The Intelligence Discourse
The Swedish Military Intelligence (MUST) as a producer of knowledge

av

Gunilla Eriksson

Akademisk avhandling

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Opponent: Professor Peter Jackson
University of Glasgow

Örebro universitet
Institutionen för humaniora, utbildnings- och samhällsvetenskap
701 82 ÖREBRO
Abstract


The Swedish Military Intelligence and Security Directorate (MUST) is a producer of knowledge, a knowledge that is fundamental for decision-making in foreign and security policy. The intelligence knowledge production is often held as objective, value neutral, and with the intention of ‘speaking truth onto power’. However, this study holds that such a perspective on intelligence knowledge production calls for a revision. Hence, the overall purpose of this study is to examine the characteristics of knowledge in intelligence analysis and also to investigate how that knowledge is affected by the social context of its production, the military intelligence service. The source material is of three kinds; first texts and documents, second interviews with intelligence analysts and managers, and third observations of seminars and meetings during the production process of estimates.

The results are that there is a strong presence of an implicit interpretive framework that continuously influences and guides the knowledge production and thereby makes the knowledge dependent on one specific perspective contrary to the intentional objectivity within the intelligence service. Further, the study reveals that the social and discursive practices for intelligence knowledge production include a ‘logic of appropriateness’ suggesting the presence of a structured Denkkollektiv with a structured Denkstil. The actions and choices of the individuals are transformed to create conformity to the norms within the social discursive practices. Thus, the inherited frame of interpretation, as well as the socialised norm of staying within the existing accepted frames of thinking and acting ends up to the stability and duration of the not always accurate and fruitful Denkstil.

At the core of political science resides the question of how policy is shaped. Even though this study has focused merely on one organisation in a specific policy field in one country it brings insights to the knowledge-and-policy nexus.

**Keywords:** Intelligence, intelligence analysis, knowledge, social practice, discursive practice, discourse, logic of appropriateness, Denkstil, Denkkollektiv.

Gunilla Eriksson, School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences Örebro University, SE-701 82 Örebro, Sweden, gunilla.eriksson@oru.se