

## *Securitization of the “China Threat” Discourse: A Poststructuralist Account\**

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### *Abstract*

The “China threat” has been a noticeable international topic in Western discourses since the end of the Cold War. Given China’s concurrent rise, this issue has drawn wide-ranging scholarly attention and interest from the general public. In contrast to most existing research, the analysis of the so-called China threat conducted in this article is based on poststructuralist securitization theory. The focus of the article is the securitization of the China threat theme in the process of communication. Three dominant modes of discursive securitization are identified: scientific theory, normative analogy, and political myth. Despite their shared purpose—namely, securitizing the China threat—the three modes differ in their specific methods, each operating within a distinct structural-incorporation setting (broad context), episteme domain (defined arena), and substantial modality (social sphere).

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