**Crisis (Euro)*Dӓmmerung*:[[1]](#footnote-1) From contagion to “moral obligation”**

Johannes Grow, Ph.D. Student

ASPECT

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

jgrow1@vt.edu

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**Abstract**:

In order to better come to terms with the myriad uses of “crisis,” this paper maps out the change, or lack thereof, between the two concomitant crises that have by some accounts threatened the very foundation of the EU: the refugee or migrant crisis and the European sovereign debt crisis. This paper posits that there are discursive similarities, mobilized by EU actors, between the financial and immigration crises that have not yet been thoroughly analyzed by scholars. For example, while the term *contagion* is used to describe the viral-like spread of economic crisis, the term is also utilized pejoratively to convey the movement of migrants and refugees into the EU. Thus what is necessary is an elucidation of not only the discursive similarities between these two enunciations of “contagion” but also to trace the transformation of political discourse, at both the EU institutional and individual member state level, from a discourse of fear and *contagion* to one of “moral obligation.” These similarities and differences, I argue, highlight the discursive construction of not only the “crises” themselves, but also undergirds competing conceptions and visions of “EUrope.” These different conceptions of “Europe” are often uncritically accepted and thus only exacerbate the current crises. This paper thus argues that these conceptions and visions must be critically reassessed, if “Europe” is to emerge from the crises that seem to engulf it.

1. Hay, C. (1996) “Narrating Crisis: The Discursive Construction of the Winter of Discontent,” *Sociology: 30* (2), pp. 253-277. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)