



Analysis of the European Journal of International Relations

2006-2010

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Introduction

In our time, information travels fast around the globe and the exchange of information intensifies due to globalization. In order to stay updated on the most recent developments in their field of study, researchers cannot rely solely on reading new books since this is a time consuming business and will not allow them to get a good overview of the newest research in their field. Reading academic journals that are specialized in the researcher's academic interest is a good way to cope with the increased speed of publishing of new academic work.

The *European Journal of International Relations (EJIR)* is an academic journal that seeks to keep International Relations scholars up to date since 1995. The main aim of the journal is "to stimulate and disseminate theory-aware research and scholarship in International Relations throughout the international academic community".¹ The EJIR seeks to make scholars more aware of methodological and epistemological questions within International Relations (IR), but is not biased toward a specific approach, school or method. Furthermore, it keeps its readers up to date on current "research and developments of a conceptual, normative and empirical nature in all the major subareas of the field".² The journal has a multidisciplinary dimension, because it seeks to work with other areas in social sciences, especially with international history, international law and international economics. It focusses on global subjects and theory debates that are of interest to the IR community all over the world.³

The EJIR is published by Sage under the auspices of the Standing Group on International Relations (SGIR) which belongs to the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Sage is an academic international publisher of journals, books and electronic media, with its headquarters in California, USA.⁴ It is the fifth largest publisher of journals and publishes journals in the field of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Technology and Medicine.⁵

The ECPR is an independent, scholarly association that consists of almost 350 European institutions and has associate members in more than 40 countries all over the world. It was established in 1970 and its aim is to encourage the training, research and cross-national co-operation of political scientists in Europe and the world.⁶ The ECPR Central Services has

¹ ECPR - European Standing Group on International Relations, "Publications - EJIR" <http://www.sgir.eu/european-journal/> (consulted 28.03.2011).

² Ibidem.

³ Ibidem.

⁴ SAGE, "Welcome to SAGE", <http://www.sagepublications.com/default.htm> (consulted 28.03.2011).

⁵ SAGE, "Journals", <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/journals.nav> (consulted 28.03.2011).

⁶ European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), "About ECPR", <http://www.ecprnet.eu/aboutus/> (consulted 28.03.2011).

its seat at the University of Essex in the UK.⁷ Its Standing Group of International Relations publishes the EJIR and has the aim to promote scholarly activities in the field of IR. The group consists of IR specialists working in different sectors such as universities, independent research institutes and public administration.⁸ It promotes the study of IR by organising conferences and summer schools, by maintaining a website and by publishing books and journals on IR. At the moment, the SGIR is chaired by Knud-Erik Jorgensen of Aarhus University in Denmark.⁹

The EJIR doesn't publish information on the number of incoming articles and the percentage rate of the articles that get rejected. It is a peer reviewed journal and uses the double-blind reviewing method. This means that the author and the reviewer do not know anything about the other person's identity.¹⁰

The EJIR has achieved rank 6 and an impact factor of 1.50 in the Thomson Reuter's Journal Citation Reports in the category of International Relations journals for the year 2005. For the year 2008, it achieved the third rank and an impact factor of 2.15 and for 2009 it was ranked 11th out of 59 IR journals and got an impact factor of 1.43. Based on these numbers I presume that the EJIR has a good reputation as a journal of International Relations.

The interested researcher will have to pay \$104.00 yearly or \$34.00 per issue to subscribe to the printed version of the EJIR. An institution will have to pay \$1,188.00 yearly or \$327.00 per issue.¹¹ The purpose of this report is to conduct a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the past five years of this journal (2006-2010) in order to be able to answer the following main question: "Is the European Journal of International Relations a good investment for the International Relations researcher who wants to keep himself updated on the newest research and developments in his field of study?".

In the first section, the gender, continent and country background of the editorial board and of the editorial committee will be analysed. Thereafter, section 2 will focus on the components of the journal and the space that they get in the journal will be analysed. Section 3 will concentrate on the background of the authors. And section 4 will give an overview of the major themes that the journal focusses on. Throughout all sections the found data will be

⁷ ECPR, "ecpr standing groups", <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/standinggroups/index.aspx> (consulted 28.03.2011).

⁸ ECPR – European Standing Group on International Relations, no title, <http://www.sgir.eu/> (consulted 28.03.2011).

⁹ ECPR – European Standing Group on International Relations, "Steering Committee", <http://www.sgir.eu/steering-committee/> (consulted 28.03.2011).

¹⁰ SAGE UK, "Manuscript Submission Guidelines: European Journal of International Relations", http://www.uk.sagepub.com/repository/binaries/pdf/EJT_Manuscript_Guidelines.pdf#1 (consulted 28.03.2011).

¹¹ SAGE, "European Journal of International Relations – About the title", <http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal200942> (consulted 28.03.2011).

illustrated graphically and will be interpreted. Finally, there will be a conclusion that will try to answer the main question of this report.

Section 1 - The background of the editorial board and the editorial committee

In this section, the background of the editorial board and of the editorial committee will be analysed. In the first subsection, the background of the editorial board will be discussed. The editorial board decides which articles are published and which articles get rejected and has thus influence on the overall quality of the journal. The editorial committee influences the quality of the journal as well and the background of its members will be discussed in the second subsection. Because some authors work at two different institutes, sometimes even in two countries, they are counted double, as a representative of each of the countries in which they work, in order to grasp their complete background. However, this does not happen often.

As written in the introduction, one of the aims of the EJIR is "to stimulate and disseminate theory-aware research and scholarship in International Relations throughout the international academic community".¹² It is thus of importance to have a look at who disseminates research on IR in the case of this journal.

1.1 The editorial board

From 2006 till 2008 the editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief Barry Buzan and the associate editors Robert Falkner and Kimberly Hutchings. Buzan and Hutchings work at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Falkner works at the University of London. Thus, the editorial board is not very diverse, because the members live on the same continent, in the same city and two of them even work at the same university! However, with regard to gender, there is some diversity, because two thirds of the members are male and one third female. There is no even number of members of the editorial board, so complete gender diversity is not possible.

In 2009, a new editorial board takes over. Colin Wight is editor-in-chief and the associate editors are Tim Dunne and Lene Hansen. Wight works at the University of Sydney and Dunne works at the University of Queensland. Both universities are situated in Australia. Hansen works at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and is the only member of the editorial board in the period 2006-2010 that does not work in an English speaking country. Still, two members of the editors board work in the same country. The fact that this country is Australia is quite curious, because that means that the European Journal of International

¹² ECPR - European Standing Group on International Relations, "Publications - EJIR".

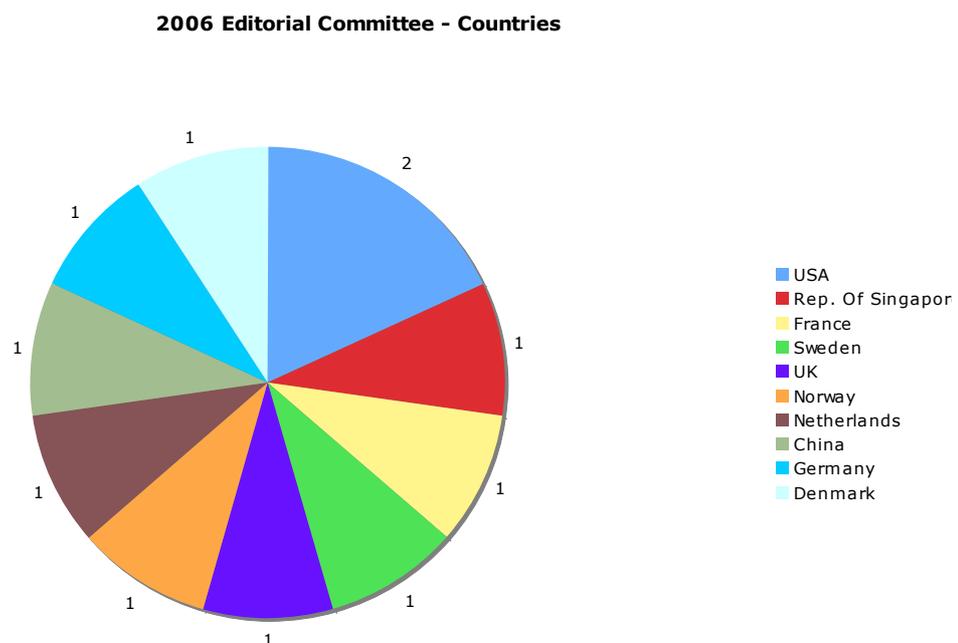
Relations is in majority edited by two non-European editors. This editorial board consists for two thirds of male and for one third of female members. There is some diversity in gender, but because of the uneven number of editorial board members completely equal representation of both genders is not possible.

The overall impression of the two editorial boards in the period 2006-2010 is that the background of the board members is quite similar and diversity does not play a major role. Although every board has one female member, possibly to be a good example for gender equality, only one third of all board members are women and two thirds are men. To show real gender equality one of the two boards should have needed to consist of two women and one man. Additionally, having one female editor-in-chief would have improved gender equality in the board as well. Moreover, 5 out of 6 board members work in an English speaking country and one third of the board members does not work in Europe.

To conclude, the members of the editorial boards of 2006-2008 and 2009-2010 do not represent the majority of continents and are mainly male members working in an English speaking country.

1.2 The editorial committee

From 2006 till 2008, the editorial committee consists of 10 members. The following graph summarizes visually their background.

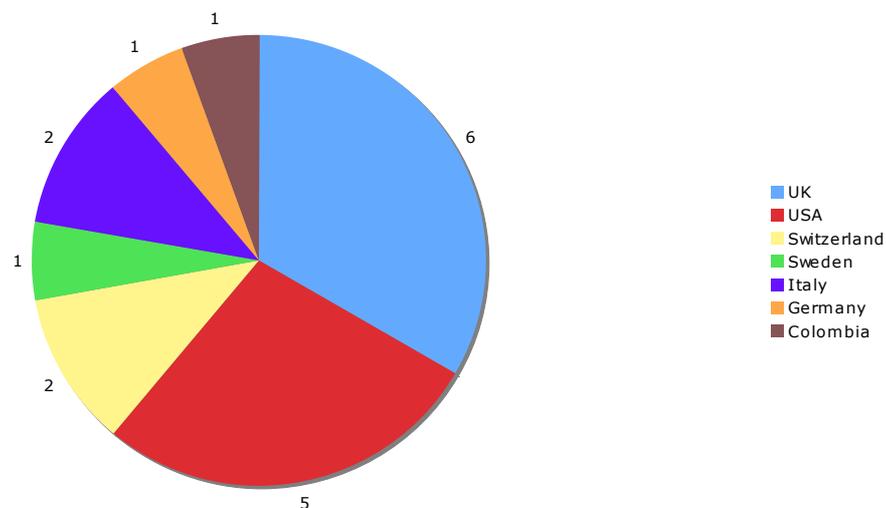


Graph 1.1: countries where the institutes and universities are settled with which the editorial committee members are affiliated (2006-2008) (indicated in total numbers)

There is a gender bias for men: 70% of the committee members are male, 30% are female. But the committee is very diverse with regard to the various universities, continents and countries from where its members come. The committee has members that represent ten countries on three continents. Almost 64% of them come from Europe, 18% from North-America and 18% from Asia. The European members are coming from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, the UK and France, thus mainly from Scandinavian countries and from the bigger European countries. South- and East-European countries are not represented in the committee.

In 2009 a new editorial committee is established consisting of 17 members. The gender bias in this committee has become even stronger with 14 male members representing 82% of all committee members and three female members representing the remaining 18% of the committee. As can be seen in graph 1.2, the 17 members work in seven countries on three continents. 67% work in Europe, 28% in North-America and 5% in South-America. Thus, the European percentage of the committee has not changed a lot compared to 2006, the North-American percentage has risen and Asia is no longer represented, but South-America is represented now. The bias for members from English speaking countries has increased! 50% of the European members come from the UK. The North-American and UK members of the committee represent 61% of the committee members' home countries.

2009 Editorial Committee - Countries

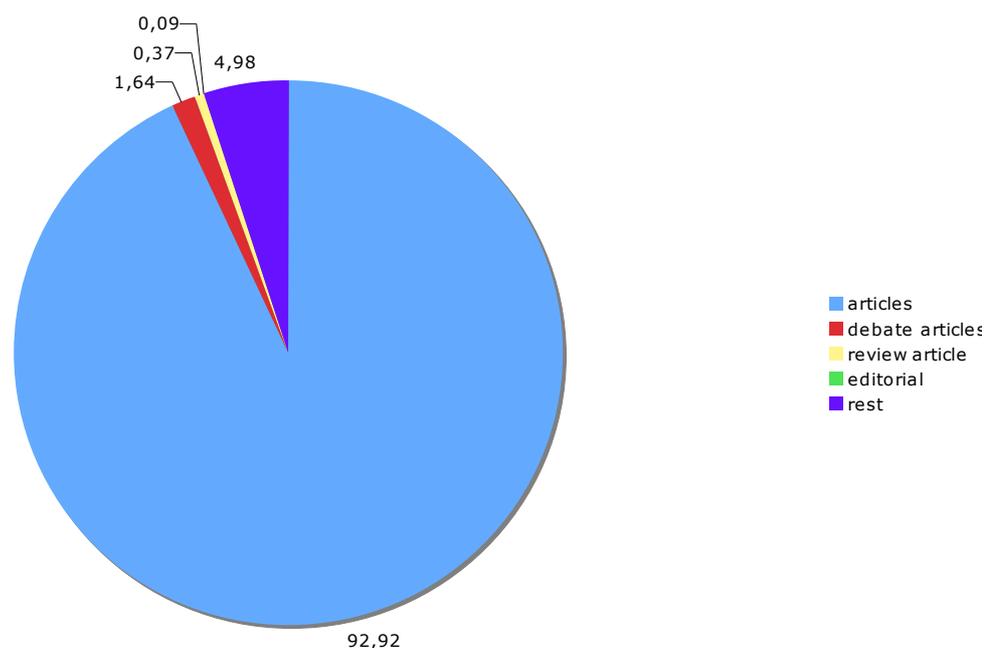


Graph 1.2: countries where the institutes and universities are settled with which the editorial committee members are affiliated (2009-2010) (indicated in total numbers)

The conclusion that has been drawn for the first subsection of this section is true as well for this second subsection, namely that the editorial committees in the period 2006-2010 do not represent the majority of continents. And that they consist of mainly male members working in an English speaking country. This is regrettable. You would expect that, because of the bigger number of committee members compared to the small number of board members, there would be more diversity in the amount of continents and countries represented and a more equal gender representation. We have thus learned in this section that diversity is not the strongest side of the EJIR.

Section 2 – The components of the Journal

In this section, the components of the EJIR of the last five years will be analysed. From 2006 to 2010 123 items have been published. The journal focusses mainly on articles which represent 117 of the 123 items. There are also four debate articles, one review article and one editorial. The rest of the journal's content are descriptions of the contributors, an index of the published articles of the last year, errata, advertisement by the publisher and empty pages. Graphic 2.1 shows the amount of space that these different components take in the five-years period that was observed (2006-2010).



Graph 2.1: different components 2006-2010 in percent

The articles account for 93% of the total number of pages in the 2006-2010 time span. Articles should not be longer than 8000 to 12000 words, notes and references included.¹³ 2% of the total number of pages are spent on the debate articles, the review article and the editorial. Review articles should not be longer than 4000 to 6000 words.¹⁴ If we now have a look at the distribution of the components per year, we see that the various years differ in their composition. The years 2007 and 2008 solely consist of articles, while in 2006 and 2009 there are two debating articles as well in each year. 2010 offers even a review. Moreover, the first issue of 2009 begins with an editorial. The amount of articles per year differs as well. In 2006 and 2007 20 articles per year were published. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, 24, 23 and 30 articles were published respectively. Thus, the amount of published articles increases from 2008 onwards. On average 23 to 24 articles were published per year.¹⁵ It can be concluded that the main articles are the most important component of the EJIR in the years 2006-2010.

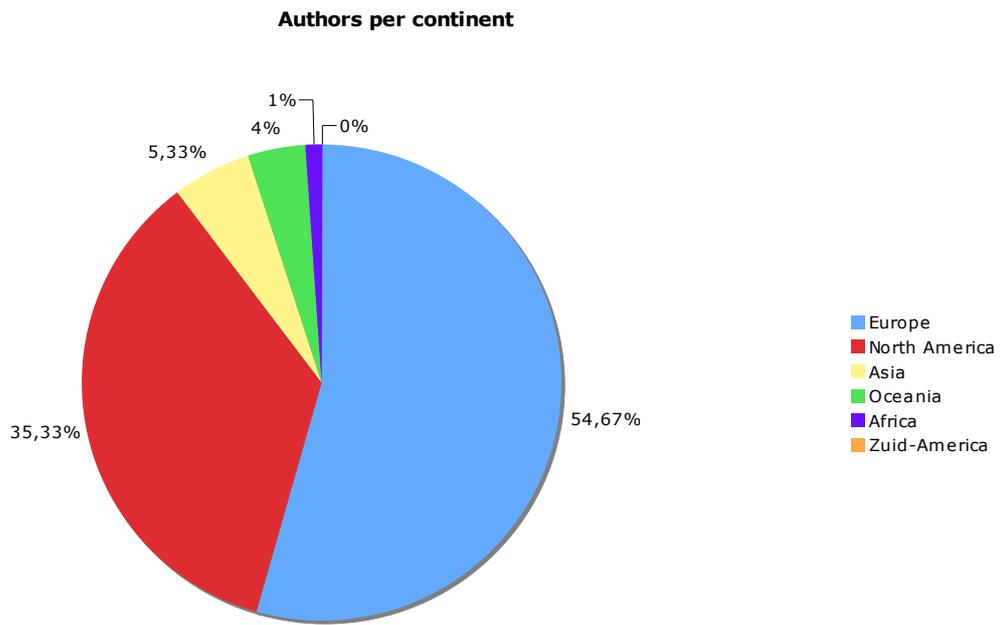
Section 3 – The authors

This section will examine the gender, continent and country background of the authors of the articles, debate articles and the review article. In the years 2006 till 2010, the articles are written by 148 authors in total, 119 of them being male (80%) and 29 female (20%). Like already mentioned in section 1, men are also overrepresented in the pool of authors that wrote for the EJIR in the period 2006 till 2010. The authors are from 25 countries on five continents. 55% come from Europe, 35% are from North-America, a small 5% are from Asia, 4% come from Oceania and one comes from Africa. These percentages show that the vast majority of the authors, 90% to be precise, come from the West, namely from Europe and North-America.

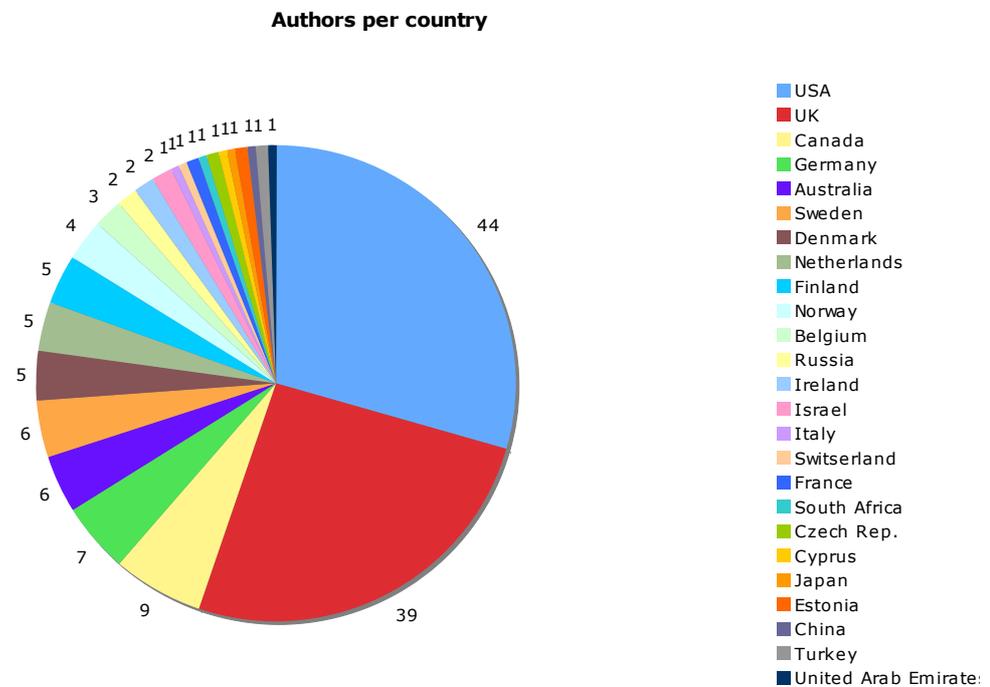
¹³ SAGE UK, "Manuscript Submission Guidelines: European Journal of International Relations".

¹⁴ Ibidem.

¹⁵ 117 articles / 5 years = 23,4 articles/year.



Graph 3.1: continents where the institutes and universities are settled with which the authors are affiliated



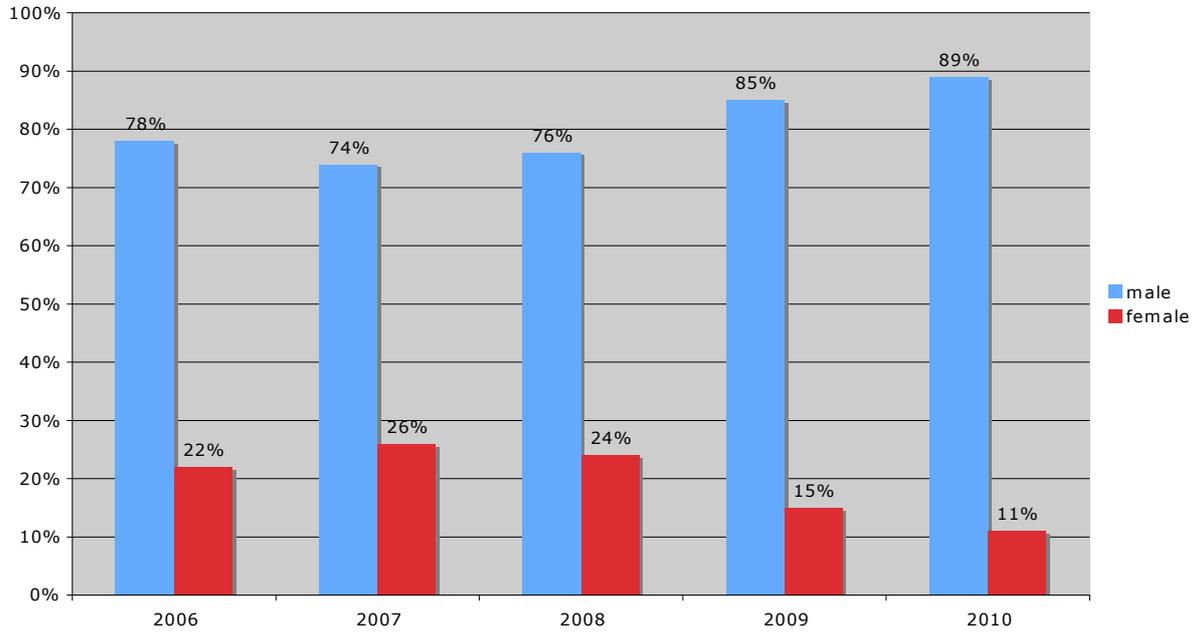
Graph 3.2: countries where the institutes and universities are settled with which the authors are affiliated (indicated in total numbers)

As you can see in graph 3.2 the top 5 countries, where most of the authors are from, are the USA (29%), the UK (26%), Canada (6%), Germany (5%) and Australia (4%). 70% of all authors work in these top 5 countries. Except for Germany, these countries are all English speaking countries. The reasons for this bias are not clear. It could be that authors from these countries just send in more articles than authors from other countries. Another reason could be that the articles written by native speakers of the English language are written in better English. It could also be that the board of the editors is biased. Whatever the reason for this bias is, a bias towards articles written by authors from English speaking countries could pose the problem that the reader of the journal does not get updated on research done by "the international academic IR community". Since this is one of the aims of this journal, the EJIR would do better by publishing more articles written by authors from other continents and countries. Especially articles from authors from non-Western countries and from Eastern Europe could be interesting to the EJIR reader. Additionally, a problem (related to the first problem) could occur, namely that the subjects of this journal are not of interest to all IR scholars around the world. The researcher could have the feeling that certain subjects are left out or that this journal doesn't help him keep up with the current IR-debate in his region. If this problem would occur, the aim of the EJIR to be a journal of interest to all IR scholars of the international academic IR community would not be fulfilled. In this case, a possible solution would be to publish less articles from American, Australian, Canadian and English authors and more articles from European, Asian, African and South-American authors to represent and address the whole of the IR community.

Let's now have a look at graphs 3.3 through 3.5 to see if and how the gender and continent/country biases vary through the observed years.

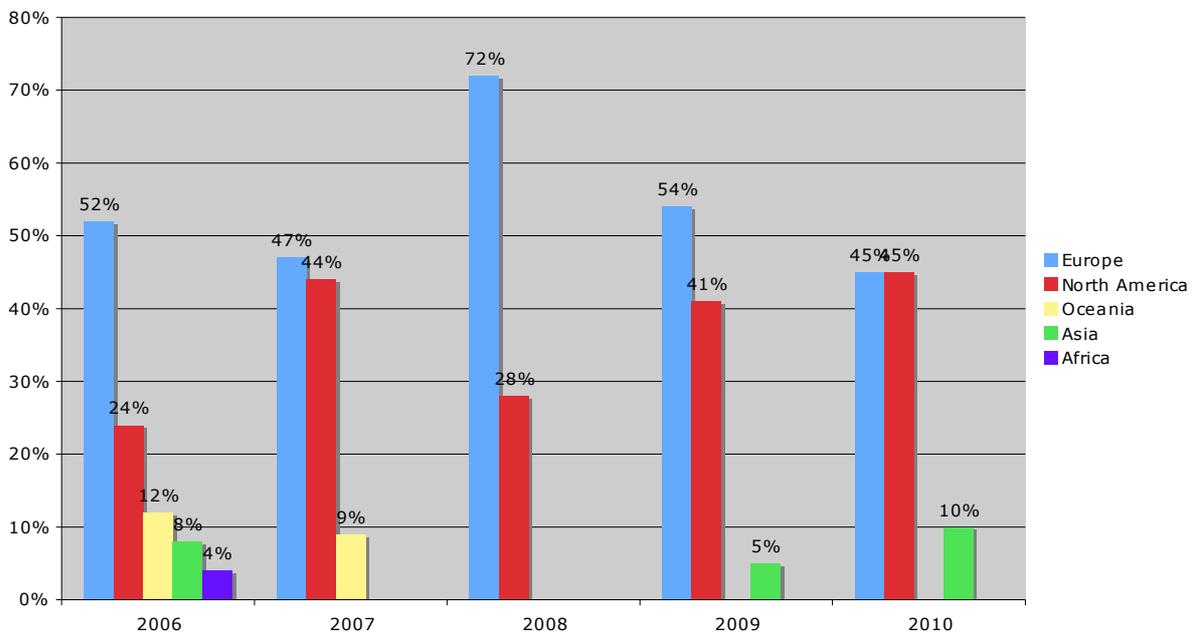


gender authors 2006-2010



Graph 3.3: gender of the authors per year

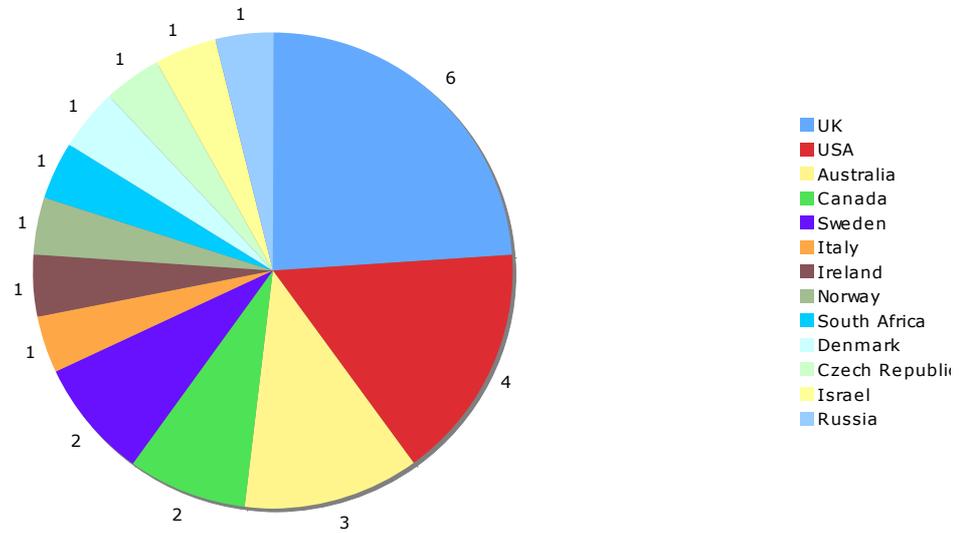
Authors per continent 2006-2010



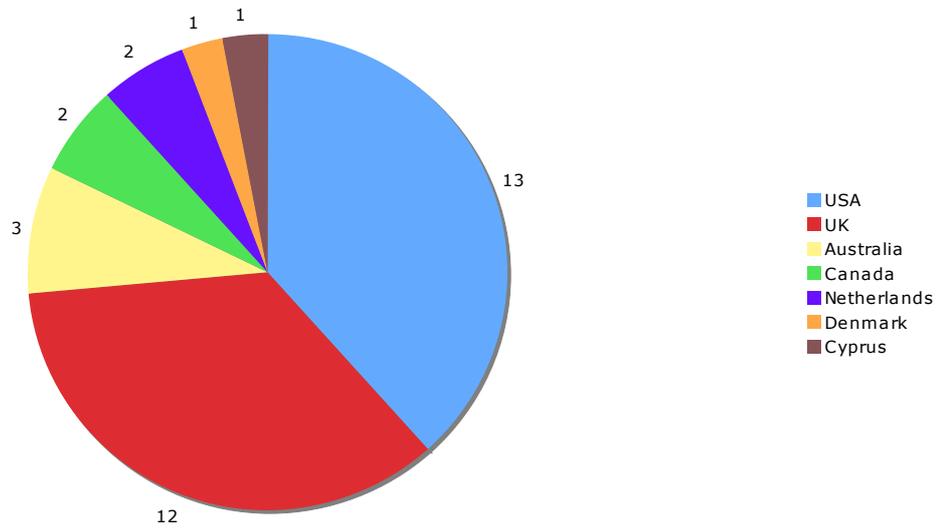
Graph 3.4: continents where the institutes and universities are settled with which the authors are affiliated (per year)



2006

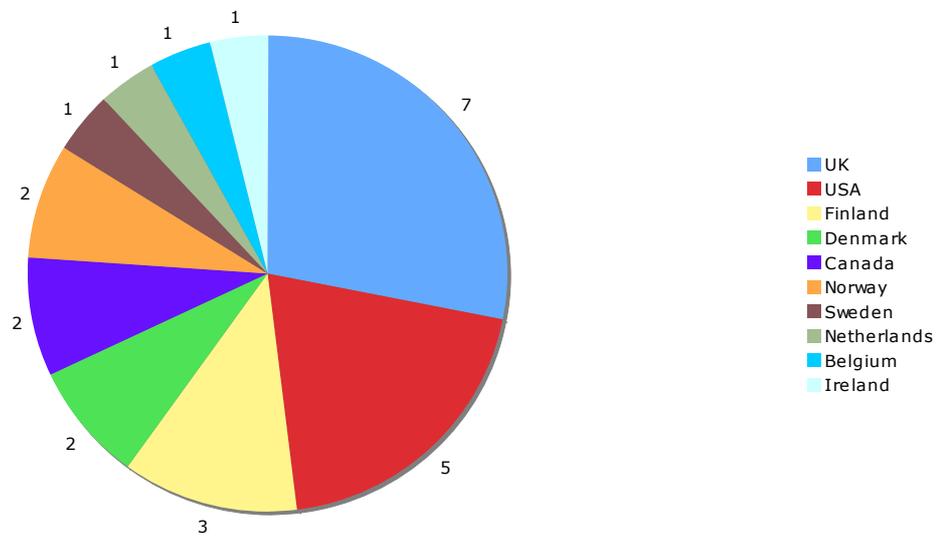


2007

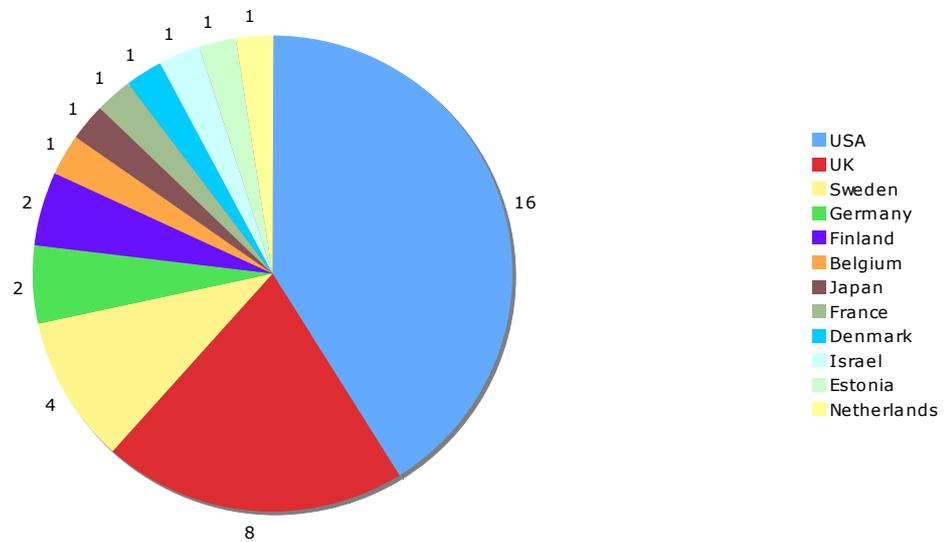




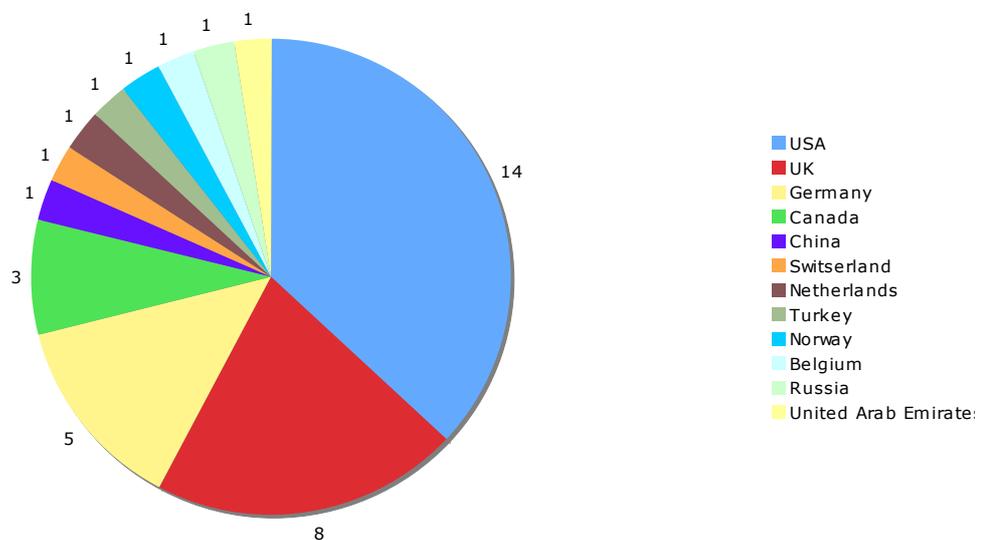
2008



2009



2010



Graphs 3.5: countries where the institutes and universities are settled with which the authors are affiliated (indicated in total numbers) (per year)

In the years 2006 till 2008 the bias for male authors varies between 74% and 78%. From 2009 on the percentage of male authors first increases to 85% in 2009 and 89% in 2010. It is interesting that the bias for male authors increases in the years when the new editorial board

and editorial committee were installed which were dominated more by male members than their predecessors as well.

Concerning the representation of continents, the authors represented the least continents in 2008. In that year, the authors come only from Europe and North-America. The countries where the authors come from are for 60% English speaking countries and for 32% Scandinavian countries.

In the years 2007, 2009 and 2010, the authors come from three different continents. In 2009 and 2010 authors working in Europe, North-America and Asia wrote the articles. The percentage of authors from North-America does almost not change from 2009 to 2010 (41% and 45% respectively). There is however more work published by European authors in 2009 than in 2010 (54% and 45% respectively). The Asian authors get more work published in 2010 (11%) than in 2009 (5%). The bias for English speaking countries increases slightly to 62% in 2009 and 66% in 2010 compared to 60% in 2008. The bias for Scandinavian authors decreases from 32% in 2008 to 18% in 2009 to just one Scandinavian author in 2010. Furthermore, in 2007 authors from Europe, North-America and Oceania are represented. The bias for English speaking authors is 88% in that year and only 35% of the English speaking authors come from Europe!

2006 is the year where the background of the authors is the most diverse. They work in 13 countries on five continents. In that year, the bias for English speaking authors is 64% and the bias for Scandinavian authors is 16%.

To conclude, we have seen that there is a bias for male authors which increases from 2009 onwards. In 2006 the authors of the EJIR-articles came from almost every continent. 2008 was the year when the authors solely came from two continents and the representation of Scandinavian authors reached its highest point. The representation of English speaking authors reached its high one year earlier and stayed constant thereafter.

The lack of diversity, that was evident in the background of the editorial board and editorial committee, can be seen in the background of the authors as well. The consequences of this lack of diversity could be that the journal does not reach all members of the international academic IR-community and does not disseminate research done by a majority of the global IR-community members. Readers could turn to journals that concentrate more on their region or that have a more diverse pool of authors. Researchers could turn to other journals for the publishing of their work when they don't succeed at the EJIR.

Section 4 – Major themes of the Journal

This last section will have a look at the major themes of the EJIR. As already mentioned in the introduction, this journal claims to be multidisciplinary, because it works with other social sciences. Especially the fields of international history, international law and international economics are mentioned. Besides it says to focus on global subjects and theory debates, so that every IR scholar is addressed by these subjects and debates. And in their editorial, the editorial board claims that "the EJIR has contributed significantly to a number of subfields, particularly IR theory, security studies, democratization and regionalism".¹⁶

To see if these claims are true, the frequency of the main fields, issues and regions will be measured. It will be measured if the articles are having a history, law, economics or philosophy/ ethics dimension, or if they are purely focussed on International Relations. The category "rest" counts articles that have as their only focus IR or that use another than the above mentioned disciplines.

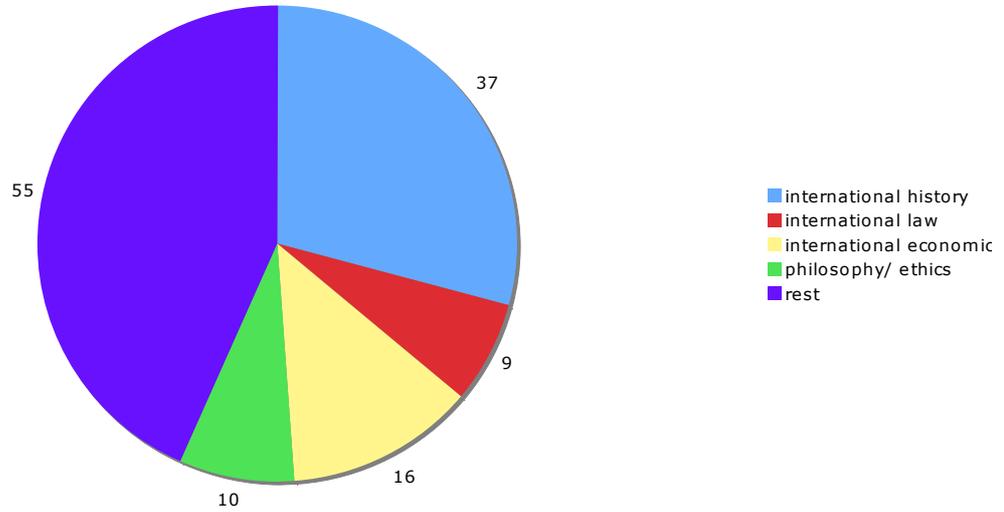
The category "issue" is subdivided into theory on ir, security studies/ peace and security, democracy and democratization, human rights, global governance/ globalization, development, environment, gender, diplomacy/ foreign relations and a "rest" category. The first three issues are the ones that the EJIR claims to have contributed to significantly.

The category "region" is subdivided into European Union, USA, transatlantic, Asia, Africa, South America and a category "international/ general". This last category counts the articles that are about generally applicable subjects or mention their international dimension explicitly. This last section is important to test the argument that the EJIR focusses on global subjects that are of interest to the international academic IR community as a whole. Often an article could be reckoned to more than just one field, issue or region. In such a case, the article was reckoned to all the categories that it fits.

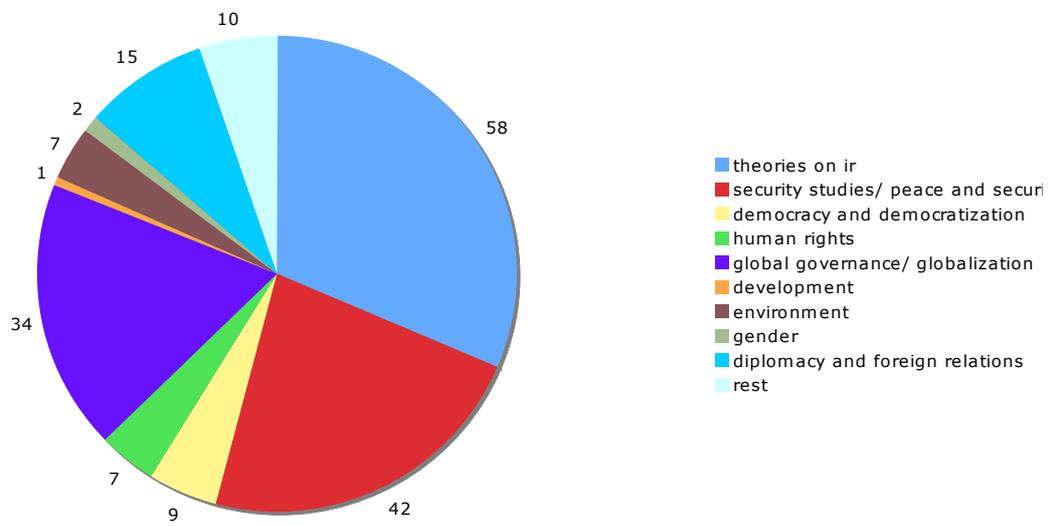
¹⁶ Colin Wight, Tim Dunne and Lene Hansen, "Editorial", *The European Journal of International Relations*, no. 15, issue 1, 2009, p. 6.

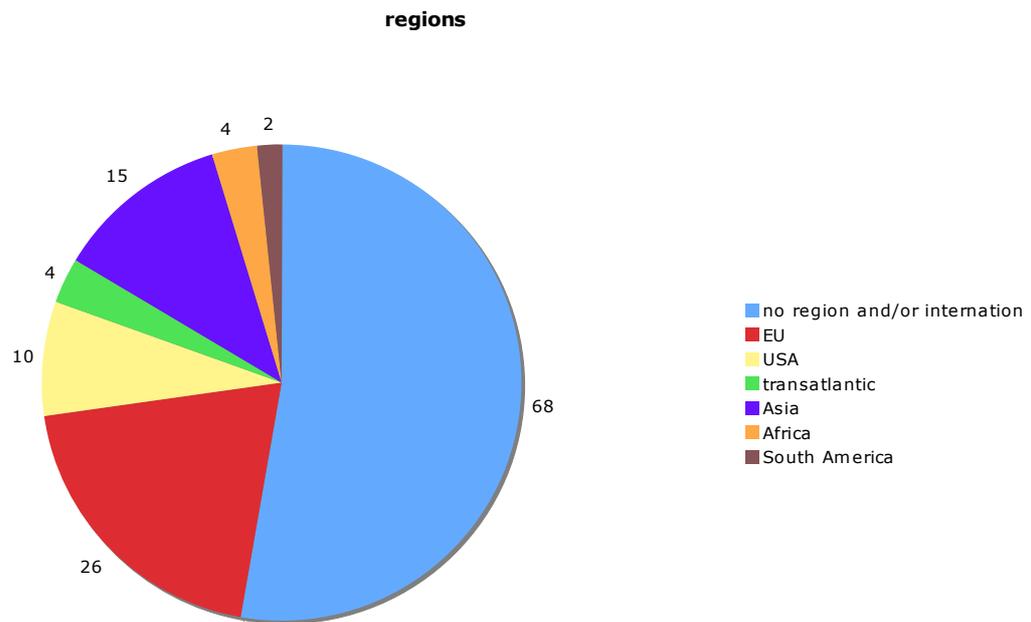


Fields



issues





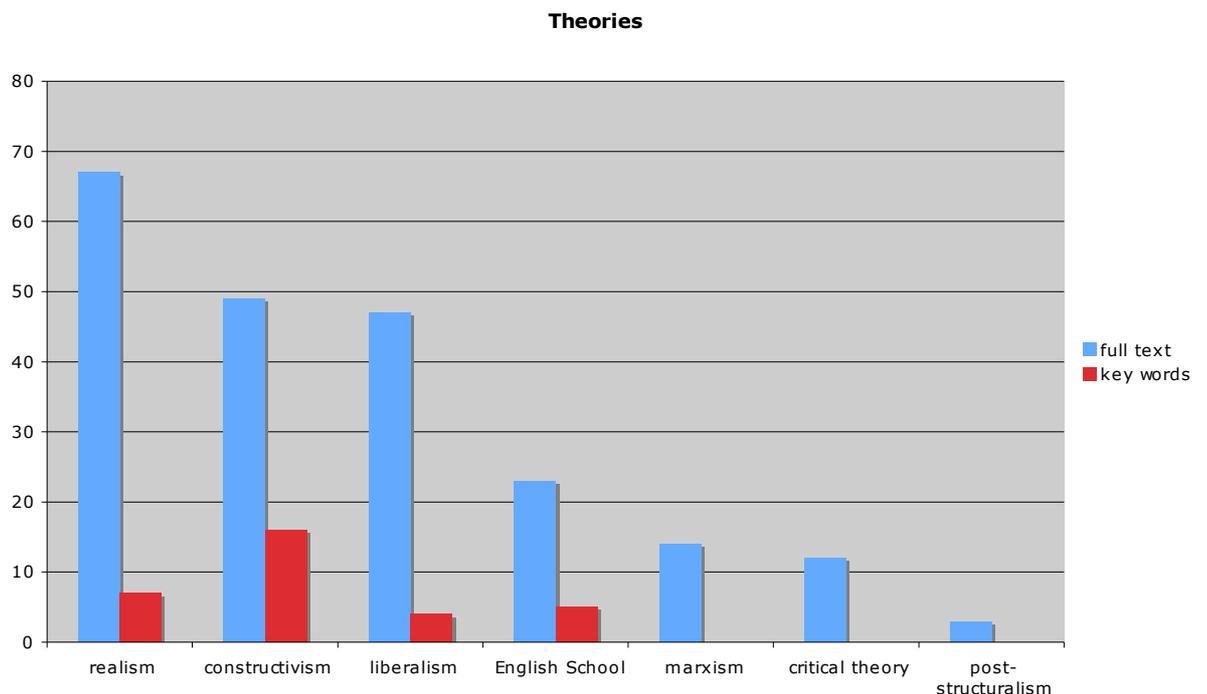
Graphs 4.1: fields, issues and regions (indicated in total numbers)

Let's have a look at Graphs 4.1. These graphs visualize the major fields, issues and regions that are mentioned and used in the EJIR articles in the years 2006-2010. We can see that a big number of articles, almost half of all articles, are focussed solely on international relations and on other fields that are not categorized. History, economics and law elements are used in 37, 16 and 9 articles respectively. Thus, although a lot of articles use one or more of the fields of international history, international law and international economics in addition to the general IR-approach, 55 articles still focus solely on International Relations or other topics. We can conclude that the EJIR's claim of multidisciplinary is true in general, but that the fields of international history, international law and international economics are less often used than you would expect when hearing the EJIR's claim. Moreover, the field of philosophy/ ethics appears to be as frequent as the international law field.

With regard to the main issues, 58 and 42 articles are about theories on international relations and about security studies/ peace and security respectively. Only 9 articles have democracy and democratization as an issue. The claim that the EJIR contributes significantly to IR theory and security studies is thus true. However, the claim that it contributes a lot to the subfield of democratization is only true to a limited degree. Global governance/ globalization is a more frequent issue in the EJIR articles than democratization, being present in 34 articles. Another issue that is "hotter" than democracy and democratization is diplomacy and foreign

relations. We can thus conclude that the general claim of the EJIR to contribute to IR theory, security studies and democratization is in general true. And we can add that other issues like global governance/ globalization and diplomacy/ foreign relations get some major attention as well compared to other possible issues.

Since the use of theories is an important part of this Journal, let's have a look at which theories are discussed the most. As an indicator the name of the different theories were searched in the full text as well as in the key words for the years 2006-2010. Graph 4.2 summarizes my findings.



Graph 4.2 most prominently discussed theories 2006-2010 (in total numbers)

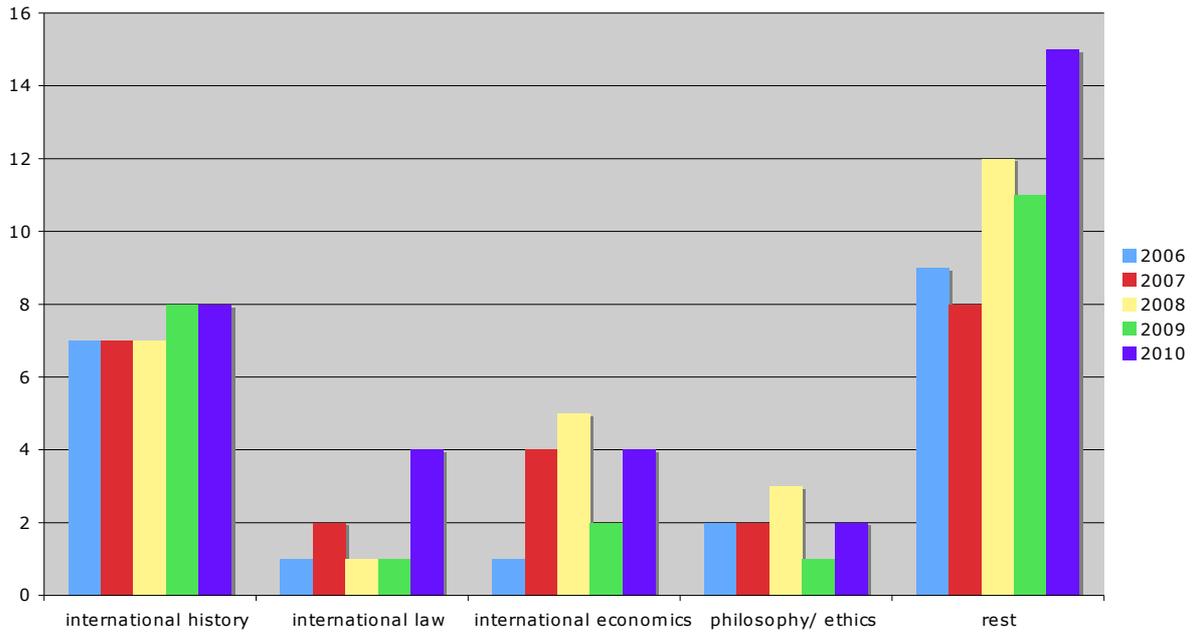
Realism, constructivism, liberalism and the English School are discussed most. When we look at the key words constructivism is the most preferred theory to discuss, followed by realism, liberalism and the English School which have almost the same hits in the key words search. When reading the titles of the articles, it becomes clear that constructivism and constructivist concepts (like for example „identity“) are often used.

Having a look at the third graph of Graphs 4.1 it is striking that 68 articles are not focussing on a specific region. Rather they have a general or international scope. It is interesting as well that 26, 10 and 4 articles are writing about the EU, USA and the transatlantic relationship respectively. The EJIR's claim to focus on global subjects to address

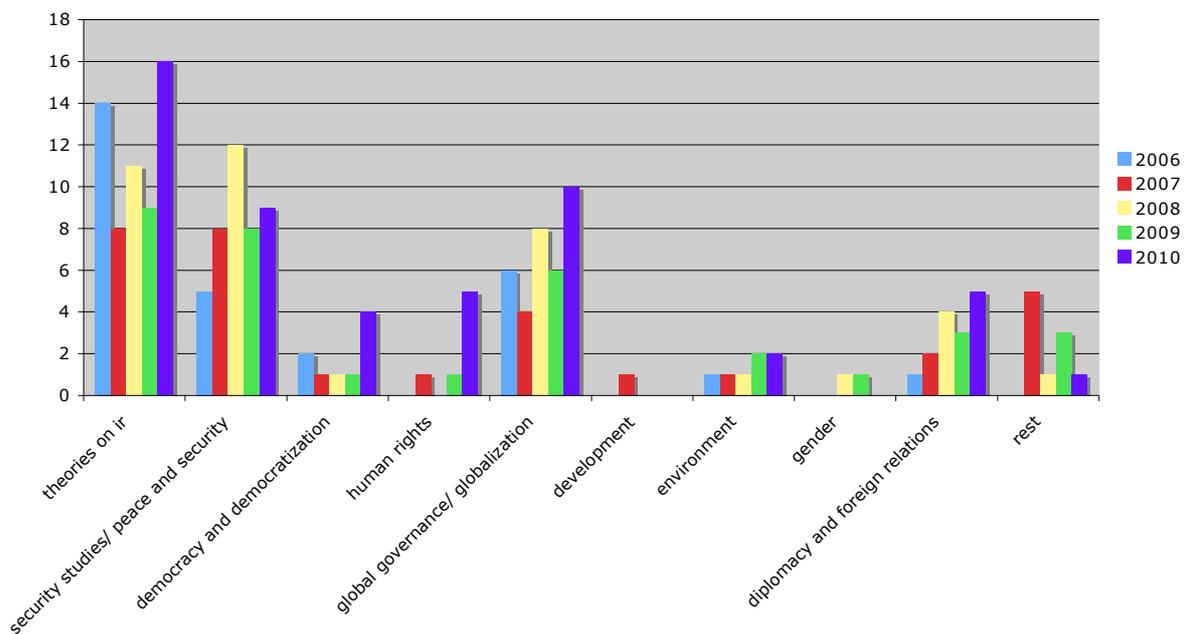
the international academic IR community as a whole is confirmed by these numbers. But the EU, USA and their relationship seems to be a topic of importance as well.

Graphs 4.3 visualize the developments of the preference for certain fields, issues and regions in the articles published in the period 2006-2010.

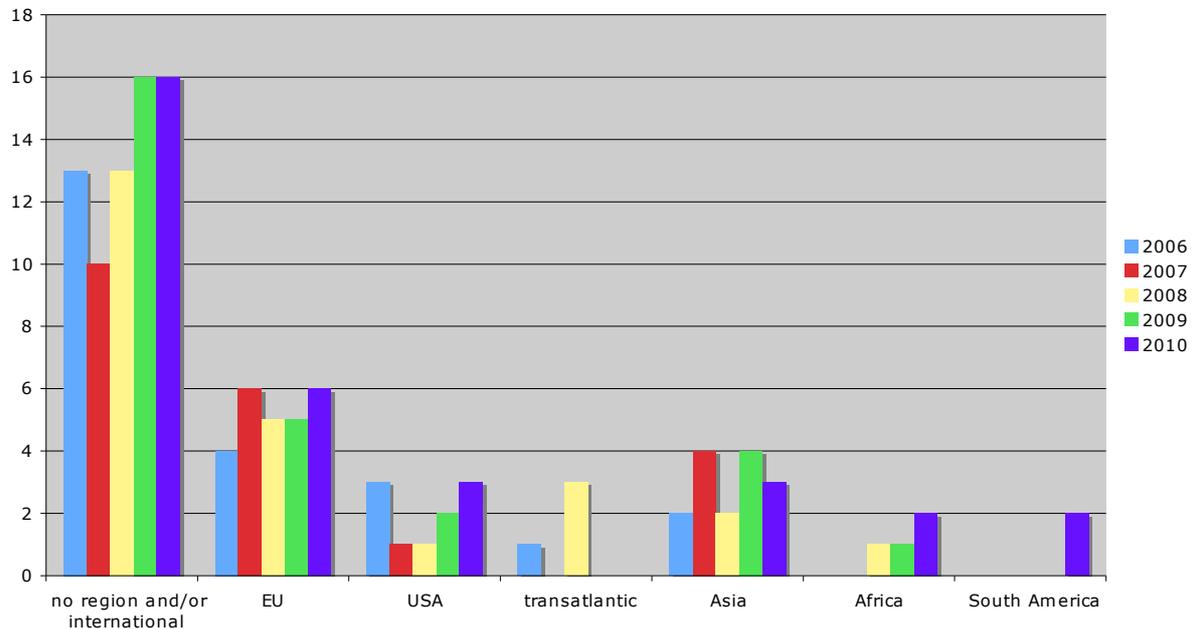
Fields 2006-2010



Issues 2006-2010



regions 2006-2010



Graphs 4.3: fields, issues and regions per year

The representation of the fields of international history, international law and philosophy/ethics remains quite stable through the whole period of observation. A history approach is used in 7 to 8 articles per issue. International law is used in 1 to 2 articles per issue, except for 2010, when 4 articles use a law approach. A philosophical/ethical approach is used by 2 articles per issue on average. The use of an economical approach differs strongly through the years. In 2006 and 2009 just 1 to 2 articles used such an approach, while in the remaining years it was used in 4 to 5 articles. The use of solely International Relations and other approaches varies as well. In 2007, just 8 articles used such an approach; in 2010, 15 articles were using it.

All the major issues vary to a strong degree in the period 2006-2010, except for the issue of democratization which is usually used in 1 or 2 articles per issue. The number of articles that are about the issue of theories on it is the lowest in 2007 (8 articles) and the highest in 2006 and 2010 (14 and 16 articles respectively). The issue of security studies/peace and security is represented by just 5 articles in 2006 and by 12 articles in 2008. The issues of global governance/globalization and diplomacy/foreign relations vary a lot as well. Global governance/globalization is the least represented in 2007 with just 4 articles and the most represented in 2010 with 10 articles. Diplomacy/foreign relations is the least hot in 2006 (1 article) and the hottest in 2010 (5 articles).

The representation of the various regions remains quite stable in the years 2006-2010. There are usually 13 or 16 articles with a general or international scope per issue. The EU is usually focussed on by 5 to 6 articles per issue and 1 or 3 articles per issue focus on the USA.

The review article uses some international economy and IR insights. It is focussed on several theories and the security issue. The regions that are represented are Germany, Britain and the USA. This article fits well the numbers that we got from the analysis of the main articles. The issues of security studies/ peace and security and the study and further development of IR theories are popular in the main articles as well. The regions represented are European countries and the USA which fits well the numbers from the analysis of the main articles. The review article uses mainly IR insights, which is quite typical for an EJIR article in this period, but economic insights are also used.

The four debate articles represent two debates. Both debates have the same issues of IR theory building/ commenting and security studies/ peace and security. In one debate the fields of debate include International Relations in general and international history. The other issue just debates on the field of International Relations in general. One debate does not focus on a specific region, while the other focusses on the transatlantic relationship. Both debates fit very well the numbers that we got from the analysis of the main EJIR articles.

The editorial does not present any real debate. It is just an announcement that a new editorial board and committee has been installed. I think that an editorial to introduce each issue or at least to introduce each year would be an improvement.

Let us revisit the claims that the EJIR made and see if these claims are true. Firstly, the EJIR's claim of multidisciplinary is generally true. But one would have expected that the fields of international history, international law and international economics were used more often. The field of philosophy/ ethics for example is as frequently represented as the field of international law. When looking at the extent to which the representation of the fields vary, all fields except for the field of international economics are quite stable.

Secondly, the EJIR claimed to contribute significantly to the subfields of IR theory, security studies and democratization. This claim is true in general. Additionally, other issues like global governance/ globalization and diplomacy/ foreign relations are used a lot as well compared to the other possible issues. The frequency of the major issues, that are most frequently focussed on by the authors, vary to a strong extent in the period 2006-2010. The only exception is the issue of democratization that is usually used in one or two articles in every issue.

Thirdly, the EJIR claims to focus on global subjects that are of interest to the whole of the IR community, that is to every IR scholar wherever he lives in the world. The results of the analysis of the regions, which the articles focus most frequently on, confirm this claim. A lot of articles do not focus on a specific region. The articles that do focus on a region chose mainly the countries of the European Union and the USA. The representation of the main regions and of the category "no region and/or international" does not vary a lot per issue in the years 2006-2010. Finally, it is interesting that the review article and the debate articles fit very well the conclusion that we could draw from the analysis of the main articles of the EJIR.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report was to give answer to the following question: Is the European Journal of International Relations a good investment for the International Relations researcher who wants to keep himself updated on the newest research and developments in his field of study?". Before this question gets answered, the most important points of this report will be revisited.

In section 1 it became clear that the members of the editorial boards, the editorial committees and the authors of this journal do not represent most continents. Additionally, the majority of the members of the editorial board and the editorial committee is male and works in English speaking countries. I find this findings regrettable, because the editorial committee is big enough to represent both gender equally and to represent all continents. Moreover, in section 2 we learned, that the European Journal of International Relations consists almost solely of main articles. Section 3 concluded that the lack of diversity that could be found in the background of the editorial board and editorial committee was present in the background of the authors as well. There is a strong bias for male authors which increased from 2009 onwards. A bias for English speaking and Scandinavian authors was identified as well. The consequences of these biases could be that only a minority of the members of the international academic IR-community are reached and the goal of the promotion of IR scholarship by and for members of the international academic community would be in danger.

Concerning section 4, there are some remarks that I would like to make on the biases for specific themes. The field of international history is the main discipline that is used in combination with IR. There are also other fields that are summarized under the category "rest". However, it is regrettable that approaches inspired on international law, international economics and philosophy/ ethics are not more frequently used in combination with the IR discipline. Furthermore, there is a bias for the issues theories on international relations,

security studies/ peace and security, global governance/ globalization and diplomacy/ foreign relations. I would have liked to read more on the issues of human rights, environment, gender studies and development. Additionally, more articles focussing solely on empirical case studies could be interesting. Theory is important, but the scholar also needs to know how the world looks like in practice. Finally, I liked that most of the articles had a general or international focus. Still there exists a bias for European Union countries and the USA. Reading more about African, Asian and South-American countries would have been interesting and would definitely attract more readership from these underrepresented regions. To conclude, by improving the representation of the various fields and issues and by introducing more new issues, the EJIR would have more articles that are of interest to the whole of the international academic IR community. At the moment, the journal is probably most interesting for IR scholars with an interest in international history and in "softer" social science approaches, that are interested in theories and theory building and in security issues. Feminists, environmentalists and researchers interested in developmental issues will not really feel at home when reading this journal.

Of course, the EJIR is of importance to the International Relations discipline. The theoretical debates and the multidisciplinary approach, using methods from other social sciences, is really inspiring. However, due to the biases the quality of this journal could be better, meaning that if the journal would work on a better representation of female members and authors, and on a more diversity in the choice of the fields, regions and issues, the journal could attract more and better authors and more readers.

The answer to the main question is balanced. On the one hand, this journal is a good investment for the International Relations researcher to keep himself updated on research and development in his field. For sure, the articles that build new theories and improve existing ones are truly inspiring. On the other hand, there remains space for improvement of the European Journal of International Relations.

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