Editorial: Special Issue: 70 years of International Social Science Journal

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Since its foundation in 1949 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Social Science Journal (ISSJ) has not only been a forum for innovative review, reflection and discussion but most importantly a platform that unites the social sciences. It has brought together scholars and readers across a broad range of subjects and countries, and has promoted cross-fertilisation between the social sciences as well as scholars and policymakers. Since 2016, the new editorial board has given the journal a stronger focus on inter- and trans- disciplinary research by soliciting novel and hetero- dox approaches and original ideas, while continuing its particular interest in policy-relevant questions and reaffirming its commitment to international representation.

Throughout its 70-year history, ISSJ has published research that has reverberated across the social sciences, and the editors wish to commemorate the journal’s long-standing history and legacy in this 70th anniversary issue. Here we have reprinted our ten most successful and influential articles. The authors contributed to on-going debates even as they changed them, often in fundamental and long-lasting ways. For these reasons, we invited recognised scholars, whose vantage of their respective fields makes them especially well-suited to appreciate their effect, to revisit these papers. They have written introductory commentaries preceding the anniversary articles. While each scholar takes a different approach to introducing a paper, the commentaries offer a compelling and sometimes even a provocative presentation of the impact and contribution of these classic articles and their authors. These commentaries thus do not only help you, the reader, to appreciate the past work published in ISSJ, but also encourages you to see each of these papers in a new light. I hope that each preceding commentary will provoke your interest in re-reading these classic papers and demonstrate their continuing relevance in a time of political and social transformation, defined by challenges in and to globalisation, migration, state governance as well as state and non-state actor relations.

Our issue starts with Guy Peter’s commentary on Gerry Stoker’s “Governance as Theory: Five Propositions” published in 2008 which was soon to become a key contribution to theorising and mapping governance as network. While Peter’s contribution exposes the impact that Stoker’s seminal work of which “some ideas […] have become the conventional wisdom of governance” had on the future governance literature, he critically reflects on Stoker’s perspective by extending the initial five propositions with ten additional concepts. Next, Martin Jones takes on Bob Jessop’s elaborations on the role of governance, governance practices, governance failure, and meta-governance in the latter’s 1998 paper on “The rise of governance and the risks of failure: the case of economic development”. He uses them as a starting point for analysing British governance practices during the twenty years that followed Jessop’s paper. Jones helps us to understand the significance of Jessop’s paper for recognising the inherent potential of governance failure and demonstrates Jessop’s theory in action. Jessop’s and Jones’ contribution thus complement the papers by Stoker and Peter. While the latter stress the reciprocal nature of governance, the former stress its contradictions. Sidney Tarrow introduces us to Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink’s 1999 paper on “Transnational advocacy networks in international and regional politics”. Despite the changes in the type of non- state actors as well as their role and their manner of interaction during the past twenty years, Tar- row shows why this classic paper is still relevant today. This is mainly due to Keck and Sikkink’s interdisciplinary approach that took their paper beyond the confines of International Relations and Comparative Politics. Christopher Chase-Dunne continues by concisely summarising Arno Tausch’s contribution to dependency theory in his 2010 paper on “Globalisation and development: the relevance of classical ‘dependency’ theory for the world today”. He focuses in particular on the negative impact that dependence on foreign multinational corporations has on long-term development while leading to sectoral disparities, high rates of income inequality and the polarisation of social relations. Chase-Dunne further illustrates the way in which Tausch’s study can be extended to take account of other emerging challenges. These papers dovetail the second section of this issue which concentrates on issues related to migration.

Douglas S. Massey not only demonstrates the relevance of Joaquin Arango’s paper on “Explaining Migration: A Critical View” nine years after its publication in 2010, but also offers us the compelling historical background to this paper. This includes the work of the IUSSP Committee on South-North migration whose work was the foundation for Arango’s critique, particularly its oversight of the impact of politics and state actions on the shape of international migration, the latter’s effect on societal transformation as well as the role of involuntary migration and immobility. Baogang He situates Will Kymlicka’s paper entitled “The rise and fall of multiculturalism? New debates on inclusion and accommodation in diverse societies” within the larger context of Kymlicka’s work. He focuses particularly on Kymlicka’s theories on the necessity of desecuritisation as a precondition for the success of multiculturalism. He critically analyses and extends the latter’s theory via a study of Australia and the securitisation of Chinese migrants and Chinese-Australians. Complementing this analysis, Mark Miller stresses the contemporary relevance of Stephen Castles’ paper on “International Migration at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century: Global Trends and Issues” published in 2000. He presents a refreshing personal perspective of Castles’ impact on his own work. In the same vein Heaven Crawley delivers a very concise and rigorous exposition of the 2010 paper on “Towards post- multiculturalism? Changing communities, conditions and contexts of diversity”, written by Steven Vertovec, by illustrating the far-sightedness that Vertovec demonstrated in his paper, despite the tremendous changes that have occurred since the paper’s publication and the challenges he could not foresee. Vertovec’s concept of super-diversity and the challenges to social identities and belonging remain particularly relevant in today’s turbulent times.

In light of the causes and consequences of both voluntary and involuntary migration, James

K. Galbraith offers interesting food for thought in his critical comment on Udaya Wagle’s 2008 paper on “Rethinking poverty: definition and measurement” by extending the latter’s contribution with three additional challenges of poverty. This provides a compelling background to Ursula Rao’s discussion of Amita Baviskar’s 2003 paper on “Between Violence and Desire, Space, Power, and Identity in the Making of Metropolitan Delhi”. Rao provides the context for Baviskar’s analysis and elaborates the class dynamics governing power relations and urban gentrification in India.

It is perhaps unsurprising that ISSJ’s most read and cited articles deal with some of the most crucial questions facing humanity today. How do people organise within and beyond states to shape policies in ways that reflect their interests? How do power dynamics and institutions constrain and enable those mobilisations, and to what end? What motivates people to move across borders, to what political and economic effect, and how and why is that movement a nexus for local and international conflict bringing personal and political consequences of their own? Finally, what concepts help us make sense of all this? This anniversary issue offers you, the reader, a pertinent examination of these enduringly central questions that humanity faces today, and we, the editors, believe you will enjoy reading each of our contributions as much as we did. We hope that the collection of commentaries and classic articles gives rise to new and constructive arguments, ideas, and approaches. We are looking forward to publishing these in ISSJ in the future.