Theorizing Internal Security Cooperation in the European Union by Raphael Bossong and Mark Rhinard (eds). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. 207pp., £55.00 (h/b), ISBN 9780198739487

This book focuses on internal security cooperation at the European Union level and on the theories that have been previously used in the literature to analyse this field. The editors have two aims. First, by mapping and evaluating the theoretical approaches that have been employed in the literature for the analysis of the EU internal security cooperation, the book aims to encourage further theorisation in this academic area as well as cross-fertilisation between different theories. Second, the book aims to provide a useful theoretical signposting for new scholars who are interested in this field. The authors cover the main theories that have been used in the literature for analysing the emergence of internal security cooperation at the EU level, namely securitisation, political sociology, the governance perspective, a legal (rule of law) approach, neofunctionalism, and institutionalism. Each chapter follows the same structure, outlining at the beginning the core assumptions and arguments of the theory that is examined and then applying this theory to case studies. The cases that the authors examine include migration and asylum, counterterrorism, the Treaty of Lisbon, and the EU citizenship. The book will be of interest to both researchers and postgraduate students who are interested in EU’s internal security. The main argument of the editors is that there is a great degree of theoretical fragmentation in this field and that more linkages should be established between the various theories.

The editors as well as the authors succeed in their aim to provide an analytical map of the various research approaches and theories to EU’s internal security. One of the greatest strengths of the book is that at the end of each chapter the respective author reflects on possible links with the theories presented in the other chapters of the book, heeding thus the editors’ call for theoretical cross-fertilisation. Similarly, the editors provide in their conclusion a number of common themes which span across all chapters and they highlight areas for further research. Another strength of the book is that the chapters provide extensive and updated literature reviews on the respective theories and on their application to cases related to the EU internal security cooperation. A minor shortcoming is that many of the cases focus on migration issues at the expense of other potential cases. Overall, the book makes a significant contribution closing a gap in the now mature literature on the EU internal security cooperation.