Security and Emergency in the ‘Terrorist Risk Society’

Abstract: Terrorism is commonly considered a threat calling for unprecedented emergency responses, this poses a crucial question on how to ensure effective protection to fundamental freedoms in the face of contemporary security challenges. It is possible to ‘constitutionalize’ emergency powers, surrounding their exercise by legal guarantees and subjecting them to judicial review? The main argument of this article is that in Ulrich Beck’s ‘terrorist risk society’ the protection of fundamental freedoms face unprecedented challenges to which the traditional judicial proportionality control does not seem able to provide adequate answers.

Keywords: Security policies, Emergency, Precaution, Terrorist risk society.