

The polycrisis and systemic change in Lithuania: from fragmentation to integration

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Abstract:

The purpose of the paper is to assess the impact of the recent polycrisis on systemic change in Lithuania. We are particularly interested in examining how the country's response to the polycrisis has led to reforms in the crisis management system. Our theoretical framework integrates ideas from new institutionalism and complexity theory to examine the impact of the polycrisis. Focusing on Lithuania, the paper draws on the comparative results of two case studies. Methodologically, these studies employed the process tracing method to trace causal mechanisms and explain their operation based on desk research and semi-structured interviews with key Lithuanian policymakers. The main system-wide change in the country's crisis management was the introduction of centralised and inter-institutional coordination arrangements, consistent with the logic of consequentiality driven by coercive pressures.

Keywords:

Polycrisis, crisis management, COVID-19, migration, systemic change, Lithuania

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