

## Wizards of Depth

This article aims to broaden the understanding of Operational Depth (OD) by rethinking how it can be perceived. The emphasis when doing so is dedicated to cognitive effects, thus reflecting depth in another dimension, compared to the mainstream physical- or temporal approaches to depth in military thought. The empirical focus draws on Israel and explicitly the case of the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. The empiric inquiry is guided by an analytical framework, departing from a theoretical elaboration where OD is approached as a trinity: the ability to project, absorb, and manoeuvre available coercive assets along offensive and defensive lines of operation. The article employs a model that demonstrates how depth can be perceived- and analysed in various ways, subsequently providing possible avenues to extend depth for actors beyond the Israeli perspective. Significant discoveries, among others, are the need to approach depth holistically instead of strictly military and focus on movement and emergence contrary to stability. A qualitative approach is employed, drawing on extensive fieldwork and interviews in Israel.