

## Preface

Juego, Bonn; Farah, Abdulkadir Osman

*Published in:*  
The Interdisciplinary Journal of International Studies

*Publication date:*  
2011

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*  
Juego, B., & Farah, A. O. (2011). Preface. *The Interdisciplinary Journal of International Studies*, 7(1), iii-v.  
[http://www.ijis.aau.dk/articles/vol7\\_no1/IJIS2011-Preface.pdf](http://www.ijis.aau.dk/articles/vol7_no1/IJIS2011-Preface.pdf)

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## PREFACE

We are very pleased to introduce the 7<sup>th</sup> volume of *The Interdisciplinary Journal of International Studies (IJIS)*.

We thank all who responded to our open call for papers at the beginning of the year, and we also congratulate the authors of the articles published in this issue. Each submitted article underwent a peer-review process from two anonymous referees, or from three referees in the case of the submission by the journal editor. Hence, we also want to thank our conscientious referees for the time and effort they put into reviewing the submitted papers. Though their identities shall remain anonymous, they know who they are, and their contributions are now etched in the development of knowledge. Some of their thoughtful reviews are uploaded to, and can be downloaded from, the *IJIS* website under the “Peer-Review Process” section.

The accepted papers for this year’s volume can generally, but not entirely, be categorized into two sets of articles: empirical and theoretical. There are three empirical papers, each of which has a particular geographical focus and case study. The first contribution by Andreas Aagaard Nøhr shows how biodiversity is poorly governed within the framework of the EU’s Common Fisheries Policy through an interrogation of the myth of ‘the tragedy of the commons’ as the philosophical basis for the policy’s creation; an examination of the implications of knowledge production as a seemingly top-down strategy to empower ‘experts’ for the objective of addressing the problem of the global loss of biodiversity; a critique of the policy’s privileging of ‘self-centered’ over collective values and of short-term economic-commercial interests over long-term social-moral imperatives; and an explication of the overarching logic and interest of the policy whereby the ‘rationality of power’ of EU member states overwhelms the aspirations of nature and human beings for the preservation and governmentality of biodiversity. The second article by Signe Cecius Larsen Pejstrup investigates the period of transition in Swaziland and argues that the deeply entrenched structural and cognitive factors—specifically, the power of traditions and people’s perceptions towards modernization—pose tremendous challenges to civil society activists and democratic movements in particular and the process of democratization in general. And the third co-authored empirical article by Jakob Christensen, Lasse Frimand Jensen, Peter Skøtt Pedersen, Stefan Steen Jensen, and Stefanie Dorothea Weck examines the impact of market-based land reform in Zambia since the mid-1990s and reveals that this further institutionalization of capitalist and elitist power structure in the accumulation process exclusively benefits the established economic-political-bureaucratic elites, local chiefs, and emergent foreign investors, but it, at the same time, effectively dispossesses and deprives the multitude marginalized rural poor of their rightful access to land.

In addition, the two largely theoretical papers are critical approaches to that of the mainstream theories in the fields of international relations (IR) and international political economy (IPE). The first theoretical article by Nora Fritzsche traces the origin of the construction of masculinity in IR and discusses its implications for both theory and practice through a radical feminist and social constructivist approach to international politics by unpacking the foundations of mainstream theories of realism and liberalism and their particular focus and interpretations on war whose core assumptions and perceptions are

dominated and shaped by men which, in effect, systematically alienate women's existence and perspective. And the second theoretical article by Bonn Juego reflects on the limitations of some of the essential contributions of the French Regulation School (associated with the works of principal regulationists Michel Aglietta, Alain Lipietz, and Robert Boyer) to the study of capitalist dynamics within the Marxist tradition in critical IPE and makes a proposal for a reconciliation or synthesis of the regulation approach with concepts derived from classical Marxism so as to come up with a powerful analytical framework that captures the interactions and interrelations of agency-structure, local-global, regulation-reproduction, and exchange-production in understanding the complexities and specificities of contemporary capitalist development.

This new issue of the *IJIS* also comes with new developments in the journal's publication process as we strive to uphold academic professional standards with integrity and excellence. Since we assumed the editorship last year, we have resolved to embark on a painstaking process of revitalizing the journal as a truly student-driven and faculty-refereed publication with a view to embed in the necessity for institutional memory and to create a platform where future editors and contributors can build on. To this end, we have endeavored to work on a 10-point agenda: first, gather together as much as we can files, documents, and information since the beginning of the journal in 2002; second, come up with well-defined editorial policy and style guide; third, form an editorial advisory board composed of reputable researchers and scholars from the social sciences and humanities; fourth, build a group of graduate students to act as editorial assistants; fifth, secure an ISSN for the journal's online edition; sixth, promote the journal to all study programs and solicit submissions from former and current students; seventh, take seriously the peer-review process; eighth, do proper editing of accepted papers for publication; ninth, redesign the journal's identity and structure with a new layout, a new cover page, and a new logo; and tenth, establish a new website on a par with (online) academic journals.

All these endeavors would not have been realized without the help, contributions, advice, inspiration, guidance, and support of a substantial number of people who have been with us through and through. We are grateful to those who shared with us some of their valuable time, ideas, wisdom, and skills, notably: Jytte Kongstad and Johannes Dragsbaek Schmidt for their guidance and advice on the history of the journal; Wolfgang Zank for believing in us and for his prompt responses to our questions and needs; Ioana Bunesco, former editor, whose tips, advice, and encouragement have been very helpful during the transition process; Birte Siim and Jacques Hersh, our senior advisers, for their thoughtfulness and enthusiastic support; Malene Gram and Henrik Halkier, leaders of the department, for willingly accepting our invitation for them to be part of the advisory board; Cirkeline Kappel for her nice, cheerful, and diligent support to us especially in communicating on our behalf with the Royal Danish Library to secure the journal's online ISSN and for her important advice and reminders about the development of the website; Morten R. Mortensen for his invaluable support in providing our IT needs and for making it possible for the editorial team, based in different locations in and out of Denmark, to work remotely in real time; and Hugo Silva, a graphic designer, who must be credited for the new *IJIS* logo. We are also grateful to the Study Board for International Affairs, the Study Board for Cross-Cultural Studies, and their faculty members for all their kind and generous support to the journal and for their continuous efforts to encourage their students to contribute to future issues.

And of course, we cannot close this issue's Preface without acknowledging and expressing our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful and superb editorial team: Dave Allington, Henrik Skaksen Jacobsen, Andreas Aagaard Nøhr, and Viviana Pădurean. As editorial assistants, they all performed the tasks to copy-edit, proofread, and layout all the accepted articles for this issue. Yet, living up to the orientation of *IJIS* as a student-driven journal, their individual and

collective contributions extend far more than editing of accepted papers because they are very much involved in the entire revitalization process of the journal. Amidst their demanding schedule while doing their respective internships outside Denmark, they have been very active from brainstorming to the actualization of our plans and ideas. Despite them being young professionals in their own right, they have freely offered their talents and skills to the cause. Andreas was the first zealous volunteer and has since then committed himself to redesigning the overall look, typeset, and layout of the journal. Viviana, with her background in philology, has an eye for detail and, as such, we are happy to have her on board. Henrik, a jack-of-all-trades, has laid out a plan to accelerate both our university and online presence. Dave, a professional web developer, has done an amazing job in breathing new life into the *IJIS* website, and we are indeed very lucky to have him in the team.

The delightful experience we have had working with the editorial team and with our colleagues truly evokes of the hopeful aphorism by the anthropologist Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

**Bonn Juego and Osman Farah**

Aalborg, September 2011