

A Jewish Non-Governmental Organization's Jewish Community Resilience in Europe

Program: A Post-Structural Analysis

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Abstract

Resilience thinking has taken on new meaning with its increasing use in public policy, policy analysis, and policy implementation. States, governing organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations are producing resilience thinking to as a solution for governing insecurity. Scholarship has started to decipher what resilience thinking produces. Importantly, depoliticization of the governor and politicization at the governed at once has been a recent and critical finding, both as a tool and as an aim of resilience thinking practices. This research utilized grounded theory and studied how resilience was produced through problematized knowledge in European Jewish communities as part of a Jewish Community Resilience program in a global, non-governmental organization. Through a post-structural analysis, I found resilience thinking to be form of maternalistic thinking, which transformed vulnerability from a something to protect (i.e. paternalistic vulnerability), to something to preserve (i.e. maternalistic vulnerability). As a result, maternalistic vulnerability produced by resilience thinking invited the community membership and leadership (as well as the NGO) to care for the vulnerabilities, with metaphysical humility about their own limitations. However, evidence of the politicization of community membership (i.e. subjects) without any clear transfer of decision-making power seemed to have caused a regression back to the paternalistic vulnerability paradigm, and, from its paternalistic perspective, now with new vulnerabilities maternalistic resilience thinking had produced. Further research recommended include the intersection of gender and governing

insecurity, as well as exploring advanced psychology research on vulnerability, shame, and resilience in the policy/population realm.