



A CRITICAL APPROACH TO ENERGY SECURITY

The Field of National Practice in Poland and Germany

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The gas pipeline system is a child of the Soviet Union, and only we are in a position to maintain it in working condition, even if you're talking about the sections that lie outside Russia.

President Vladimir Putin, October 9, 2003



Research
Puzzle

Under what conditions does energy become securitized and profoundly change a nation's policies and practices around energy?

Research
Question

To what extent does the field of national practice affect policy decisions regarding energy in the cases of Poland and Germany?

WHAT IS ENERGY SECURITY?

Existing Scholarship on Energy Security & Its Flaws



Three Paradigms:

- * Geopolitical
- * Energy Economic
- * Environmental Stewardship

A CRITICAL APPROACH

Re-examining Common Perceptions of Energy Security

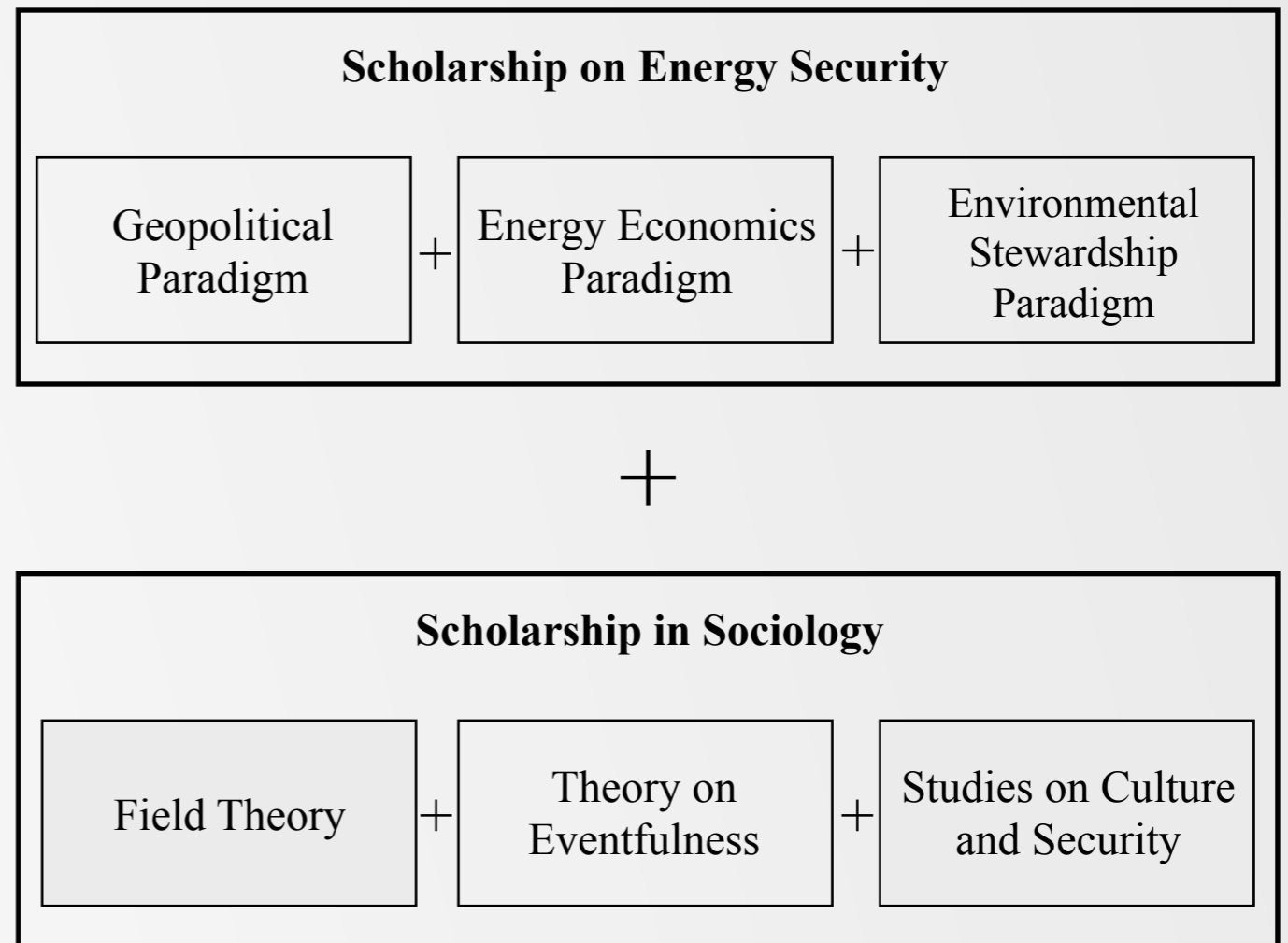
I define energy security as the product of the social process of securitization in which culture is employed to give meaning to energy flows, shaping a nation's understanding of energy affairs and reflecting its energy concerns.

Key Terms: Eventfulness, Field Theory, Culture

ADDRESSING GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

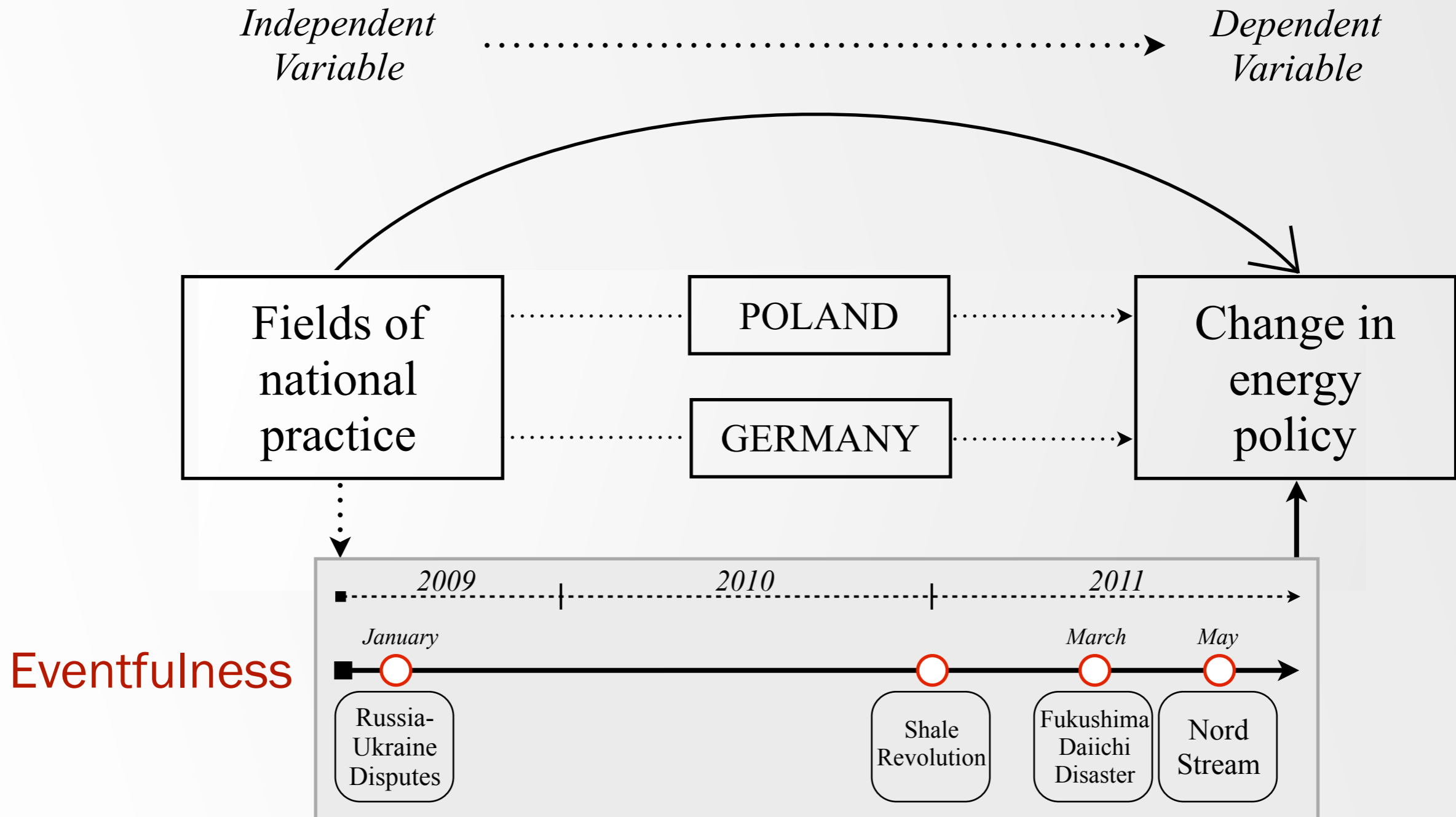
Why We Need a Conceptions-Based Approach

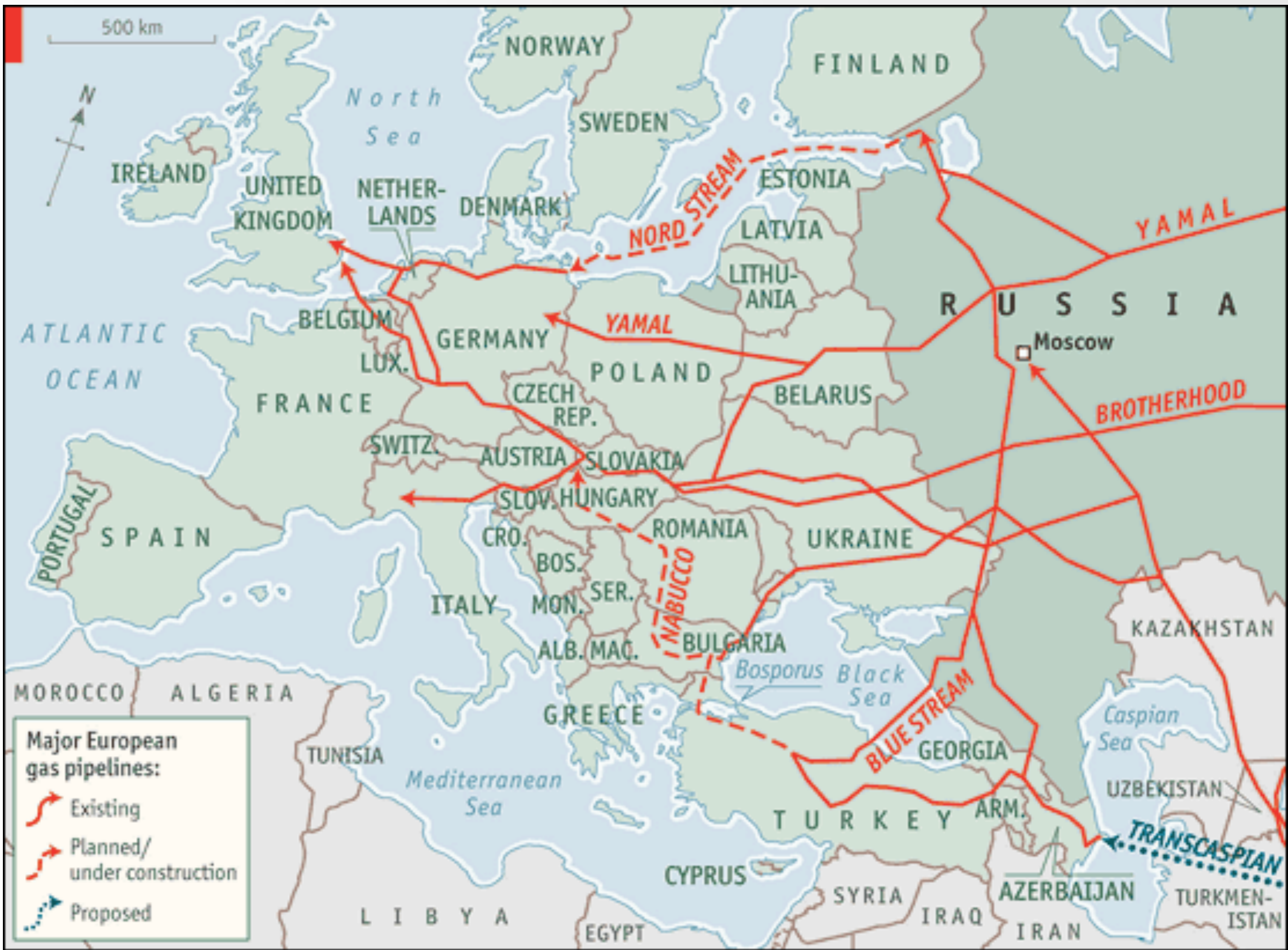
- * Implications for theory:
 - * Literature on Energy Security
 - * Literature in Sociology
- * Implications for practice:
 - * More nuanced understanding of energy security
- * Timeliness



RESEARCH DESIGN

Case Selection, Time Frame, Methods, Evidence





EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

Eventfulness in the Cases of Poland and Germany

	Russia-Ukraine Disputes	Nord Stream	Shale Revolution	Fukushima Daiichi Disaster
Poland	✓	✓	✓	
Germany	✓			✓

Poland:

- * Soviet legacy an impediment
- * Saturation of Russian strategic action fields in Polish national field

Germany:

- * German energy policy an impediment to European energy security

CONCLUSIONS

Implications for Poland, Germany, and the EU

Poland: Needs to find effective ways of transforming its national field

Germany: Russia should not be portrayed as a “normal European” country

EU: In need of more energy solidarity



IMPLICATIONS ON ENERGY SECURITY

How Conceptions Have Tangible Consequences on Nations

Theory: * Policy decisions made by cultural dispositions

* Events rearrange the national field

* Culture can “reify one’s status” or serve as a “straightjacket”

Policy: * National narratives must work together regionally

Future: * How to reconcile national fields?

* Apply to exporting nations



Energy security, energy independence, or energy solidarity?