailed subject of security science research can be identified.

The division into theoretical and practical sciences is also justified by the organization of the teaching process, framed in terms of a general academic and practical profile. The proposal for such a separation of subdisciplines offers the possibility of an in-depth analysis of security research fields (according to the pragmatic criterion), which can proceed in three ways: in a broad sense – from areas falling within the thematic scope of theoretical to practical research; in a narrower sense – within one subdiscipline; and in a mixed sense (several subdisciplines). Thus, for example, from the perspective of state security, it is possible to analyze general security (as a function in the system) and the institutions (as a structure) that make up this sector studied from the perspective of the operational level.

In order to be able to analyze a specific research problem, it is necessary to consider its components, such as the institutional set-up of a specific security system linked to the security sector. The solution to the problem should be done using knowledge from the sub-disciplines: security theory and research methodology.

Figure 4. Mixed analysis of the research problem within the sub-disciplines of security sciences

Source: own study.
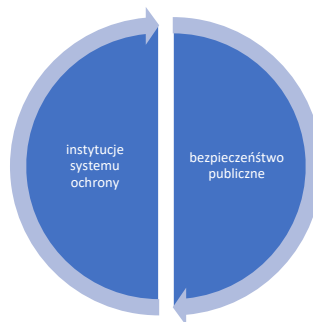
In the security institutions given as examples above, a distinction is made between the command and executive systems, which can be analyzed regarding the effectiveness of public security operations. Sectors omitted from the proposed division of sub-disciplines, such as health security (of the state) or economic security (of the state), may fit into the strategic level criterion, i.e., state security or constitute a separate sub-discipline of security sciences. The adoption of such an alternative can be justified by the category of the state security system, as it fulfills the systemic criterion and has an overarching character concerning security sectors, which may be its subsystems.

When talking about public security, it is important to define it, distinguishing it with a concept that calls for a 'disciplinary' definition of what public security is in the security sciences rather than, for example, in the legal, political, and administrative sciences. The same would be true of military or societal security. All these sub-disciplines demand a specific (autonomous) definition of the concepts used in the security sciences.

The proposed division cannot be referred only to the one-dimensional research field of a specific sub-discipline. The activities of an institution (in the security system) mean an intentional, repetitive systemic sequence of activities, both as a whole and its individual elements operating at different levels of state organization (commune, district, voivodship, country) in order to achieve the objectives set at the strategic or operational level.

Essential for understanding the functioning of institutions in the security system is theoretical knowledge of security theory and methodology. This multifaceted structure of sub-disciplines also has creative qualities inherent in morphological analysis. Thus, new analytical cross-sections can be creatively created, new perspectives can be pondered and, above all, the research fields of the security sciences can be holistically encompassed. On the other hand, in practical terms, it can verify the functioning of institutions and their role in problem-solving in different security sectors.

Misiuk (2018, p. 16) pointed out that key research problems can be security theories, types of security, threats, and security institutions. The latter may deal with the following specific problems:
- – security policy,
- – design and evaluation of security systems,
- – government institutions at the central and territorial levels,
- – institutions of local self-government,
- – NGOs,
- – private law entities,
- – European Union institutions,
- – international organizations.

Such a division seems polemical. Mainly because they are research fields rather than problems. Of course, within research fields, there are several problems to be studied. It is difficult to single out security policy as a specific problem of security institutions. Security policy is defined as one component of state policy, the scope of which includes the activities

of the executive. The legal aspects of security have long been dealt with by the sciences of law, politics, and administration or international relations. Such vaguely defined problems (institutions of local self-government, the EU, etc.) are the research field of many scientific disciplines. The proposal to classify the content of the field of security sciences requires deeper reflection and demonstration of their distinctiveness.

Thus, the need for sub-disciplines in the security sciences stems not so much from conceptual or subject-matter divergence between individual authors and their research provenance but from the rather broad subject matter of security science research, which cannot be easily put into an autonomous framework.

The separation of sub-disciplines in the security sciences may have an impact on the organization of promotion procedures, which should necessarily refer to the specialization of those being assessed (degree or title applicants) and the experts assessing them.

It should be noted that the literature in science studies indicates that the basic criteria for the division of scientific knowledge into its component parts should be subject matter, methodological and linguistic differences, fulfilled together (Pabis, Jaros, 2009, p. 22). The most commonly used division of science into component parts is the division distinguishing three degrees: field of science, the discipline of science, and scientific specialization.

In contrast, fields of science and their disciplines are differentiated by three key elements (Gierszewski, 2023, p. 114 et seq.):

– objects of research and problems of science solved (differences in subject and object of research),
– research methods and developed theories (methodological differences),
– their respective scientific concepts (conceptual differences).

The justification of the need for a sub-discipline should be based on various grounds. One can point to a significant theoretical or research tradition related to military (defense) or police (security/protection) sciences, the distinctiveness (to other sub-disciplines) of the research subject, or the identity (provenance) of security science researchers. These criteria are not unequivocally defined, hence their distinction must involve a certain degree of subjectivity and arbitrariness.

Perhaps the methodological element does not always have to be fully recognized as a constitutive feature of a discipline. Indeed, in an extreme case, this could lead to the recognition of the existence of only one social science (e.g., security science methodology or sociological methodology) rather than the fact of shared research methods and techniques within the domain of the social sciences.

The number of publications on security is staggering. This makes the proposal of sub-disciplines expandable. Thus, for example, within the security sciences, influenced by social psychology, attention is paid to the psychological (subjective) factors of security perception. This context has its institutional determinants, always embedded in the broader context of subjective security. It is easy to point out that the social level of fear of crime (in the area of public safety) is related to the effectiveness of the police (the institution of the protection

system). This does not mean that the fear of crime (subjective) cannot be related to the objective context, i.e. the impact of the Police on the level of public safety as captured by crime figures (positivist approach).

Only is security psychology a term that can be referred to as a sub-discipline of security science or psychology. In this context, another question can be asked: What determines the recognition as a sub-discipline of a particular scientific discipline? In order to answer this question, it is necessary to consider the object of cognition – which autonomous (field) object it belongs to.

For example, the term 'sociology of security' has emerged in sociology, whose primary task is to make an analytical interpretation of security on sociological grounds (Ciesielski, 2019). Security sociology is not an institutionalized sub-discipline of sociology but falls within the sociology of emergency service groups, which deals with issues of security system formation by military, paramilitary, civilian, and volunteer emergency groups. This justification situates security sociology within sociology. It fosters the development of this scientific discipline.

Security sciences are based on the actual practices of researchers, most of whom have a provenance from the so-called 'uniformed services'. This criterion can also help divide security sciences into sub-disciplines. The separation of sub-disciplines can be reduced to a utilitarian question derived from the sectoral criterion: What problem do researchers within the discipline have to solve? If the problem is state security, then the sectoral sub-disciplines fall within this sectoral criterion. Thus, societal security, economic security, military security, etc. detail the problem of the national security system. They differ in the way they pose and solve problems. Health security is rarely associated in research in connection with this system. It is more often studied as the health security of people and social groups than the health security of the state. If health security can be distinguished from the security sciences (Kuczabski, 2022), it can be argued that it is a specific field vis-à-vis health sciences, policy and administration, or legal sciences. Confirmation should be provided by linking security theories and methodology and, through them, to the categories (concepts) used in security sciences. Similarly, it is possible to distinguish economic or other security, which is not as well established as societal security. These sub-disciplines must be definable by the categories of the security sciences. Thus, in economic security, the distinctive 'economic' aspect of it calls for specific definitions in the security sciences rather than the economic sciences. Without this delineation, it will be a sub-discipline of economic sciences.

The distinctiveness of a sub-discipline in any field is demonstrated by its ability to express judgments. Thus, for example, societal security is capable of formulating judgments about the societal security of the state (Gierszewski, 2018), and has its own system of concepts distinct from, for example, social policy, which allows for the description and analysis of this research field in an exploratory manner, providing the possibility of posing and solving

scientific problems with the possibility of acquiring new knowledge. This sub-discipline fosters the development of security sciences.

An important element of distinguishing subdisciplines is the agreement, at least of some scholars, on the presence of a given subdiscipline confirmed by publication activity. And after all, many research fields concern security institutions (defense, protection, and support) and security sectors. Based on empirical research and theoretical considerations of the functioning of security institutions in various sectors, there have already been many publications, both books, and articles, treating the various problems of the object of cognition of security sciences.

Conclusion

The new classification of scientific and artistic fields and disciplines adopted in 2018 for the discipline of security sciences requires a new description of the 'interior' of the discipline – security sciences. It should consider the main research fields of the administratively assimilated security and defense sciences. The proposal of sub-disciplines presented is not ideal. On the one hand, objections may be to overextending the number of sub-disciplines. On the other hand, there may be voices from those whose research interests have not been taken into account or have not been properly valued.

This division seeks to distinguish the broadest possible spectrum of research topics covered as synthetically as possible based on clear criteria for distinguishing these sub-disciplines. The proposal presented should be regarded as an attempt to organize the object of cognition of security sciences based on sub-disciplines. It certainly does not exhaust the problem but opens up a discussion on the richness and diversity of problems of interest to the security sciences.

In addition to its utilitarian function, a sub-discipline also fulfills an external (cognitive) and internal (constituting its continuity) function within the discipline. In order to distinguish it, it must have at its disposal: a system of concepts necessary to describe and analyze the object of scientific exploration related to the discipline, specific rules for posing and solving problems, according to which the knowledge constituting the effect of practicing the discipline is collected and systematized.

The delimitation of sub-disciplines in security sciences (by thematic scopes) may provide a guideline to help resolve disputes related, inter alia, to the scientific affiliation of research work carried out at the intersection of disciplines. The value of the presented classification is its openness to solving problems covered by the subject of security science research by different sub-disciplines and the possibility of creating new sub-disciplines based on the criteria presented. A security science researcher claiming to represent the security science discipline should specify – i.e., I am a specialist in...? Well, in what exactly?

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