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The Journal of International Organizations Studies is the peer-reviewed journal of the United Nations Studies Association (UNSA), published in cooperation with the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University. JIOS provides a forum for scholars who work on international organizations in a variety of disciplines. The journal aims to provide a window into the state of the art of research on international governmental organizations, supporting innovative approaches and interdisciplinary dialogue. The journal's mission is to explore new grounds and transcend the traditional perspective of international organizations as merely the sum of their members and their policies.

Details on Submission and Review

JIOS is published twice annually, in spring and fall, online and print-on-demand. Submission deadline for the fall issue is 1 May each year and for the spring issue is 1 November of the previous year. JIOS publishes three types of articles:

- **Research papers** (8,000–10,000 words, including footnotes and references)
- **Insider's View** (3,000–7,000 words, including footnotes and references): contributions from practitioners illuminating the inner workings of international organizations
- **Reviews** of literature, disciplinary approaches or panels/workshops/conferences (single book reviews, panel or workshop reviews: 800–1,200 words, multiple book or subject reviews: 2,000–3,000 words, including footnotes and references)

Please send submissions to editors@journal-iostudies.org. For submissions and formatting guidelines, please see www.journal-iostudies.org/how-submit-your-paper. All papers will be reviewed by two or three external reviewers and then either accepted, rejected, or returned to the author(s) with the invitation to make minor corrections or revise and resubmit (medium to major changes). The final decision on acceptance of submissions rests solely with the editors.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The United Nations and many other international organizations—like the World Bank, IMF, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the African Union, to name just a few of literally thousands—represent collective efforts to realize ideals that have general appeal, especially in the abstract. Their efforts are challenged by gaps between those ideals and reality. Whether they are at the level of systemic/international organization of international politics or through specific attempts to organize collective action by a few numbers of states, businesses, and international civil society, which includes coalitions, networks, and social movements of international and domestic NGOs, corporations, law firms, and private foundations, as well as schools, local governments, and universities. Considerable support for these efforts continues, despite countervailing efforts, incentives, or episodic factors. Much progress has been achieved in promoting the acceptance of institutions dedicated to promoting and protecting the peace, the international rule of law, and commercial relationships among many others. As in all forms of politics, division and conflict is inherent and, within reasonable bounds, is a productive form of accommodating many, but never every, important consideration, interest, and value at stake. Some want comprehensive reform, while others want incremental but doable progress. Yet, our understanding of these processes needs further study and understanding of the considerable political, strategic, and conceptual processes at play in every level of analysis from theoretical to policy implementation and evaluation. The mission of the *Journal of International Organizations Studies* remains dedicated to that academic mission.

Of course, there are different views of what is an international organization, just as disagreements prevail over the values and institutions that seek to promote or inhibit the promoted goals and ideas. Different paradigms and contested concepts are part of our understandings. Conflicting logics and ideals, as well as limited resources and competing sovereignties vary among skeptics and idealists and between positivists and more inferential and intuitive students. Poverty reduction contrasts with market fundamentalism and new economic order analysis and advocacy. The same goes for the negative and positive peace, political stability and democratic reform, human rights protection and pragmatic or expedient solutions to conflict, and between ends and means more generally. In addition, all organizations have problems and some have incoherent plans for mitigating or even addressing them, particularly when public relations and careerism comes into play. Innovation competes with time-tested or bureaucratic procedures. Optimal and second- or third-best solutions can reflect attempts at rationality or access to power. Information is always sub-optimal and expensive to obtain in time and money. Great powers promise a liberal world order based on the international rule of law, but frequently find it convenient to avoid compliance with the norms and laws espoused by the liberal international order.

The study of international organizations in academia has been divided between structural studies of how international politics are organized and the study of particular organizations. Much like the study of institutions, academic constructs may or may not resemble the physical or even the logos of operating entities that have status under laws or perceptions, but the abstractions may help us better understand those legal terms of art or less formally organized activity. While the prestigious journal *International Organization* has focused on the more abstract and heuristic insights to how politics are organized transnationally, that does not mean that cases of named, international organizations cannot provide the data for truth-bearing generalizations, both about the organizations themselves and about politics more generally. Both the particular and the general can teach us more about “how the world hangs together,” and as the aphorism about global governance implies, this is not captured through any single research design, logical reasoning, looking from the outside-in, or vice versa. Global governance itself is an approach that some find paradigmatic, but not necessarily fitting into one of

the conventional or critical approaches, or methodologies. Governance also can be perceived at systemic, national, and local levels of analysis.

This journal has been well managed by my predecessors, such as Kirsten Hack and Kendall Stiles. I am attempting to build on their careful and thorough efforts to provide a forum for understanding both the particular international organizations and the organization of international politics, indeed even of intermestic or internationalized domestic politics. Since, after all, the implementation of most of the norms constructed and promulgated by international organizations for either compliance or as from a bully pulpit occur within domestic political systems. With some new bells and whistles, my editorship aspires to continue this needed trajectory. Like my predecessors, I hope to make the *Journal of International Organizations Studies* a higher quality, anonymously peer-reviewed forum of ideas, experiences, and especially scholarship from the four corners of the world, using rigorous research methods that advance our knowledge about any international organization, institution, regime, or practice which clearly affects the interactions of states, citizens, and those who would seek the protection of the international community if they could.

As in past issues, we will have roughly a half dozen research articles that meet the standards of qualified experts in the subjects under study. We will also have book reviews commissioned, now under the leadership of Christopher M. Jackson, who has agreed to become the new book editor. We have also introduced a section of book summaries and insights about recently published books of relevance and importance. I am also introducing a new section that will summarize new legal developments at the UN, the fulcrum of international law, published since the previous issue. There will also be additional back issue materials, such as non-peer-reviewed editorials written by those who want to write shorter or less academic essays about international organizations. We welcome letters and other correspondences to the editor whether for private or public consumption. Jackson will oversee much of this back issue material, along with James Lenzer and myself.

The non-peer-reviewed back matter of the journal, which I have introduced with the approval of the board of editors, begins with the section on "New Developments of International Norms and Governance," is an edited compendium of excerpted public documents, mostly from the UN. These important documents can be often be found online, but some are only available in depository libraries of international organizations. This is followed by an essay from Roy Bhikharie based on his personal experience. I would like to encourage others who work in nonacademic settings to submit their views based on their experiences.

Please let me know your thoughts, suggestions, and questions,

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Martin Geiger is an associate professor of politics of human migration and mobility at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Geiger's research focuses on migration politics, the role of non- and inter-state organizations in migration, border security, and related fields including innovation and economic development (for more information see www.migrationforinnovation.info).

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