



This is a repository copy of *The politics of journal content: breadth, depth, flexibility and reflexivity in 25 years of BJPIR*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/227621/>

Version: Published Version

---

**Article:**

Flinders, M. orcid.org/0000-0003-3585-9010 (2025) The politics of journal content: breadth, depth, flexibility and reflexivity in 25 years of BJPIR. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 27 (2). pp. 437-461. ISSN 1369-1481

<https://doi.org/10.1177/13691481241284375>

---

**Reuse**

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence. This licence allows you to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon the work, even commercially, as long as you credit the authors for the original work. More information and the full terms of the licence here:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

**Takedown**

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing [eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk) including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



[eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk)  
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>



# The politics of journal content: Breadth, depth, flexibility and reflexivity in 25 years of *BJPIR*

The British Journal of Politics and  
International Relations  
2025, Vol. 27(2) 437–461  
© The Author(s) 2024



Article reuse guidelines:  
[sagepub.com/journals-permissions](https://sagepub.com/journals-permissions)  
DOI: 10.1177/13691481241284375  
[journals.sagepub.com/home/bpi](https://journals.sagepub.com/home/bpi)



Matthew Flinders 

## Abstract

This article reflects on the past, present and future of the *BJPIR* through a content analysis of all 999 articles that have been published in the journal between its launch in April 1999 and the latest issue in May 2024. By charting ‘core’, ‘secondary’ and ‘peripheral’ pools of scholarship, this reveals a *politics of journal content* which, in turn, can be used to raise critical questions concerning shifting intellectual boundaries and a changing socio-political context. More specifically, the results of the content analysis focus attention on the twin-themes of flexibility and reflexivity in journal publishing. The central argument emerging from this analysis is that if the *BJPIR* is to continue along its highly successful trajectory, then it may well need to embrace greater flexibility in terms of reaching beyond political science and international relations, while engaging with greater reflexivity as to societal linkage and relevance.

## Keywords

gatekeepers, gender, power, publishing, range, reflexivity

The primary focus of this article is *not* on the past 25 years of the *BJPIR* but on *the future* of the journal. The results of a content analysis of the 999 articles that were published in the journal between April 1999 and May 2024 are therefore provided as an evidence-based foundation from which to make an argument about intellectual and socio-political change, and the implications of these changes for the strategic future and direction of the journal. The core argument being that although *BJPIR* has undoubtedly become a major international outlet for the publication of cutting-edge scholarship that advances the field, its continuing success in the future is likely to depend upon the journal’s capacity to adapt and change. It is for exactly this reason that this article looks beyond the emphasis of previous editorial statements on increasing ‘breadth and depth’ towards a richer focus on disciplinary *flexibility* and intellectual *reflexivity*. The former provides a focus on range, absorption and the capacity to trespass across disciplinary boundaries (see Epstein, 2019;

---

University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

### Corresponding author:

Matthew Flinders, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK.  
Email: [m.flinders@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:m.flinders@sheffield.ac.uk)

Hirschman, 1981); the latter provides a focus on the value of knowledge and a sharper emphasis on the nexus between science and society. Both these points of argumentation – flexibility and reflexivity – serve to focus attention on the changing research, development and innovation ‘ecosystem’ within which the discipline(s) of political science and international relations now exist.<sup>1</sup> The significance and originality of this article stem from the way it highlights a potential ‘alignment challenge’ for future editors of the *BJPIR*. To some extent, this ‘alignment challenge’ between traditional assumptions about what a disciplinary academic journal is for is a challenge for *all* journals across *all* disciplines. Excellence in journal publishing in the future may evolve to become very different to how excellence has been defined in the past.

These issues are explored in this article through a focus on four basic research questions (RQ):

*Research Question 1 (RQ1):* What does a content analysis reveal about the type and range of articles published in the *BJPIR*?

*Research Question 2 (RQ2):* How have patterns of publication by sub-field and focus changed throughout the journal’s 25-year history?

*Research Question 3 (RQ3):* What issues, themes, approaches and perspectives does the content analysis suggest may have been overlooked or under-utilised?

*Research Question 4 (RQ4):* How do the overall results of the content analysis help promote a discussion about the existence of an ‘alignment challenge’?

To engage with these RQs, this article is divided into four main sections. The opening section focuses on ‘caveats and context’ in order to underline both the limits of the argument presented in this article, and to congratulate the editorial teams that have made the *BJPIR* such a successful journal. This flows into the second section’s focus on RQ1 and RQ2 (above) and a presentation of the main findings of the content analysis. What this reveals is a pattern of publishing that has broadly managed to reflect the diversity of the discipline, and to excel as a truly ‘omnibus-style’ journal. That said, the third section drills down into the data to explore what approaches, themes and sub-fields do seem to have been under-represented in the journal (RQ3). The fourth and final section focuses not only on the content of the journal (the focus of the second and third sections) but also on a rapidly changing socio-political context in which the expectations of politicians, funders, students and arguably the public are changing in ways that may mean that a journal that is healthy today may not be ‘fit for the future’ in terms of being able to respond to a changing context. This is discussed in terms of an ‘alignment challenge’ (i.e. RQ4). Put slightly differently, there is an opportunity for the *BJPIR* to demonstrate greater disciplinary flexibility, range and ambition, while also promoting greater basic reflexivity as to *why* the study of politics and international relations actually matters for society.

## **Context and caveats**

There is a basic and fundamental challenge to reflecting on the evolution of a single academic journal which stems from the need to somehow accommodate an understanding of structural and contextual variables which are likely to have implicitly shaped the journal while being far beyond the direct control of any journal’s editor or editorial team. This matters in the context of this article’s analysis for the simple reason that both academic publishing and academic careers have changed markedly since the *BJPIR* was first

**Table 1.** *BJPIR* issue 1, volume 1, 1999.

Author(s)	Title	Pages
The Editors	'Studying British Politics'	1-11
Patrick Dunleavy & Helen Margetts	'Mixed Electoral Systems in Britain and the Jenkins Commission on Electoral Reform'	12-38
Peter John	'Ideas and Interests: An Evolutionary Explanation of Policy Change in British Local Government Finance'	39-62
Raia Prokhovnik	'The State of Liberal Sovereignty'	63-83
Phillip Cowely & Phillip Norton	'Rebels and Rebellions: Conservative MPs in the 1992 Parliament'	84-105
Martin Smith	'Institutionalising the 'Eternal Return': Textbooks and the Study of British Politics'	106-118
Julia Stapleton	'Englishness, Britishness, and Patriotism in Recent Political Thought and Historiography'	119-130

launched in 1999. In the last 25 years, there has been a significant growth not only in the number of academic journals (currently thought to be around 33,000), but also in the number of articles published each year (around two million). Technology has transformed the journal marketplace by breaking the link between physical page limits and publishing capacity. Debates concerning Open Access, 'publish or perish', the role of metrics, evaluation and audit systems, the emergence of 'predatory journals' and the implications of artificial intelligence – to highlight just a handful of issues – have made the journal publishing world more complex and competitive. Within academe, the pressure to publish is arguably as intense as it has ever been, and especially in the United Kingdom where the assessment of published outputs remains the core focus of the Research Excellence Framework.

It is also important to note origins and evolution. Origins in the sense that the idea for *BJPIR* emerged out of concern and criticism of the evolution of core journals in the mid-1990s. The *British Journal of Political Science* was perceived largely as an outlet for quantitative studies, and *Political Studies* was thought to have side-lined the study of British politics in favour of a stronger focus on political theory, European studies and the 'new' institutionalisms. With the number of manuscripts submitted to *Political Studies* increasing year-on-year, the assumption was that space existed within the journal landscape for the Political Studies Association to launch a new journal, and therefore to increase the publisher-generated revenue accruing to the main learned society for the discipline. The emphasis on re-positioning the study of British politics from what was perceived to be an increasingly peripheral pursuit back to being a core sub-field is reflected in the first issue's contents page (see Table 1).

In terms of evolution, it is also important to acknowledge fundamental shifts in the nature and context of British politics and international relations since 1999. 'The landscape of British politics looked rather different' the current editorial team notes with no little under-statement 'when the *BJPIR* was first published at the end of the 20th century (Editorial, 2022: 3)'. Brexit, Covid, the global financial crisis, populism, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Israel– Hamas war and so on all combine to explain why 'permacrisis' was recently selected as 'word of the year'. Although this backdrop may provide fruitful terrain for students of politics and international relations, launching and sustaining a journal (attracting high-quality submissions, securing reviewers,

commissioning pieces, building an active intellectual community etc.) is an incredibly challenging endeavour. Nevertheless, *BJPIR*'s current ranking of 34th out of 96 journals for international relations and 79th out of 187 journals for political science, plus a 5-year impact factor score of 2.3 reflects the established strength of the journal. The members of the editorial teams who steered the journal to this success – based as they have been at Birmingham (1999–2004), Nottingham (2004–2010), Queens (2010–2016), Edinburgh (2016–2022) and now Leeds (2022–) – deserve huge credit for this achievement and for their broader contribution to the discipline, as do the reviewers, readers and the journal's publishers.

With this broader context in place, it is necessary to highlight some obvious caveats about this article's focus on content analysis and its central argument concerning flexibility and reflexivity. First and foremost, the editors have relatively little control over the level, quality and focus of the manuscripts that are submitted to the journal. Special editions can and have been used to commission collections of themed articles (discussed below) but the vast majority of submissions are unsolicited. Authors will weigh up several considerations, especially in relation to whether to submit to a specialised (i.e. sub-field) journal or an omnibus journal (i.e. discipline-wide) such as *BJPIR*. Each of the 10 disciplinary sub-fields examined below has several dedicated and highly specialised journals, and the Political Studies Association itself publishes a suite of journals in the form of *Political Studies*, *Politics*, *BJPIR* and *Political Studies Review*. The first caveat that needs to accompany a content analysis of any journal is therefore that the editors do not have full control over the flow of articles they can consider for publication. The link between editorial teams and the emergence of 'core', 'secondary' or 'peripheral' sub-fields in any journal is therefore complex. Authors enjoy an ever-growing number of publishing options.

The second caveat is simply to highlight the role of established norms, conventions and expectations. An 'academic' journal is expected to publish scientifically focused content, written by accredited and established scholars on the basis of a credible methodology, as affirmed through processes of peer review. The core discipline(s) of the *BJPIR* are political science and international relations, and it is therefore to be expected that the journal's content reflects these fields of scientific endeavour. The core argument of this article does not seek to reject these assumptions but through its focus on flexibility and reflexivity it does attempt to reframe and revitalise *what* and *how* and *who* 'counts' in terms of making a credible contribution to academic debates. As the content analysis outlined below demonstrates, the *BJPIR* has already evolved through several phases and stages (i.e. issues per volume, innovations in article type, relative focus on different sub-fields, editorial teams, publishers etc.). But by focusing on flexibility and reflexivity, this article is attempting to see the 25th anniversary of the journal as a pivotal moment – a potential inflection point – and a transformative opportunity to reframe the journal. The obvious and third qualification is simply that not everyone will agree with the strategic direction and publishing path being suggested. By explicating the notion of an 'alignment challenge' and setting this against the content analysis of past issues and volumes, it may well be that this article promotes a choice agenda that is too far from the norm and viewed as equally perilous and problematic. But it is hoped that some benefits may accrue from simply stimulating an open debate about the past, present and future of the *BJPIR*.

The flows into a fourth and final caveat: journals matter due to the way review and publication processes conspire to implicitly and sub-consciously reward and promote certain ideas, perspectives, methods and theories, while excluding or peripheralising others.

There is a distinctive *politics of* journal content which has in recent years emerged in debates concerning inter alia embedded gender biases in review processes (Grossman, 2020; Teele and Thelen, 2017), systemic inequalities in publishing (Schipper et al., 2021) which affect careers (see Hanretty, 2021), the need to ‘decolonise’ curricula (Begum and Saini, 2019; Moosavi, 2020; Sen, 2023), the ‘silencing’ of contrarian positions (Norris, 2023) and ‘black competency and the imperial academy’ (Shilliam, 2019). Members of the PSA Publications Committee who assessed and approved the idea to establish a second core journal in the mid-1990s could not have imagined that two decades later political science and international relations would be ‘facing an epistemological crisis about its knowledge production and how different kinds of knowledge produced outside and against the white male Eurocentric gaze are largely delegitimised and excluded within the discipline’ (Emejulu, 2019: 202). The outcome being a far sharper focus on the role of journal editors as ‘intellectual gatekeepers’ (Baccini and Re, 2024) which is exactly why debate and discussion about the past, present and future of a journal matters, especially one like *BJPIR* that is owned by a learned society for the benefit of a disciplinary community. The debate regarding ‘gatekeeping’ reveals how the governance of journals is almost defined by the distribution of ideational, discursive and agenda-setting powers that may serve to either further embed or openly challenge dominant disciplinary assumptions. Sadiya Akram’s (2024) observation ‘Dear British Politics – where is the race and racism?’ – and particularly the deafening silence this questioning has provoked – exemplifies what this section has labelled ‘*the politics of* journal content’. The next section develops this point by presenting the results of a content analysis of 999 articles, spanning 97 issues published across 26 volumes and totalling more than eight million words.

## Content and change

This section focuses on the first two RQs noted above: (1) ‘What does a content analysis reveal about the type and range of articles published in the *BJPIR*?’ and (2) ‘How have patterns of publication by sub-field and focus changed throughout the journal’s 25-year history?’ Answering these questions is vital to developing the core argument of this article concerning flexibility and reflexivity, and the emergence of a potential ‘alignment challenge’. It is, however, important to highlight two methodological issues. First, the focus of the content analysis was restricted to sub-field area only. Unlike other more expansive analyses of journal content (see, for example, Järvelin and Vakkari, 2022; Stroud et al., 2017), it did not include variables such as primary methods, author location or career stage, or subsequent article metrics. An inductive process of data coding was utilised which began with the four sub-fields – British government and institutions, political thought, comparative and European politics and international relations – that were identified by the journal’s first editorial team as the ‘intellectual territory covered by this journal’ in Vol.1 Issue 1 (Editorial: Studying British Politics, 1999: 2). Articles were coded against these sub-fields, and where articles did not fit new sub-fields were created. This process led to the creation of a 10-part (sub)-disciplinary map (see Table 2), plus two additional thematic topics (discussed below). All forms of article published by *BJPIR* over the past 25 years were included (i.e. ‘Research Articles’, ‘Review Articles’, ‘State of the Discipline’ articles, contributions to symposia, debate pieces, ‘Controversy’ articles and ‘Policy Matters’) and a three-stage approach to coding reliability was adopted. First, after the first five volumes had been coded, an external robustness check was undertaken whereby five academics were independently asked to undertake a mini-coding exercise in

**Table 2.** Content analysis of *BJPIR*, 1999–2024.

Year	Disciplinary sub-field												Total Articles
	British Government & Institutions	European Politics	Governance & Public Policy	Political Economy	Elections, Public Opinion & Parties	Int. Relations, Development & Foreign policy	Pol. Theory & Philosophy	Gender Studies	American Politics	Methods	State of the Discipline	Pol. Sci. History & Society	
1999	4	0	3	2	3	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	18
2000	7	2	4	2	1	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	23
2001	6	0	3	4	1	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	21
2002	2	2	3	7	3	0	4	0	0	3	1	0	25
2003	7	0	5	2	3	2	3	1	0	7	0	0	30
2004	4	1	5	5	3	3	5	8	0	2	1	1	38
2005	5	0	6	3	10	5	9	1	2	1	2	0	44
2006	5	8	3	6	5	6	1	0	1	0	3	0	38
2007	10	1	1	2	8	3	6	10	3	1	2	0	47
2008	11	9	2	6	4	2	8	1	0	0	1	0	44
2009	6	0	1	10	3	6	8	1	9	0	0	0	44
2010	9	2	3	2	3	1	10	2	0	2	0	0	34
2011	11	2	5	1	6	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	34
2012	20	0	2	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
2013	12	1	0	7	1	8	4	1	0	1	1	0	36
2014	12	7	1	2	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
2015	11	2	6	11	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	38
2016	9	2	6	12	10	10	2	3	0	0	0	0	54
2017	15	12	6	5	8	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	54
2018	8	5	9	3	6	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	50
2019	10	2	15	6	5	11	3	1	0	0	0	0	53
2020	6	3	12	3	12	12	1	0	2	0	0	1	52
2021	10	3	4	0	9	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	40
2022	2	4	5	3	6	18	0	1	0	0	0	0	39
2023	6	6	5	3	8	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	40
2024	13	0	2	4	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	29
<b>Totals</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>999</b>

1. From Vol.1 (1999) to Vol.4 (2002) *BJPIR* published three volumes a year. The first four issue volume was Vol.5 (2003). 2. The data for 2024 (Vol.26) only covers issues 1 (Feb.) and 2 (May) but has been provided to ensure the data is up to date. 3. Only the data for full volumes (i.e. 1999–2023) have been used for XXXX.



which they categorised the content of a randomly selected issue from volumes 1–5 and were asked to code the content articles against the 10-part sub-field framework (using the title and abstract to mirror the general coding process). The results of this pilot process were then compared with the initial ‘phase 1’ data set for coding consistency and differentiation. This revealed a high reliability score of 82%, while also facilitating the fine-tuning of the sub-field framework vis-à-vis disciplinary boundaries. Subsequent (second) potential issues concerning intercoder reliability were addressed by continuing to use just one researcher to assess and assign each data point (i.e. journal article). The third dimension of coding-robustness revolves around the availability of the full data set (from the author) with every data point identified and tagged in the hope of facilitating future refinement, replication and review.

As the online *Journal Article Database Codebook* makes clear (see Maliniak et al., 2020), it would have been possible to sub-divide each of the main codes into further issue areas or sub-categories and, through this process, produce a more fine-grained analysis. However, the methodology and coding used in this study broadly reflects the 2022 analysis of journal content in *Political Studies* by Ginocchio, Hindmoor and Stanley (see also Byrne and Randall, 2024) and, as such, for the purposes of this article, Table 2 provides a robust evidence-based foundation on which to engage with the first and second RQs.

What Table 2 reveals about the type and range of articles published in the *BJPIR* (i.e. RQ1) is that the journal has broadly fulfilled its ambition to ‘broaden and deepen our understanding of British politics’, especially in relation to locating the study of British politics within a broader account of international debates, themes and challenges. Following on from this, it is possible to break down the journal’s content over the last 25 years with reference to ‘core’, ‘secondary’ and ‘peripheral’ topics, or sub-fields. The journal’s core content has broadly followed the terrain first outlined by the editors in 1999 and is generally concerned with ‘British Government & Institutions’ (221 articles or 21% of content), ‘International Relations, Development and Foreign Policy’ (157, 18%), ‘Elections, Public Opinion & Parties’ (130, 13%), ‘Political Economy’ (119, 12%) and ‘Governance & Public Policy’ (117, 12%). Studies of the power of the prime minister (see, for example, Atkins and Gaffney, 2020; Foley, 2004; Heffernan, 2003), the political economy of globalisation (see, for example, Bruff, 2005; Callaghan, 2002; Hay, 2013), the meaning and emergence of processes of depoliticisation (see, for example, Buller and Flinders, 2005; Kettell and Kerr, 2022; Kuzemko, 2016; Warner, 2019; Wood, 2015), the analysis of New Labour (see, for example, Atkins, 2010; Bevir, 2000; Coates, 2013; Temple, 2000) and the interplay between elections, parties and Brexit (see, for example, Berz, 2020; Goodwin and Milazzo, 2017; Rone, 2023; van Kessel, 2020) provide just a few examples of topics where *BJPIR* has undoubtedly set new standards for world-class scholarship.

One of the challenges of coding journal articles is that they often span sub-fields and deciding upon a primary category code can be difficult. Daddow’s (2013) work on ‘the Eurosceptic tradition in Britain’, Felicetti and Castelli Gattinara’s (2018) analysis of ‘marginality in democratic systems’ and the 2019 study of ‘the impact of devolution on abortion law’ by Moon et al. (2019) provide examples of this challenge. What’s interesting from the data contained in Table 2, however, is that where coding questions emerged, they tended to be *intra*-‘core’ in range (e.g. articles sat between ‘British Government & Institutions’ or ‘Governance & Public Policy’, ‘Political Economy’ or ‘International Relations, Development and Foreign Policy’) rather than spanning ‘secondary’ or ‘peripheral’ sub-fields. In fact, one of the noteworthy dimensions of undertaking the content



analysis was the degree of consistency in classification and the relative lack of articles that challenged the 10-part sub-field framework outlined in Table 2 (discussed below).

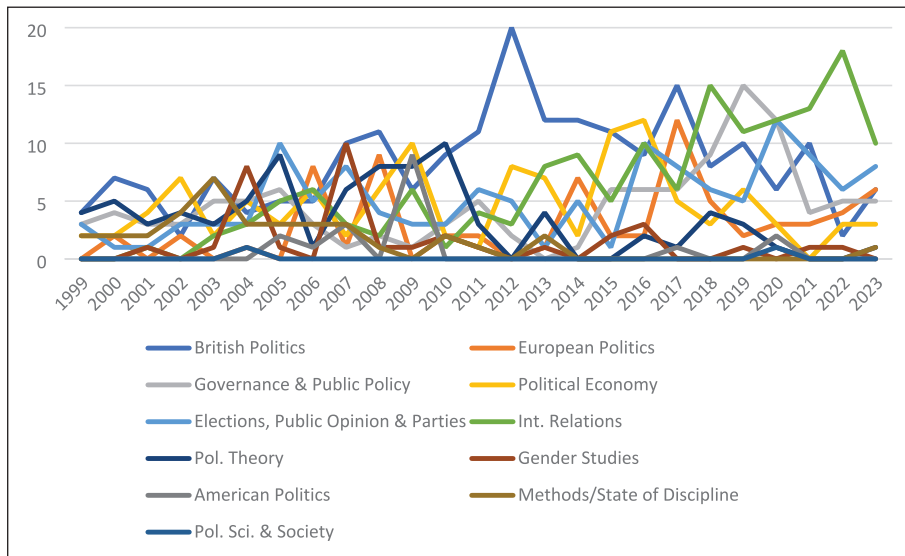
Returning to the distinction between ‘core’, ‘periphery’ and ‘satellite’ streams of scholarship within the *BJPIR*, it is important to note the existence of two secondary sub-fields in the form of ‘Political Theory or Philosophy’ (88, 9%) and ‘European Politics’ (74, 7%). Two key observations can be made about these ‘peripheral pools’: the first is ‘Political Theory or Philosophy’, which does not seem to have emerged as a central element of the ‘intellectual territory’ of the journal in quite the manner that the founding editors hoped (see Editorial: Studying British Politics, 1999: 4–6). Specific sub-disciplinary norms and cultures may well help explain this, as might the existence of many specialist journals in this sub-field (*Political Theory*, *Comparative Political Theory*, *European Journal of Political Theory* etc.). This might explain why a large proportion of the *BJPIR*’s content in this area seems to have been published in the form of contributions to commissioned special editions, special sections, book reviews or ‘State of the Discipline’ articles (see Callinicos, 2004; Connolly Symposium: Introduction, 2008; Lamb, 2010; Panagakou, 2005; Runciman, 2001; Schmidt, 2002; Thomassen, 2004).

The second observation is the content score for ‘European Politics’ almost certainly under-states the actual level of attention given to this field. As already acknowledged, the limitation of a methodology which requires a single primary sub-field classification is that it risks minimising the culminative weight of secondary sub-field scores. Therefore, while the articles published within special editions that were explicitly focused on, for example, ‘Constitutionalism, European Integration and British Political Economy’ (see Rosamond and Wincott, 2006) or ‘European Integration and Economic Interests’ (see Sadeh and Howarth, 2008), were relatively easy to categorise within ‘European Politics’ (with ‘Political Economy’ being a clear secondary code), other articles with a clear European politics relevance were tagged under other codes. One example being the special edition on ‘Political Opposition in a Multi-Level Context’ (see McEwen et al., 2012) which contains several articles that discuss the European Union, in general, and Open Method of Coordination, in particular, while predominantly focusing on relationships between devolved authorities and Whitehall (hence their categorisation under ‘British Politics and Institutions’). The point being made is that the *BJPIR* has published more work on European politics than a strict reading of Table 2 might suggest, but possibly less than might have been expected.

This brings the discussion to a focus on RQ2 and how patterns of publication by sub-field and focus may have changed throughout the journal’s 25-year history. Diagram 1 provides a longitudinal illustration of content by sub-field.

The data suggest a mixed pattern of sub-disciplinary change and evolution vis-à-vis *BJPIR* content, but in a manner that supports this section’s focus on ‘core’, ‘secondary’ and ‘peripheral’ coverage. What’s also interesting is the way Diagram 1 reflects the impact of new editorial teams who have recognised and attempted to address under-represented sub-fields and inject new editorial priorities (see Table 3).

The ‘core’ position of articles on ‘British Government & Institutions’ is clear from Diagram 1, with a peak period between 2011 and 2017, reflecting the turbulence leading up to and through the Brexit referendum. In line with the 2010 editorial statement (Table 3), the position of ‘International Relations, Development and Foreign Policy’ increased significantly from 2012, as did content on ‘Governance and Public Policy’. The ‘long-view’ perspective is also interesting because the journal begins (1999–2004) with a tight weaving of the sub-fields which reflects greater equality of sub-field representation. By



**Diagram 1.** Longitudinal analysis of *BJPIR* content by sub-field, 1999–2023.

2018–2023, this pattern has unravelled as certain sub-fields have come to emerge as ‘core’, while others fell back as ‘secondary’ and ‘peripheral’. What’s interesting from Diagram 1 is how political theory, gender studies, American politics and methodologically focused content have flat-lined, or never moved beyond peripheral status (discussed below).

Diagram 1 captures patterns of sub-field specific content over two and a half decades (i.e. RQ2) but there is a second content-related dimension which demands discussion in any consideration of the past, present and future of the *BJPIR*: *forms* of content. One of the most interesting insights emerging from a longitudinal content analysis is not just how the journal has responded to publish content on contextually significant issues or events, but also how the various editorial teams have attempted to refresh and renew *what* the journal publishes and *why*. This matters for two reasons (one intellectual, the second pragmatic): as already mentioned, intellectually because such innovations often reflect an awareness on the part of editorial teams that certain topics, themes or sub-fields have been under-represented in the journal and innovations provide an opportunity for proactive commissioning; pragmatically such innovations matter because they often reflect publishing pressures and the need for any journal to constantly seek to cement and build a readership. Innovations in content – beyond the standard research article – therefore provide a way of constantly refreshing and revitalising a journal and preventing what might be termed ‘scholarly staleness’.

Reviewing the back catalogue of *BJPIR* reveals a pattern of attempted innovation – some successful, others less so – that is arguably as, if not more, important than the content analysis provided in Table 2 and Diagram 1. To put the same point slightly differently, the maturation of the journal is reflected in *form* as well as *content*, with the appointment of new editorial teams often bringing new ideas in terms of not just content but also publication form (see, for example, Peterson and Convery, 2019). For example, it was not until Vol.3 Issue 1 that the editors noted, ‘The *BJPIR* is entering its third year and we, as

**Table 3.** Evolution by Editorial, 1999–2024.

Year	Vol.	No.	Title	Ambitions/changes
1999	1	1	Editorial: Studying British Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of the <i>BJPIR</i> is to deepen and broaden our understanding of British politics.</li> <li>• Consider the contribution that British and European scholars have made, and are making, to the development of political science more broadly.</li> <li>• Encourage greater epistemological and methodological pluralism in contributions to this journal.</li> <li>• Not to deny the importance of 'traditional' areas of study [but] . . . place the study of Britain in a comparative context . . . explores the link between 'domestic' and 'external' policy.</li> <li>• Take interdisciplinary work more seriously.</li> </ul>
2001	3	1	Editorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put British politics in a comparative perspective, thus avoiding the claims of British exceptionalism.</li> <li>• Promote work on American politics, while promoting the strengths of British scholarship within America.</li> <li>• First departure from the 'normal' format with the publication of the journal's first special issue.</li> </ul>
2010	12	2	Editorial: British Politics and International Relations in Times of Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The journal must increase the volume and quality of submissions, increase readership, circulation and awareness among the international scholarly community.</li> <li>• Aim of the journal remains committed to 'deepen and widen' understandings of the study of British politics and international relations.</li> <li>• Increased emphasis on political thought, comparative politics, political economy and international relations.</li> <li>• Articles that focus on Britain in the world (post-colonial, global affairs, end of empire, rise of emerging powers etc.) encouraged.</li> <li>• Articles explicitly addressing methodological issues and innovations and their application to the study of politics and international relations.</li> <li>• Highlights the importance of 'disciplinary reflection' and introduces new 'Policy Matters' section.</li> </ul>
2012	14	4	Policy Matters: An Editorial Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political science and international studies need to adjust to a changing climate and times to ensure enduring relevance.</li> <li>• Recognised the need for new forms of articles that are stripped of some of the usual academic restrictions, requirements and jargon.</li> <li>• Offered a renewed call for the submission of pieces to the 'Policy Matters' section.</li> </ul>
2022	24	1	Editorial: British political studies and the politics of global challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support discipline-wide efforts towards gender parity and improve the journal's representation of under-represented minority groups . . . expand the journal's scope so that it serves a wider community of scholars.</li> <li>• Clear shift towards understanding and addressing the politics of global challenges: 'foster a more global British journal'</li> <li>• Highlights new areas in relation to climate emergency, environmental change, health, food, demographic pressures, energy, (in)security and geopolitics.</li> <li>• To further broaden as well as deepen the scope of the research agenda in line with the urgent politics of the contemporary context.</li> <li>• Encourage submissions from Global South authors and from under-represented backgrounds, as well as encouraging work challenging western-centric knowledge and approaches.</li> </ul>

**Table 4.** ‘State of the discipline’ articles, 1999–2024.

Author(s)	Year	Vol.	Iss.	Topic
Blyth & Varghese	1999	1	3	The State of the Discipline in American Political Science
Smith	2000	2	3	The Discipline of International Relations
Runciman	2001	3	1	History of Political Thought
Schmidt	2002	4	1	Reuniting Political Theory and IR Theory
Mackay	2004	6	1	Gender and Political Representation in the UK
Dowding	2005	7	3	Is it rational to vote?
Heffernan	2005	7	4	Exploring (and Explaining) the British Prime Minister
Müller	2006	8	2	The Civil-Society Relationship
Bowler and Farrell	2006	8	3	Mixed-Member Electoral Systems
Pryce	2006	8	4	Politics and Drugs
Wilde	2007	9	1	The Concept of Solidarity
Zalewski	2007	9	2	Feminist Encounters with(in) International Relations
Sloam	2008	10	3	Teaching Democracy: The Role of Political Science Education
Fielding	2014	16	2	New Labour, ‘Sleaze’ and Television Drama

editors, felt that it was well enough established to risk a departure from its normal format’ (Editorial, 2001: 1) with the ‘departure’ taking the form of the journal’s first special issue (see Peters, 2001). Further innovation followed in Vol.4 Issue 1 with Brian Schmidt (2002) contributing the first ‘State of the Discipline’ article on ‘political theory and international relations theory’ (see Table 4), and Andrew Gamble (2002) and Wolfram Kaiser (2002) providing ‘Review Articles’ on ‘political memoirs’ and ‘Britain and Europe’, respectively.<sup>2</sup> Since then, a range of innovations have been introduced including a ‘Controversy’ section (see Bluth, 2005; Flinders and Kelso, 2011; Hoggett, 2005a, 2005b; Preston, 2007), film reviews (see Carver, 2007; Rowley, 2007), ‘Research Notes’ (LSE GV314, 2012), ‘Special Forum’ section (see Birchfield et al., 2017; Kornprobst and Senn, 2016), ‘Breakthrough Works’ symposia (see Peterson and Convery, 2019; Shue, 2019), ‘Breakthrough Articles’ followed by commentaries (see McLaughlin, 2019; Peters, 2019), ‘Breakthrough Commentaries’ (Fioretos, 2019; Savoie, 2019), ‘Symposia’ (Alter and Zürn, 2020; Jeffery and Peterson, 2020) and ‘Special Sections’ (see Thiers & Wehner, 2023).

Keith Dowding (2005) holds a distinctive footnote in *BJPIR* history as the only author to write a ‘State of the Discipline’ article that stimulated a ‘Controversy’ response (see Parsons, 2006), and Dave Marsh (1999) and Angelia Wilson (2019) deserve similar footnotes for their authorship of once-only innovations in the form of an ‘Obituary’ (dedicated to Jim Bulpitt) and a ‘Letter from the PSA Chair’, respectively.

These innovations (less so the obituary or letter) are relevant to the focus of this article and to the strategic future of the *BJPIR* due to the way in which they reflect a degree of flexibility and reflexivity vis-à-vis journal content and publication form (discussed below). They reflect an *intellectual* need to respond to new issues and questions, and a *pragmatic* need to respond to external contextual drivers. One highly relevant example of this was the announcement in 2012 that ‘the time is right . . . to address the interface between policy and the discipline’ (Editorial: British Politics and International Relations in Times of Change, 2010: 159) and a plan to publish articles under a ‘Policy Matters’

banner that ‘demonstrates the types of impact that our work can have in understanding the various political and international phenomena we deal with’. An article by Len Seabrooke and Eleni Tsingou (2010) launched this new section but what the content analysis reveals – and is highly relevant to thinking about the future of the journal (Part 4, below) – is that the ‘Policy Matters’ initiative appears to have been a limited success. Three years later, no subsequent articles were published under the ‘Policy Matters’ banner and the editors used a 2012 editorial to ‘take this opportunity to issue a renewed call for the submission of pieces to the Policy Matters series’ (Policy Matters — An Editorial Note, 2012: 671). This led to the publication of just three more ‘Policy Matters’ articles (Casey, 2015; see also Allen and Savigny, 2016; Baker and Widmaier, 2015; Christensen et al., 2016) before falling into abeyance.

The main finding of this section has been that the *BJPIR* has evolved to come a key publishing outlet for world-class scholarship across a significant range of core sub-fields (i.e. ‘core and secondary’, noted above) within the discipline. A key metric of its success and status is the simple growth in published output – from three issues per volume, each containing an average of eight articles, to four issues per year, with some issues containing up to 23 articles (see Vol.22(4), 2020). Technological shifts within the academic publishing sector (pay-per-view, electronic access only etc.) have facilitated this increase but it also reflects the development of a strong intellectual identity and a concomitant flow of high-quality submissions. And yet, the content analysis also reveals two major issues that demand review and discussion. The first issue focuses on ‘peripheral’ content within the journal in the sense of areas and sub-fields that have possibly been overlooked or under-utilised (i.e. RQ3, above). The second issue takes the findings of RQ1, RQ2 and RQ3 as the basis of a strategic discussion about the future content and form of the *BJPIR* (i.e. RQ4). The next section focuses on the politics of peripheral journal content.

## The politics of peripheral content

The role of this section is to reflect upon ‘peripheral’ sub-fields within the *BJPIR* as a precursor to thinking about the past, present and future of the journal in the next section. Returning to Table 2, the most peripheral or almost completely overlooked sub-fields appear to be gender studies (36 articles, 4% of total content), American politics (19, 2%) and research methods (22, 2%). The methodological caveats noted above – especially the limitation imposed by a model that rests on identifying a primary sub-field without factoring secondary sub-field relevance – are likely to, if anything, deliver an under-estimation of designated content (because strong secondary sub-field connections will not be picked-up). That said, these sub-fields do appear to be significantly under-represented within the journal.

Notwithstanding recent editorial commitments (Editorial, 2022), gender studies appears to have been a peripheral part of the journal. Special issues in 2004 and 2007 (Randall and Lovenduski (2004) on ‘Gender in British Politics’; Squires and Weldes (2007) on ‘Gender and International Relations’, respectively) explain the small spikes in Diagram 1 (above) but did not generate additional subsequent sub-field representation. The reasons for this are complex and contested. Plus numerous sub-specialism journals provide strong alternative outlet opportunities (such as *Gender & Society*, *Hypatia*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Research and Methods* etc.) but the same argument can (and has) been made about the ‘core’ and ‘secondary’ sub-fields that *are* well-represented in the *BJPIR*. The findings of

this article support Nicola Smith and Donna Lees' (2015) argument that studies of gender, sexuality and queer theory tend to be treated as marginal or peripheral concerns, never core (see also Ginocchio et al., 2022).

The opening 1999 editorial and more explicitly the 2001 editorial (Table 3) highlighted a desire on the part of the journal to publish more work on American politics, comparative UK-US scholarship or studies that would showcase the relevance of British political studies to an American audience. It was for this reason that the first 'State of the Discipline' article focused on American political science (Blyth and Varghese, 1999) and the first special edition focused on British–American comparative analysis (see Peters, 2001), but the data in Table 2 suggest a surprisingly lack of content in this sub-field, and is to some extent artificially boosted by the curt debate between Alex Danchev (2005) and Warren Kimball (2005) on the existence of a 'special relationship'. The same can be said for content that is explicitly focused on epistemological and methodological debates or breakthroughs (see Editorial: Studying British Politics, 1999: 2). This is a critical point. Examples of focused and extensive methodological debate such as that between Michael Lister (2007, 2009) and Kai Arzheimer (2008, 2009) are rare, as are articles that drill down into specific methodological challenges. The contributions of Justin Fisher et al. (2010) on the measurement of trust, Tim Ruback (2010) on process-tracing methods, Dave Richards and Helen Mathers (2010) on the use of political memoirs and Christina Boswell et al. (2011) on policy narratives are rare exceptions to this point.

So far, this section has argued that gender studies, American politics and methodological debates have been 'peripheral' topics within the *BJPIR*. This discussion could be extended to highlight a lack of explicit comparative analysis (cf. Bennister, 2007; Menz, 2011; Pautz, 2010), and only a scattering of articles on the global south, the governance of non-democratic regimes (cf. Davies, 2007; Motta, 2008; White et al., 2010) or on small states (cf. Bishop, 2011; Vlcek, 2014).<sup>3</sup> The identification of peripheral pools of research brings the discussion back to the opening section's acknowledgement that no journal can cover all sub-fields all of the time, and editors have a supply-side challenge in the sense that they can only review and select from the manuscripts the journal receives. That said, for an omnibus-style journal, the dominance and depth dedicated to certain core sub-fields (see Table 2) does seem to be limiting the range of the journal in terms of disciplinary breadth. Journals also develop an identity in the sense that a process of intellectual path dependency tends to emerge as journals become known for publishing on certain topics which, in turn, can serve to narrow the type and range of manuscripts they receive. Creative disruption is often needed to challenge reputational assumptions and demonstrate a desire to genuinely broaden journal content. The latest editorial statement (see Table 3) could be taken as an admission of these issues alongside a commitment to, as far as any editorial team can, address them. But there is a more fundamental and basic argument to be made that moves the discussion away from the *BJPIR*'s traditional focus on 'deepening and broadening' to one that concerns *flexibility* and *reflexivity*. This, in turn, prompts a discussion about the notion of a 'traditional' academic journal and the existence of an alignment challenge.

## Flexibility, reflexivity and futures

The first ever editorial (1999: 1) and most recent editorial (2022: 4) are united by a very clear although arguably not very helpful dynamic: an explicit desire not to become '*Political Studies 2*'. This was an understandable concern when *BJPIR* was first launched



not only because *Political Studies* had existed since 1954 and held a prominent position as a leading international journal but also because several PSA executive members held doubts as to whether there was 'space' for another omnibus journal. Twenty-five years later, *BJPIR* has carved out a clear and distinctive intellectual identity at the intersection of British politics and international relations. It is a leading journal and any residual concerns about its relationship with *Political Studies* (itself a journal that has flourished in recent years) need to be jettisoned in favour of a focus on those factors that are likely to define a successful journal in the future. The central argument of this section is that successful journals in the future will have to show a lot more intellectual agility and professional ambition than they have in the past. The implication for the *BJPIR*, this section suggests, is that an 'alignment challenge' exists between how the journal has evolved over the last 25 years as opposed to arguably how it needs to function in the future. Recognising and responding to this challenge explains this article's emphasis not simply on 'broadening and deepening' but on 'flexibility and reflexivity'.

The *BJPIR* sits at the intersection of two markets, both of which are undergoing periods of rapid change. The first of these is the academic publishing market where technological shifts and an increase in players (i.e. publishers and journals) have created a need to re-think the traditional publishing 'offer' in terms of both content and product. The 'post-publication' phase of articles is now critical, with a variety of blogs, vlogs, tweets and podcasts all striving to drive traffic to a particular journal or article. New readers need to be identified, and the academic content packaged and repackaged in ways that fit with subscribers' needs. This is a major challenge in an increasingly congested market in which 'info glut' (see Luker, 2010) is a major challenge, and when – as is the case with the *BJPIR* – the sale of journal publishing rights represents the primary income stream of the learned society. In short, the journal 'offer' needs to go far beyond the publication of eight standard academic articles each issue (hence the various innovations discussed above). At the same time, the intellectual marketplace – the clash and flow of new ideas and insights – is also changing in ways that relate to the 'broadening and deepening' strategy that has successfully underpinned the *BJPIR*'s success but that also goes far beyond the journal's current boundaries. This is reflected in the changing research, innovation and development 'ecosystem', and more specifically in the acknowledgement of different sources of credible knowledge which includes but goes far beyond peer-reviewed scientific research. The changing intellectual marketplace or 'ecosystem' is defined by a focus not just on inter-disciplinarity (increasingly as the default) but also on inter-sectoral collaboration (as reflected in the emphasis on the co-design and co-production of knowledge). The emergent intellectual marketplace is increasingly sensitive to the need for viewpoint diversity and productive challenge; it also emphasises – and increasingly invests in – the mobility of people, knowledge and talent across traditional sectoral, disciplinary and institutional boundaries. This is reflected not only in UKRI's strategic plan but also in the nature of recent major investments – such as the Local Policy and Innovation Partnerships, Evidence and Policy hubs, UKRI Policy Fellows, several new Observatories and at the broadest level in 'metascience' – that span disciplines and exist not within academe but at the intersection between politics and practice. The argument being made is not that *BJPIR* or any journal or learned society should automatically align with UKRI or any major funder's strategy, but it is that there is arguably a need for greater flexibility and reflexivity in order to if not to close, then at the very least to be aware of a potential 'alignment challenge'.



**Table 5.** A two-type ‘present–future’ model of an academic journal.

Dimension	Type I	Type II
D1. Flexibility	Tight and fixed within a single discipline, possibly venturing into cognate fields.	Tight but flexible enough to range across the full scientific spectrum in order to cross-fertilise and connect.
D2. Knowledge	Credible knowledge defined by scientific standards.	Scientific research developed or challenged by other forms of knowledge.
D3. Authors	An academic publication written by academics for academics.	An academic publication that is confident enough to publish expert insights from beyond academe.
D4. Risk	An emphasis on conventional analyses working within accepted boundaries.	Strong risk-appetite to engage in creative disruption by publishing in new ways or on new topics.
D5. Viewpoint	Often work within an implicit or hidden set of normative parameters.	Openness to recognise and reward value diversity and to expose or challenge embedded assumptions.
D6. Value	Knowledge creation defined as by definition a social good. Social value taken for granted.	Recognises the need to reflect on the value of knowledge to society, rejects elitist assumptions

Table 5 provides a simple heuristic that seeks to compare and contrast what might be terms a traditional academic journal (Type I) with a more dynamic future-focused journal (Type II).

Although Table 5 is undoubtedly a crude heuristic, it does provide a framework that raises distinctive and evidence-based questions about the past, present and most importantly *the future* of the *BJPIR*. The aim of charting a Type I/Type II journal distinction is *not to argue* that *BJPIR* should adopt an editorial strategy with a view to moving from the former to the latter type. The aim is simply to outline the existence of a journal choice architecture and to locate those options within an understanding of the evolving socio-political context. The ‘types’ set out in Table 5 are best seen not as zero-sum – ‘either-or’ – alternatives, but as two ends of a spectrum along which any journal might evolve and travel. That said, the core argument of this section and in some ways this article is that the content analysis reveals that the *BJPIR* is a very traditional and fairly narrow Type I journal. This is not a criticism, and it is an approach that has many benefits in the sense that it possesses a clear brand and identity. Moreover, in an age when interdisciplinary is increasingly promoted but remains – as Catherine Lyall’s *Being an Interdisciplinary Academic* (2019) illustrates – a relatively risky professional pathway, publishing in a journal like *BJPIR* provides a signalling effect and a safe academic anchorage within a disciplinary tribe (see Becher and Trowler, 2001). The flipside risk, however, is that it is exactly this type of journal that is likely to struggle as their misalignment with broader external trends and emphases (i.e. an emphasis on the interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral dynamics) becomes more obvious. This is why the 25th anniversary of the journal could provide a useful pivot point towards greater flexibility and reflexivity.

The remainder of this section reviews the evidence and data for *BJPIR* vis-à-vis the six dimensions in Table 5.

What a longitudinal content analysis of *BJPIR* reveals is that the journal operates within a fairly narrow disciplinary range (i.e. D1 *Flexibility*). Where interdisciplinary

studies are published, they very rarely move beyond the arts and humanities. Indeed, in just short of one thousand published articles, those utilising genuinely interdisciplinary perspectives number little more than a handful. This would include Stephen Ingle's (2007) work on politics and literature, John Street et al.'s (2008) analysis of music and political participation, John Street's (2012) exploration of celebrity culture, Marcus Collins' (2014) investigation of artistic expression, Stephen Fielding's (2014) work on the televisual dramatisation of politics, Jonathan Grix and Barrie Houlihan's (2014) study of sport and soft power, James Brasset and Alex Sutton's (2017) analysis of satire and everyday politics, Jonathan Dean's (2017) work on 'fandom', Marcus Schulzke's (2017) study of military videogames and ideological warfare, and Dimitry Chernobrov's (2022) analysis of strategic humour in public diplomacy. Despite the original 1999 ambitions including a commitment to focusing on the 'methods by which political scientists study history and link it to the present', detailed historical analyses remain largely absent from the results of the content analysis. The main exceptions being Mark Brawley's (2006) work on the repeal of the Corn Laws and Laura Brace's (2010) article on the importance of civility in the 18th century.

Articles that engage with STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields are extremely rare, but when they are published genuinely open up original new terrain for British politics and international relations. Sarah Lieberman and Tim Gray's (2008) foray into biotechnology, Mike Bourne's (2011) work on 'netwar geopolitics' and Bleddyn Bowen's (2018) investigation of British strategy and Outer Space provide notable examples of the benefits of ranging widely in disciplinary terms.

The roots of this narrowness are relatively clear. The original 1999 editorial arguably interprets 'broadening' not in terms of *inter*-disciplinarity but as *intra*-disciplinarity (i.e. as connecting traditional work on British politics and international relations with the other sub-fields set out in Table 2). Pluralism is promoted but *within* a stark warning (Editorial: Studying British Politics, 1999: 4) that '[M]uch is made of the need for interdisciplinary research . . . we must be wary of such trends which lead to the actual dissolution of social science disciplines (including political science and international relations)'. (Sociology, political economy and geography are highlighted as potentially fruitful disciplines to engage with.) This *intra*-disciplinary emphasis continues through the arguments presented in the 2010 editorial where the case is made for continued broadening but in a fairly restricted sense: 'It [the new editorial strategy] also means opening-up the journal to and increasing its prominence among those outside the UK, in areas of the discipline as diverse as political thought, comparative politics, electoral and party politics, public policy, political economy and international relations' (2010: 156). This is opening up the journal to all areas of the discipline(s) but it was not a broad ambition to showcase the value and potential of politics and international relations across the full scientific spectrum, or to reach beyond the social sciences for insights and inspiration (i.e. in the way a more flexible Type II journal might).

Intellectual and pragmatic arguments can be offered to rationalise this approach. The *BJPIR* is a relatively young journal and therefore cementing an intellectual identity within its core disciplines (and core sub-fields within those) makes sense. This strategy – as this article consistently attests – has been hugely successful and leaves the journal in a strong position and with a clear intellectual identity. But features that were a strength for a journal in the past may emerge as weaknesses in the future, especially in a context which is increasingly emphasising and funding a focus not simply on the nexus between disciplines (i.e. the cross-fertilisation and mobility of knowledge) but also on the utilisation of

non-academic but no less significant sources of knowledge and expertise (professional knowledge, tacit knowledge, lived everyday experience etc.).

This brings the discussion to D2 *Knowledge* (Table 5) and to the existence of an alignment challenge of somehow maintaining a disciplinary focus while accommodating interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral content. This chimes with what Geoff Mulgan (2021) has referred to as a ‘synthesis gap’ which raises the issue of what role a journal might play not simply in terms of publishing research results or reviews but in terms of synthesising inputs and insights from many disciplines and sources. A journal that is ‘fit for the future’ rather than ‘fit for the past’ needs to understand and navigate this challenge. Stay too narrow and a journal risks falling behind the scientific curve in terms of connectivity and academic awareness, go too wide and a journal risks losing a clear identity and haemorrhaging loyal contributors, readers and subscribers. But a focus on flexibility and reflexivity provides ways of identifying an opportunity and not just a challenge.

With a focus on pluralism and the legitimacy of different forms of knowledge in mind, it is worth asking ‘How many non-academic authors have published in the pages of *BJPIR* over the past 25 years?’

The answer is that out of 999 articles just one was written by a non-academic author (i.e. D3, above). The fact that this was a short book review of little more than a page reduces the value of even this single example (see Widdecombe, 2007). As already acknowledged, the *BJPIR* is an *academic* journal and therefore a predominance of contributions from professional researchers is to be expected. But with the contemporary emphasis on the value of different forms of knowledge in mind – of which peer-reviewed scientific knowledge is just one form – there is a case for considering greater *breadth* in terms of contributors and not just content. Interestingly, the launch editorial of 1999 comes at this issue with a distinctive perspective:

In so far as Anthony King, one of the best known students of British politics was right in making the very contentious claim that ‘most of Britain’s best political scientists (Peter Jenkins, Sam Brittan, Peter Riddell) are, for some reason, journalists’ (King, 1989: 97), this is something to regret and remedy, not endorse (King, 1989: 3).

If – and it remains a big ‘IF’ – that most of Britain’s best political scientists were or are journalists then a more inclusive, vibrant and dynamic strategy for the *BJPIR* may well involve testing that thesis and embracing different forms of knowledge and professional perspective by commissioning content from *beyond* academe. Indeed, without such engagement and exploration, the discipline(s) risk perpetuating and proving an oft made criticism that academia is too enclosed and academics far too self-referential, ironically an argument most forcefully made by Peter Riddell (2010) in relation to British political studies. Might the inclusion of contributions from non-academics and professional practitioners of politics ‘squeeze out the space’ for academics to publish, and especially for early-career researchers for whom publishing is a gateway to tenure? The answer in an era of largely electronic publishing is ‘no’, and a more sophisticated, creative and future-focused approach might see the commissioning of short response articles by non-academics as powerful boundary spanning tools that could drive traffic to full-form academic content.

There is possibly something in the culture of the *BJPIR* that understandably views innovation with risk. The opening editorial (1999: 4) was ‘wary of inter-disciplinarity and warned of the ‘dissolution of social science disciplines’; and the introduction of a ‘Policy Matters’ section over a decade later was accompanied by an acknowledgement from the

editors that ‘We understand that some colleagues may have reservations about the introduction of “impact”’ (2010: 159). The point being made, however, is that in the current climate a lack of managed and sensible risk taking in terms of content, form and argument is itself a high-risk strategy. What’s interesting about the content analysis is how few articles challenged the 10-part sub-disciplinary framework presented in Table 2, and therefore sat *beyond* conventional approaches. This is not to say that the journal has not published *unconventional* work. Chris Pierson’s (2010) reading of the bible for political effect; Terrell Carver’s (2007) interpretation of Ridley Scott’s film, *Gl Jane*; Christina Rowley’s (2007) review of the *Firefly/Serenity* (film/series) from a dystopian viewpoint; Kyle Grayson’s (2013) ‘How to Read Paddington Bear’; Victoria Basham and Nick Vaughn-Williams’ (2013) reconceptualisation of borders through the lens of Chris Morris’ comedy *Four Lions*; and Ronnie Olesker’s (2020) analysis of identity norms in *Game of Thrones* all provided unexpected and fresh interpretive lenses. But when these examples are set against a quarter of a century of publications, it does support the argument that *BJPIR* is a fairly conventional Type I journal. The question this section poses is whether ‘conventional’ journals are likely to thrive and flourish in the future. Being too conventional is a risk.

This brings the discussion to D5 and a focus on viewpoint diversity, as a core element of greater flexibility and reflexivity. This is a tricky topic and dangerous terrain for any author to enter but it is hard not to review the content of *BJPIR* across its 25-year existence and not detect a fairly clear normative positionality which whether viewed in terms of being ‘left-leaning’, ‘cosmopolitan’ or ‘radically progressive’ does produce a certain repetitiveness and uniformity of argument. Defined in broad terms this can be sketched out in terms of a critique of markets, the perpetuation of narratives of crisis, broad support for the European Union, support for all forms of identity politics (race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation etc.) and animosity towards anti-immigrant arguments.

To suggest the existence of a specific normative positionality is not intended to question or challenge any element of what has been summarised by way of a generally *implicit* political approach to the analysis of most topics. The aim is simply to reintroduce the ‘*politics of journal content*’ in a way that forms a bridge between the suggested need for greater *flexibility* with a linked focus on the need for greater *reflexivity*. The latter term utilised here to denote the value of not only questioning taken-for-granted assumptions but also being willing to expose those culturally determined viewpoints that very often exist as unchallenged and ‘self-evident truths’. Elinor Ostrom (2000) once made a very strong argument about ‘the danger of self-evident truths’ in academe (i.e. that they are often wrong). But the point being made here is more subtle. It focuses on normative challenge, and asks ‘Where is the intellectual space is for publishing views and perspectives that might challenge, confront or seek to disrupt the normative positionality of the *BJPIR* at the macro-political level?’

The recent launch of the *Journal of Controversial Ideas* under the editorship of Peter Singer and the creation of a new Centre of Heterodox Social Science at the University of Buckingham reflect a broader recognition of this challenge. But this is a particularly acute challenge for the discipline(s) of political science and international relations, not least when you have UK-based political scientists making representations in the House of Commons arguing in favour of greater state intervention in higher education on the basis that a ‘chilling effect’ prevents viewpoint diversity (Hansard, 13 September 2021; see also Norris, 2023). Moreover, books such as Matthew Goodwin’s *Values, Voice and Virtue* (2023) explicitly locate political and social scientists as part of ‘a new elite’ which

is *intolerant* of ideological diversity. The implication for *BJPIR* moving forward is whether a need exists to demonstrate a stronger commitment to ‘broadening and deepening’ in relation to viewpoint diversity as well as disciplinary range.

An emphasis on reflexivity highlights the need for deep reflection beyond a focus on articles and sub-fields. A final element of this reflexive process focuses on the fundamental theme of *value* (D6, Table 5). Like many traditional Type I journals, the *BJPIR* has evolved with a focus on publishing self-standing academic articles which themselves seek to make a contribution to specific sub-fields. The value of this contribution to the broader science base or society itself (the ‘*So what?*’ question) is rarely even acknowledged let alone discussed. This is a critical point. The content analysis of *BJPIR* arguably reveals a lack of deep disciplinary reflexivity as to *how* and *why* any of the articles actually matter, or even *how* and *why* the study of political science and international studies matters, or *how* and *why* ‘the study of’ these fields has changed over time.

Articles that promote internal disciplinary reflexivity have generally not featured in the *BJPIR*. Dennis Kavanagh’s (2003) article on British political science in the inter-war years stands as an exception, and Mike Kenny’s (2004) arguments in favour of the importance of disciplinary history remain largely unheeded. If four other articles are noted – James Sloam’s (2008) discussion of the role of political science education in society, Nicholas Allen and Oliver Heath’s (2013) analysis of reputation and research quality in British political science, Foster et al.’s (2013) mapping of which political science departments offer provision in teaching gender and sexuality studies and John Craig’s (2020) work on the emergence of politics as a taught discipline – then a total of six articles represent the total disciplinary reflexive focus of the journal in 25 years. This matters due to the most recent editorial statement’s (Editorial, 2022) explicit commitment to redressing structural inequalities within the academy, in general, and the discipline(s), in particular. Disciplinary reflexivity, including historical awareness, will be necessary to achieve this ambition.


And yet, in the past, discipline-focused articles and research have generally been seen as the domain of a different journal within the PSA ‘family’ of publications (i.e. *Political Studies Review*). Debates about the future of political science (Flinders and John, 2013), the ideological context of disciplinary impact (Vincent, 2015), decolonising the curriculum (Begum and Saini, 2019), the moral foundation of the discipline (Flinders and Pal, 2020), resource distribution within the discipline (Ginocchio et al., 2022) – to provide just a few examples – have generally been informally channelled towards *Political Studies Review*. The point being made is that if the *BJPIR* is to continue its quest in relation to *deepening* – as well as *broadening* – the study of British politics and international relations, then greater internal reflexivity about the discipline’s history and particularly how it demonstrates its public relevance and social value, as other discipline(s) and journals have engaged with (see Roberts, 2020), is going to be needed. Critics may quietly express some concern that a journal like *BJPIR* can realistically publish theoretically sophisticated studies, while also demonstrating policy relevance and at the same time reaching out to broader public audiences. (They might also note that *Political Insight* was established to fill this latter role.) But the core argument of this article is that those journals which flourish and thrive in the future will develop ways of engaging with ‘multiple audiences in multiple ways’ – to borrow a phrase from Michael Burawoy (2005) – in order to nourish and sustain positive feedback loops between different readerships. The cascading benefits of ‘triple-writing’ (for a discussion, see Flinders, 2023) have clear relevance in this regard and may provide a future starting point for discussion and debate.



## Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

## ORCID iD

Matthew Flinders  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3585-9010>

## Notes

1. The phrase ‘discipline(s)’ is used throughout this article to reflect at the same time to avoid the perennial debate as to whether politics and international relations are a single discipline (with international relations being a sub-field of the discipline of politics) or two separate disciplines. This is a debate that is acknowledged in the opening 1999 editorial (p. 8) with a rather revealing admission that ‘This is an important issue, one on which the editors of this Journal take different perspectives’.
2. In many ways, Mark Blyth and Robin Varghese’s (1999) article on ‘the state of American political science’ and Steve Smith’s (2000) article on the discipline of international relations were ‘State of the Discipline’ contribution, but they were not formally branded or presented as such. The same is true of Steve Ludlam’s (2000) article on New Labour and ‘what’s published is what counts’ which is really a review essay but not formally assigned to a distinct category of publications in the manner that would subsequently emerge in the journal.
3. Interestingly, although ‘British Politics and Institutions’ is a core area for the *BJPIR*, there is a clear emphasis on the core executive. Articles on local and regional government in England are rare. Exceptions include the work of David Wilson (2003), Francesca Gains et al. (2008) and Stephen Griggs and Helen Sullivan (2014).

## References

- Akram S (2024) Dear British politics – Where is the race and racism? *British Politics* 19: 1–24.
- Allen N and Heath O (2013) Reputations for Research Quality in British Political Science. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(1): 147–162.
- Allen N and Savigny H (2016) Experiencing gender in UK political science: The results of a practitioner survey. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 18(4): 997–1015.
- Alter KJ and Zürn M (2020) Conceptualising backlash politics: Introduction to a special issue on backlash politics in comparison. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(4): 563–584.
- Arzheimer K (2008) Something old, something new, something borrowed, something true? A comment on Lister’s ‘Institutions, inequality and social norms: Explaining variations in participation’. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(4): 681–697.
- Arzheimer K (2009) Lakatos reloaded: A reply to Lister. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 11(3): 526–528.
- Atkins J (2010) Moral argument and the justification of policy: New labour’s case for welfare reform. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(3): 408–424.
- Atkins J and Gaffney J (2020) Narrative, persona and performance: The case of Theresa May 2016–2017. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(2): 293–308.
- Baccini A and Re C (2024) Who are the gatekeepers of economics? Geographic diversity, gender composition, and interlocking editorship of journal boards. *Review of Political Economy*. Epub ahead of print 23 January. DOI: 10.1080/09538259.2024.2303654.
- Baker A and Widmaier W (2015) Macroprudential ideas and contested social purpose: A response to Terrence Casey. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 17(2): 371–380.
- Basham VM and Vaughan-Williams N (2013) Gender, race and border security practices: A profane reading of ‘muscular liberalism’. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(4): 509–527.
- Becher T and Trowler P (2001) *Academic Tribes and Territories*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
- Begum N and Saini R (2019) Decolonising the curriculum. *Political Studies Review* 17(2): 196–201.
- Bennister M (2007) Tony Blair and John Howard: Comparative predominance and ‘institution stretch’ in the UK and Australia. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(3): 327–345.
- Berz J (2020) The effect of voters’ economic perception, Brexit and campaigns on the evaluation of party leaders over time. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(2): 202–219.
- Bevir M (2000) New labour: A study in ideology. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 2(3): 277–301.

- Birchfield VL, Krige J and Young AR (2017) European integration as a peace project. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(1): 3–12.
- Bishop ML (2011) Slaying the ‘Westmonster’ in the Caribbean? Constitutional reform in St Vincent and the Grenadines. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 13(3): 420–437.
- Bluth C (2005) ‘Iraq: Blair’s mission impossible’: A rejoinder to Paul Hoggett. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(4): 598–602.
- Blyth MM and Varghese R (1999) The state of the discipline in American political science: Be careful what you wish for? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 1(3): 345–365.
- Boswell C, Geddes A and Scholten P (2011) The role of narratives in migration policy-making: A research framework. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 13(1): 1–11.
- Bourne M (2011) Netwar geopolitics: Security, failed states and illicit flows. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 13(4): 490–513.
- Bowen BE (2018) British strategy and outer space: A missing link? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 20(2): 323–340.
- Bowler S and Farrell DM (2006) We know which one we prefer but we don’t really know why: The curious case of mixed member electoral systems. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 8(3): 445–460.
- Brace L (2010) Improving the inside: Gender, property and the 18th-century self. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(1): 111–125.
- Brassett J and Sutton A (2017) British satire, everyday politics: Chris Morris, Armando Iannucci and Charlie Brooker. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(2): 245–262.
- Brawley MR (2006) Agricultural interests, trade adjustment and repeal of the corn laws. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 8(4): 467–488.
- Bruff I (2005) Making sense of the globalisation debate when engaging in political economy analysis. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(2): 261–280.
- Buller J and Flinders M (2005) The domestic origins of depoliticisation in the area of British economic policy. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(4): 526–543.
- Burawoy M (2005) Presidential address: For public sociology. *American Sociological Review* 70: 4–28.
- Byrne C and Randall N (2024) What kind of discipline are we? A network analysis of British Politics. *British Politics* 19: 26–45.
- Callaghan J (2002) Social democracy and globalisation: The limits of social democracy in historical perspective. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 4(3): 429–451.
- Callinicos A (2004) Books reviewed: Marxism and the International: The Future of the capitalist state, historical materialism and globalisation. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 6(3): 426–433.
- Carver T (2007) GI Jane: What are the ‘manners’ that ‘maketh a man’? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(2): 313–317.
- Casey T (2015) How macroprudential financial regulation can save neoliberalism. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 17(2): 351–370.
- Chernobrov D (2022) Strategic humour: Public diplomacy and comic framing of foreign policy issues. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 24(2): 277–296.
- Christensen J, Shaxson N and Wigan D (2016) The finance curse: Britain and the world economy. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 18(1): 255–269.
- Coates D (2013) Labour after new labour: Escaping the debt. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(1): 38–52.
- Collins M (2014) The Beatles’ politics. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 16(2): 291–309.
- Connolly Symposium: Introduction (2008) *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(2): 139–139.
- Craig J (2020) The emergence of politics as a taught discipline at universities in the United Kingdom. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(2): 145–163.
- Daddow O (2013) Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and the Eurosceptic tradition in Britain. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(2): 210–227.
- Danchev A (2005) How strong are shared values in the transatlantic relationship? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(3): 429–436.
- Davies GAM (2007) Coercion or engagement? A quantitative test of the effect of regional actors on North Korean behaviour 1990–2000. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(3): 477–493.
- Dean J (2017) Politicising fandom. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(2): 408–424.
- Dowding K (2005) Is it rational to vote? Five types of answer and a suggestion. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(3): 442–459.



- Editorial: British Politics and International Relations in Times of Change (2010) *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(2): 155–160.
- Editorial: Studying British Politics (1999) *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 1(1): 1–11.
- Editorial (2001) *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 3(1): 1–2.
- Editorial (2002) British Political Studies and the Politics of Global Challenges. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 24(1): 3–10.
- Emejulu A (2019) Can political science decolonise? A response to Neema Begum and Rima Saini. *Political Studies Review* 17(2): 202–206.
- Epstein D (2019) *Range*. London: Macmillan.
- Felicetti A and Castelli Gattinara P (2018) Toward an assessment of marginality in democratic systems: The Charlie Hebdo debate in the United Kingdom. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 20(2): 497–517.
- Fielding S (2014) New labour, ‘sleaze’ and television drama. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 16(2): 326–348.
- Fioretos O (2019) The synopated history of the liberal international order. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(1): 20–28.
- Fisher J, Van Heerde J and Tucker A (2010) Does one trust judgement fit all? Linking theory and empirics. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(2): 161–188.
- Flinders M (2023) Stretch your work further by triple writing. *Times Higher*, 29 March 2023. Available at: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/stretch-your-work-further-triple-writing> (accessed 25 September 2024).
- Flinders M and John P (2013) The future of political science. *Political Studies Review* 11(2): 222–227.
- Flinders M and Kelso A (2011) Mind the gap: Political analysis, public expectations and the parliamentary decline thesis. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 13(2): 249–268.
- Flinders M and Pal LA (2020) The moral foundations of public engagement: Does Political science, as a discipline, have an ethics? *Political Studies Review* 18(2): 263–276.
- Foley M (2004) Presidential attribution as an agency of prime ministerial critique in a parliamentary democracy: The case of Tony Blair. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 6(3): 292–311.
- Foster E, Kerr P, Hopkins A, et al. (2013) The Personal is not Political. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(4): 566–585.
- Gains F, John P and Stoker G (2008) When do bureaucrats prefer strong political principals? Institutional reform and bureaucratic preferences in English local government. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(4): 649–665.
- Gamble A (2002) Political Memoirs. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 4(1): 141–151.
- Ginocchio BG, Hindmoor A and Stanley L (2022) Pluralism and political studies in the UK: A pilot study into who gets what in the discipline. *Political Studies Review* 20(1): 3–22.
- Goodwin M (2023) *Values, Voice and Virtue*. London: Penguin.
- Goodwin M and Milazzo C (2017) Taking back control? Investigating the role of immigration in the 2016 vote for Brexit. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(3): 450–464.
- Grayson K (2013) How to read Paddington bear: Liberalism and the foreign subject in A Bear Called Paddington. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(3): 378–393.
- Griggs S and Sullivan H (2014) Puzzling agency in centre-local relations: Regulatory governance and accounts of change under new labour. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 16(3): 495–514.
- Grix J and Houlihan B (2014) Sports mega-events as part of a nation’s soft power strategy: The cases of Germany (2006) and the UK (2012). *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 16(4): 572–596.
- Grossman E (2020) A gender bias in the European Journal of Political Research? *European Political Science* 19: 416–427.
- Hanretty C (2021) *Career Trajectories in UK Departments of Politics and International Relations*. London: BISA/PSA.
- Hansard, Third Sitting of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill, 13 September 2021. Available at: [https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-09-13/debates/8704d1ec-eade-44f3-b4c9-d482b6b848e2/HigherEducation\(FreedomOfSpeech\)Bill\(ThirdSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-09-13/debates/8704d1ec-eade-44f3-b4c9-d482b6b848e2/HigherEducation(FreedomOfSpeech)Bill(ThirdSitting)) (accessed 25 September 2024).
- Hay C (2013) Treating the symptom not the condition: Crisis definition, deficit reduction and the search for a New British Growth Model. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 15(1): 23–37.
- Heffernan R (2003) Prime Ministerial predominance? Core executive politics in the UK. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 5(3): 347–372.

- Heffernan R (2005) Exploring (and explaining) the British Prime Minister. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(4): 605–620.
- Hirschman A (1981) *Essays in Trespassing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hoggett P (2005a) A reply to Christoph Bluth. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(4): 603–604.
- Hoggett P (2005b) Iraq: Blair's mission impossible. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(3): 418–428.
- Ingle S (2007) Lies, damned lies and literature: George Orwell and 'The Truth'. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(4): 730–746.
- Järvelin K and Vakkari P (2022) LIS research across 50 years: Content analysis of journal articles. *Journal of Documentation* 78(7): 65–88.
- Jeffery C and Peterson J (2020) 'Breakthrough' political science: Multi-level governance – reconceptualising Europe's modernised polity. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(4): 753–766.
- Kaiser W (2002) A Never-Ending Story: Britain in Europe. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 4(1): 152–165.
- Kavanagh D (2003) British Political Science in the Inter-War Years. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 5(4): 594–613.
- Kenny M (2004) The Case for Disciplinary History. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 6(4): 565–583.
- Kettell S and Kerr P (2022) 'Guided by the science': (De)politicising the UK government's response to the coronavirus crisis. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 24(1): 11–30.
- Kimball W (2005) Dangerously contagious? The Anglo-American special relationship. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(3): 437–441.
- King A (1989) Adventures in Bureaucracy. *The Economist*, Jan 14th, 97–98.
- Kornprobst M and Senn M (2016) Introduction: Background ideas in international relations. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 18(2): 273–281.
- Kuzemko C (2016) Energy depoliticisation in the UK: Destroying political capacity. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 18(1): 107–124.
- Lamb R (2010) Introduction: The politics of property. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(1): 1–2.
- Lieberman S and Gray T (2008) GMOs and the developing world: A precautionary interpretation of biotechnology. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(3): 395–411.
- Lister M (2007) Institutions, inequality and social norms: Explaining variations in participation. *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(1): 20–35.
- Lister M (2009) Methods, theories and evidence: A reply to Arzheimer. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 11(3): 518–525.
- LSE GV314 (2012) Groups and the Limited Pluralism of the Set-Piece Consultation. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 14(1): 175–186.
- Ludlam S (2000) New labour: What's published is what counts. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 2(2): 264–276.
- Luker K (2010) *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences*. Harvard, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Lyall C (2019) *Being an Interdisciplinary Academic*. London: Palgrave.
- McEwen N, Swenden W and Bolleyer N (2012) Introduction: Political opposition in a multi-level context. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 14(2): 187–197.
- Mackay F (2004) Gender and political representation in the UK: The state of the 'discipline'. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 6(1): 99–120.
- McLaughlin A (2019) Justifying subsistence emissions, past and present. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(2): 263–269.
- Maliniak D, Peterson S, Powers R, et al. (2020) *Journal Article Database Codebook*. [https://trip.wm.edu/dashboard/journal-articles/TRIP\\_Journal%20Article%20Database\\_Codebook2.2.pdf](https://trip.wm.edu/dashboard/journal-articles/TRIP_Journal%20Article%20Database_Codebook2.2.pdf) (accessed 25 September 2024).
- Marsh D (1999) Jim Bulpitt (1937–1999). *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 1(3): 269–269.
- Menz G (2011) Employer preferences for labour migration: Exploring 'varieties of capitalism'-based contextual conditionality in Germany and the United Kingdom. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 13(4): 534–550.
- Moon DS, Thompson J and Whiting S (2019) Lost in the process? The impact of devolution on abortion law in the United Kingdom. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(4): 728–745.

- Moosavi L (2020) The decolonial bandwagon and the dangers of intellectual decolonisation. *International Review of Sociology* 30(2): 332–354.
- Motta SC (2008) The Chilean Socialist Party (PSCh): Constructing consent and disarticulating dissent to neo-liberal hegemony in Chile. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(2): 303–327.
- Mulgan G (2021) The Synthesis Gap. <https://www.geoffmulgan.com/post/the-synthesis-gap-reducing-the-imbalance-between-advice-and-absorption-in-handling-big-challenges> (accessed 25 September 2024).
- Müller KB (2006) The civil society–state relationship in contemporary discourse: A Complementary account from Giddens' perspective. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 8(2): 311–330.
- Norris P (2023) Cancel culture: Myth or reality? *Political Studies* 71(1): 145–174.
- Olesker R (2020) Chaos is a ladder: A study of identity, norms, and power transition in the Game of Thrones universe. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(1): 47–64.
- Ostrom E (2000) The danger of self-evident truths. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33(1): 33–44.
- Panagakou S (2005) The political philosophy of the British idealists. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 7(1): 1–4.
- Parsons S (2006) The rationality of voting: A response to Dowding. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 8(2): 295–298.
- Pautz H (2010) Think Tanks in the United Kingdom and Germany: Actors in the modernisation of social democracy. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(2): 274–294.
- Peters BG (2001) Introduction. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 3(1): 3–4.
- Peters BG (2019) The politics of bureaucracy after 40 years. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(3): 468–479.
- Peterson J and Convery A (2019) 'Breakthrough' works – revisiting the essentials: A symposium series in the BJPIR. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(1): 3–4.
- Pierson C (2010) 'Naboth is stoned': A Bible story. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(1): 72–87.
- Policy Matters—An Editorial Note (2012) *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 14(4): 671.
- Preston P (2007) Freedom from 'Britain': A comment on recent elite-sponsored political cultural identities. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(1): 158–164.
- Pryce S (2006) The state of the discipline: Politics and drugs. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 8(4): 602–610.
- Randall V and Lovenduski J (2004) Gender in contemporary British Politics. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 6(1): 1–2.
- Richards D and Mathers H (2010) Political memoirs and new labour: Interpretations of power and the 'club rules'. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(4): 498–522.
- Riddell P (2010) In defence of politicians: In spite of themselves. *Parliamentary Affairs* 63(3): 545–557.
- Roberts A (2020) Bearing the White Man's burden: American empire and the origin of public administration. *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance* 3(3): 185–196.
- Rone J (2023) Instrumentalising sovereignty claims in British pro- and anti-Brexit mobilisations. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 25(3): 444–461.
- Rosamond B and Wincott D (2006) Constitutionalism, European integration and British political economy. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 8(1): 1–14.
- Rowley C (2007) Firefly/serenity: Gendered space and gendered bodies. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(2): 318–325.
- Ruback TJ (2010) 'Let me tell the story straight on': Middlemarch, process-tracing methods and the politics of narrative. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(4): 477–497.
- Runciman D (2001) History of political thought: The state of the discipline. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 3(1): 84–104.
- Sadeh T and Howarth D (2008) Economic interests and the European Union: A Catalyst for European integration or a hindrance? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(1): 1–8.
- Savoie DJ (2019) Revisiting the politics of bureaucracy. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(3): 480–486.
- Schipper ELF, Ensor J, Mukherji A, et al. (2021) Equity in climate scholarship: A manifesto for action. *Climate and Development* 13(10): 853–856.
- Schmidt BC (2002) Together again: Reuniting political theory and international relations theory. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 4(1): 115–140.
- Schulzke M (2017) Military videogames and the future of ideological warfare. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(3): 609–626.

- Seabrooke L and Tsingou E (2010) Responding to the Global Credit Crisis. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 19(2): 313–323.
- Sen S (2023) Decolonising to reimagine International Relations. *Review of International Studies* 49(3): 339–345.
- Shilliam R (2019) Behind the Rhodes statue: Black competency and the imperial academy. *History of the Human Sciences* 32(5): 3–27.
- Shue H (2019) Subsistence protection and mitigation ambition: Necessities, economic and climatic. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(2): 251–262.
- Sloam J (2008) Teaching democracy: The role of political science education. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(3): 509–524.
- Smith NJ and Lee D (2015) What's queer about political science? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 17(1): 49–63.
- Smith S (2000) The discipline of international relations: Still an American social science? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 2(3): 374–402.
- Squires J and Weldes J (2007) Beyond being marginal: Gender and international relations in Britain. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(2): 185–203.
- Street J (2012) Do celebrity politics and celebrity politicians matter? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 14(3): 346–356.
- Street J, Hague S and Savigny H (2008) Playing to the crowd: The role of music and musicians in political participation. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 10(2): 269–285.
- Stroud D, Pennington P, Cleaver C, et al. (2017) A content analysis of research articles in *The Journal for Specialists in Group Work*: 1998–2015'. *The Journal for Specialists in Group Work* 42(2): 194–210.
- Teele DL and Thelen K (2017) Gender in the journals: Publication patterns in political science. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50(2): 433–447.
- Temple M (2000) New labour's third way: Pragmatism and governance. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 2(3): 302–325.
- Thiers C and Wehner L (2023) Britain's COVID battle. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 25(3): 517–534.
- Thomassen L (2004) Lacanian political theory: A reply to Robinson. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 6(4): 558–561.
- van Kessel S, Chelotti N, Drake H, et al. (2020) Eager to leave? Populist radical right parties' responses to the UK's Brexit vote. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22(1): 65–84.
- Vincent A (2015) The ideological context of impact. *Political Studies Review* 13(4): 474–484.
- Vlcek W (2014) From road town to Shanghai: Situating the Caribbean in global capital flows to China. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 16(3): 534–553.
- Warner S (2019) (Re)politicising 'the governmental': Resisting the Industrial Relations Act 1971. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(3): 541–558.
- White S, McAllister I and Feklyunina V (2010) Belarus, Ukraine and Russia: East or West? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 12(3): 344–367.
- Widdecombe A (2007) Feminizing politics: A review. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(4): 749–750.
- Wilde L (2007) The concept of solidarity: Emerging from the theoretical shadows? *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(1): 171–181.
- Wilson A (2019) A message from the PSA Chair. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21(1): 245–245.
- Wilson D (2003) Unravelling control freakery: Redefining central-local government relations. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 5(3): 317–346.
- Wood M (2015) Depoliticisation, resilience and the Herceptin post-code lottery crisis: Holding back the tide. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 17(4): 644–664.
- Zalewski M (2007) Do we understand each other yet? Troubling feminist encounters with(in) international relations. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9(2): 302–312.