

Securitization of Migration: The European Migrant Crisis

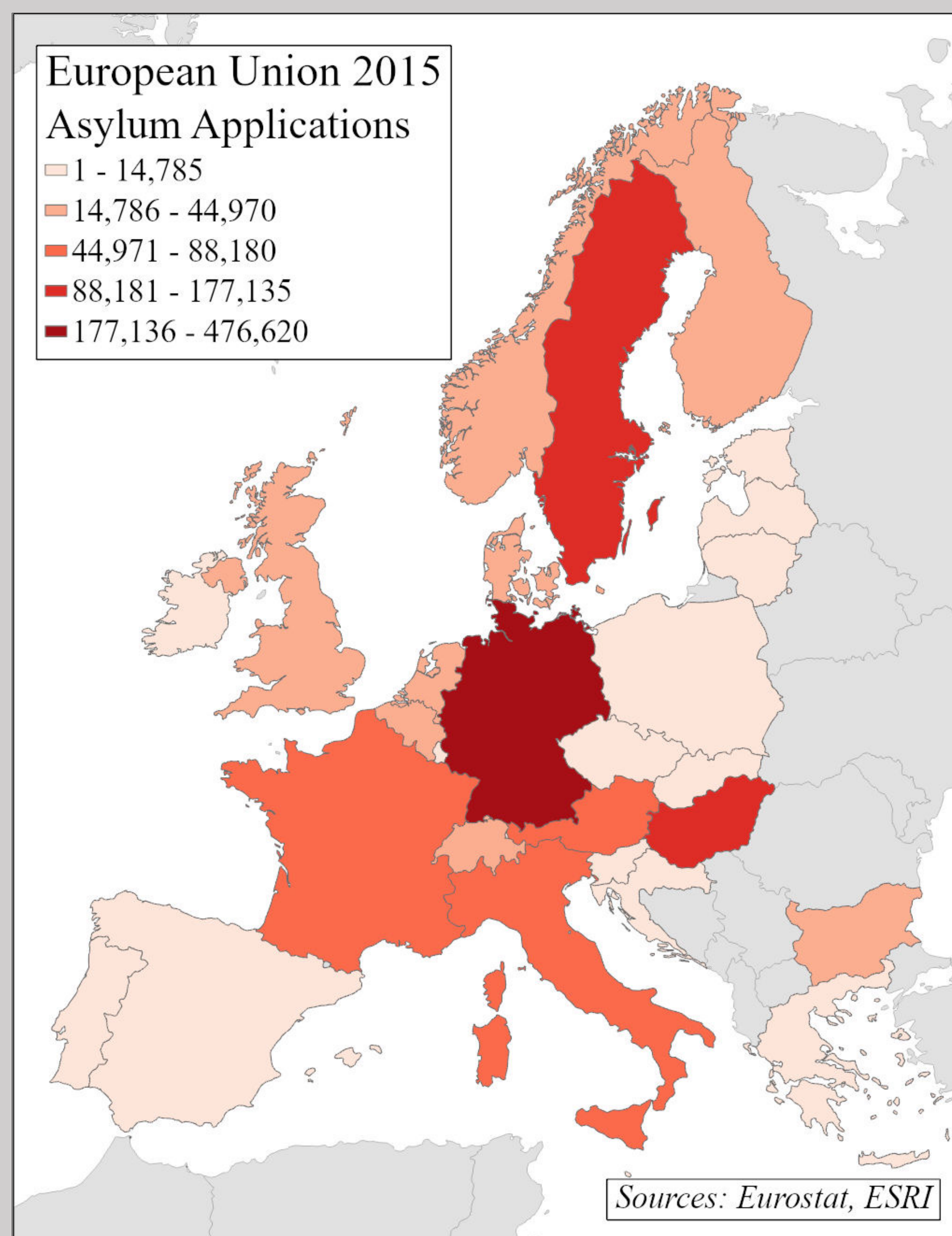
Maria Winstead, INTA Pro-Seminar, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Research Question

Which theoretical approach to securitization best explains the European migrant crisis of the 2010s?

Background

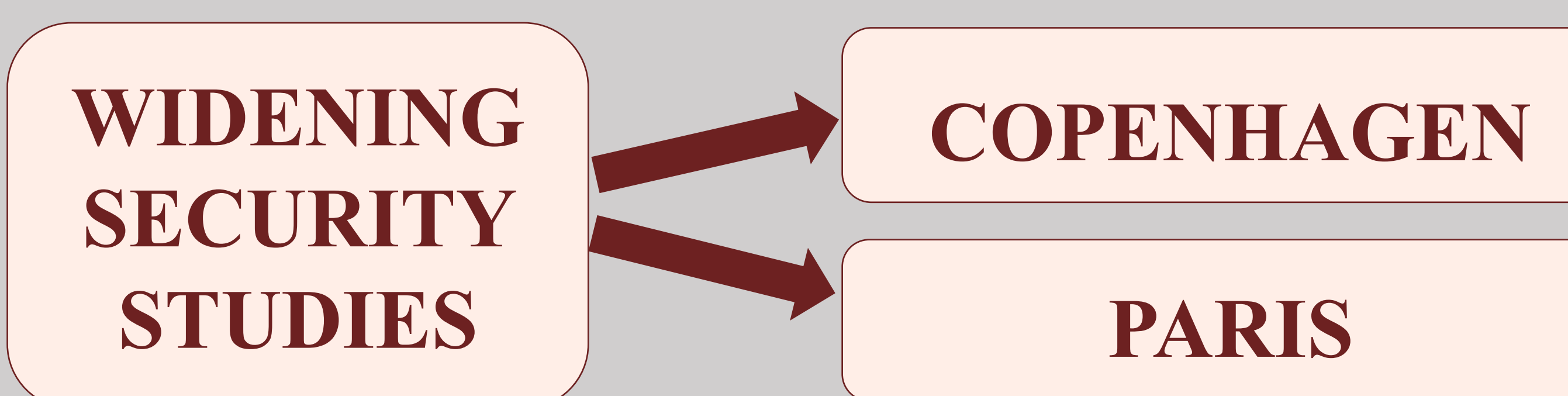
Unrest in the Middle East and North Africa, most notably Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, led to a stark influx of migrants to Europe.



Importance

Increasing global mobility and the association of migrants with criminality and terrorism has indicated the need for a better understanding of how migration comes to be securitized and its implications.

Two Scholarly Explanations of the Securitization of Migration



	Copenhagen	Paris
Overview	Securitization Theory	Security Professionals & Unease
Key Securitizing Actors	Politicians	Border Management Professionals
Additional Actors	-----	Politicians
Methods	Discourses	Routine Practices & Technologies
Motivations	Political Power	Professional Power & Job Security

Argument

The Paris School provides the best explanation for understanding the securitization of migration during the European migrant crisis of the 2010s.

Analysis

Frontex

- Greater emphasis on combatting traditional security threats and cooperation with actors that have a heavier security focus

Surveillance Technologies

- Increased surveillance and control of migrants appears to contribute to the perception of migrants as a security threat

Conclusions

Security professionals do play a securitizing role, so the Paris School provides the best argument. Greater structural change may be necessary to combat the daily securitizing practices of security professionals and their technologies in Europe.