

Introduction

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The Interdisciplinary Journal of International Studies (IJIS) is a student driven journal that engages a variety of critical questions from the social sciences and humanities. Its contributors are based in the Department of Politics and Society at Aalborg University, Denmark. Bringing together viewpoints from the Master programs of Development and International Relation Studies, European Studies, China Studies and Global Refugee Studies, the global nature of the research topics becomes visible.

Therefore, the topic of the IJIS Volume 10, Issue 1 is *Global Perspectives*. In the call for papers, we asked for contributions that would “enable previous and current students to display the broad, diverse and interdisciplinary nature of Global Studies and Social Sciences at Aalborg University. The purpose of this issue is to show the global interface students have in their academic work within the respective disciplines included in the journal” (CfP, 2018).

The growing importance of a global perspective is evident. What exactly is a global perspective though? We identify it as a comprehensive lens through which you see the world around you. In applying such a lens, one can understand and distinguish the interconnections that exist in the world socially, economically and culturally.

While the articles on this issue have a local focus (Europe, Asia, Africa), they all reflect different global perspectives. We agree with Jonathan Friedman and Kajsa Ekholm Friedman (2013) that “[t]he global [...] is nothing more than the structural properties of the field of interaction of “local” social actors” (Friedman & Friedman, 2013, p. 252). By taking a local setting, the authors show that the above-mentioned interconnection is evident, and a local issue may have effects elsewhere or affect the global community as a whole.

The growing interconnection of the world as a whole has been described with the term globalization. Friedman and Friedman (2013) describe “Globalization as a discourse of hegemonic crisis” (Ibid.),

stressing that it is only the cosmopolitan elites who are profiting from this development. The ‘globalized optimism’ that was dominating discussions around a more globalized world in its early evolution is hard to maintain, as the pitfalls of this development are hard to ignore. The ways in which globalisation is described as “the transgressing of boundaries, the concomitant breakdown of the nation-state and its essentialist assumptions, the increase of mixing and hybridity as differences thrown together in global meeting places” (Ibid., p. 250) are “part of an elite-based imaginary rather than an emergent reality” (Ibid.).

In taking a global perspective, it becomes evident that it is not only capital that is flowing transnationally, or even globally. Anthropologist Arjun Appadurai (1996) detects five dimensions of global cultural flows: “ethnoscapes, mediascapes, technoscapes, finanscapes, ideoscapes” (Appadurai, 1996, p. 296), all of which are constituting so-called ‘imagined worlds’ (Ibid.) Understanding globalization by reflecting on how people, ideas and things flow across borders makes the analysis of the current social landscapes more solid. In conclusion, these different flows and forms of a more globalized world become more evident through the global perspective this volume is providing.

The contribution by Andersen, Feretti, Heimstad & Rødvig zooms in the European area and more specifically on the so-called refugee crisis. The authors criticise the EU-Turkey statement as a response to the refugee crisis. By analysing the concepts of humanitarianism, securitization and externalization they show how the flows of ideas are very much connected to both local and transnational policies. This article concludes that this flow of ideas in terms of humanitarianization and securitization was strategically used by the EU institutions to justify the agreement as an externalization policy.

How the green economy as an ideoscape flowing from the North to the South is a new approach is criticised in the contribution by Andersen, Árnadóttir, Hila, Kaplan & Zormpa. While the green economy is aiming at implementing development approaches in a sustainable manner, at its core these approaches are still reflecting a neoliberal understanding. Here it becomes evident how much the spread and uphold of capitalism is intimately connected to globalization (cf. Friedman & Friedman, 2013). By zooming in on the case study of the Lake Turkana Power project in Kenya, they investigate the emerging green economy as a ‘passive revolution’. As a response to the global issue of climate

change, the authors argue that the traditional development paradigm of the brown economy has shifted to a greener one.

Moreover, the article by Bro, Klomfass, Scharnberg, Stokbro & Svindborg discusses power balances and the struggle for hegemony in International Relations. Although Russia is still one of the most important trade partners and has political and economic influence over Kazakhstan, the article argues that China has increased its presence with the Belt and Road Initiative to such an extent that it fulfils the requirements for hegemony. In that sense the authors argue that the transnational power balances in the entire Central Asian region may shift. The article concludes that there is a high possibility that the rest of Central Asia could follow Kazakhstan's example and cooperate more with China, turning away from Russia.

The contribution by Gardezi, Borello & Sheikh focuses on the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), which provides a legal infrastructure to resolve disputes over water from the river Indus, flowing through India and Pakistan. The river is a very tangible example of a flow that is connecting nationstates - even while at war, the two nations tried to adhere to the Indus Water Treaty, as both of them were and are highly dependent on the water it provides. The article concludes that the Indus Water Treaty can be considered one of the world's strongest and longest-standing treaties, which can be attributed to the 'water-rationality' of both India and Pakistan.

Adding to these valuable contributions, this issue also presents three essays reflecting a global perspective. Johanna Schroedl zooms in on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum from the European Union and how it suggests to deal with interception on the high seas and search and rescue missions, carried out from civil society organizations.

Agata Czarniawska presents an extremely informative overview of the current situation in Poland regarding the topic of abortion and the new national legislation. Human rights violations is a topic of concern in Eastern Europe for many decades now, however Czarniawska brings a very timely consideration. She illustrates how the global pandemic COVID-19 has affected the situation and she reflects on the 'Cultural Clash in the Midst of Pandemic'.

Lastly, Mette Nielsen provides a very personal account of her activism, with which she tries to get the Danish government to take in some of the refugees from the Moria camp on Lesbos, which was destroyed by a fire in September this year. Nielsen visited Lesbos herself in October 2020 and paints a disturbing picture of the situation for the refugees there, who are suffering from Europe's inability to find a sustainable solution for them.

We wish you a pleasant read!

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Journal Editors

Notes on Editors

Rieke Schröder is a master student in Global Refugee Studies at Aalborg University Copenhagen. She is currently doing an internship as a research assistant at the Global Refugee Studies research group. Her primary research focuses on queer feminist issues around migration and displacement. She obtained a bachelor's in Social Work in Osnabrück, Germany and is volunteering with Amnesty International Events Denmark. She receives a scholarship from both the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

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