

The Aims and Scope of 'Bridges'

Bridges: Conversations in Global Politics represents an attempt to blend the traditional strengths of peer-reviewed academic journals with the advantages of twenty-first century multimedia technology. By drawing on the creativity and insight of junior and senior scholars alike, *Bridges* aims to foster greater understanding about issues and ideas in the study of global politics in a way that helps teachers to engage students, thinkers to engage new audiences, and peers to engage with each other.

A submission to *Bridges* is an engagement with a broad community. We are an open-access journal that provides a venue for clear, insightful and rigorous analysis of global politics aimed at readers inside and outside the academy.

The peer-reviewed article remains the gold standard of academic publishing and, as such, our articles are subject to a rigorous double-blind review process. At the same time, engaging with the non-expert reader, such as an academic from a cognate field to International Relations, requires something more.

Part of the *Bridges* vision is to make it possible to engage with scholarly ideas through a diversity of media. Ideally, media submissions will prove pedagogically helpful for students and instructors alike by complementing more traditional forms of studying and learning. Contributors who have had an article approved through the peer-review process will be given the option to submit a multimedia component if they choose. These media submissions will consist of short introductory audio or video contributions.

In addition to peer-reviewed articles, we will also solicit a range of other multimedia scholarly interventions. These are outlined below. True to our emphasis on conversation, forthcoming issues of *Bridges* will include symposia on a diverse array of subjects in global politics.

Editorial Vision

The editorial vision of *Bridges* is premised on a few key values and priorities:

Engagement. A *Bridges* article should be able to be read by graduate students, advanced undergraduate students, and interested members of the public. This necessarily means that we encourage approaching issues in global politics with the use of resources from outside of disciplinary International Relations. In the spirit of conversation, articles should endeavour to address the challenges posed by other research programmes.

The journal should not discriminate between perspectives (i.e. 'mainstream' or 'critical') and should allow for dialogue to occur so as to promote active learning and understanding.

Clarity and Accessibility. In seeking to promote dialogue, part of the task at hand is clarification: clarification of contested or unclear concepts, theoretical distinctions, or intellectual approaches. Articles in *Bridges* should be both accessible and empowering. We hope that authors will write to their prospective reader as if it is the first article she has ever read on that topic -- while aiming to inspire her to not make it the last. In this regard, clarity requires the use of concise language wherever possible, and accessibility is aided by efforts to contextualize and explicate potentially tricky terms and references wherever appropriate. Of course, accessibility should not come at the expense of detail, precision and thoughtfulness. Still, the editorial vision of *Bridges* is premised on the idea that the ability to express and explain complex ideas in accessible writing is an academic virtue worth fostering, celebrating, and rewarding. An article published in *Bridges* will leave the reader better able to engage readily and knowledgeably with other more challenging but less accessible texts. It will facilitate this by setting out the necessary conceptual toolkit and by offering an engaging framing of the relevant issues and debates.

Responsiveness. Part of the aim of *Bridges* is to foster a spirit of collegiality that promotes conversation through respectful and thoughtful critical engagement. As such, we will happily publish responses and replies to earlier works, especially if such responses are constructive and fair-minded. It is our hope that our authors, many of whom might be first-time submitters, will be challenged productively by the feedback or discussion their work provokes, and will be encouraged by engagement rather than dissuaded by it.

Contributions to *Bridges*

As *Bridges* continues to evolve, it will serve as a forum for unique and innovative materials, with ideas and insights communicated in a variety of formats. At the outset, the journal will encourage four broad varieties of contribution:

- **Articles.** Traditional double-blind peer-reviewed articles will make up the backbone of each journal issue. Once an article has been accepted for publication, each author will be invited to create and submit a short

multimedia supplement touching on the article's value-addition, a conceptual aspect of the paper, and/or the empirical problems with which it engages. Authors are encouraged to contact the editors for support in choosing a workable multimedia format. Possible ideas include graphs, conceptual diagrams, mind-maps, web-pages, *et cetera*.

- **Interventions.** This section will be devoted to a range of interventions including, but not limited to: empirical subject introductions, theoretical concept explanations, review essays, book reviews and commentaries. These interventions may be written pieces, but can also take the form of standalone multimedia submissions.
- **Conversations.** This section functions as a symposium, in which a number of perspectives can be collected on a particular conceptual issue or current problem in global politics in some form of engaged dialogue. This might be an edited transcript of an actual conversation, or perhaps a series of short submissions that work together in a mutually responsive way.
- **Book Reviews.** This section will provide a space for the discussion and review of works published in the field of international relations, and also in related fields. In addition to reviews of recent publications, contemporary book reviews of older, canonical texts are also encouraged.

As new communications technologies and vehicles for interactivity emerge, *Bridges* will continue to expand and rework these categories in order to foster innovation and creativity.

The editors of *Bridges* look forward to the exciting opportunities to make connections and meet new colleagues that this enterprise is sure to bring. We hope that you will join us, and take part in the conversation.

- The Editors, March 2012