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## Journal of Peace Research

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## *Journal of Peace Research*

HENRIK URDAL, EDITOR, GUDRUN ØSTBY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, AND NILS PETTER GLEDITSCH, EDITOR (1977–1978 AND 1983–2010)

The *Journal of Peace Research (JPR)* celebrates 50 years in 2014. Thematically, *JPR* is broadly oriented. The journal encourages a wide conception of peace, but focuses on the causes of violence and conflict resolution. Over the years the journal has developed a few thematic niches, most recently the liberal peace and the relationship between environmental change and conflict. Other long-standing niches include the history of peace research, the economics of military spending, human rights, and nonviolence. The latter topic has recently experienced a remarkable renaissance, paving the way for a special issue published in 2013. While *JPR* is explicitly multidisciplinary and committed to methodological pluralism, it has established a particularly strong position in the statistical analysis of conflict and peace. Along with this, the journal has become a leading outlet for conflict-related datasets. *JPR* has also taken a leading role in establishing a strong norm among many political science and international relations journals for making replication datasets openly available.

Like *Peace Review* itself, *Journal of Peace Research* celebrates an anniversary this year. Launched in the spring of 1964, it is among the oldest academic journals devoted to the study of war and peace. Since its inception, the journal has been owned by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and is edited at PRIO. *JPR* was established in 1964 by Johan Galtung, the founder and first Director of PRIO. In the introduction to the first issue, Galtung laid out the visions for the new journal: it should be multidisciplinary, international, and encompass a broad conception of peace; all of these visions are still at the core of the journal. Galtung was the Editor of *JPR* through its first twelve years, until 1975, although like PRIO, the journal was increasingly run as a collaborative project. Galtung's own contributions were crucial for the journal's rapid ascending to prominence. His articles on "The Structure of Foreign News" (Galtung and Ruge, 1965) and "A Structural Theory of Imperialism" (Galtung, 1971) are still among the most cited and downloaded *JPR* articles.

A second formative phase in the life of the journal started with the editorship of Nils Petter Gleditsch. When Gleditsch took permanent charge of the *Journal of Peace Research* with the 1983 volume, *JPR*'s reputation was strongly tied to Galtung's influential articles from the 1960s and the early 1970s. Over the 28 years that the editorship of Gleditsch lasted, 1976–1977 and 1983–2010, the journal made its way to the core of international relations research. Systematic peer review was introduced in the early 1980s. Over the past decade, *JPR* has regularly been ranked among the top ten in its field on the major citation rankings. In its 50th anniversary year, *JPR* has achieved one of its best placements ever as number five in international relations and number six in political science on the Web of Science *Journal Citation Reports*. On the Scopus *SJR* list *JPR* is ranked first out of the 380 journals in the category political science and international relations.

Thematically, *JPR* is broadly oriented. As stated on the cover “[t]he Journal encourages a wide conception of peace, but focuses on the causes of violence and conflict resolution. Without sacrificing the requirements for theoretical rigour and methodological sophistication, articles directed towards ways and means of peace are favoured.” Over the years the journal has developed a few thematic niches, in the two most recent decades notably the liberal peace and the relationship between environmental change and conflict. Other long-standing niches include the history of peace research, the economics of military spending, human rights, and nonviolence. The latter topic has recently experienced a remarkable renaissance, paving the way for a recent special issue (Chenoweth and Cunningham, 2013).

Special issues have been used to cover specific sub-fields more in-depth, and are now normally published once a year. Recent special issues have dealt with the micro-level dynamics of violent conflict (Brück, Justino, and Verwimp, 2009), state capacity and civil war (Sobek, 2010), terrorism (Sandler, 2011), and climate change and armed conflict (Gleditsch, 2012). A complete list of special issues and *Editor's Choice Collections* is found at <http://jpr.sagepub.com/cgi/collection>. While *JPR* is explicitly multidisciplinary and committed to methodological pluralism, it has become particularly well established as a leader in the quantitative data analysis of peace and conflict.

**I**n *JPR*, women are now reasonably well represented in editorial positions in proportion to the ranks they hold in the profession overall. Although the Editor of the journal has always been a male, the journal has had a female Deputy Editor since 2010. Among the 14 Editors and Associate Editors, half are women; and 5 out of the 16 remaining members of the editorial committee are women. Since 2002, *JPR* has practiced a “double-blind” or “masked” review procedure (in which the identities of both reviewers and authors are hidden from each other). One of the main reasons for introducing this policy

was to ensure that the reviewer should judge an article on the basis of its merit rather than on the basis of the gender, race, reputation, or record of the author.

In a recent article, Østby, Strand, Gleditsch, and Nordås (2013) examine the gender gap in submissions to *JPR* and explore whether the perceived merit of a research paper is affected by the gender of the authors and reviewers, in which case it might be reasonable to speak of “gender bias.” The authors identify a large but decreasing publication gap between men and women in *JPR*. Among the 947 articles that were published in *JPR* in the period 1983–2008, 220 or 23 percent had one or more female authors. The female share of *JPR* authorship has increased over time, from below 10 percent in the 1980s to around about 20 percent during the 1990s, and edging toward 40 percent in 2008. This trend in publications reflects a similar gender gap in submissions, which speaks against a gender bias in the editorial process. Also, Østby et al. (2013) did not find any systematic differences in citation counts between male and female authors. Overall, the findings represent good news when it comes to gender equity in *JPR*.

**J***PR* places a high premium on empirical study and many of the articles contain quantitative analyses. The journal regularly publishes articles under the heading “Special Data Feature,” where new data of relevance to the study of war and peace are presented with examples of how they can be used but without a full theoretical and empirical analysis. Some of these articles are among the most widely read and most highly cited in the journal. Since 1993, *JPR* has published an annual update for the UCDP/PRIO armed conflict dataset (see, e.g., Gleditsch et al., 2002), which has become a standard tool in empirical studies of conflict. All such data are publicly available online with no copyright, although an appropriate citation is expected. The presentation of new data is part of a wider effort to secure greater transparency in empirical analyses. Since 1998, *JPR* has required that all quantitative data analyzed in its articles be made available in electronic form online. Over the years, this policy has been strengthened.

Currently, the journal requires authors of articles using quantitative data to post not just the data, but also the codebook or any other relevant description of the dataset, a file containing the exact commands used by the author (often referred to as “do,” “batch,” or “run” files), and preferably a file containing the actual output from the statistical software used (often referred to as “log” or “output”). This information is posted on the *JPR* website ([www.prio.no/jpr/datasets](http://www.prio.no/jpr/datasets)), but authors may post the data on their own websites as well. Authors of empirical articles based on non-quantitative material are strongly encouraged to make use of the replication page to disclose additional documentation that cannot be included in the article itself, such as interview guides, interview transcripts, oral histories, documents that are difficult to obtain or that have recently been declassified, and so on. In 2003, the

Editor of *JPR* published in *International Studies Perspectives* a joint statement with the editors of three other international relations journals committing them to a replication policy. Empirical studies of citations to *JPR* articles (Gleditsch, Metelits, and Strand, 2003; Strand, Nordkvelle, and Gleditsch, 2014) indicate that such policies are also beneficial to the reputation of the individual author.

At 50, *JPR* celebrated by publishing an anniversary special issue offering broad reviews of research areas that have been central both to the journal and to the field of peace and conflict research generally (Buhaug and Levy, 2014). An opening article by Gleditsch, Nordkvelle, and Strand (2014) offers a historical view of peace research and tracks trends in the use of “peace” and “violence” in titles of *JPR* across the first 49 volumes of the journal. The review articles offered address key thematic areas in the field, including the democratic peace; the liberal or capitalist peace; the salience of territory, ethnicity, ideology and natural resources; economic cost of military conflict; terrorism; human rights; challenges of contemporary quantitative political analysis; peace and conflict data collection; and international mediation. All of these issues are likely to remain at the core of peace research in the years to come. Moreover, *JPR* will remain alert to new issues that arise on the agenda of the profession.

## RECOMMENDED READINGS

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