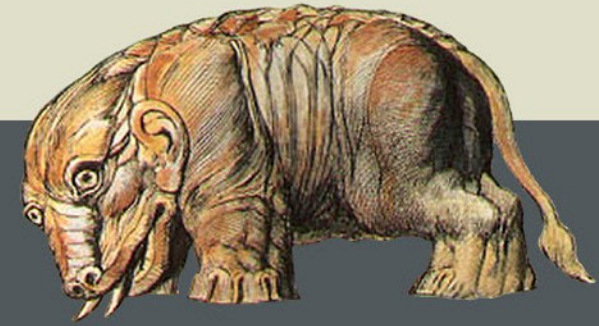


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TRUST IN TIMES OF (IN-)SECURITY

ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PHENOMENA OF SECURITY AND TRUST

Benjamin Rampp, Martin Endreß

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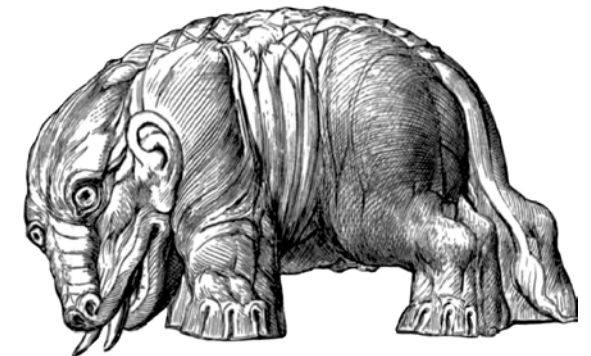
Editorial

Benjamin Rampp, Martin Endreß

The relationship between the phenomena of security and trust is a complex one. Security practices aim at both the creation of trust as well as its maintenance and are at the same time based upon techniques of distrust and might, as paradoxical unanticipated consequences, question trust. Thus, trust can be understood as a prerequisite of security practices as well as a phenomenon which structurally conflicts with security. And, to cast a glance at the full complexity of the relationship, their meanings at times even seem to merge when they are understood in a broader sense.

This issue of Behemoth, which builds on a selection of revised contributions to the conference “Trust in Times of (In-)Security”, which was held in 2014 in Trier, Germany, focuses on this multifaceted relationship, which proves to be highly relevant in contemporary, advanced modern contexts that can be described as “security societies”. This is true with respect to discourses on the increasing uncertainty in the context of flexible and risky societal constellations as well as in regard to the increasing (at least discursive) relevance of and orientation towards the concept of security.

Both phenomena must be understood as multidimensional and highly dynamic. Thus, regarding the phenomenon of security, not only the specific empirical fields are of importance, but also current developments which change the character of security and its production (e.g. inter-/transnationalization, privatization/commodification, etc.). And also with regard to the phenomenon of trust, a variety of developments as well as approaches must be considered, be it classically with a focus on



the reference objects of trust (e.g. in the sense of Luhmann as personal and system trust) or concerning the particular mode of trust.

In order to analyze the complex relationship between security and trust, this issue contains contributions from the fields of sociology, philosophy, and history. The first contribution by **Martin Hartmann** focuses on the concept of basic trust. It argues that this concept is, although often referred to, vague and only informative to a limited extent. Thus, it is suggested to “defundamentalize” the concept of basic trust and to understand it as an achievement rather than an ontological default position. After illustrating some key characteristics of such a concept, the author, referring to the phenomena of violence and terror, analyzes that the basis for being in the world needs not to be identified as basic trust, and thus, basic trust needs to be reconceptualized and made “less basic”. Thus, it has to be understood as a historical concept. **Sylvia Kühne** then analyzes the relationship between security technologies and (dis-)trust. She focuses on the effects digital fingerprinting has on the – in the Maussian sense – “gift” of trust in different, governmental and commercial, contexts. By means of the results of a qualitative study of interviews on social acceptance of fingerprinting, the author argues that fingerprinting does not necessarily lead to a culture of distrust as supposed in recent contributions to the debate on security and surveillance technologies. Instead, a more diverse and multilayered picture of the relationship between trust, distrust and digital fingerprinting is identified. A further contribution on the relationship between security technologies and trust is presented by **John Philipp Baesler**. He describes the development of lie detection regimes in the U.S. in the twentieth and early twenty-first century and shows that the lie detector technology did not lead to the initially promised generation of trust. Subsequently, the author argues that recent security and surveillance technologies such as brain scanning or biometrics, which claim to avoid the problems of the polygraph and to actually foster trust, involve the same problems as the lie detector technology rather than enhancing trust. **Andreas Langenohl** then shifts the attention to the field of financial security. He discusses the interconnection between modern political sovereignty and sovereign debt and examines the latest development of this nexus in the context of the Eurozone crisis. To analyze this development, the author emphasizes the importance of the concept of trust and especially the idea of “sovereign trust”, i.e. the capacity of states to act sovereignly in financial, moral and political terms without the need to define a specific collateral for their sovereign debt. **Jan Fleck and Rolf von Lüde** address the issue of financial security, too. Based on the

observation that recent financial crises are closely linked with the collapse of institutional trust and financial confidence, they identify the necessity of “guardians of impersonal trust” as institutional actors. To specify and examine this need, the authors analyze and evaluate the case of the European Banking Union and its capacity to serve as a reflexive control structure resp. second-order control. In the subsequent contribution, **Regina Ammicht Quinn** analyzes the moral character of trust. She draws attention to the religious roots of trust as well as to religious discourses, which still influence understandings and the functioning of security and security technologies (e.g. in the case of so called “Schutzmantelmadonnen”, i.e. “Madonna with the cloak”). The author thereby questions the notion of the security discourse as an outright secularized discourse. On this basis, key issues of an ethics of trust are outlined and the potentials as well as the necessity of the idea of “security theater” are illustrated. Finally, **Andreas Zerver**’s review of Geoffrey Hosking’s Book “Trust. A History” completes this issue of Behemoth.