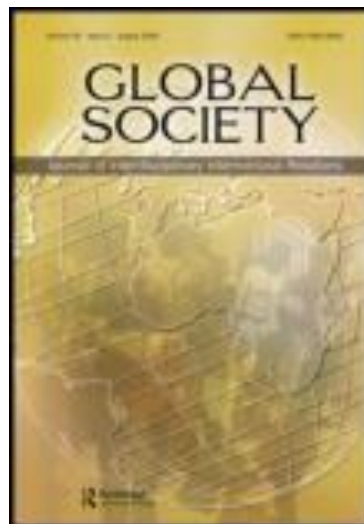


**Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary
International Relations:
its position in an ever integrating world
2007-2011**

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Contents

Introduction.....	1
1. External presentation and reputation	3
1.1 Institutional background of the journal	3
1.2 Editorial board	4
1.3 Self-representation	5
1.4 Reputation: citations and rankings	7
2. Content analysis	11
2.1 Set-up	11
2.2 Who write the journal/ who are discussed in the journal?	13
Editorial proceedings	13
Authors.....	13
2.3 Themes, trends and topics	15
Special Issues	15
Themes and disciplines	18
Level of analysis	20
Geography of subjects.....	21
Theory and practice: events	22
3. Discussion: disciplines and interdisciplinarity.....	24
Conclusion	27
References.....	29



Introduction

This year (2012) the journal *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* exists twenty-five years. The journal was established in 1987, called *Paradigms: The Kent Journal of International Relations* by the University of Kent at Canterbury. This Silver jubilee is a good reason to research *Global Society* and to see to what kind of journal it has developed. According to its website, the journal, despite its age, still tries to be innovative: “Global Society covers the new agenda in global and international relations and encourages innovative approaches to the study of global and international issues from a range of disciplines.”¹

The aim of this essay is to analyze the past five years of *Global Society* (2007-2011) and to see what kind of new agenda the journal offers. The essay will give basic information on the journal (rankings, editorial procedures, its aims and scope) and assess the journal more in depth. To be more specific, the main research question is: “To what extent does the journal’s external presentation match with its content?” This question is answered in three parts. The first section considers the external presentation of the journal. It will look into the institutional background of the journal, its reputation and the marketing of the journal. Using discourse analysis, five identities of the journal are detected. The journal claims to be European, interdisciplinary, innovative, policy-oriented, and envisioning an ever integrating world. The second section looks at the content of the journal in order to see if the external representation of the journal matches the content. This second section consists of three parts. First, the lay-out and set-up of the journal is examined. Secondly, the editorial procedures and the background of the authors are analyzed. Thirdly, the content of the articles is reviewed: what themes recur, what methods are used, how are theory and practice linked in the articles? These questions are asked in order to see what the journal means with terms as European, *Global Society*, interdisciplinary, and innovative. Furthermore, in order to claim to do interdisciplinary and innovative International Relations, one has to have an understanding what non-interdisciplinary and conventional International Relations look likes. How does the journal reflect on these issues? In the third section, the self-representation of the journal will be discussed and placed in a broader academic context. How do other authors consider the discipline of IR, its (inter)disciplinarity and conventional or non-conventional theories? How

¹ *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* (2012) ‘Aims and Scope’, [accessed at 8-3-2012] < <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1360-0826&linktype=1>>.



European is *Global Society* and how does it relate to debates about the American dominance in International Relations?²

In the conclusion, the parts will be brought together in order to reflect on the position of the journal in IR twenty-five years after its establishment. Is the journal, twenty-five years after its birth, still unconventional, interdisciplinary, policy-oriented, considered with an ever integrating world and European?

² See, for example, Wæver, O. (1998). 'The Sociology of a Not So International Discipline: American and European Developments in International Relations'. *International Organization*. 52 (4), pp.687-727; and Holsti, K.J. (1985). *The Dividing Discipline: Hegemony and Diversity in International Theory*. Boston: Allen & Unwin; and Friedrichs, J. (2004). 'International Relations: Still an American Social Science?'. In Friedrichs, J. *European Approaches to International Relations Theory*. pp.1-24. London: Routledge.

1. External presentation and reputation

1.1 Institutional background of the journal

Global Society is an initiative of the School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Kent at Canterbury, “UK’s European University” as they call themselves.³ The School of Politics and International Relations was established in 1965 and claims to be “one of the pioneers in the development of the study of International Relations”.⁴ It initially focused on international conflict analysis and normative and ethical issues.⁵ John Burton, John Groom, Chris Brown and Mervyn Frost were important staff members. The school still exists: it welcomes 200 undergraduate students and 80 master students every year. It hosts two research centres, which are the Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC) directed by Hugh Miall and the Centre for Federal Studies (CFS) directed by Michael Burgess. Research within the school is done in one of the three research groups: Conflict, Security and Human Rights; Comparative Politics; and Political and Social Thought.

The university claims to be UK’s European University, because, among others, its exchanges with European universities, its campus in Brussels, its centres in Paris and Athens, its European students, and its courses and research with a European focus.⁶ The website of the School of International Relations and Politics states: “The study of the European politics in general and the European Union in particular has a distinguished place in the history of the School. With the incorporation of the former European Studies unit in 1996, the School strengthened its expertise in European politics and IR.”⁷ The notion ‘European’ thus refers to being connected to continental Europa in multiple ways, and the study of EU politics and European approaches to IR.

Global Society was founded by the School of Politics and International Relations. It appeared in 1987 for the first time under the name *Paradigms* driven by Master students of the University of Kent. Editorship was taken over by A.J.R. Groom, also founder of the European Journal of International Relations (EJIR), and the name of the journal changed in

³ University of Kent (2012). Homepage [accessed at 28-4-2012]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/>>.

⁴ University of Kent (2012). ‘About us’. [accessed at 8-3-2-12]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/about-us/index.html?tab=history>>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ University of Kent (2012). ‘Kent: UK’s European University’. [accessed at 6-5-2012]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/european/>>

⁷ University of Kent (2012) ‘About us’. [accessed at 8-3-2-12]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/about-us/index.html?tab=history>>.

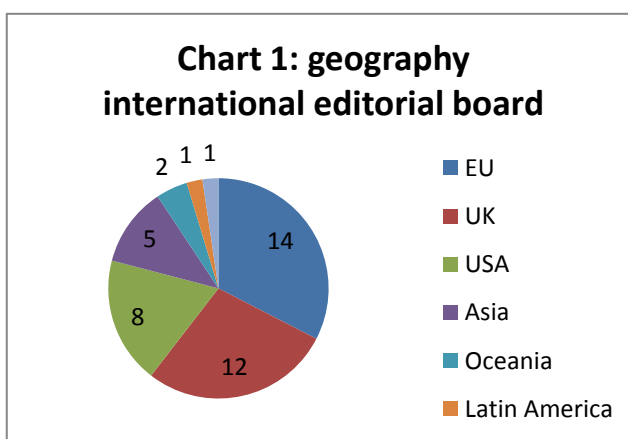
1996 to *Global Society*.⁸ In 2009 a new editorial board, led by Doug Stokes, took over.⁹ The journal is published by Routledge.

1.2 Editorial board

Since 2009, Doug Stokes is the Editor-in-Chief of *Global Society*. The editorial board is completed with Andrea Den Boer and Keith Hayward as associate editors. All three work at the University of Kent. Keith Hayward only recently became a member of the board. In 2011 he took over the position from Florian Bieber (University of Kent), who still is member of the international editorial board. The fourth member of the board, the editorial assistant, is Alexandre Christoyannopoulos. He is affiliated to Loughborough University, which is UK-based as well.

Doug Stokes is member of the CARC and the Conflict, Security and Human Rights research group. His research focuses on US foreign policy and world order.¹⁰ Andrea Den Boer is expert in the field of international women's rights, gender policies in Asia and Ethic/Normative International Political Theory.¹¹ Professor of Criminology, Keith Hayward, comes from another school of the University of Kent, namely the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. His research interest is criminological theory.¹²

Besides the editorial board, the journal has an international editorial board. The international editorial board of the journal is dominated by universities from continental Europe or the UK (see Chart 1). Error! Reference source not found. 60% of the international editors is either UK or continental Europe based,



while 18.6% is affiliated to a US based university. From the 43 members, 5 are employed at

⁸ Christoyannopoulos, Alexandre. 'RE: RE: Analyzing 'Global Society': a few questions.' Email to Yara van 't Groenewout 29 April 2012.

⁹ Stokes, D., den Boer, A. and Bieber, F. (2009). 'Message from the Editors'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*, 23(3), p.205

¹⁰ University of Kent (2012). 'Dr. Doug Stokes'. [accessed at 2-4-2012]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/about-us/staff/members/stokes.html>>.

¹¹ University of Kent (2012). 'Dr. Andrea Den Boer'. [accessed at 6-4-2012]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/about-us/staff/members/denboer.html>>.

¹² University of Kent (2012). 'Professor Keith Hayward'. [accessed at 6-4-2012]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/staff/academic/hayward.html>>.

an Asian university, 1 at a Latin-American university and 1 at an African University, which means that only 16.3% of the international editors works in a non-Western (non-EU, US, Australia, New-Zealand) setting.

1.3 Self-representation

Looking at the journal's website, it is possible to distinguish five identities to which the journal relates itself. Based on the constitution of the editorial board and the institutional context of the journal, one can argue that the journal has a European appearance. Why is this relevant? Holsti, Waever and Friedrichs comment in their work on an American hegemony in International Relations.¹³ Holsti notices an asymmetry in "production" and "consumption" patterns with the production-side being dominated by US-scholars who's theories are consumed by many others.¹⁴ Waever and Friedrichs come to similar conclusions. They present IR as a discipline with an American (-UK) core and a European periphery.¹⁵ Such a hegemonic dominance might mean that the discipline is not as international as it claims to be and that not all views are represented in the discipline.¹⁶ *Global Society* seems to aim to offer a European alternative to the American dominance.

Its European appearance is one of the five identities distinguished. A second, very important, feature of the journal's identity is its interdisciplinary character. When the journal changed names in 1996, its subtitle also changed from 'The Kent Journal of International Relations' to 'Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations'. Interdisciplinary is not only emphasized in the name of the journal. Also in its 'message of the editors', the new editorial board mentioned the aim to publish "cutting-edge research of a range of disciplines" and to remain "at the cutting edge of contemporary interdisciplinary debates".¹⁷ However, according to Christoyannopoulos, the editorial board does not hold any particular definition of 'interdisciplinary': "we don't really try to maintain that character any more than by stating our interdisciplinarity online and ensuring we give a good chance to articles that are submitted from unusual perspectives."¹⁸ Online, *Global Society* mentions the following

¹³Friedrichs (2004) *European Approaches to International Relations Theory*.; Holsti, K. (1985) *The Dividing Discipline*.; Waever (1998) 'The Sociology of a Not So International Discipline'.

¹⁴Holsti, K. (1985)

¹⁵ Friedrichs (2004), Holsti (1985), Wæver (1998).

¹⁶ As the title of Wæver's (1998) article suggests: 'The sociology of a Not So International Discipline: American and European Developments in International Relations.'

¹⁷ Stokes, D., den Boer, A. and Bieber, F. (2009). 'Message from the Editors'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*, 23(3), p.205.

¹⁸ Christoyannopoulos, Alexandre. 'RE: RE: Analyzing 'Global Society': a few questions.' Email to Yara van 't Groenewout 29 April 2012.

disciplines as being relevant for their journal: international relations, political science, political philosophy, international political economy, international law, international conflict analysis and sociology.¹⁹

Thirdly, *Global Society* uses words as innovative and cutting-edge in its self-description.²⁰ It claims to cover the “new agenda in global and international relations”.²¹ The School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Kent at Canterbury claims to be a pioneer in the field of International Relations, and in a similar way, the journal attempts to be at the forefront of developments in the discipline. This raises the question, what the editorial board sees conventional International Relations. According to Christoyannopoulos the editorial board does not have a collective opinion on the discipline of International Relations.²² On the question how the editorial board attempts to remain at the forefront of academic knowledge, he answers: “We simply assess what is submitted according to its merits and welcome manuscripts that are quite cutting edge. When we bump into interesting papers at conference, we sometimes encourage submission.”²³ One can conclude that the board does not have an active policy ensuring innovative submissions, but assesses the submissions according to these criteria.

A fourth aspect of the journal’s identity is its orientation towards policy. The journal does not seem to distinguish clearly between International Relations as an academic discipline and international relations as a ‘practice’. The journal looks at the key disciplinary debates, but “we are ever conscious of our wide readership within the policy community and will continue to publish policy-relevant papers that address current as well as future trends”.²⁴ The journal seems to be aware of the close relation to theory and practice. Jaap de Wilde, member of the international editorial board, writes in an article on this relationship that the academic and political realm are very much intertwined: “IR *theory* and *practice* are blindly dating each other all the time”.²⁵

Lastly, in the journal’s introduction online, its expectations of the future are revealed: it notices the “ever integrating global society”, the blurring distinction between sub-national,

¹⁹ *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* (2012) ‘Aims and Scope’, [accessed at 8-3-2012] <<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13600826.asp>>.

²⁰ Ibid; and Stokes, D. et al. (2009).

²¹ Ibid.

²² Christoyannopoulos, Alexandre. ‘RE: RE: Analyzing ‘Global Society’: a few questions.’ Email to Yara van ‘t Groenewout 29 April 2012.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Stokes, D. et al. (2009). p. 205

²⁵ De Wilde, J. (2011). ‘Out of the Ivory Tower: Weaving the Theories and Practices of International Relations’. Paper presented at 2011 Annual Conference, Millennium, Journal of International Studies.

national, transnational, international and global levels, challenges to state control caused by globalization, and the “globalization and internationalization of various levels of social interaction”.²⁶ Based on this expressed conception of a changing world, one would expect the journal to focus on different levels of governance, focus on international organizations and regional integration, and take other (non-state) actors into consideration. The journal’s vision of an ever integrating global society is the fifth identity of the journal.

In short, *Global Society* presents itself as an interdisciplinary, non-conservative, policy-oriented, European journal which foresees an ever integrating world.

1.4 Reputation: citations and rankings

The publisher of the journal keeps track how often each article has been cited. Online, one can find the citation score per article. It does not mention any criteria on which these scores are based. The editorial board is not involved in this and does not know either where Routledge bases the numbers on.²⁷ A closer look at the citations learns that the numbers provided by Routledge do not include references from articles published in *Global Society* itself. The article most cited is the article ‘Examining Power-sharing in Persistent Conflicts: De Facto Pseudo-statehood versus De Jure Quasi-federalism’ by Eiki Berg²⁸. It was cited eight times.²⁹ Seven of these citations appeared in the same issue of the *Journal of International Relations and Development* (volume 12, issue 2) which offered a forum on International Relations (IR) in Central and Eastern Europe.³⁰

Together the articles of *Global Society* of the past five years have been cited 106 times (see graph 1). This includes the original articles, book reviews and editorial articles. This leads to an average of 0.73 citations per article. The issues most cited, are the second issue of 2007 (20 citations), the fourth issue of 2007 (18 times), the first issue of 2008 (12 times) and the fourth issue of 2009 (11 times). Two of them are special issues: issue 4 of

²⁶ *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* (2012) ‘Aims and Scope’, [accessed at 8-3-2012] <<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13600826.asp>>.

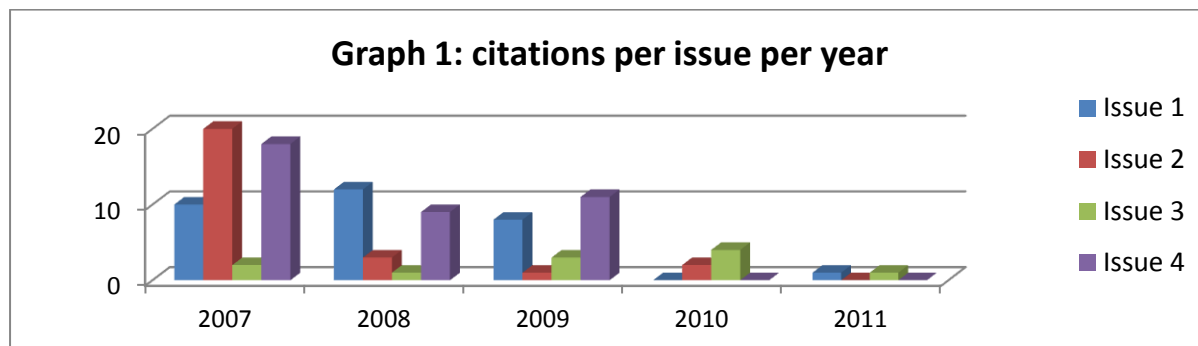
²⁷ Christoyannopoulos, Alexandre. ‘RE: RE: Analyzing ‘Global Society’: a few questions.’ Email to Yara van ‘t Groenewout 29 April 2012.

²⁸ Berg, E. (2007) ‘Examining Power-Sharing in Persistent Conflicts: De Facto Pseudo-statehood versus Jurie Quasi-federalism.’ *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*, 21(2), pp.199-127.

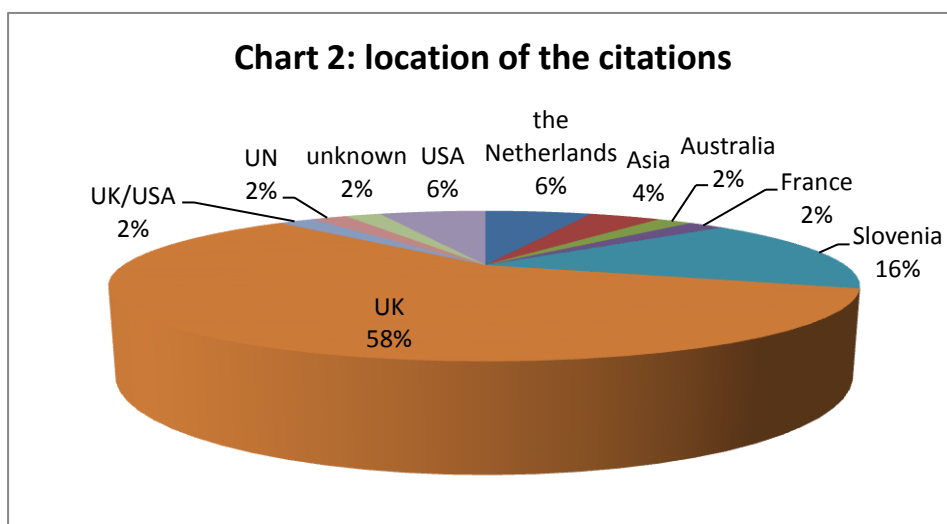
²⁹ *Global Society: Journal of International Relations* (2012). ‘Articles from other publishers’. [accessed at 9-4-2012]. <<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/13600820701201806>>

³⁰ *Journal of International Relations and Development*. ‘Table of Contents’. [accessed at 7-5-2012]. <<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jird/journal/v12/n2/index.html>> .

2007 focuses on the liberal peace-ideology and the articles of issue 4 of 2009 are centered on the work of Michel Foucault.³¹



In light of the consumption-production imbalance noted by Friedrichs, Holsti and Wæver, it is interesting to see where *Global Society*, as European journal, is consumed. Is this mostly in Europe, or also in the US or other parts of the world? The editorial board does not provide data on the readership of the journal.³² Therefore, the citations of the 21st volume (2007) are used as a sample to get an impression where the journal is read. This analysis looks at the location of the journal in which the citation appeared. If possible, the location of the journal’s university is traced. Otherwise, the country where the publisher is located, was used.



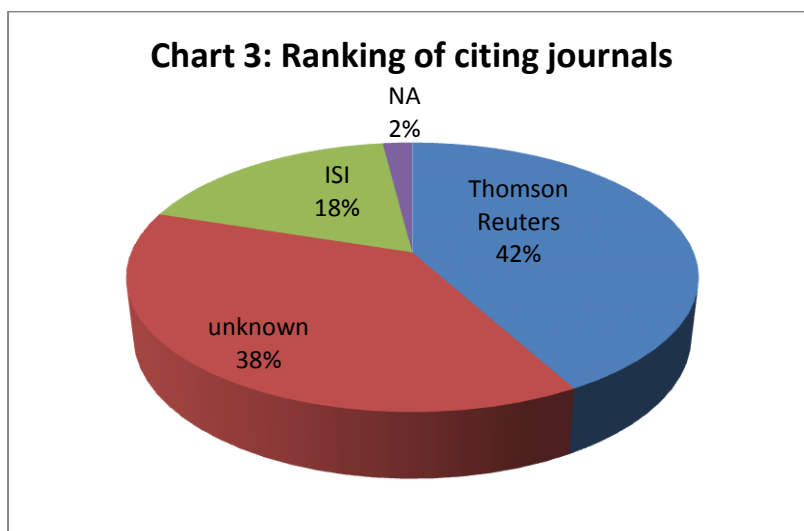
The results (see chart 2) indicate that *Global Society* is mainly consumed in the UK (58%), followed by continental Europa. The relatively high percentage of citations in Slovenia is the

³¹ Vol.21 (4): ‘The Liberal Peace and Post-war Reconstruction’, and Vol.23 (4): ‘Michel Foucault: New Direction in Theorising World Politics.’

³² Christoyannopoulos, Alexandre. ‘RE: RE: Analyzing ‘Global Society’: a few questions.’ Email to Yara van ‘t Groenewout 29 April 2012.

result of the 7 references to Berg's article in the *Journal of International Relations and Development*. In this journal most references to a *Global Society* article appeared (8 times). Of course the information these numbers give is limited: it does not tell us anything about who reads (but does not cite) the journal. However, the European identity of the journal is reflected in the data, as 82% of the citations came from a journal published in Europe. Furthermore, it strengthens the idea of an asymmetric consumption pattern: American journals do almost never refer to this European journal.

Interestingly enough, the journal is not included in the ranking list of Thomson Reuters, neither in list of the ISI Web of Knowledge or Red Jaspers.³³ The other journal of John Groom, *EJIR*, is more successful in this sense, as it is ranked 13th out of 73 by Thomson Reuters.³⁴ This makes it interesting to see if the journals where *Global Society* is cited are ranked journals. The publishers usually note if and where a journal is ranked and what the impact factor is. This information is used. If the publisher did not provide this information, the journal was labeled 'unknown': probably the journal is not ranked, but no further research has been done to verify the information.



³³ Thomson Reuters (2009) 'Journals ranked by impact: International Relations.' [accessed at 8-4-2012]. <http://sciencewatch.com/dr/sci/09/sep13-09_1/>; and Red Jaspers (2006) 'List Common Rankings'. [accessed at 8-4-2012]. <<http://www.journal-ranking.com/ranking/listCommonRanking.html?selfCitationWeight=1&externalCitationWeight=1&citingStartYear=1901&journalListId=350>>; and ISI Web of Knowledge [accessed at 9-4-2012] <http://admin-apps.webofknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR?RQ=TITLES_FULL>

³⁴ *European Journal of International Relations* (2012). 'European Journal of International Relations [accessed at 10-5-2012]. <<http://ejt.sagepub.com/>>.



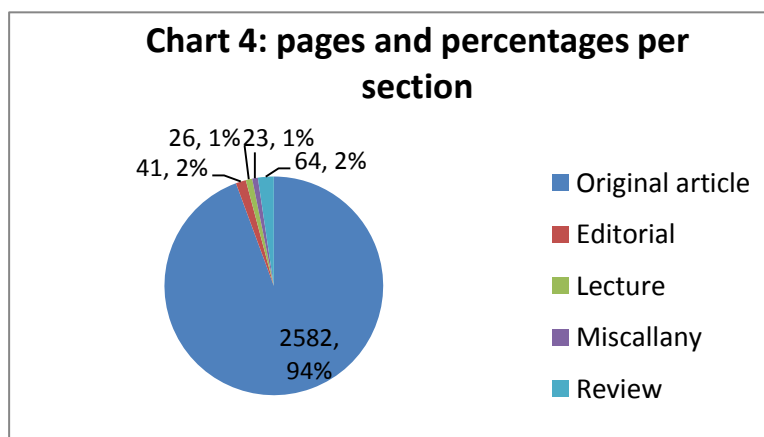
The information (chart 3) shows that in more than half of the cases (60%), the journal where the citation appeared was a ranked journal, either by Thomson Reuters or by ISI. One citation appeared in a book series (NA, 2%). One can conclude that *Global Society* is used by authors who publish in ranked journals, but not very often. This might be one of the reasons why the journal is missing in ranking lists. Based on the citation numbers and ranking of the journal, it seems that the impact of the journal and its influence in IR are limited.

2. Content analysis

This section analyzes the content in order to see how the journal's self-presentation as an interdisciplinary, innovative, European, policy-oriented journal observing an ever integrating global society is reflected in the content. The first part of this section takes a closer look at the set-up of the journal. Secondly, the authors publishing in the journal will be examined. The editorial proceedings, the geography of universities, the gender composition and the most important authors within the journal are presented. The third part, considers the themes, trends and topics presented in the journal articles. It elaborates on the special issues, on broader themes and the more specific key words linked to the articles. Furthermore, the geography of subjects and the link between events and articles are analyzed.

2.1 Set-up

In the past five years (2007-2011), twenty issues of *Global Society* were published. Since 1987, the volumes of the journal have grown. In the first period, the journal issued only two issues per year. With the name change, this number increased to three issues per year. In 2000 it increased again to the current number of four issues per volume. Of the twenty issues published these past five years, six were so-called 'special issues'. The volumes of 2007 and 2010 contained two special issues; in 2009 and 2011 one special issue was published, and in



2008 none.

Within the journal, four main sections can be distinguished. These are editorials, original articles, lectures and book reviews. Furthermore, every year the journal devotes one or two pages to the Referees ('Acknowledgement to Referees') and in the years 2007 and 2008 each issue contained one or two pages 'Notes on Contributors'.

As is seen in chart 4, most part of the journal consists of ‘original articles’: they take up 94% of all pages. What is striking is that in the same period only seven review articles (2%) appeared. The volume of 2011 does not contain even one review. According to *Christoyannopoulos*, the journal did include more review articles in the past, but prefers now normal articles.³⁵ The reviews that appear in the journal do thematically discuss multiple publications. These are not discussed separately, but in relation to each other. The themes of the publications discussed in the period under review are the UN; capitalism and globalization; conflict prevention and resolution; great powers losing small wars; diplomacy; and European integration from an external perspective. The seven reviews cover together 29 books.

Interestingly enough, also non-English books are included in these reviews: five were written in French and one in German. According to Friedrichs, English as the lingua Franca is a factor in the stabilization of American hegemony over the discipline.³⁶ Although he reminds not to overstate the importance of English as an instrument of intellectual hegemony, he refers to Groom (former editor of *Global Society*) when noting that “the use of any language privileges a certain pattern of thought, a specific culture, and a particular way of constructing truth.”³⁷ The inclusion of non-English books in the review article can therefore be seen as an important tool in countering American hegemony, but also as opening-up the field to new ideas and approaches. This fits the European identity of the journal and its aim to be innovative. The journal could exploit this mechanism more by including more book reviews or literature reviews which include non-English books.

The editorials form the third section. Of the seven, only one editorial was written by the editorial board: in 2009, issue 3, the new editorial board presented itself to the readers of the journal. The other editorials are written by the guest editors of the special issues. Since 2007 two lectures were published in the journal. These are ‘Security and Power through Interdependence: On the Morality of Globalisation’ by Thomas Nowotny in 2007 (issue 2), and ‘Global Challenges: How Should the European Union Best Respond’ by Lord Hannay of Chiswick in 2009 (issue 1). “From time to time *Global Society* publishes lectures given by authoritative individuals on subjects likely to be of interest to readers. Such lectures are

³⁵ Christoyannopoulos, Alexandre. ‘RE: Analyzing ‘Global Society’: a few questions.’ Email to Yara van ‘t Groenewout 29 April 2012.

³⁶ Friedrichs (2004), p.10.

³⁷ Ibid. p.8-9.

subject to appropriate peer-review procedures.”³⁸ The final category, called Miscellany, consists of ‘Notes on Contributors’, ‘Acknowledgement to Referees’ and ‘Editorial Board’. The pages with information on the contributors disappeared from the journal after 2008.³⁹ In the years 2010 and 2011 the fourth issue included information on the editorial board and the international editorial board of the journal.

2.2 Who write the journal/ who are discussed in the journal?

Editorial proceedings

Authors can submit their article online. *Global Society* is looking for contributions with an emphasis to “advance an understanding of the processes of transnationalisation and globalisation at various levels of social interaction.”⁴⁰ The submissions are peer reviewed. Interesting to note is that articles can be submitted for review in a language other than English. However, in order to be published in the journal, the authors will need to translate the article.⁴¹ Although the referees are anonymous in these proceedings, every year the journal does publish the names of its referees and thanks them for their work.⁴²

Authors

In total, 160 different authors have contributed to the journal in the past five years. This number is higher than the amount of articles as some articles were written by more than one author. Among the 160 authors were 116 men (72.5%) and 44 (27.5%) women, which is quite similar to the male-female composition of the editorial board.

The geographical background of the authors is not very diverse (see graph 2). Although the authors come from many different countries, most are either European (UK and continental Europe) or US based. 26.9% works for a university located in the UK, 15.6% is affiliated to a US based university, 10.6% and 8.8% are employed at a German or an Australian University. In total, only 6% of the authors works for a non-Western university (in Brazil, South Africa, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Uganda and Russia). Of the Western

³⁸ footnote by Lord Hannay (2009). ‘Global Challenges: How Should the European Union Best Respond?’. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*, 23 (1), pp.3-9, p.3.

³⁹ The information can, however, be found online linked to the article.

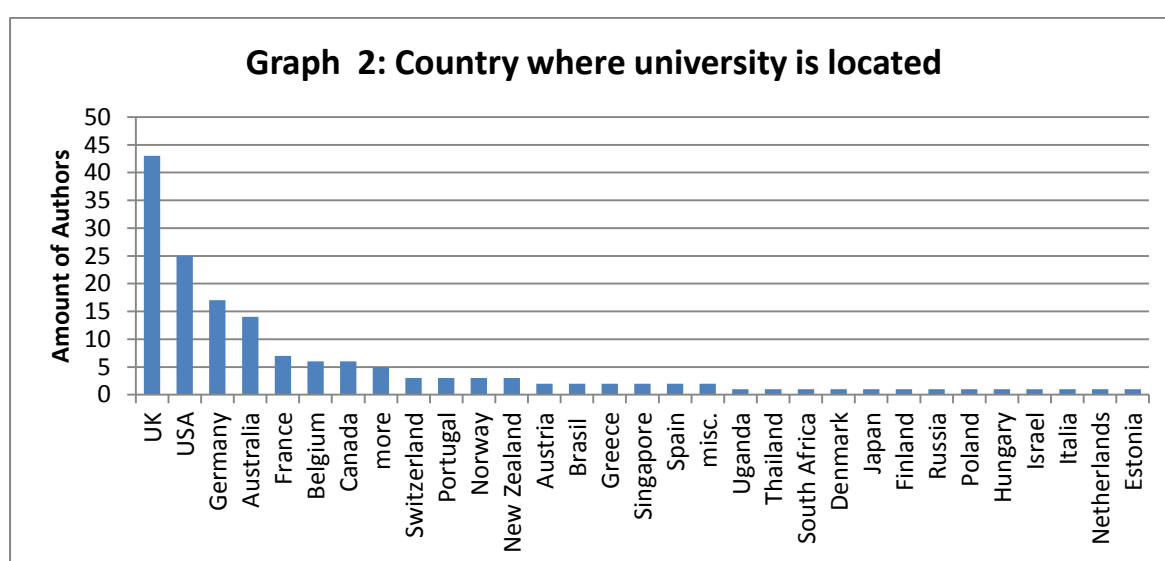
⁴⁰ *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* (2012). ‘Instructions for Authors’. [accessed at 9-4-2012].

<<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=cgsj20&page=instructions>>

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² Example: Editor (2008) ‘Acknowledgment to Referees’. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 22 (1), pp.iii-iv.

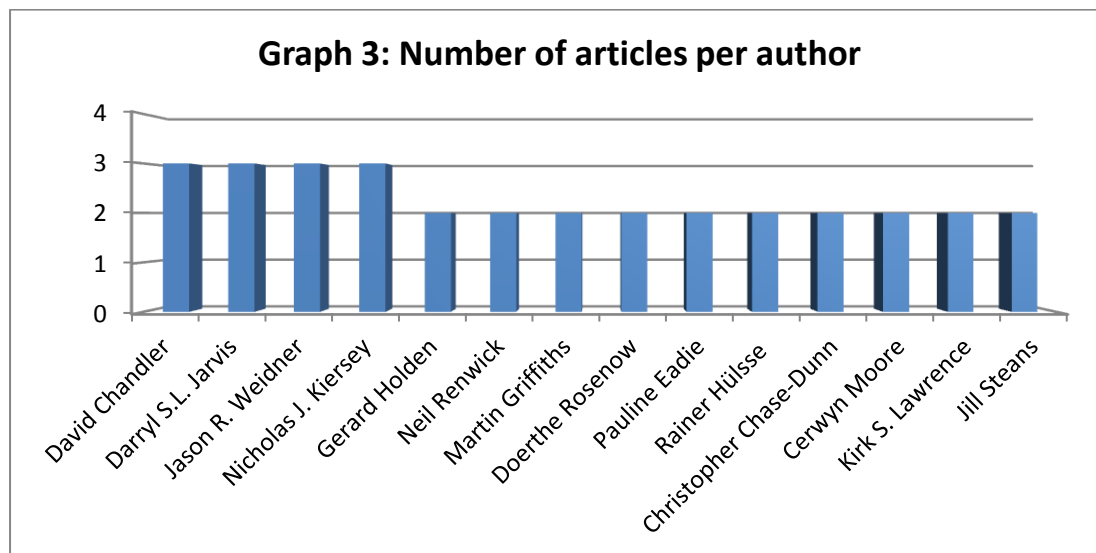
universities, those located in Europe (UK and continental Europe) are best represented: 56.7% of all the authors works at a European based university. The category ‘more’ is included, as some authors were affiliated to more than one university. The European dominance in the international editorial board is thus reflected in the composition of the authors’ base. The numbers (60% and 56.7%) are similar. A point of difference is that the number of authors coming from Canada, Australia or New Zealand is higher among the authors than among the international editors. The percentage of non-Western university is even lower among the authors than among the international editors (6% versus 16.3%).⁴³



Most of the authors have published once (146 out of 160, 91%), but fourteen have published two or three times in the journal(graph 3). The authors who have published three times are David Chandler, Darryl S.L. Jarvis, Jason R. Weidner and Nicholas J. Kiersey. The three articles of Jarvis appeared in the same issue (2007, vol. 21, issue 1): he wrote the editorial plus two of the articles. Wiedner and Kiersey wrote two of their three articles in *Global Society* together. They wrote the editorial of the special issue on Michel Foucault. Both of them published an article in this issue as well, and together they reacted to a response to their work. David Chandler wrote this response. He is the only one of the four authors whose articles appeared in different issues of the journal. He wrote three articles, of which

⁴³ A comparison can be made with the *European Journal of International Relations* (EJIR): data from Wæver (1998) from 1995 show that in this journal 30.8% of the authors was US-based. *Global Society* seems thus to be more successful in escaping the American hegemony. 69.2% of the authors in the *EJIR* was European which is higher than the 56.7% of *Global Society*. The *EJIR* seems to be more European.

one was a ‘rejoinder’ to a response to one of his articles, and of which one was a response to the issue on Foucault. From these numbers we can conclude that there is no hegemony of one author.



Most authors writing in the journal have a background in Political Science IR. In 2007 and 2008, 73.8% of the authors came from an IR or Political Science department. Others came from, among others, development studies (4.9%), law (3.2%), sociology (3.2%). As an interdisciplinary journal *Global Society* does not attract many authors from other disciplines. A last observation on the authors-base is that in the period 2009-2011 in 20% of the articles a PhD-student contributed, which could be a sign of the innovative, non-conventional attitude of the journal.

2.3 Themes, trends and topics

Special Issues

In the past five years six special issues appeared:

- ‘Risk and International Relations: A New Research Agenda?’ edited by Darryl S.L. Jarvis and Martin Griffiths in 2007;
- ‘The Liberal Peace and Post-war Reconstruction’ edited by Roger MacGinty and Oliver Richmond in 2007;
- ‘Michel Foucault: New Directions in Theorising World Politics’ edited by Nicholas J. Kiersey and Jason R. Weidner in 2009;
- ‘The Global Impact of 1989’ edited by Holly Case and Florian Bieber in 2010;
- ‘Aesthetics and Global Politics’ edited by Cerwyn Moore and Laura J. Shepherd in 2010;
- ‘Labour Issues in Asia and the Diaspora’ edited by Pauline Eadie in 2011

Three of the six special issues emerged out of a conference. ‘Aesthetics and Global Politics’ was put together inspired by symposium on Aesthetics and Global Politics. ‘Labour Issues in Asia and the Diaspora’ was the result of a 2009-conference at the University of Nottingham and hosted by the Institute of Asia Pacific Studies. The special issue on Foucault was preceded by discussions at different conferences. In 2010, this special issue was published as a book: *Foucault in International Relations: New Critical Engagements* by Routledge. The editorials of the other three special issues do not mention a conference or special event. The website of the publisher of *Global Society* contains a pdf-file in which the journals can place a ‘call for papers’ and in which upcoming special issues are announced.⁴⁴ It is likely that the *Global Society* finds its authors in this way as well.

What insight do the editorials of these journals give? In the special issues on Risk, Foucault, and Aesthetics the editors (re)introduce a concept or framework to the IR-discipline. Jarvis and Griffiths notice the use of the concept Risk in other disciplines and see potential for its use in IR: “Stranger still is the fact that IR as a disciplines grapples with one of the most recurrent structural risks of all, the problem of war and the management of power.”⁴⁵ Of the six special issues, they are the most radical in the introduction of a whole new concept to the discipline and proposing a research focus. The issues on Foucault and Aesthetics reintroduce a concept: they acknowledge that Foucault is not new to IR and that some IR-authors already studied aesthetical issues. However, they claim that not all possibilities have been used yet and therefore, propose a new research agenda.⁴⁶ The special issues ‘Labour Issues in Asia and the Diaspora’ and ‘The Global Impact of 1989’ take a different approach. In these issues an event is taken as the starting point and the articles look at the impact of this event from different perspectives. The sixth special issue reconsiders the neoliberal ideology. It thus challenges a dominant view in and of world politics. Except for the issue on Risk, the other five issues do not present us something completely new. Rather, they bring something known under attention and provide different angles to look at it.

In the editorials, the innovative sound of the journal’s website is repeated. In all editorials new ideas and new possibilities for researching world politics are presented: they

⁴⁴ Routledge (2012). ‘Call for Papers’. [accessed at 6-4-2012]. <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/explore/politics-call-for-papers.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Jarvis, D.S.L. and Griffiths, M. (2007). ‘Risk and International Relations : A New Research Agenda?’. *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 21 (1), pp.1-4, p.1.

⁴⁶ Kiersey, N.J. and Weidner, J.R. (2009) ‘Editorial Introduction’. *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 23 (4), pp.353-361.; Moore, C. and Shepherd, L.J. (2010) ‘Aesthetics and International Relations; towards a Global Politics.’ *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 24 (3), pp.299-309.

hope to begin a “broader exploration”⁴⁷, to provide a “fruitful arena for debates”⁴⁸, “to go a step further and propose a research agenda for future scholarship”⁴⁹ and to “seek to raise further questions”⁵⁰. Opening up the discipline, providing a forum and stimulate debate are recurrent themes in the editorials.

Another commonality is that most of them discuss the discipline of IR. IR is presented as being concerned with the “the problem of war and the management of power”,⁵¹ is blamed for being too narrowly defined,⁵² is linked to the neoliberal model,⁵³ or to positivism and behaviouralism,⁵⁴ and is challenged as a coherent discipline.⁵⁵ The authors of the editorials differ in the extent they want IR to change. Mac Ginty and Richmond challenge the neoliberal worldview, but they do not reject it.⁵⁶ Jarvis and Griffiths, and Moore and Shepherd are more radical. The first two accuse IR scholars and IR for being only concerned in “more exotic debates about the merits of constructivist approaches or the continuing battles between liberal and realist perspectives” instead with issues of risk.⁵⁷ The latter two challenge the foundational myth of IR and hope it will transform into global politics, looking beyond states and power politics, or as they state: “Pursuing an holistic aesthetic turn offers exciting ways in which those interested in the politics of the global can resist the narrow disciplinary confines of IR scholarship”.⁵⁸

The editorials of the special issues reflect the wish of the journal to be innovative and interdisciplinary. However, they do present a rather static and conservative image of IR, which makes it not to hard to be innovative.

⁴⁷ Jarvis, D.S.L. and Griffiths, M. (2007), p.4

⁴⁸ Mac Ginty, R. and Richmond, O. (2007) ‘Myth or Reality: Opposing Views on the Liberal Peace and Post-War Reconstruction.’ *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 21 (4), pp. 491-497, p.494.

⁴⁹ Case, H. and Bieber, F. (2010) ‘Introduction’. *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 24 (1), pp.1-8, p.1.

⁵⁰ Kiersey, N.J. and Weidner, J.R. (2009), p.354.

⁵¹ Jarvis, D.S.L. and Griffiths, M. (2007). p.1.

⁵² Moore, C. and Shepherd, L.J. (2010) ‘Aesthetics and International Relations; towards a Global Politics.’ *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 24 (3), pp.299-309.

⁵³ Mac Ginty, R. and Richmond, O. (2007) ‘Myth or Reality: Opposing Views on the Liberal Peace and Post-War Reconstruction.’ *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 21 (4), pp. 491-497

⁵⁴ Moore, C. and Shepherd, L.J. (2010)

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ Mac Ginty, R. and Richmond, O. (2007)

⁵⁷ Jarvis, D. and Griffiths, M. (2007) p.2.

⁵⁸ Moore, C. and Shepherd, L.J. (2010), p. 308 and p.309

Themes and disciplines

In order to assess the interdisciplinary character of the journal, the themes and disciplines discussed in the journal are analyzed. For the analysis, all articles and lectures are labeled according to eight broad categories: foreign policy, IPE, environmental policy studies, security studies, international cooperation, development studies, global society, IR theory, and other. These categories are seen as subdisciplines of International Relations or at least as very closely related to it. This categorization is based on the distinction made by Sprinz and Wolinsky-Nahmia in *Models, Numbers, and Cases*. They divide International Relations into three disciplines: IPE, International Environmental Policy and Security Studies.⁵⁹ After a first exploration this categorization was complemented with a few other categories in order to be more complete and precise. Labeling is based on the following criteria:

Categories:

- **Development Studies:**

Development (of a country or region) is the primary focus of the article. Example: Jordaan's article in which he empirically assesses and criticizes Pogge's solutions for global poverty using case studies.⁶⁰

- **IR theory**

The article offers a theoretical discussion on IR as a discipline. Example: Gerard Holden looks in his article how the aesthetic turn in IR has influenced the boundaries of the field.⁶¹

- **Global Society:**

Article looks at the (possible) emergence of a global society: features of a global state, rather than international cooperation, are discussed. Example: Edward Newman with his article on the concept of the international civil service.⁶²

- **International Cooperation**

The category 'international cooperation' includes articles on negotiations and decision-making between states. Example of articles included in this category are Hülse's article on how an issue becomes a

⁵⁹ With regards to International Environmental Politics: Sprinz and Wolinsky-Nahmia state this is a "relatively new subfield" (p.3). As they describe it as an emerging and new field, it is interesting to see whether it is an important theme in an innovative journal as *Global Society*. Sprinz, D. and Wolinsky-Nahmia, Y. (2004) *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Michigan: Michigan University Press.

⁶⁰ Jordaan, E. (2010) 'Questioning Thomas Pogge's Proposals to Eradicate Global Poverty. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 24 (2), pp.231-253.

⁶¹ Holden, G. (2010) 'World Politics, World Literature, World Cinema', *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 24 (3), pp. 381-400.

⁶² Newman, E. (2007) 'The International Civil Service: Still a Viable Concept?'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 21 (4), pp.429-447.

problem which needs to be solved (2007, issue 2.) or the involvement to NGO's at EU level, discussed by Sanchez Salgado⁶³ (2011, issue 4.)

- **Security Studies**

This category includes issues of peace keeping, intervention and post-war reconstruction. Articles look factors of success, problems with current policies or new trends. Example: Andrew Williams writing on the use of the concept 'reconstruction'

- **International Environmental Policy**

Article is concerned with international environmental politics: the behavior and motivation of participants in this type of policy making.

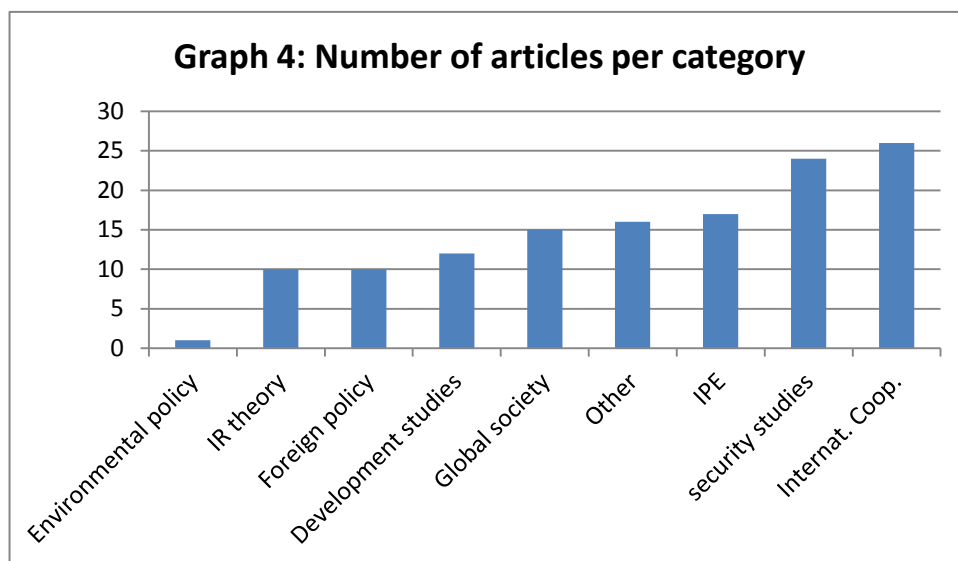
- **Foreign Policy**

Article focuses on a state and its external behaviour. The difference with International Cooperation is that the state's policy and behaviour are the primary focus.

- **International Political Economy**

The article looks at economics or corporate actors. Many of the authors writing about Multinational enterprises reflect on the contribution of their work to IPE. This categorization of the authors is followed. Other examples are trade policy, debt mechanisms, neoliberal economic approaches.

- **Other**



As graph 4 illustrates International Cooperation is the most important category (26 articles, 19.8%), followed by Security Studies (24 articles, 18.3%) of the articles. As the journal envisions an ever increasing global world, the high number of articles focusing on

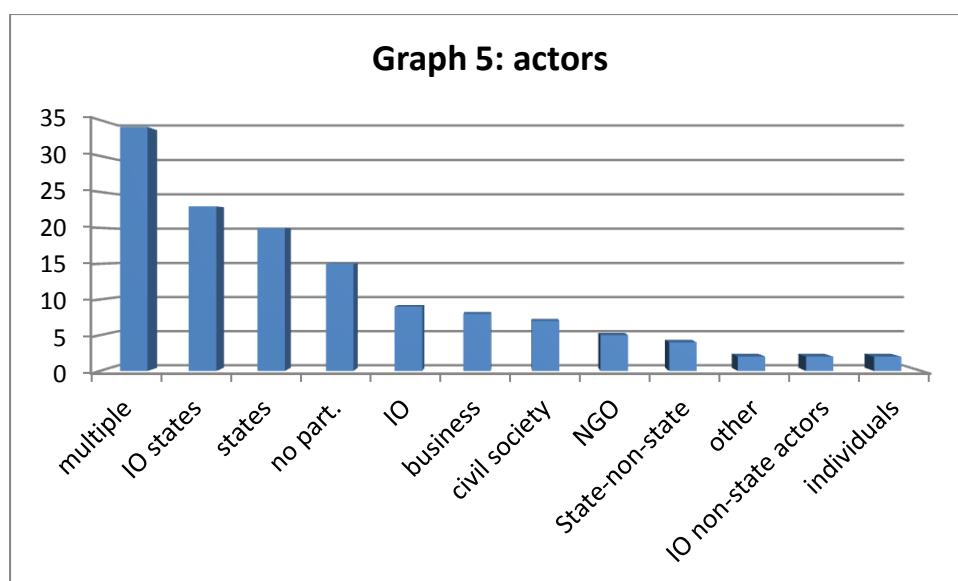
⁶³ Hülse, R. (2007) 'Creating Demand for Global governance: The Making of a global Money-laundering Problem'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 21 (2), pp.155-178; Sanchez Salgado (2010) 'NGO Structural Adaptation to Funding Requirements and Prospects for Democracy: The Case of the European Union.' *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 24 (4), pp.507-527.

International Cooperation is no surprise. Only one article can be linked to International Environmental Policy. Apparently this is a trend, not noted by authors publishing in the journal or not deemed relevant. Apart from this category, the others are spread fairly even.

The figures above show that many subdisciplines of IR are present in the magazine. To call a journal interdisciplinary based on these data would be too easy. A closer look at the articles (abstracts and introductions) shows that authors make use from approaches from sociology, law, gender studies, history, ethics, post-colonial studies. Furthermore, concepts from other disciplines are introduced to the field, such as collective memory, poetry or lobbying. Thus, throughout the journal the traces of its interdisciplinary aim are visible.

Level of analysis

The journal claims to promote “the analysis of the internationalisation and globalisation of various levels of social interaction”.⁶⁴ To see if the journal does address these different levels of analysis, the actors studied in the articles are examined. This gives an insight from which levels (global, regional, state, sub-national, individual) issues are approached. This insight helps to test to what extent the idea of a global society is reflected in the journal. Furthermore, it will add to our understanding of the journal as innovative: to what extent does it consider non-state actors, how are they presented and what is their role?



⁶⁴ *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* (2012) ‘Aims and Scope’, [accessed at 8-3-2012] <<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13600826.asp>>.

The articles of the past five years take many different actors into consideration and approach problems from different levels of analysis. The graph (figure 7) shows that 26% of the articles consider multiple actors. They take a holistic approach to problems and recognize actors at different levels: International organizations, states, NGO's, individuals. This category is complemented with the second largest group of articles, which focuses on the interaction between International organization (IO) and States. For example, Vigevani and Ramazini Júnior research on Brazil's behaviour at Mercosur.⁶⁵ Many articles (15%) focus primarily on state behaviour, such as Barry's article on the (declining) position of the US in the world.⁶⁶ Striking is, that 35 (26.7%) article focus primarily on other actors than the state. International organisations have an important share in this group, but also corporate actors (investors, multinationals) and civil society organisations. This last group covers a wide range actors: such as grassroots movements, football clubs.

These results indicate that various actors are recognized by the authors contributing to *Global Society*. Contrary to the traditional IR-approaches states are not the only actors considered important. The importance of non-traditional actors is emphasized in some articles. Törnquist-Chesnier, for example, looks at the role of NGOs in the establishment of the International Criminal Court.⁶⁷ The focus on many different actors goes hand-in-hand with the use of different levels: for example, in an article by Merk outsourcing of production (globalization) is linked to the individual level of the worker.⁶⁸ The vision of an ever integrating global society is thus reflected in the actors recognized by the authors.

Geography of subjects

The global focus of the journal is clearly seen in the next graph (graph 6): 64 of the 131 articles (48.8%) focuses on global decision-making. This category refers to articles on international decision-making conceptually (influence of norms, bargaining power), but also

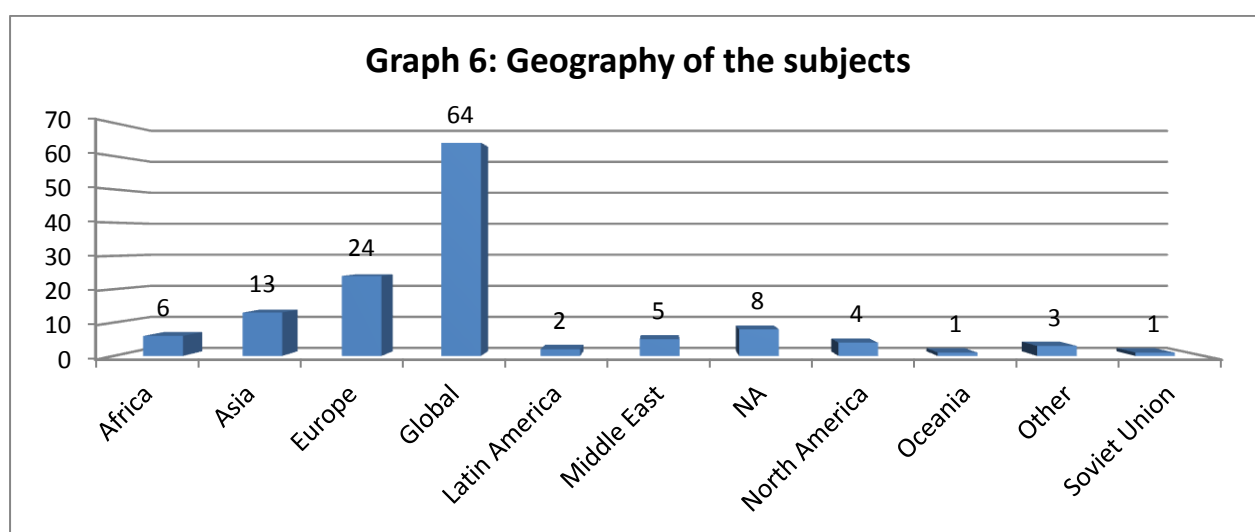
⁶⁵Vivegani, T. & Ramanzini Júnior, H. (2011) 'The Grounding of Regional Integration for Brazil : Universalism, Sovereignty and Elite Perception'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 25 (4), pp.449-468.

⁶⁶Barry, J.C. (2011) 'Empire as a Gated Community: Politics of an American Strategic Metaphor'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 25 (3), pp.287-309.

⁶⁷ Törnquist-Chesnier, M. (2007) 'How the International Criminal Court Came to Life: The Role of Non-governmental Organisations'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 21 (3), pp.449-465.

⁶⁸ Merk, J. (2011) 'Production beyond the Horizon of Consumption: Spatial Fixes and Anti-Sweatshop Struggles in the Global Athletic Footwear Industry'. *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations*. 25 (1), pp.73-95.

to global governance: the working of institutions and their ideologies. As *Global Society* is Europe based, the 24 articles looking at Europe are not such a surprise. Its European outlook of the journal is illustrated in the special issue ‘the Global Impact of 1989’. All articles look at Europe: five articles look at events in Eastern Europe and one article looks at the Rushdie Affair. This European focus is striking since the special issue is called the *Global* impact of 1989. Apparently, focusing on Eastern Europe was global enough. Other articles in this category noticed the influence of the EU of non EU-member states. Interestingly enough, the articles give very little attention to the EU’s neighbour, Russia.



Theory and practice: events

According to De Wilde, IR theory and IR practice are closely interlinked and they cannot be separated: “A lot of IR-discourse comes from policies and other societal forces rather than their own research. Theories are not developed and tested in laboratories before they are put into practice, theory and practice develop hand in glove.”⁶⁹ The new editors of *Global Society* consider their journal to be a “forum for high-level debates on the challenges the world is facing today”.⁷⁰ This quote expresses an interest in the interaction between theory and practice. How is this interest reflected in the journal articles?

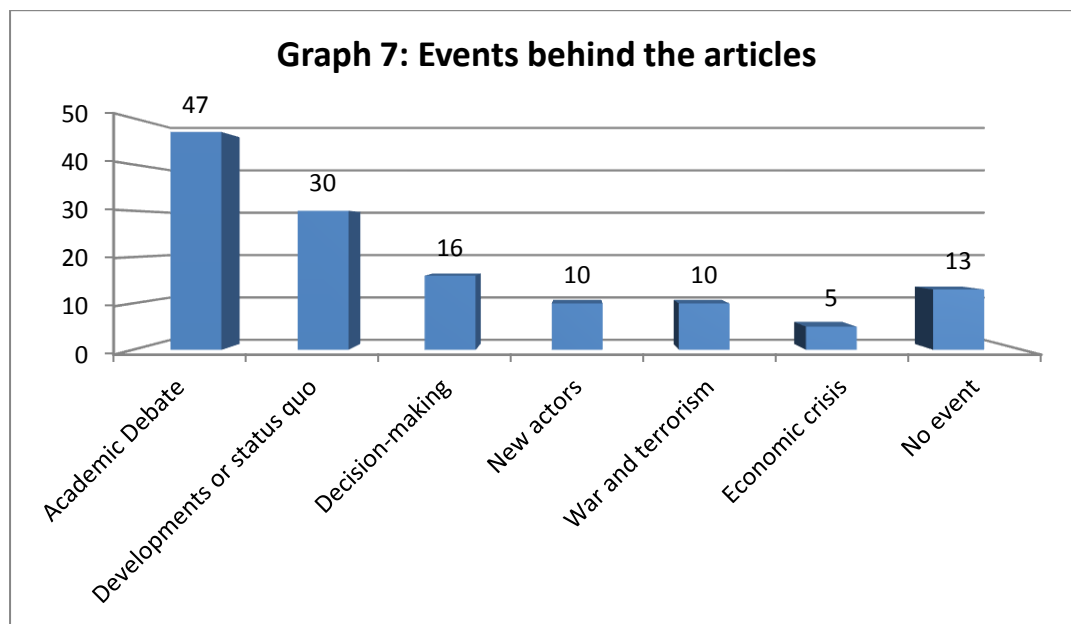
Of each article and lecture is researched what the motivation behind its writing was: an academic debate, an event, or nothing in particular. The second category (event) was

⁶⁹ De Wilde, J. (2011), p. 11.

⁷⁰ Stokes, D. et al. (2009), p.1.

further specified in slow developments or the status-quo asking for research; new policies, laws or conventions deriving from decision-making; the emergence of new actors; war and terrorism; and the economic crisis. This categorization is based on the topics discussed in the articles. The economic crisis was added because it is such an important and recent event.

Most authors refer to an academic debate as the most important motivation behind their writing (see graph 7). This does not mean that they neglect practice, but they use it as a case study to illustrate their claims, rather than something to base a claim on. The ‘event’ that motivates most writing is the status quo or slow developments. Also ‘new’ actors in the international realm, such as NGOs or businesses are reason for academic reflection. This reinforces the findings of the section on the actors: *Global Society* does see the emergence of non-state actors and their influence on politics, and tries to understand their behaviour theoretically. It is interesting to see that the economic crisis has not generated many articles, only 3.8% (5 articles). Since the journal aims to be European, innovative and policy oriented one would expect to find some articles discussing this major political event.



3. Discussion: disciplines and interdisciplinarity

Global Society is not alone with its interdisciplinary vision. Jacobs and Frickel see an interdisciplinary trend in the academic world.⁷¹ They give examples of attempts in US higher education to promote interdisciplinary work. This search for ‘interdisciplinarity’ can thus be seen as something not specific to IR. However, it does lead to some important questions for IR: how does non-interdisciplinary IR look like? Questions on the interdisciplinary invoke questions on the discipline as well.

Others involved have given various accounts on what a discipline constitute. Turner refers to degree-granting institutions as crucial: together these departments create worldwide standardization of the discipline.⁷² If one obtains a degree in a certain discipline some specific qualities and knowledge is expected. In this way one can work at departments of the same discipline around the world. The institutionalization of the discipline and the consequential standardization of training is an important aspect of the discipline.⁷³ This standardization allows for uniform judgments as well.⁷⁴

Another aspect, distinguished by Turner, is the presence of a market asking for the specific qualities and knowledge obtained by a specific degree. He observes the constraints coming from these internal market forces: the training students get is based on certain disciplinary demands coming from the market. The market demands the disciplinary training and the consequential knowledge and capabilities. It thereby forces to adhere to the disciplinarity and its standards, as moving to a more interdisciplinary approach would weaken the disciplinary character of the degree and undermine the chances on the labour market for students. “A department cannot unilaterally choose to relax or alter standards without cheapening the degree in the disciplinary market.”⁷⁵

A third important aspect is the myth of the discipline. Moore and Shepherd note that “myths of origin serve identity-making functions for individuals, states, social movements and even disciplines of social science.”⁷⁶ The myths for the social science disciplines are the stories told about its origins, its development and its future.⁷⁷ These myths make it seem like

⁷¹ Jacobs, J.A. and Frickel, S. (2009). ‘Interdisciplinarity; A Critical Assessment’. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 35, pp. 43-65.

⁷² Turner, S. (2000). ‘What are Disciplines? And how is Interdisciplinarity Different?’, in Weingart & Stehr, *Practicing Interdisciplinarity*. pp. 46-65. Toronto: Toronto University Press.

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, p.52.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*. p.51.

⁷⁶ Moore and Shepherd (2010), p.299.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

the development was natural or necessary. However, this notion of an essential academic discipline is contested. Turner rejects essentializing academic disciplines as being ‘bad history’: all disciplines have some idea of a Golden Age in which everything came together and the discipline naturally was born.⁷⁸ Lapid denies the natural emergence of academic disciplines as well.⁷⁹ Inspired by Watkins and Marsick, he uses the metaphor of sculpting. The idea of sculpting an academic discipline would refer to an active and creative process in which borders are established and identities are created.⁸⁰ The myth of the discipline and its history are part of the discourse of the discipline. In his account of IR as an academic discipline, De Wilde observes a discursive part and an institutional part.⁸¹ The institutional part can be compared to Turner’s view on the institutionalizing of the discipline. The discursive part is important as well. It is concerned with shared questions, language, concepts, jargon, grammar etc. It is developed by those who study or are involved in another way in the discipline. In the case of international relations, both academics as the practitioners of IR (politicians, diplomats, NGO-activists) are involved in the development of the discourse.⁸²

In short, one can distinguish a few characteristics of an academic discipline, which are its institutionalization, an internal market, its myth and its discourse. In IR one can detect a search to its ‘core’ as well. In his book, Puchala emphasizes the importance of defining the field of international relations.⁸³ This search involves question as what to study, how to study, whom to study? This search is not new. In 1960 Martin Wight published an article, asking ‘why is there no international theory?’.⁸⁴ He looked at different sources from which such a theory could be derived; diplomats, political philosophy or ideologies. Current attempts to define IR reveal that fifty years later no definite answer has been given. However, despite the still-continuing search to its core, IR can be recognized as a discipline. It is institutionalized: it has its own textbooks and academic journals and one can pursue an academic career in the field and obtain degrees. The University of Kent claims to have contributed to the

⁷⁸ Turner, S. (2009), p.55.

⁷⁹ Lapid, Y. (2002). ‘Sculpting the Academic Identity: Disciplinary Reflections at the Dawn of a New Millennium’. In Puchala, D.J. *Visions of International Relations: Assessing an Academic Field*. pp.1-15. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press.

⁸⁰ Lapid, Y. (2002).

⁸¹ De Wilde, J. (2011), p.10.

⁸² *Ibidem*. p.9.

⁸³ Puchala, D.J. (2002). ‘Visions of International Relations: Project and Procedure’. In, Puchala, D.J. (ed). *Visions of International Relations: Assessing an Academic Field*. pp.ix-xxi. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press.

⁸⁴ Wight, M. (1960) ‘Why is there no international theory?’. J. Der Derian (ed.) *International Theory: Critical Investigations*. pp.15-36. New York.

institutionalization and development of IR as a discipline by establishing the School of Politics and International Relations in 1965.⁸⁵ The publication of journals also disciplines the discipline further. In that sense, *Global Society* has also contributed to the establishment of the discipline. IR has its myth of origin as well. Lapid refers to the three debates as structuring the history of IR and De Wilde to ‘romantic myth’ of the emergence of the discipline in the West shortly after World War I.⁸⁶ However, the questions what to study and how, seem to be more difficult to answer uniformly. It seems that IR is a discipline with many competing horizons.⁸⁷ Both Hermann as Kornprobst propose more interaction between the different ‘camps’ in IR to overcome stereotypes within the discipline and create common ground.⁸⁸ If the discipline would be less concerned with its internal stereotypes and focus, it could redirect its gaze to the innovative insights from other disciplines as well.

Global Society seems to offer the forum Hermann and Kornprobst ask for. For example, the special issue on Neoliberalism challenged the ideology, but it also gave the chance to proponents of the ideology to ‘speak’. However, as noted in section 2, some of the editorials of the journal do establish a stereotypical image of traditional IR as behaviouralist, narrow, positivist, only focused on war, and neglecting impacts of its ideology. In order to define its own identity, the journal does create ‘an Other’. The narrow minded version of IR is this Other.

Another noteworthy observation is that while the School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Kent claims to have contributed to the establishment of IR as a discipline, its journal aims to shake things up and to challenge foundations even more: to make “IR a less disciplined discipline.”⁸⁹ It seems that, while the Groom’s *EJIR* has been included in the discipline, *Global Society* remains on the outside attempting to open up and challenge the coherence of IR.

⁸⁵ University of Kent (2012). ‘About us’. [accessed at 8-3-2-12]. <<http://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/about-us/index.html?tab=history>>.

⁸⁶ Lapid, Y. (2002); De Wilde (2011).

⁸⁷ Herman, M.G. (2002). ‘One Field, many perspectives: shifting from debate to dialogue’. In Puchala, D.J. *Visions of International Relations: Assessing an Academic Field*. pp.16-42. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press.

⁸⁸ Kornprobst, M. ‘International Relations as Rhetorical Discipline: Toward (Re-)Newing Horizons’. *International Studies Review*. 11, 87-108.

⁸⁹ Neal, A.W. (2009). ‘Rethinking Foucault in International Relations: Promiscuity and Unfaithfulness’. *Global Society: Journal of International Relations*. 23 (4), pp.539-543.

Conclusion

While the School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Kent claims to have contributed to the establishment of the discipline of International Relations, its journal *Global Society* is taking the interdisciplinary route. *Global Society* presents itself as an interdisciplinary, innovative, policy-oriented, European journal which sees an ever integrating world. It challenges the traditional approaches to IR and thereby questions the borders and central assumptions of the discipline. This analysis of the articles published the past five volumes of the journal *Global Society: Journal of Interdisciplinary International Relations* aimed to find out whether this self-representation online and in its editorial was reflected in the content of the journal

The findings in section two indicate that *Global Society* succeeds in including new actors and approaches in the journal: it moves away from state-centric analyses and uses ideas and concepts from other disciplines (law, sociology). Although, the journal does include many perspectives, new actors and approaches, the more informed reader will not come across anything completely new or totally unknown before. *Global Society* offers these approaches, but it is not the first introducing them. However, by including them, the journal helps to give these approaches more weight and get them more accepted.

The European identity of the journal is reflected in the authors' base and in the geography of subjects. The citations index indicates that not only the production-side, but also the consumption side is very European. In order to strengthen European IR and to challenge American hegemony further, the editorial board could enhance the number of book reviews of non-English books. In this way, ideas and thoughts from non-English authors will become available for a wider audience. Furthermore, the journal can distinguish itself in this way from other journals.

Also, the journal's vision of the future (an ever integrating global society) is in line with the contents: it contains a high number of articles taking a global perspective, while looking at international cooperation or the emergence of a global society. The orientation towards policy is partly reflected: most articles refer to academic debates. The special issues serve as forum for dialogue and interaction, which might help to overcome the felt opposition between different camps in the discipline. However, the editorials of a few of the special issues do reinforce certain stereotypes of the discipline as narrow, traditional and positivist. It seems that the journal needs to establish such a stereotypical identity of the discipline in order to emphasize its own identity as innovative and interdisciplinary.



All in all, one can say that the internal and external representation do match very well. Although the impact it has seems to be limited, the journal is able to critically reflect on the discipline. Indeed, it does a good job in fuelling debates and dialogues. After twenty-five years, *Global Society* is still able to renew itself and present alternatives to its readers.

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