# Review of International Studies

**Special Issue:** The Politics of Numbers

Guest Editors: André Broome and Joel Quirk



**VOLUME 41 | ISSUE 5 |** DECEMBER 2015

### **Editors**

Kimberly Hutchings
Mathias Albert
George Lawson
Jennifer Sterling-Folker

## Review of International Studies

Editor

Kimberly Hutchings (Lead Editor), Queen Mary University of London Mathias Albert, University of Bielefeld

Editorial Board

Tarak Barkawi, London School of Economics and Political Science

Janice Bially Mattern, National University of Singapore Nick Bisley, La Trobe University

William Brown, Open University

Barry Buzan, London School of Economics and Political

Charli Carpenter, University of Massachusetts-Amherst Steve Chan, University of Colorado

Robert A. Denemark, University of Delaware Thomas Diez, University of Tübingen Toni Erskine, Aberystwyth University

Lene Hansen, University of Copenhagen Gunther Hellmann, University of Frankfurt

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, American University
Oliver Kessler, University of Erfurt

© British International Studies Association 2015

George Lawson, London School of Economics and Political Science Jennifer Sterling-Folker, University of Connecticut

Milja Kurki, Aberystwyth University Catherine Lu, McGill University

Craig N. Murphy, Wellesley College

Lara J. Nettelfield, Royal Holloway, University of London Iver B. Neumann, London School of Economics and

Political Science

Inderjeet Parmar, City University Oliver Richmond, University of Manchester

Justin Rosenberg, University of Sussex

Leonard Seabrooke, Copenhagen Business School Laura Shepherd, University of New South Wales

Laura Sjoberg, University of Florida Stephan Stetter, University of Munich Hidemi Suganami, Aberystwyth University Jeffrey W. Taliaferro, Tufts University

Andrew Walter, University of Melbourne Michael C. Williams, University of Ottawa

### Subscriptions

Review of International Studies (ISSN 0260-2105) is published five times per annum, including one Special Issue, for the British International Studies Association by Cambridge University Press.

The subscription price (excluding VAT) of Volume 41, 2015, is £450 which includes print and electronic access (USA, Canada and Mexico US\$785) for institutions, £60 (USA, Canada and Mexico US\$90) for individuals which includes print only, ordering direct from the publishers and certifying that the journal is for their personal use. Single parts cost £93 (USA, Canada and Mexico US\$158). The electronic-only price available to institutional subscribers is £376 (USA, Canada and Mexico US\$602). EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to any bookseller or subscription agent or to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK. Orders from the USA, Canada and Mexico should be sent to Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, New York 10994–2133, USA. Prices include delivery by air. Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes in USA, Canada and Mexico to Review of *International Studies*, Cambridge University Press, 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, New York 10994–2133, USA.

### Copying

This journal is registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, USA. Organisations in the USA who are also registered with the CCC may therefore copy material (beyond the limits permitted by sections 107 and 108 of US copyright law) subject to payment to CCC of the per-copy fee of \$15.00. This consent does not extend to multiple copying for promotional or commercial purposes. Code 0260-2105/2015 \$15.00. Organisations authorised by the Copyright Licensing Agency may also copy material subject to the usual conditions.

ISI Tear Sheet Service, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA, is authorised to supply single copies of separate articles for private use only.

For all other use, permission should be sought from Cambridge or the American Branch of Cambridge University Press.

This journal is included in the Cambridge Journals Online service which can be found at journals.cambridge.org/. For further information on other Press titles access cambridge.org/.

# https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210515000431 Published online by Cambridge University Press

# Review of International Studies

VOLUME 41 · NUMBER 5 · DECEMBER 2015

Lead Editor: Professor Kimberly Hutchings, Queen Mary University of London

Co-editors: Professor Mathias Albert, University of Bielefeld

Dr George Lawson, London School of Economics and Political Science

Professor Jennifer Sterling-Folker, University of Connecticut

### **CONTENTS**

### ARTICLES

The politics of numbers: the normative agendas of global benchmarking ANDRÉ BROOME AND JOEL QUIRK	813
Governing the world at a distance: the practice of global benchmarking ANDRÉ BROOME AND JOEL QUIRK	819
Human security benchmarks: Governing human wellbeing at a distance ALEXANDRA HOMOLAR	843
Global benchmarking networks: the cases of disaster risk reduction and supply chains TONY PORTER	865
How activists use benchmarks: Reformist and revolutionary benchmarks for global economic justice LEONARD SEABROOKE AND DUNCAN WIGAN	887
Benchmarking global supply chains: the power of the 'ethical audit' regime GENEVIEVE LEBARON AND JANE LISTER	905
Addressing the compliance gap? UN initiatives to benchmark the human rights performance of states and corporations  JAMES HARRISON AND SHARIFAH SEKALALA	925
Benchmarking and blame games: Exploring the contestation of the Millennium Development Goals  LIAM CLEGG	947
Climate change benchmarking: Constructing a sustainable future?  CAROLINE KUZEMKO	969
The limits of global authority: World Bank benchmarks in Ethiopia and Malawi OLE JACOB SENDING AND JON HARALD SANDE LIE	993