International Theory

A Journal of International Politics, Law and Philosophy



How should states be shaped? Contiguity, compactness, and territorial rights

Jordan Branch

Global political legitimacy beyond justice and democracy?

Eva Erman

An intercultural theory of international relations: how self-worth underlies politics among nations

Jörg Friedrichs

The evolution of war: theory and controversy

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The case for the international governance of immigration

Javier Hidalgo

Costly encounters of the empathic kind: a typology

Naomi Head



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International Theory (IT) promotes theoretical scholarship about the positive, legal, and normative aspects of world politics respectively. IT is open to theory of all varieties and from all disciplines, provided it addresses problems of politics, broadly defined and pertains to the international.

IT welcomes scholarship that uses evidence from the real world to advance theoretical arguments. However, IT is intended as a forum where scholars can develop theoretical arguments in depth without an expectation of extensive empirical analysis.

IT's over-arching goal is to promote communication and engagement across theoretical and disciplinary traditions. IT puts a premium on contributors' ability to reach as broad an audience as possible, both in the questions they engage and in their accessibility to other approaches. However, IT is also open to work that remains within one scholarly tradition, although in that case authors must make clear the horizon of their arguments in relation to other theoretical approaches.

All articles will be peer-reviewed.

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CONTENTS

1 How should states be shaped? Contiguity, compactness, and territorial rights

Jordan Branch

29 Global political legitimacy beyond justice and democracy?
EVA ERMAN

- An intercultural theory of international relations: how self-worth underlies politics among nations JÖRG FRIEDRICHS
- 97 The evolution of war: theory and controversy Anthony C. Lopez
- 140 The case for the international governance of immigration
 [AVIER HIDALGO]
- 171 Costly encounters of the empathic kind: a typology N_{AOMI} H_{EAD}