
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES REVIEW

isr.oxfordjournals.org

Annual Editorial Report 2015-2016

Editors

Kelly Kadera
University of Iowa
Laura Sjoberg
University of Florida

Associate Editors

Kyle Beardsley
Duke University
Timothy Peterson
University of South Carolina
Ja Ian Chong
National University of Singapore

Book Review Editor

Aida Hozic
University of Florida

Managing Editor

Sojeong Lee
University of Iowa

Executive Summary

As previously reported, there was a transfer of editorial operations on June 1, 2015 from the team based at the National University of Singapore, to a team based at the University of Iowa, and jointly headed by Kelly Kadera (at Iowa) and Laura Sjoberg (at the University of Florida). The full editorial team includes Associate Editors Ja Ian Chong (National University of Singapore), Kyle Beardsley (Duke University), Timothy Peterson (University of South Carolina); Book Review Editor Aida Hozic (University of Florida); and Managing Editor Sojeong Lee (University of Iowa).

This report covers the 12-month period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. It is therefore the first full report after the transition, though the 2014-2015 report included much of the work of the current team. This time interval is identical to the previous annual report. At the beginning of 2016, *ISR*, like other ISA

journals, transitioned to Oxford University Press. *ISR* is overall doing well, and the editors are excited about some of the changes as we look forward. International Studies Review is with an impact factor of 1.283 according to the 2015 Journal Citation Reports (Thomson Reuters, 2016).

Manuscript Flow

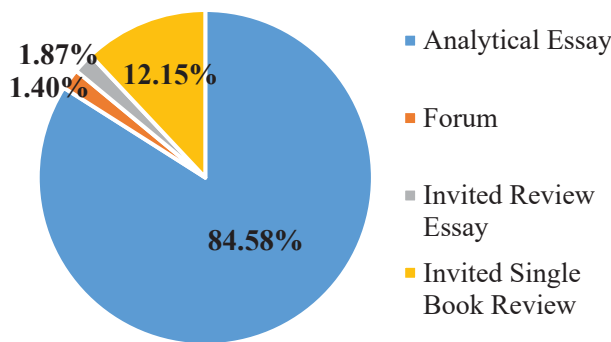
During the 12-month period this report covers, the journal processed 181 analytical essays. The journal also considered 3 forums, 4 invited review essays, and 26 single book reviewers during the reporting period. The journal processed one Presidential Special Issue in this reporting period, as it did during the last reporting period. As usual, the overwhelming majority of manuscripts the journal considered were Analytical Essays.

Analytical Essays are peer-reviewed and up to 15000 words. They critically engage a literature in international studies, using analysis, historical and contemporary examples, and data to move the literature forward.

Table 1. Manuscripts by Type

Manuscript Type	Number	Percent
Analytical Essay	181	84.58%
Forum	3	1.40%
Invited Review Essay	4	1.87%
Invited Single Book Review	26	12.15%
Summary	214	100 %

Figure 1. Manuscripts by Type



12% of the manuscripts that the journal received are Single Book Reviews – another major part of *ISR*'s remit. As the only ISA journal that publishes single book reviews, *ISR* takes seriously its mission to get readable, informative book reviews into print. The Book Review editor is able to be highly selective about which books to review, resulting in a diverse and informative set of Reviews.

The other two sorts of manuscripts *ISR* publishes are less frequently submitted and processed, but no less valuable: Review Essays and Forums. Review Essays are peer-reviewed analyses of multiple books that fall into a cohesive theme, and they require a contribution to the literature. Forums are forward-looking engagements with potential areas of the literature to be explored, often written by a combination of leading and new scholars in the field.

Table 2 shows the first decisions to the manuscripts made during the reporting period. Of the 214 manuscripts received, 164 had the first decision

during the reporting period and 50 have not been decided and are still in process.

Of the 164 manuscripts on which at least the first decisions had been rendered, 135 are Analytical Essays during the reporting period. Of the 135, 1 manuscript (0.74%) was conditionally accepted and 20 (14.81%) were in Revise & Resubmit, while 114 (84.44%) were rejected. This means that our Analytical Essays have an initial rejection rate of 99%, with an overall rejection rate of 84%. This is standard across competitor journals in the field.

Table 2. First Decisions by Manuscript Type

Manuscripts' First Decisions		
Manuscript Type	Count	Percent
Analytical Essay		
Conditional Accept	1	0.74%
Revise & Resubmit	20	14.81%
Reject	58	42.96%
Reject without Review	56	41.48%
Forum		
Conditional Accept	1	50.00%
Reject without Review	1	50.00%
Book Review		
Accept	11	45.83%
Conditional Accept	10	41.67%
Minor Revision	1	4.17%
Revise & Resubmit	2	8.33%
Review Essay		
Reject	1	33.33%
Reject without Review	2	66.67%
Summary		
Accept	11	6.71%
Conditional Accept	12	7.32%
Minor Revision	1	0.61%
Revise & Resubmit	22	13.41%
Reject	59	35.98%
Reject without Review	59	35.98%
Total	164	100%

Of the 164 manuscripts that had reached first decisions, 151 had been rendered a latest decision during the reporting period. Of the 151 manuscripts, 122 (81%) were Analytical Essays. Of 122 Analytical Essays, 4 were accepted; 4 were given the option to revise and resubmit; and 114 were rejected, either with or without review. The latest decisions made on 2 Forums included 1 conditional accepted

and 1 rejected without review; and those for 3 Review Essays included 1 rejected and 2 rejected without review. Of the 151 manuscripts with the latest decisions, 24 were Book Reviewer: 22 accepted, 1 conditional accepted, and 1 revise and resubmit.

Of particular note is the rate of rejection without review for analytical essays, which is just over 41%. We note that *ISR's* remit is highly stylized, and authors of many of these reject without review manuscripts are redirected to sister ISA journals with more traditional remits. Additionally, we have seen an uptick in submissions that have originality issues and are desk rejected for that reasons. Consequently, we have recently begun to keep track of the number of manuscripts with originality problems, but are too early into the process to provide meaningful information.

Turn Around Time

Table 3 below reports turn-around time, categorized by manuscript types. The journal's average time from original submission to original (first) decision for peer-reviewed manuscripts received during the reporting period was 75 days (as compared to 69 days in the previous year). Those peer-reviewed manuscripts include Analytical Essays, Forms, and Review Essays.

Table 3. Turn Around Time*

Manuscript Type	Count	Mean
Peer Reviewed	81	75
Analytical Essay	135	52
Peer Reviewed	79	76
Reject without Review	56	18
Forum	2	31
Peer Reviewed	1	49
Reject without Review	1	13
Review Essay	3	37
Peer Reviewed	1	45
Reject without Review	2	32
Non Peer Reviewed	24	23
Book Review		
Non Peer Reviewed	24	23
Reject without Review	-	-

Note: Turn Around Time is calculated by the average number of days from the original submission to the original decision.

Analytical Essays had spent 52 days on average to render the first decisions, which was longer than the previous year's 42 days. The average turn-around time for Forums was 31 days in the reporting period, which is significantly shorter than the previous year's 63 days. The time to decision of Review Essays was 37 days, which is also much shorter than the previous year's 60 days. All turnaround times remain within ISA's guidelines.

The editorial team has been committed to maintaining and, if possible, lowering the time from submission to decision, and has increased the number of reviewers initially invited on each manuscript to hasten that process. All editors on the team turned around their decision letters quickly during the reporting period.

Author Participation, Gender, and Geography

As shown in Table 4, women accounted for about 25% of the authors who were submitting work to the *International Studies Review* during the reporting period. This marks a slight decline (3%) from the previous year's percentage of female authors (28%). This 3% decrease may be due in part to the fact that the journal relied on voluntarily supplied information from the submitting authors. About 7.5% of the submitting authors did not provide gender information, compared to the previous year's 1.29%. It should be also noted that this calculation is based on corresponding authors; it does not include co-authors of the manuscripts. Of the authors who provided gender information, 68% were male in the reporting period. Compared to the previous year, the journal saw a 3% decrease in the percentage of male submitting authors. The editors have been aiming to improve the submission differential by outreach to organizations of female scholars in IR (e.g., the Women's Caucus of the ISA, Journeys in World Politics alumnae, and Women in Conflict Studies).

Table 4. Submitting Author Reported Gender

Submitting Author Country	Count	Percent
United States	63	30.29%
United Kingdom	27	12.98%
Germany	11	5.29%
Canada	9	4.33%
Australia	7	3.37%
Israel	7	3.37%
Italy	7	3.37%
Turkey	7	3.37%
Sweden	6	2.88%
Belgium	5	2.40%
India	5	2.40%
Singapore	5	2.40%
Netherlands	4	1.92%
Brazil	3	1.44%
Colombia	3	1.44%
Taiwan	3	1.44%
The Republic of Korea	3	1.44%
China	2	0.96%
Mexico	2	0.96%
Nigeria	2	0.96%
Philippines	2	0.96%
South Africa	2	0.96%
Austria	1	0.48%
Chile	1	0.48%
Cyprus	1	0.48%
Denmark	1	0.48%
Ecuador	1	0.48%
Estonia	1	0.48%
France	1	0.48%
Ghana	1	0.48%
Greece	1	0.48%
The Islamic Republic of Iran	1	0.48%
Ireland	1	0.48%
Japan	1	0.48%
Kazakhstan	1	0.48%
Lithuania	1	0.48%
Morocco	1	0.48%
New Zealand	1	0.48%
Norway	1	0.48%
Portugal	1	0.48%
Russian Federation	1	0.48%
Sri Lanka	1	0.48%
Switzerland	1	0.48%
Ukraine	1	0.48%
Uzbekistan	1	0.48%
Total	208	100%

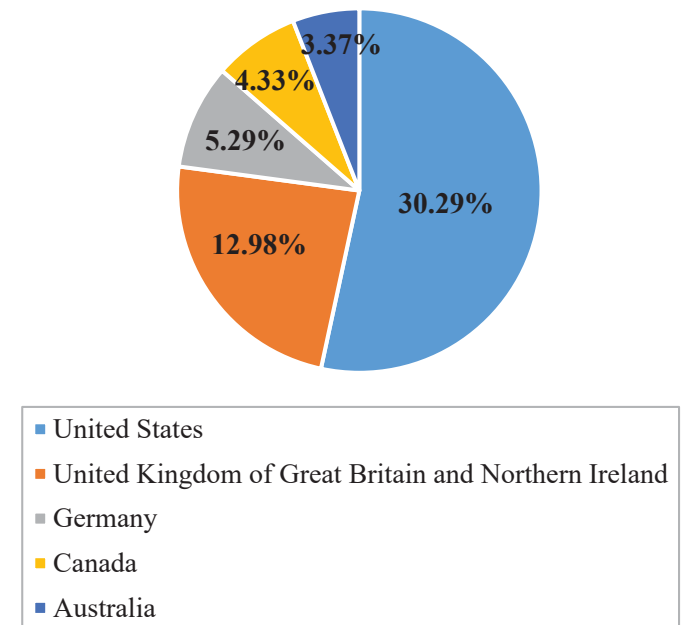
Geographically, about 30% of submitting authors were in the United States, showing a 4% increase from the previous year. Authors from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland accounted for 13% of the country of submission.

4.33% of the submitting authors were Canada-based, which was a consistent percentage compared to the previous year (4.17%). Germany-based authors accounted for 5.29% of the submitting authors, which is almost two times as many as the previous year's (2.52%). India shows a sizeable increase (2.40%) from the previous year in which only one manuscript was recorded (0.22%).

Table 5. Submitting Author Country

Author Gender	Number	Percent
Female	53	24.77%
Male	145	67.76%
Unknown	16	7.48%
Total	214	100%

Countries such as Columbia and Belgium experienced a significant increase in number of submission, from 0 of the previous year to 3 (Columbia) and 5 (Belgium) in this reporting year. Countries such as Israel, Italy, Turkey showed a 1-2% increases in the percentages of submission country compared to the previous year's records, even though the counts were lower compared to the previous year.

Figure 2. Submitting Author Country

In sum, about 70% of the manuscripts submitted during the reporting period were from outside of the United States. Also, about 53% of the manuscripts received during the reporting period were from

countries other than US, UK, Australia, and New Zealand. The more detailed statistics of submitting author country are presented in Table 6 and Figure 4 above.

Reviewer Participation, Gender, and Geography

Of more than 900 scholars invited to review for the journal over the reporting period, 44% agreed, while 42% declined. About 14% of the invited reviewers were automatically declined by the Scholar One system when they had failed to respond after a 7-day window. The 44% of reviewer agreement percentage in the reporting year suggests a 1% increase over the reviewer agreement rate of the previous year. Table 6 summarizes reviewer invitation responses in the reporting year, and Table 7 does so by gender.

Table 6. Reviewer Invitation Responses

Invitation Response	Count	Percent
Agreed	413	44.08%
Declined	396	42.26%
Auto-declined (no response)	128	13.66%
Total	937	100%

Information on the gender of invited reviewers is quite limited, given that reviewers are less likely than submitting authors to complete the optional questionnaire associated with establishing a personal account in the Scholar One system. Of the 937 invited reviewers, only 165 (17.6%) identified their gender. The majority of the invited reviewers (772, 82.4%) did not provide gender information. Of the 121 agreed reviewers who identified their gender, 39% were female, while 61% were male. We find that 70% of the invited reviewers who identified themselves female had agreed to review a manuscript in the reporting year. We intend to code Reviewer data based on name and association in 2016-2017 to get a better sense of the gender balance of agreed Reviewers.

Table 7. Reviewer Invitations & Responses by Gender

Invited Reviewer Gender	Count	Mean
Female	67	7.15%
Agreed	47	70.15%
Declined/Auto-declined	20	29.85%
Male	98	10.46%
Agreed	74	75.51%
Declined/Auto-declined	24	24.49%
Unknown	772	82.39%
Agreed	292	37.82%
Declined/Auto-declined	480	62.18%
Of Agreed Reviewers	121	
Female	47	38.84%
Male	74	61.16%

Figure 3 and Table 8 report the geographical distribution of reviewers who accepted the invitation over the reporting period. The journal has been collecting reviewers' country profile by relying on voluntarily supplied information from the invited reviewers.

Figure 3. Agreed Reviewer Country

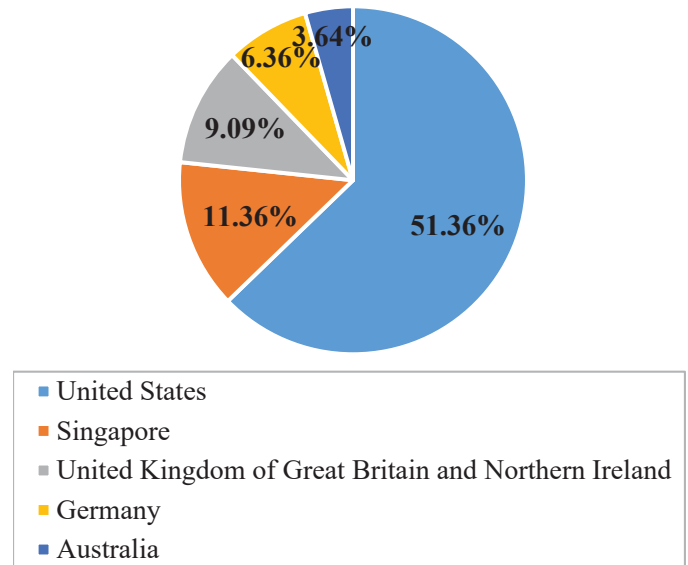


Table 8. Agreed Reviewer Country

Agreed Reviewer Country	Count	Percent
United States	113	52.31%
Singapore	25	11.57%
United Kingdom	18	8.33%
Germany	14	6.48%
Australia	8	3.70%
Belgium	4	1.85%
Denmark	4	1.85%
Japan	4	1.85%
Netherlands	4	1.85%
Brazil	3	1.39%
Canada	2	0.93%
China	2	0.93%
Israel	2	0.93%
Switzerland	2	0.93%
Czech Republic	1	0.46%
Finland	1	0.46%
Italy	1	0.46%
The Republic of Korea	1	0.46%
Malaysia	1	0.46%
Mexico	1	0.46%
Norway	1	0.46%
Romania	1	0.46%
South Africa	1	0.46%
Spain	1	0.46%
Sweden	1	0.46%
Taiwan	1	0.46%
Turkey	1	0.46%
Total	216	100%

Notably, the largest proportion (52%) of agreed reviewers were based in the United States, which is about a 10% increase from the previous year (32%). Singapore accounted for the second largest percentage of the agreed reviewers, but Singapore experienced a 15% decrease from the previous year (26.4%). About 8% of the agreed reviewers were UK-based, which is a 2% decrease from the previous year (10.47%). In sum, more than 50% of the submitting authors were US-based. 64% of the submitting authors came from countries including the US, the UK, and Australia. The editorial team will strive to maintain and augment the international characteristic of the reviewer pool as one of the important features of the journal.

Points of Interest

Like other ISA journals, *ISR* has fully transitioned from Wiley-Blackwell to Oxford University Press. In addition to publishing the journal, OUP now hosts our website, facilitates free access to virtual special issues and recently accepted manuscripts, promotes the journal on social media, and provides assistance with manuscript management in ScholarOne.

International Studies Review continues to maintain and expand its online presence. The journal curated a new Virtual Special Issue on Foreign Policy during the reported period. It has also become active in the Twitterverse. For example, for National Talk Like a Pirate Day, OUP ungated Mark Shirk’s recent article, “Bringing the State Back In to the Empire Turn: Piracy and Empire in the 18th Century Atlantic,” and *ISR* coupled a Facebook announcement with a tweet.

Review Essays’ success can now be seen in their appearance among the most frequently downloaded and cited manuscripts.

The 2017 Governing Council will choose the new Editorial Team for *ISR*, which will take over January 1, 2018. The current team will work closely with the incoming team to facilitate that transition.