



## Security and Self Reflections of a Fallen Realist

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**Title:** Security and Self Reflections of a Fallen Realist

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**Abstract:** Personal experience has always been an explicit feature of feminist theorising. Making sense of one's own life has been seen as a way of making sense of the lives of others. The personal, the political, and the international are a seamless web. In this chapter I want to make personal reflections, in a similar spirit, about self, profession and world politics. Instead of trying to describe or explain the world 'out there', as is one's professional training, I want to focus on the world 'in here'—as 'part of our innermost being' (Berger, 1966, p.140). This is academically and temperamentally a somewhat difficult thing to do. It is especially difficult to do in line with the traditions of several decades of strategic studies, which involved 'telling the world what it is'—'it' begin a realist account of the purported state(s) of the world. As a professional, I have found that specialists have not been particularly self-reflective. We have sometimes been invited to think the unthinkable, yet 'we' have been out of bounds. At what is thought to be a point of an 'intellectual crisis' in 'security studies', 'we' should not be. For most of us we are on the edge of the most difficult frontier. Hence the personal nature of this paper, which attempts at the same time to confuse and clarify what it means to study 'security' at the end of the twentieth century.

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