

especially from these ontological reflections. The inquiry extends beyond the construction of actors' social identities, delving into the examination of the practices and policies facilitated within the framework of these constructions. In this manner, it is elucidated how power dynamics play a constitutive role in shaping subjectivities.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the study explores how actors categorise and interpret events, organising these perspectives based on varied reactions and strategies. The research interest is to capture and understand the arguments and constructions of meaning of the individual actors around security. To investigate these inquiries, an abductive-oriented content analysis was employed, and the discourse-analytical question was posed: How does a security threat manifest? Causal and processual questions were intricately connected with the objective of scrutinising power dynamics and the evolution of subjectivity and agency.

Constructivist perspectives, as paraphrased from Neta Crawford, emphasize the historical and social construction of institutions and practices, providing context to the present by illustrating how we arrived at the current state. Yet, "constructivists have little to say about what needs to be done."<sup>9</sup> Epistemological-constructivist works align with post-structuralist theories, asserting that every theory is simultaneously a political-social practice, challenging the notion of objectivity in research. In this framework, all social processes, including scientific works, are understood as discursively negotiated. Scientific contributions are acknowledged as part of the construction and legitimation of social reality, highlighting that no research is neutral, as the research process itself is based on prior political decisions. Claudia Aradau and Jef Huysmans argue that methods in research are not merely for acquiring information but are also performative and integral to the world they engage with.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4.1.2 A Qualitative & Comparative Study

Togoland was chosen as a case study because of its status as a UN trusteeship territory, which renders it historically distinct. As an internationally supervised UN trusteeship territory, Togoland stands out as a unique and significant case within the broader context of decolonisation. Consequently, it presents a distinctive and compelling situation for researchers to explore and analyse. Through the involvement of the UN, insight can be gained into the discourses and practices of a decolonisation and statebuilding process that took place in the global context of decolonisation struggles. Due to their accountability to the UN, the French and British Administering Authorities left archival trails of reports, verbatim records, transcripts, minutes, and publications. These materials serve as valuable resources for discerning how the administration was conceived and executed, as well as identifying perceived dangers throughout process. In the case of Togoland, the examination of security dynamics during decolonisation not only illuminates its impact

8 Doty, *Imperial encounters*, p. 4.

9 Crawford, *Argument and change in world politics*, p. 427.

10 Claudia Aradau et al., eds., *Critical security methods: New frameworks for analysis*, New international relations (London, New York: Routledge, 2015); Claudia Aradau and Jef Huysmans, "Critical Methods in International Relations: The Politics of Techniques, Devices and Acts," *European Journal of International Relations* 20, no. 3 (2014), <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066112474479>.

on an anti-colonial movement but also facilitates a direct understanding of trusteeship territory administration. This insight reveals how the concept of colonially led decolonisation unfolded on a broader scale.

Since the decolonisation process of the two Togolese trusteeship territories was primarily about their reunification, a comparative qualitative study becomes imperative. However, due to disparities in archival records and blank spaces, a direct comparison is unfortunately only possible to a limited extent. Coincidentally, archival sources pertaining to the colonial security apparatus in the British trusteeship territory have endured and are accessible in the British National Archive. Conversely, in the French colonial archives, similar files are either restricted from release, no longer available, or only accessible to a restricted extent. Nevertheless, the focal point for all cases remains the discursive constructions of security, particularly the responses of the Administering Authorities to the reunification movement in Togoland. The archives reveal coordinated, joint, or congruent responses to the reunification movement for both the French and British trusteeship territories.

Moreover, within the Trusteeship System, hardly any other trusteeship area has generated so much attention and challenged the UN Trusteeship System. Its nearly 15-year trusteeship period results in a long period of investigation. A coding procedure was used for a qualitative content analysis.<sup>11</sup> Data were collected through method triangulation, that is, diverse sources were included, and different methods were used to generate the corresponding data.<sup>12</sup> The archival work had to be mediated between the methodological considerations from historical science and the political science requirements for dealing with data. The following gives an insight into the archival work, the data material, and the procedure for collecting and analysing the data.

## 4.2 Archival Research

Since the 'archival turn' archival work has gained prominence in International Relations,<sup>13</sup> However, although its history constitutes an entire subfield of the discipline, archival research methods, especially in Critical Security Studies, are still very much in their infancy. There is little methodological International Relations literature on working with archival records.<sup>14</sup> This circumstance forms the basis for much criticism

11 Philipp Mayring, *Qualitative content analysis: theoretical foundation, basic procedures and software solution* (Klagenfurt, 2014), <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-395173>

12 Mayring, *Qualitative content analysis*, p. 8.

13 Davis E. Alexander, "An Archival Turn for International Relations," ISA Singapore; Shiera S. el-Malik and Isaac A. Kamola, eds., *Politics of the African anticolonial archive*, Kilombo: International Relations and Colonial Questions (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017); Michael S. Moss and David Thomas, eds., *Archival silences: Missing, lost and, uncreated archives* (London, New York: Routledge, 2021).

14 The proverbial exception that proves the rule: Luis Lobo-Guerrero, "Archives," in *Research methods in critical security studies: An introduction*, ed. Mark B. Salter and Can E. Mutlu (London, New York: Routledge, 2013)