



Journal of Common Market Studies

An illuminating overview of the developments and
trends within the Journal of Common Market Studies
from 2006 until 2010

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Introduction

This paper reviews the *Journal of Common Market Studies* (JCMS), which is one of the leading journals in the field of European Studies. The JCMS is published by Wiley Blackwell since 1962. At that time the Cold War was in full swing and the European Union (EU) was still in its infancy consisting out of only six member states. Yet, the European integration process experienced an impressive development. Nowadays the EU consists out of 27 member states, which increasingly opened their borders for free flows of people, goods, capital and knowledge within Europe. Hence, more and more borders can be seen as bridges between European member states.¹ Along with this turbulent European integration process, the JCMS exists for almost fifty years. This review will focus on the developments within the JCMS from 2006 until the end of 2010.

The question could be raised if this review of the JCMS is of additional value to the regular rankings of journals, such as provided by the ‘Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge’ (formerly ISI Web of Knowledge).² In *Thomson Reuter's Journal Citation Reports* (JCR), the impact factors are calculated yearly for about 11.000 natural and social science journals. The impact factor (IF) of a journal is the average number of citations received per article published in that journal during the two preceding years. So if the JCMS has an impact factor of 1.316 in 2009, this means that the articles the journal has published in 2007 and 2008 received 1.316 citations on average in indexed journals of the JCR during 2009.³ Although the IF of the JCMS provides a rough indicator of the influence and importance of the journal in the field, it does not show the trends or developments within the journal itself. Consequently this review of the JCMS is valuable since it delivers a more in-depth study of the developments and trends within the journal, i.e. by analyzing to what extent the aims, goals and scope of the Journal were met during the last five years.

The JCMS has clearly set out its scope by formulating several aims, which can be found without difficulty on the website of the journal. Since aims create expectations, this review examines to what extent the aims of the JCMS were met over the last five years. First of all, the JCMS states that it seeks to be ‘the’ forum for empirical and theoretical issues

¹ European Union, “The history of Europe,” http://europa.eu/abc/history/2000_today/index_nl.htm (accessed 4 April 2011).

² Thomson Reuters, “Thomson Reuters (ISI) Web of Knowledge,” http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/isi_web_of_knowledge (accessed 4 April 2010).

³ Journal of Common Market Studies, “JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies,” [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-5965](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5965) (accessed 4 April 2010).

surrounding the politics and economics of European integration.⁴ Therefore, I will analyze to what extent the journal is a forum for all or merely for a specific group of academics. Secondly, the JCMS points out that it is committed to deepen the theoretical understanding of European integration.⁵ So, how much attention has the JCMS given to the deepening of theoretical understanding of European integration the last five years? Furthermore, the JCMS argues that it will only publish high quality and accessible articles on the latest European integration issues.⁶ Here the question arises if the JCMS actually has responded accurately to the latest developments within European integration. Finally, the JCMS states that it aims to achieve a disciplinary balance between political science, economics, international relations and various other sub disciplines such as International Political Economy, social sciences or legal disciplines.⁷ Here it will be analyzed, to what extent the themes discussed within the JCMS over the last five years are a reflection of the endeavored interdisciplinary nature.

In line with these questions this review of the JCMS is constructed. In the first part, the JCMS is put in a wider context by discussing the background of the journal. The assessment of the finances, the association and the editorial board of the journal might illuminate insights about the content of the journal. In the second part, the developments within the JCMS over the last five years are discussed. First of all, the journal's annual publications and the most important sections will be discussed briefly in order to get a general impression of the journal. Secondly, the trending themes within the JCMS will be examined in relation to the aims of the journal. Therefore the themes of the articles are divided into sub-disciplines (political, economic, social or legal), theoretical attention, historical period and the geography of themes. Thirdly, the background of the authors of the articles are examined in relation to the aims of the journal. Therefore the authors are divided by nationality, gender and discipline. The results following from this in-depth research should lead to an illuminating overview of the JCMS over the last five years.

⁴ Journal of Common Market Studies, "JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies," [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-5965](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5965) (accessed 4 April 2010).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

Section 1 Background of the JCMS

To put the contents of the JCMS in perspective it is valuable to know more about the background of the journal. To analyze the degree of independence of the JCMS it is important to know how the journal is financed. First of all, the JCMS leans on the money it receives from its subscribers. On the website the annual subscription fees can be found per region.⁸ Interestingly subscribers in the UK pay the least, followed by the non Euro-zone countries, the Euro-zone countries, the Americas and finally subscribers in the ‘rest of the world’ (ROW). Unfortunately, the JCMS does not clarify why the subscription fees differ per region.⁹ Furthermore membership of specific associations leads to high amounts of discount for subscription. These associations are the *European Economic Association* (EEA), the *International Society for Third-Sector Research* (ISTR), the *Association for Research and Non-profit Organization and Voluntary Action* (ARNOVA), the *Association Francaise d’Economie Politique* (AFEP) and the *University Association for Contemporary European Studies* (UACES).¹⁰ It is not exactly clear if the JCMS receives funds and/or advertisement-income from the associations.¹¹

The discount for UACES members is not surprising, since the JCMS is published ‘in association with’ the *University Association for Contemporary European Studies*. The UACES claims that it has become one of the largest European Studies association since 1968, with members across Europe and further afield.¹² The involvement of people whose work or research has an emphasis on Europe, from all disciplines, is actively encouraged. The Association seeks to provide a forum for debate, a clearing house for information about European Studies, and is itself directly involved in promoting research and establishing teaching and research networks.¹³ Hereby the UACES aims to bring together academics

⁸ Journal of Common Market Studies, “JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies,” [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-5965](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5965) (accessed 4 April 2010).

⁹ Unfortunately I have not received a response from the JCMS to my questions.

¹⁰ European Economic Association, “*The EEA homepage*,” <http://www.eeassoc.org/> (accessed 3 April 2010).

International Society for Third-Sector Research, “*History and Mission of ISTR*,” <http://www.istr.org/about/mission.htm> (accessed 3 April 2010). Association for Research and Non-profit Organization and Voluntary Action, “*ARNOVA mission statement*,” <http://www.arnova.org/> (accessed 3 April 2010).

Association Francaise d’Economie Politique, “*The AFEP homepage*,” <http://www.assoekonomiepolitique.org/> (accessed 3 April 2010). University Association for Contemporary European Studies, “UACES: Exchanging ideas on Europe,” <http://www.uaces.org/> (accessed 3 April 2010).

¹¹ Unfortunately I have not received a response from the JCMS to my questions.

¹² University Association for Contemporary European Studies, “UACES: Exchanging ideas on Europe,” <http://www.uaces.org/> (accessed 3 April 2010).

¹³ Ibid.

involved in researching Europe with practitioners active in European affairs.¹⁴ It is notable that these aims of the UACES are consistent with the purpose of the JCMS to provide a forum for people of all different disciplines.

The UACES is hosted in Great Britain at the University College of London. The elected chair, Richard Whirtman, also comes from Great Britain. He is a professor of politics within the department of European Studies at the university of Bath since 2006.¹⁵ Furthermore the majority of the committee members of the UACES are positioned within an university in Great Britain as well. Only five of the twenty committee members come from universities outside the United Kingdom (UK).¹⁶ This means that a majority of 75 percent of the committee members of the UACES come from the UK. Moreover, it is interesting that the editors of the JCMS, Michelle Cini and Amy Verdun, are interrelated with the UACES as being part of the committee board of the association.

To give further insights into the network behind the JCMS, the background of the editorial board of the JCMS has been studied. On the website of the JCMS the entire editorial background of the journal can be found including the chief editors, Michelle Cini and Amy Verdun, but also the review editors, annual review editors, the editorial advisory board, the editorial assistant and the past editors. The whole editorial board of the JCMS currently consists out of 37 people. First of all it is interesting to have a look at the nationality of the editors. The percentages of the nationalities of the editorial board per region can be found in Figure 1. This figure shows that none of the editors comes from Central and Eastern Europe and only 9 percent of the editors come from the South of Europe. Hence the majority of the editorial board comes from the North-West Europe, including the UK, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands. Together the editors of North-West Europe form 71 percent of the editorial board. However, it should be noted that this percentage includes 49 percent of the editors that come from the UK.

Moreover Figure 1 shows that 20 percent of the editors come from outside the EU including the United States (US) and Canada. However, this percentage might be misleading since only one editor comes from Canada and the rest comes from the US. So in general it

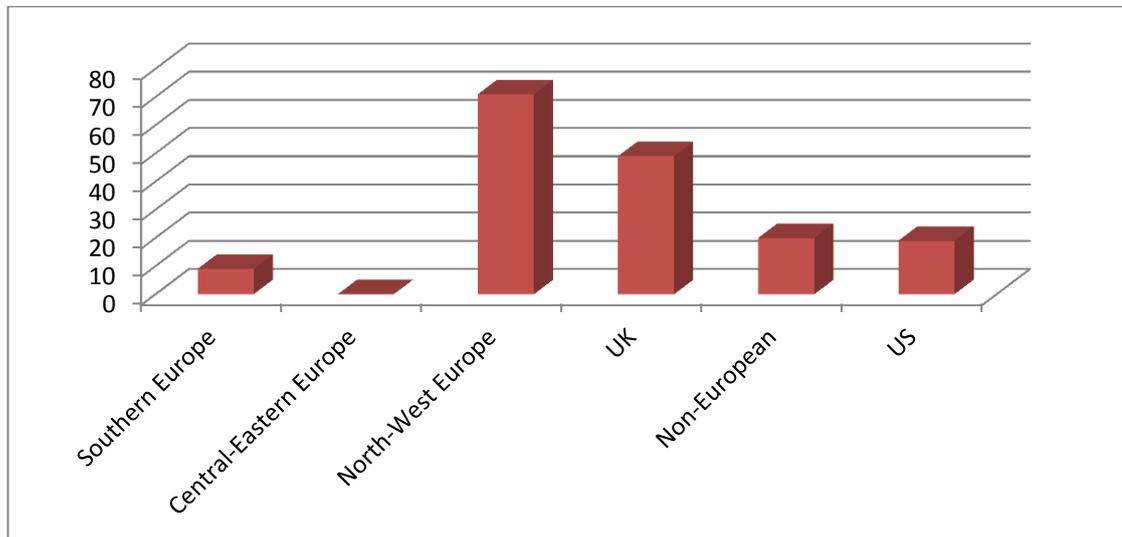
¹⁴ University Association for Contemporary European Studies, "UACES: Exchanging ideas on Europe," <http://www.uaces.org/> (accessed 3 April 2010).

¹⁵ University of Bath, "Professor Richard G. Whitman," <http://people.bath.ac.uk/rgw22/> (accessed 3 April 2010).

¹⁶ There are 2 committee members coming from universities in Brussel, 1 from an university in Canada, 1 from an university in Calabrie and 1 from an university In France.

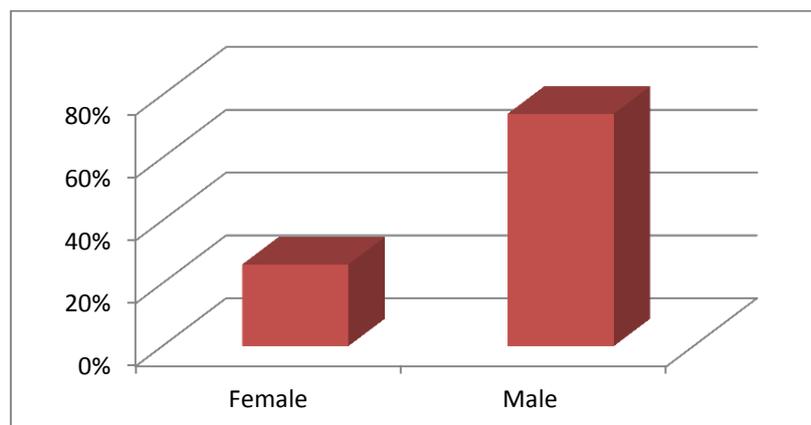
could be stated that the nationality of the editorial board of the JCMS is dominated by the UK and the US.

Figure 1. Nationality of the editorial board



Second of all, it is appealing to have a look at the gender balance within the editorial board. Although the chief editors of the JCMS, Michelle Cini and Amy Verdun, are both female, Figure 2 shows that the majority of the editorial board is male. To be more precise, only 26 percent of the editorial board is female and 74 percent is male. It would be interesting to know if the percentage of woman in the editorial board has been rising during the existence of the JCMS. Unfortunately the website of the JCMS only provides the names of the past ‘chief editors’. This information shows that Michelle Cini and Amy Verdun are the first female ‘chief editors’ of the JCMS.

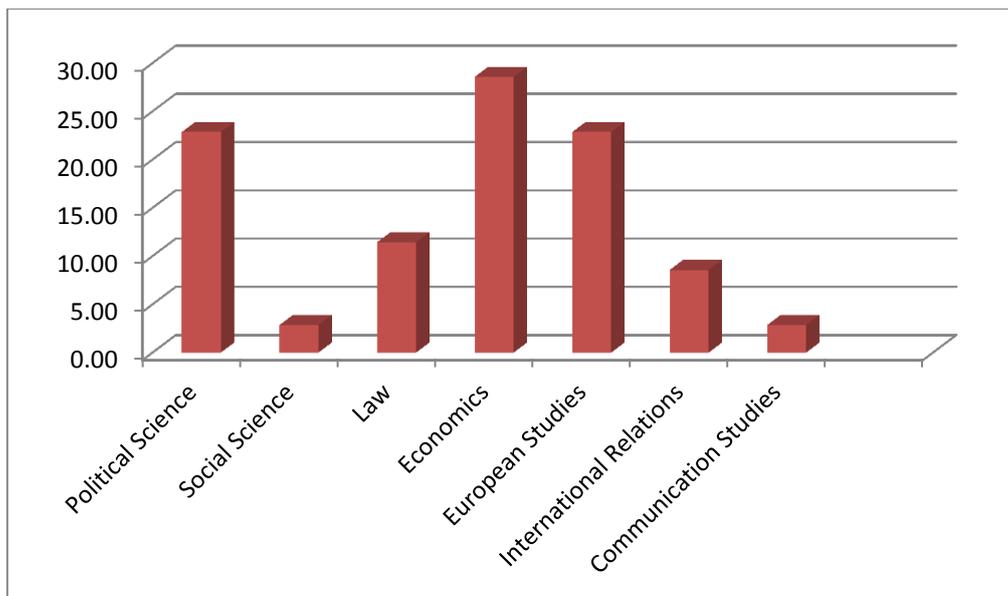
Figure 2. Gender balance of the editorial board



Finally it is interesting to examine the academic background of the editorial board. Figure 3 demonstrates that the persons currently working in the editorial board of the JCMS have a variety of academic backgrounds. Nevertheless, it is remarkable that the majority is

specialized in political science, economics and European Studies (ES). Together these academic backgrounds form 74 percent of the editorial board. Furthermore the members with an academic specialization in Law and International Relations (IR) form merely 20 percent of the editorial board. Only a small amount of members are working within the field of social science and communication studies.

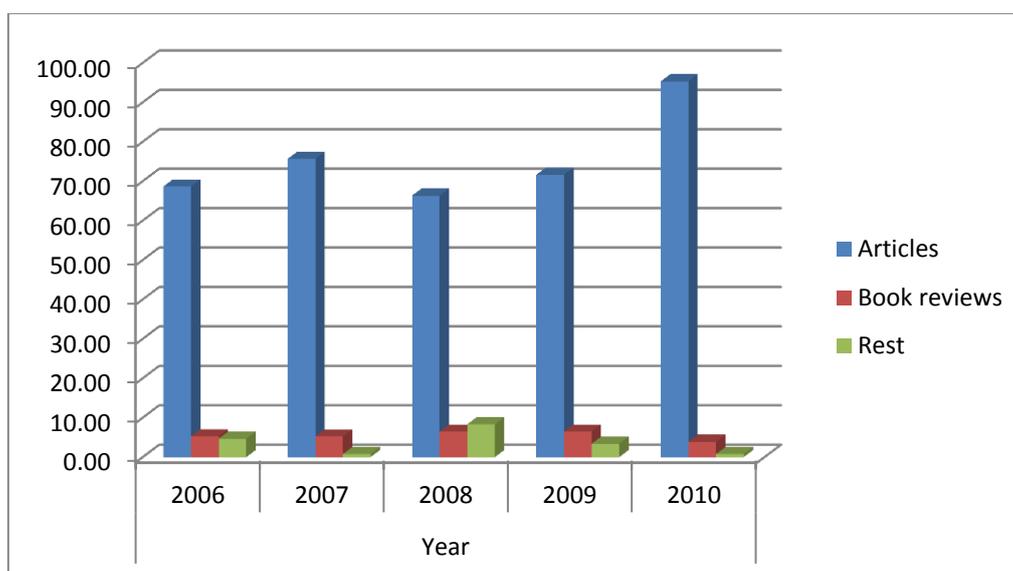
Figure 3. The academic background of the editorial board



In general it can be stated that the current editorial board of the JCMS consist mainly out of men, who mostly come from the UK or the US, and who predominantly have an academic background in political sciences, economics and ES. It would be interesting to see if the composition of the current editorial board of the JCMS has an influence on the content of the journal. This will be analyzed within the following sections that treat the content of the JCMS from 2006 until 2010.

Section 2 The format of the JCMS

The JCMS is published five times a year. These five issues exists out of several articles and book reviews while every now and then also other sections are included. The importance of the different sections is shown in Figure 4, which shows the percentage of ‘articles’, ‘book reviews’ and ‘the rest’. The latter section consists out of debates, reports of annual lectures and review articles.

Figure 4. The percentage of pages directed to different sections annually


This figure shows that the amount of pages within the journals are mainly covered by articles. Moreover the figure illustrates that the average amount of articles and book reviews varies greatly annually. A more consistent division of sections in the JCMS could improve the journal, since it would lead to a more conscious instead of random selection of sections by the editors.

Furthermore it is notable that the JCMS dedicates annually one of the five issues on one specific topic. An overview of this so called ‘special issues’ from 2006 until 2010 is given in Table 1. This table shows that the ‘special issues’ of 2006 until 2010 are occasionally directed by guest editors. This changing nature of (guest) editors could be the cause of the dissimilar formats of the special issues. Although all issues contain a section with articles and book reviews, there is some inconsistency about the number of articles and book reviews, the provision of an introduction and the enclosure of debates. In general the uniformity of the ‘special issues’ could be improved by the JCMS.

Table 1 Special issues of the JCMS annually

Year	Issue	Topic of the special issue	Guest editors
2006	4	Economic governance in the EMU revisited	-
2007	4	EU's role in international trade negotiations	Andreas Dür and Hubert Zimmermann
2008	1	The impact of international terrorism on the EU	Geoffrey Edwards and Christoph O. Meyer
2009	5	European Perspectives on the Global Financial Crisis	-

Nevertheless, the annual publication of the ‘special issue’ is contributive to the journal. By studying a specific topic into detail, the ‘special issues’ counterweight the general aim of the JCMS to publish articles on the latest European integration issues. Although European integration is a fast changing subject which requires research very close to the present, it is also important that the scientific community finds time to look back and evaluate self-critically whether predictions made in the past stood the test of time.¹⁷

In addition to the special issue and the other four general issues, the JCMS brings out a ‘supplement’ each year. This supplement treats the developments within the EU of the previous year and is therefore also referred to as the ‘Annual review of the EU’. However, the supplement of 2010 broke with this tradition, since it treats exclusively the ‘State of the Union: The Financial Crisis and the ECB’s Response from 2007 until 2009’. By way of exception, this supplement was taken care of by a guest editor: Jean-Claude Trichet. This could explain why the ‘Annual review of the EU’ of 2010 looks more like a special issue about the financial crisis, than a supplement that reviews all the developments within the EU of the previous year. Since the special issue of 2009 also dealt with the major impact of the ‘global financial crisis’ on the EU (see Table 1), the supplement of 2010 could have been more aligned with the design of other supplements by giving a more comprehensive overview of all the developments within 2010.

The value of the ‘Annual reviews of the EU’ to the JCMS is two-sided. On the one hand these supplements contribute to the aim of the JCMS by discussing the latest issues about European integration. Yet, on the other hand these annual overviews are criticized by being too short and doing little more than listing the major developments of the previous year.¹⁸ The supplements indeed include a chronology of events of the previous year, but they also provide several key articles which support the chronology with some background information. Nevertheless the contribution of the ‘Annual reviews of the EU’ remains a trade-off between ‘a comprehensive short overview’ and ‘an in-depth review’ of the recent developments.

¹⁷ Waltraud Schelkle, “The theory and practice of economic governance in EMU revisited: What have we learnt about commitment and credibility?,” *Journal of common market studies* 44 (2006): 669.

¹⁸ Adriaan Schout and Sophie van Hoonacker, “Evaluating presidencies of the council of the EU: Revisiting Nice,” *Journal of common market studies* 44 (2006): 1051.

Section 3 Trending topics of the articles

This section will go into more detail about the content of the JCMS by analyzing the articles in the journal. The study of the articles in the five issues of the JCMS from 2006 until 2010 can be divided into four main parts. First of all, the interdisciplinary nature of the articles will be examined. Secondly, the theoretical background of the articles will be discussed. In the third part, the study of the geography of themes will be further elaborated. Hereby a distinction will be made between the attention given to countries inside and outside Europe. Finally this section examines which historical periods are given the most attention in the articles.

3.1 Interdisciplinary nature

Since the JCMS aims to achieve a ‘*disciplinary balance*’, it is interesting to study to what extent the articles pay special attention to political, economic, social or legal issues. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 2. Topics of articles divided by sub-disciplines

Year	Total number of articles	Political Science	Economics	Sociology	Law
2006	41	34	17	5	7
2007	45	43	21	7	6
2008	37	33	6	6	7
2009	43	35	15	2	5
2010	58	45	10	14	7
Total	224	190	69	34	32

Although table 2 gives an impression of the attention that is given to the four different disciplines, the table also shows some complications which make it more difficult to value the importance of the four disciplines within the JCMS. First of all every year has a different number of articles, which makes it hard to make a comparison over the years of a certain discipline. Moreover an article sometimes covers several different disciplines.

Therefore the importance of the different disciplines will be given in percentages per year. These percentages consist out of the ‘amount of attention given to a certain discipline’ divided by the annual amount of articles within the JCMS. The results of these calculations are shown in the following figure.

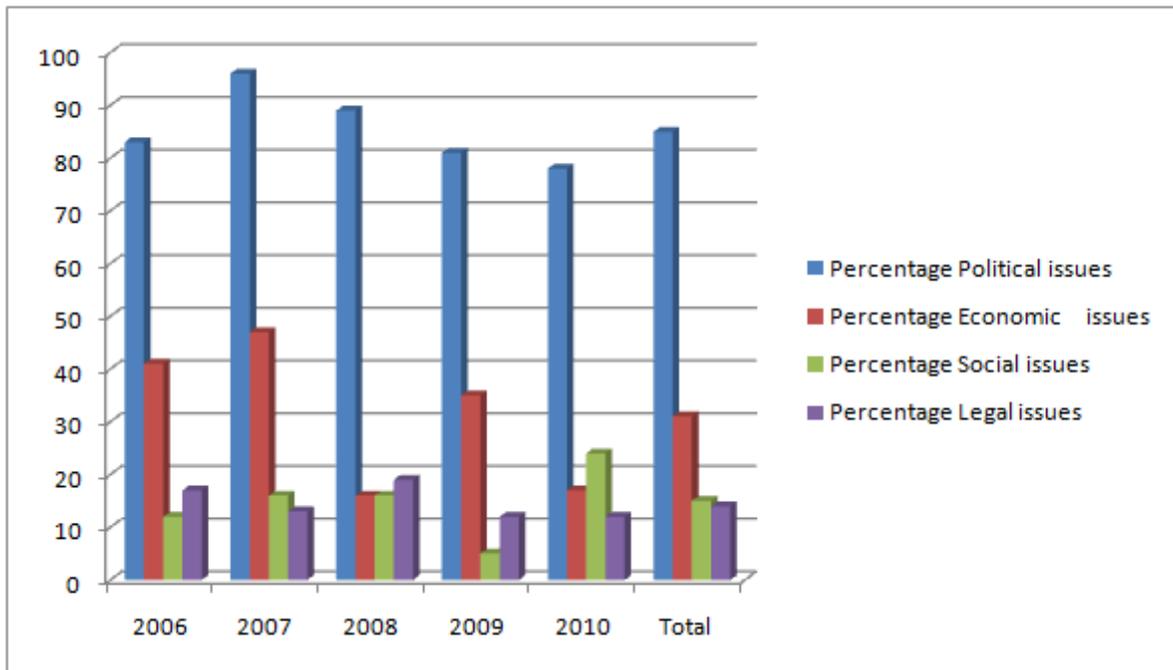
Figure 5. Percentage of attention given to the sub disciplines annually


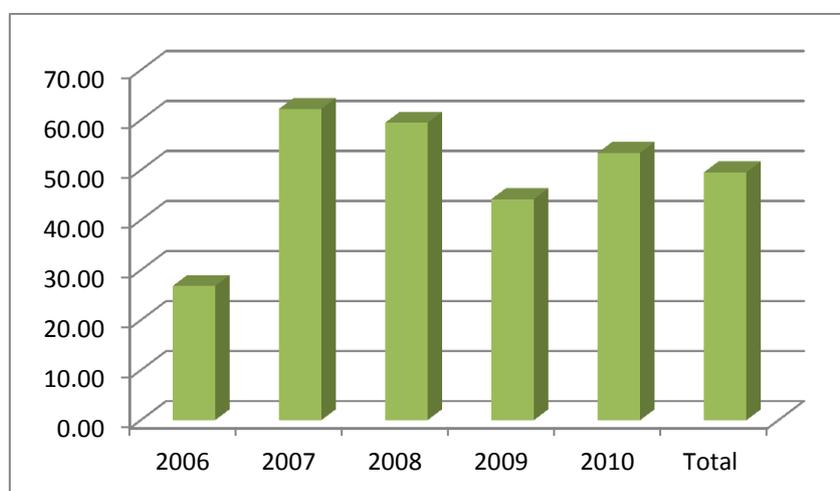
Figure 5 shows that the articles within the JCMS are mainly concerned with political issues. Although the importance of Economics differs annually, the last section within the figure called 'total' shows that Political Science is the main discipline, followed by Economics Sociology and Law.

These findings are interesting for two particular reasons. First of all the JCMS does not seem to accomplish its aim to create a journal with an interdisciplinary nature, due to the overtone of Political Science and Economics. Moreover it is remarkable that this outcome could have been predicted by looking at the academic background of the editorial board of the JCMS. The first section already pointed out the predominance of editors with a background in the field of politics and economics. So it could be speculated that the academic background of the editors has an influence on the content of the journal since the findings in this section (Figure 5) are in accordance with the findings in the first section (Figure 3).

3.2 Theoretically grounded

On the website of the JCMS the journal points out that it pursues to ‘deepen the theoretical understanding’ of European integration.¹⁹ Therefore this sub-section studies the theoretical background of the articles. The selection criteria used in this paper for ‘articles with a theoretical background’ is twofold. First of all, these articles could predominantly elaborate on new theoretical insights following from qualitative or quantitative research. Secondly, these articles could also further the understanding of existing theories by providing an extensive outline of the concepts used. The succeeding figure reveals, the actual contribution of the JCMS to further the theoretical knowledge about European integration.

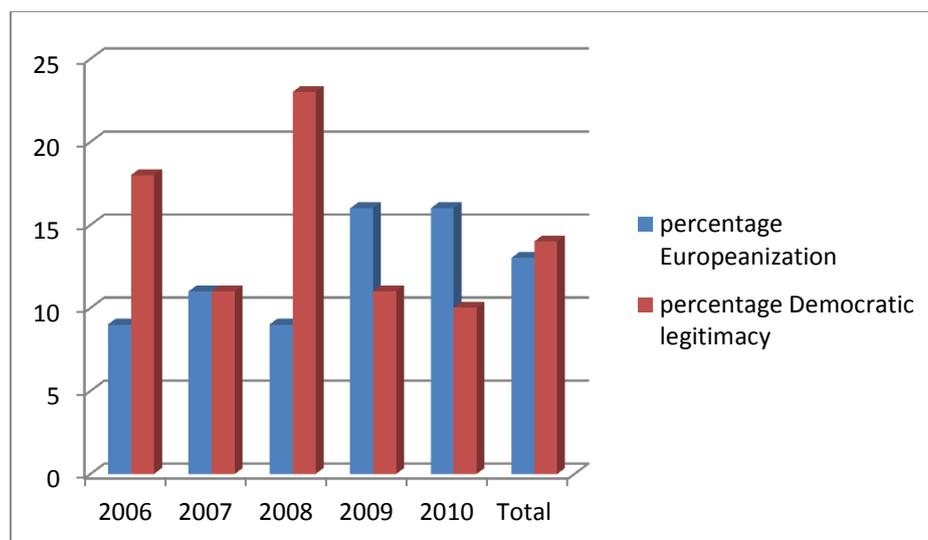
Figure 6. The percentage of articles with a theoretical background annually



The column ‘Total’ in Figure 6, shows that during the last five years almost fifty percent of the articles contributed to the theoretical understanding of the European integration process. But what does this mean? When half of the articles does have a theoretical background, the other half does not. Nevertheless, since 2007 there has been an amazing increase of articles with an theoretical background. On the one hand this seems to suggest that the JCMS has made some improvements to realize its aim of ‘deepening the theoretical understanding of European integration’. But on the other hand it is difficult to judge if the JCMS has ‘reached’ its aims since the journal has defined the goal so broadly.

Furthermore it is interesting to point out that quite lot of attention has been given to the theory of ‘Europeanization’ and the concept of ‘Democratic legitimacy’ within the JCMS. Figure 7 shows how much the JCMS concentrated on ‘Europeanization’ and ‘Democratic legitimacy’ in relation to the total amount of articles with a theoretical background.

¹⁹ Journal of Common Market Studies, “JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies,” [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-5965](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5965) (accessed 4 April 2010).

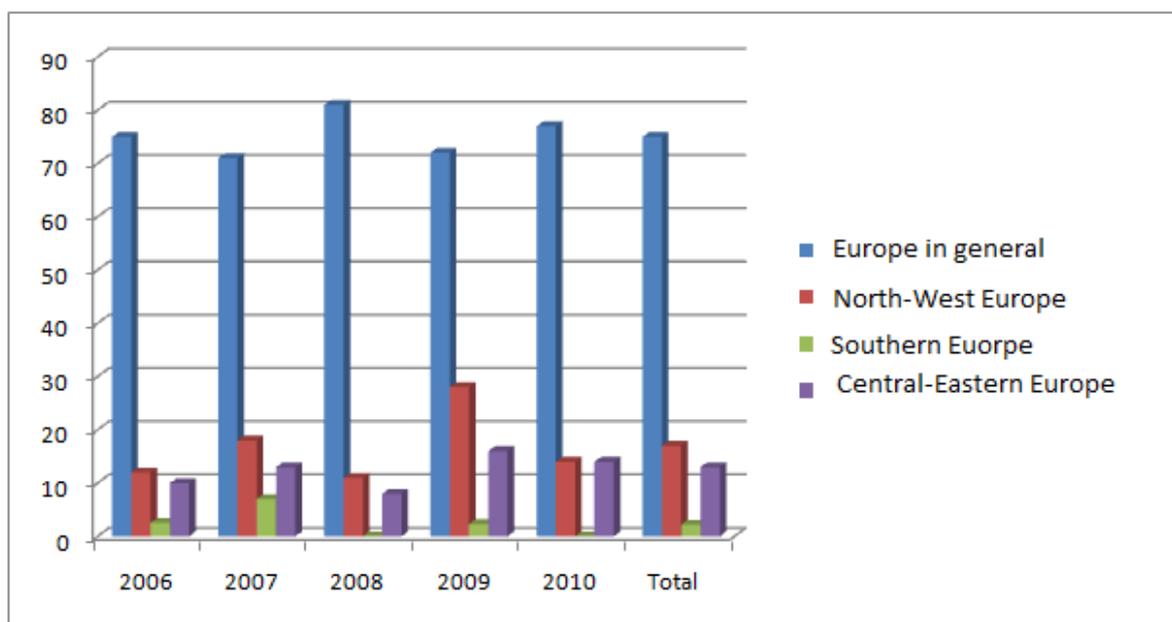
Figure 7. The percentage of attention to ‘Europeanization’ and ‘Democratic legitimacy’


It is interesting that the relative amount of attention given to the concept of ‘democratic legitimacy’ rises steeply in 2006 and 2008. These rises could be explained by the historical circumstances within the EU. Firstly, in 2006 the ‘no vote’ in the Dutch and the French referendum on the EU Constitution is exactly one year ago. In 2008 it is one year after the 27 EU countries signed the Treaty of Lisbon.²⁰ Although this treaty was designed to make the EU more democratic, efficient and transparent, it has been a central point of debate surrounding the ‘democratic legitimacy’ or ‘democratic deficit’ of the EU.

3.3 Geography of themes

This sub-section will go into more detail about the countries and regions the articles of the JCMS discussed from 2006 until 2010. By studying the geography of themes within the articles, a division will be made between the regions inside and outside the EU. Figure 8 will give an impression of the importance of the regions inside of Europe. A distinction has been made between articles that treat North-West Europe, Southern Europe, Central and Eastern Europe and the ‘Europe in general’. If articles discuss the ‘Europe in general’, this means that an article treats the EU as a whole instead of focusing on one particular region within Europe.

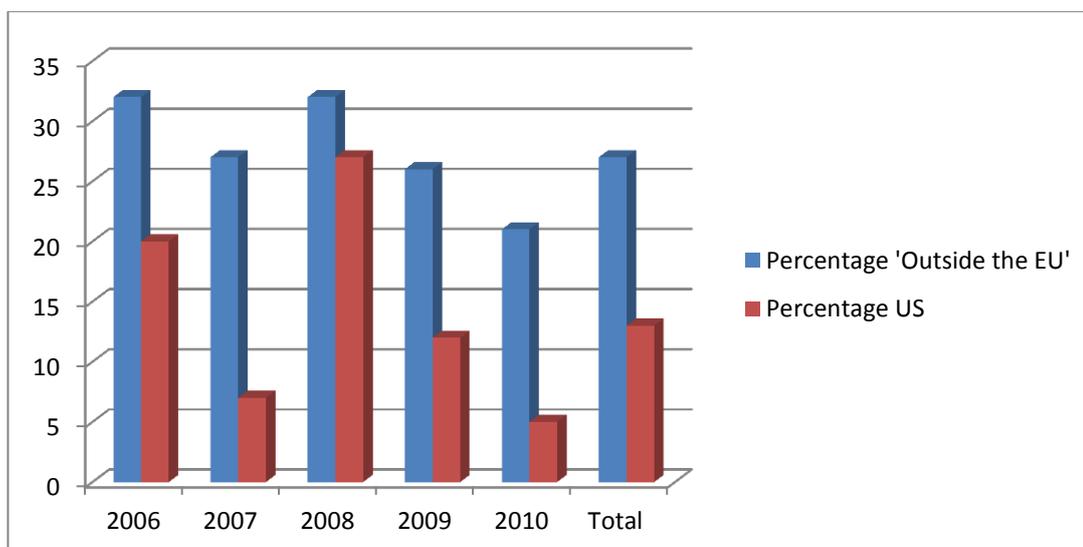
²⁰ Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, *European politics* (Oxford: Oxford university press, 2010), 53-54.

Figure 8. Percentage of the articles that cover a certain region inside EU


This figure shows clearly that most attention has been given to the ‘Europe in general’. About thirty percent of the articles gave special attention to a particular region within Europe. More than the half of this number consists of attention given to the North-West of Europe. Furthermore, Figure 8 illustrates that the JCMS has almost paid no special attention to the countries in Southern Europe. In 2008 and 2010 there has even been no attention at all for this particular region. This is remarkable given the deprivation of the financial situation in Italy, Portugal, Spain and the debt crisis in Greece during this time period.²¹ So given the fact that the JCMS published a special issue in 2009 and a supplement in 2010 about the global financial crisis, it is interesting that no special attention has been given in the articles to the situation in Southern Europe.

Subsequently the attention given to countries and regions outside the EU is demonstrated in Figure 9. Moreover, the figure also demonstrates to what extent the focus of the articles has been on the US.

²¹ The Guardian, “The greece debt crisis,” <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/may/05/greece-debt-crisis-timeline> (accessed 12 April 2011).

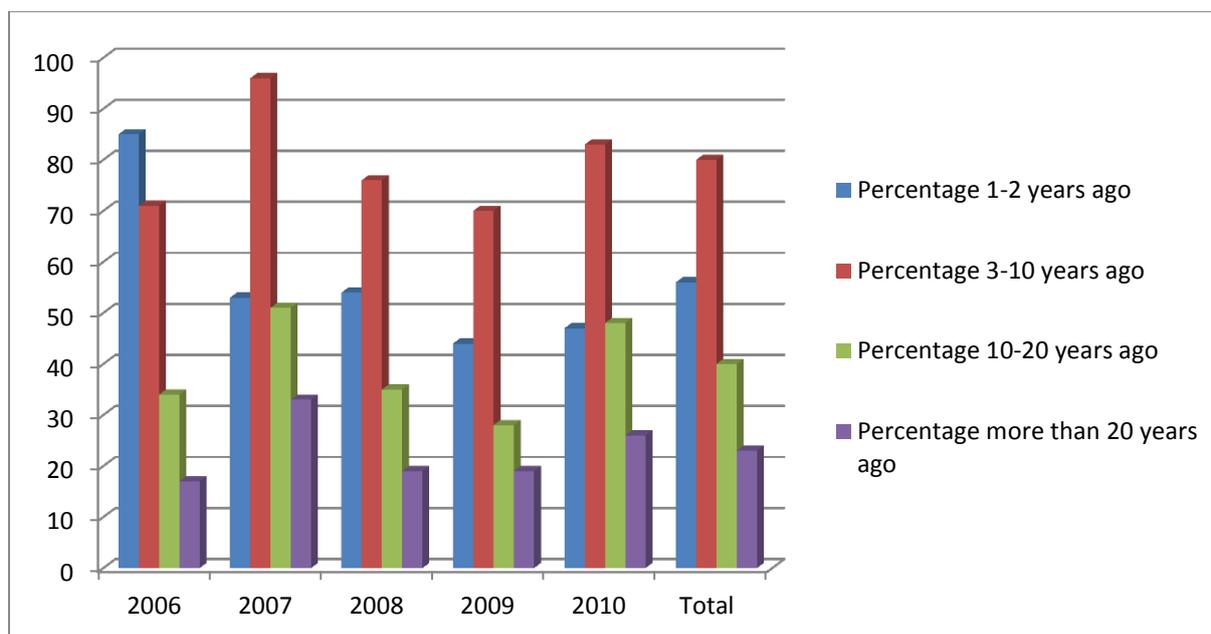
Figure 9. Percentage of the articles that cover regions outside the EU


This Figure shows that 27 percent of the articles published in the JCMS give special attention to regions outside the EU. Remarkably almost half of this number consists of attention for the US. On the one hand, this can be explained by the US being a very important actor on the global stage. On the other hand, it is telling that the first section demonstrated that the nationality of the editorial board of the JCMS is dominated by the UK and the US. So again, it could be speculated that the background of the editors have an influence on the content of the journal.

3.4 Historical periods

The JCMS claims that it will only publish high quality and accessible articles on the latest European integration issues.²² The second section of this review has already shown that the JCMS accurately responds to the latest development within the EU by publishing annually a supplement which discusses the major developments within the EU of the previous year. In addition to these 'Annual reviews of the EU', it is interesting to know to which historical periods the articles discuss in general. Therefore Figure 10 shows the percentages of articles that gave attention to specific time periods. The time periods are divided into '1 until 2 years ago', '3 until 10 years ago', '10 until 20 years ago' and 'more than 20 years ago'. This division of time periods, makes it possible to compare the articles between 2006 until 2010.

²² Journal of Common Market Studies, "JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies," [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-5965](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxyub.rug.nl/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5965) (accessed 4 April 2010).

Figure 10. The percentage of articles that cover a certain time period


This figure demonstrates that the articles in general give most attention to events that happened 3 until 10 years ago. It can be argued that academic research always lags a little behind social reality, because scholarship requires theoretical reflection to inform inquiry and to collect solid data.²³ Although it can be disputed what the JCMS means by ‘the latest’ issues on European integration, Figure 10 gives the impression that the journal is devoted to accomplished this aim. However, it can be questioned to what extent it is desirable to report only on ‘the latest’ European integration issue. It is also valuable to create more time and distance to European integration issues in order to give authors the space to put events and processes in a wider context.

Section 4 Trending authors of the articles

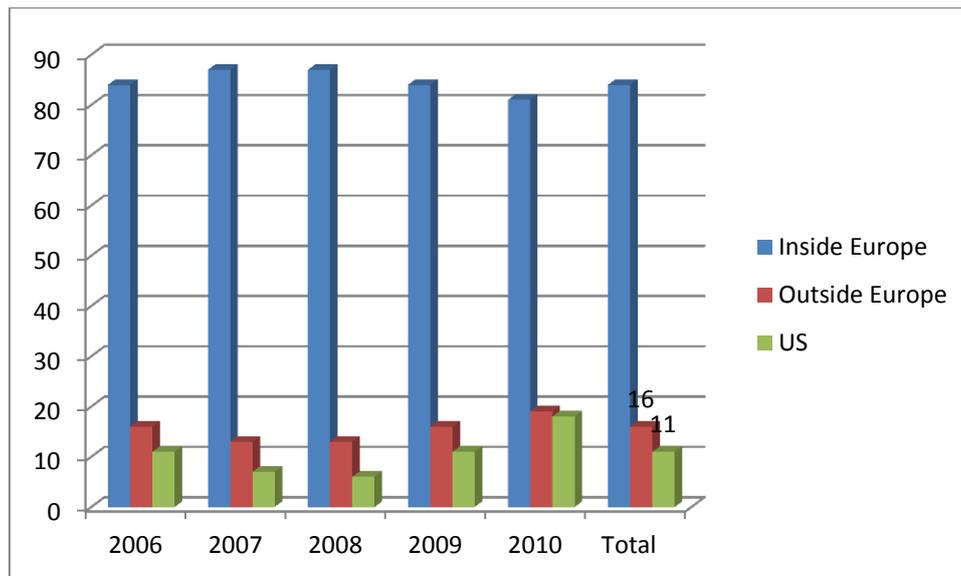
To give further insight in the contents of the JCMS, this section will study the background of the authors who have written articles for the journal between 2006 and 2010. Therefore the origins of the authors will be examined. Subsequently attention will be paid to the gender balance of the authors. Finally the academic background of the authors will be discussed.

²³ Chris Flood, “Dimensions of euroscepticism,” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 4 (2009): 911.

4.1. Origins of the authors

First of all it is interesting to take a look at the origins of the authors. Unfortunately it was not possible to obtain the nationalities of all authors. Therefore this sub-section will only study the origins of the universities where the authors are established. Figure 11 illustrates the percentage of authors who are working in an university inside or outside Europe and the US in particular.

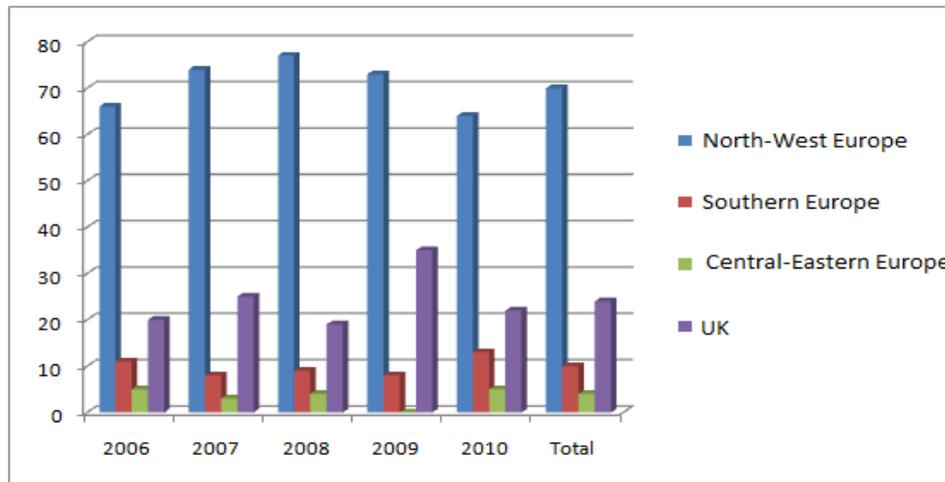
Figure 11. Percentage of authors working inside and outside the EU



This figure shows that in general 16 percent of the authors are working at an university outside the EU. Nevertheless the figure also shows that this percentage is misleading, since it includes 11 percent of the authors who are employed at an university in the US. So it can be stated that the majority of the authors working outside the EU, are actually established at an university in the US.

Furthermore the percentages of authors working at an university in a specific region of Europe can be found in Figure 12. This figure shows that the authors of the articles are established in all parts of Europe. Nevertheless, the majority of the authors is employed in the North-West of Europe. Moreover figure 11 shows that a great deal of the authors who are employed in the North-West of Europe, are established in the UK.

Figure 11. Percentage of authors working in different regions of the EU

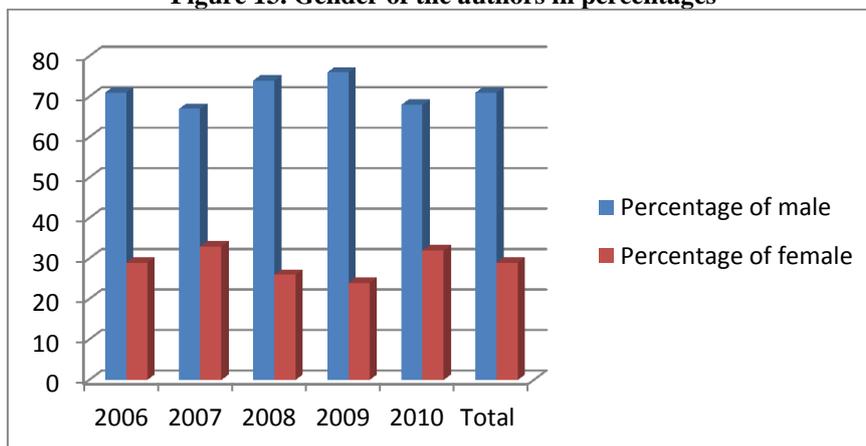


In sum it is interesting that there might be a correlation between the fact that the editorial board of the JCMS as well as the authors who published in the journal, are mainly coming from the UK and the US.

4.2 Gender balance

This sub-section will discuss the gender balance of the authors published in the JCMS between 2006 and 2010. Figure 13 shows that the percentage of male authors is incredibly much higher than the percentage of female authors.

Figure 13. Gender of the authors in percentages



The findings are in correspondence with the gender balance in the editorial board of the JCMS. It would be interesting to know if the JCMS has policies to stimulate the growth of positions of women in the academic world. A sign of such policies is the election of two female chief editors. Although it might be a coincidence, it is telling that both chief editors are female in an editorial board predominantly seated by male. In addition to the data in

Figure 13, the ‘rejection/acceptation rates’ of articles submitted by female authors could be examined.²⁴

4.3 Academic background of the authors

Finally it is interesting to examine the academic background of the authors. The following figure shows the different percentages of the academic background of the authors. The classification of the authors is based upon the information found on the websites of the corresponding universities. Since these classifications may vary by university, Figure 14 only gives an indication of the academic backgrounds of the authors.

Figure 14. Percentage of academic backgrounds of the authors

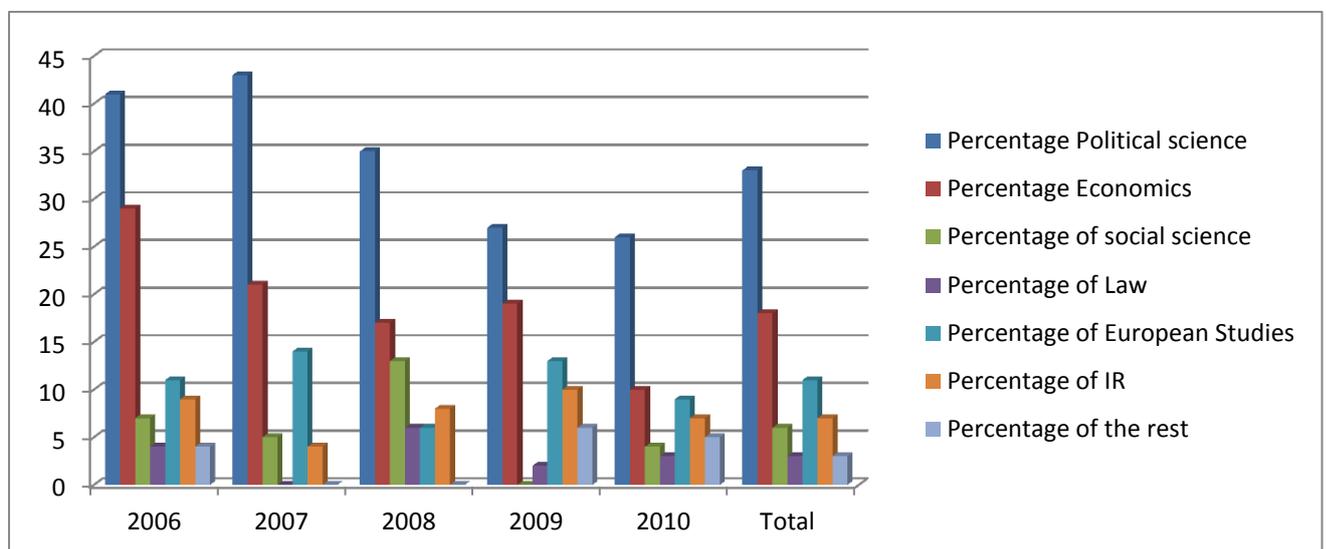


Figure 14 illustrates that the majority of the authors within the JCMS are working in the field of Political Science or Economics. Interestingly this is in accordance with the predominant backgrounds of the editorial board of the JCMS. This might have led to fact that the contents of the articles were also mainly covered by political and economic issues.

So in general it can be stated that the authors who have written articles for the JCMS between 2006 and 2010, mainly consist out men, mostly working for universities in North-West Europe and predominantly have an academic background in the fields of Economics and Political Science.

²⁴ Unfortunately the JCMS did not respond to my emails.

Conclusion

This critical review of the *Journal of Common Market Studies* aimed to give an illuminating overview of the journal from 2006 until 2010. While studying the remarkable trends and developments during the last five years, the journal's compliance with its aims, goals and scope were monitored. First of all the review illustrated the background of the journal. To get an impression of the network behind the JCMS, not only the finances but also the association and background of the editorial board were discussed. It appears that the current editorial board of the JCMS consists mainly out of men, that mostly come from the UK or the US, and predominantly have an academic background within political sciences, economics and European Studies.

Secondly, the review addressed the format of the JCMS. In general the journal is published five times a year including a special issue on a specific topic. Furthermore, every year the JCMS brings out a supplement which includes the developments within the EU of the previous year. It seems that the 'special issue' is a welcome counterbalance to the annual supplement by studying a topic into more detail. Moreover section 2 showed that the articles constitute the main content of the JCMS.

The third section discussed the trending themes within the JCMS. Firstly, the interdisciplinary character of the journal was disputed, since the review showed that the articles are mainly about political and economic issues. Secondly, the JCMS increasingly publishes articles with a theoretical background. Therefore it appears that the journal is dedicated to accomplish its aim to deepen the theoretical understanding of European integration. Thirdly, the journal tends to pay attention primarily to North-West Europe and the US. The focus on this specific geographical areas as well as particular disciplines, undermines its aim to fulfill a broad forum. The section concludes by illustrating that the JCMS predominantly addresses topics that have taken place three until ten years ago.

Finally, the review discusses the background of the authors in the JCMS between 2006 and 2010. It turned out that the authors are mainly male, mostly working for universities in North-West Europe or the US, and predominantly with an academic background in the fields of Economics and Political Science.

Overall it can be stated that the JCMS is dedicated to deepen the theoretical understanding of European integration issues, and to publish mainly articles about the latest European integration issues. Nevertheless, this review also shows that the journal still has to work on its interdisciplinary nature and its forum function. At the moment it seems that the

www.rug.nl/research/MHIR-journalreview



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JCMS is a forum for male academics, coming from the North and West of Europe or the US, predominantly interested in Economics and Political Science.

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