

First and Second Term, Academic Year 2025-2026

## Research Seminar: Reviewing and Publishing (in International Relations)

Time and Place:

**October: 2, 16, 30**

**November: 27**

**December: 11**

**January: 8, 22**

**February: 5, 19**

**March: 5**

**Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00**

Given by: **Professor [Stephanie Hofmann](#)**

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### Description

In this two semester-long seminar (meeting every other week), we will discuss how to review and write paper-length academic manuscripts. The main questions guiding the seminar are the following: What kind of articles can one write? What makes for an interesting article? What are the different characteristics of leading journals? What works and what does not work for communicating an idea? Who gets cited, and who does not, and why? How can one write a constructive peer review report? How does one respond to a critical peer reviewer?

In a first part, we will discuss how to write a review since understanding how to review an academic manuscript can be very helpful in improving one's own writing. In a second part, researchers will be encouraged to work on their own paper. We will also meet with journal editors (e.g. *European Journal of International Relations*, *International Theory*, *European Journal of Political Research*) as well as comment on each other's manuscripts and prepare them for review.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, researchers will have (1) become familiar with the peer review process; (2) become able to peer review others' work in a constructive and well-meaning manner; (3) become (more) aware of the existing biases and politics of publishing; and (4) prepared a manuscript to send out for review.

## **Requirements**

Course requirements consist of

- **complete the readings and active participation (where applicable)** in the seminar discussions and debates.
- **PhD abstract** (1x).
- **introduction for a paper** (1x)
- **manuscript review** (1x)
- **conference-style paper presentation** (1x)
- **paper** (1x)

To receive credit for this seminar, you must get a pass on each of them.

## **Schedule & Readings**

### **Week 1**

**(2 October, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **Introduction**

Discussion of the different styles and contents of IR journals. Have a look at journals such as IO, ISQ, RIS, EJIR, JIRD, IS, RIPE, Security Dialogue, Journal of Peace Research, etc.

### **Week 2**

**(16 October, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **What is an informative abstract (and an elevator pitch)?**

Write an abstract of your PhD and circulate it to the class for discussion two days before class.

### **Week 3**

**(30 October, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **Respect the Marble**

Conversation with Catherine De Vries (Bocconi University) about how to write (well).

### **Week 4**

**(27 November, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **What is a well-structured and informative introduction?**

Share an introduction that you particularly like + your own paper's introduction.

### **Week 5**

**(11 December, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **Writing a review**

- Discussion of unpublished manuscript and review.

Look at both reviews at <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/caca/55/3>.

Breuning, Marijke, Jeremy Backstrom, Jeremy Brannon, Benjamin Isaak Gross and Michael Widmeier. 2015. "[Reviewer Fatigue? Why Scholars Decline to Review their Peers' Work.](#)" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 595-600.

### **Week 6**

**(8 January, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

#### **Disciplinary boundaries and their impact**

Colgan, Jeff. 2016. "[Where is International Relations Going? Evidence from Graduate Training.](#)" *International Studies Quarterly* 60, 3: 486-498.

Kristensen, Peter Marcus. 2018. "[International Relations at the End: A Sociological Autopsy.](#)" *International Studies Quarterly* 62, 2: 245-259.

Shames, Shauna and Tess Wise. 2017. "[Gender, Diversity and Methods in Political Science: A Theory of Selection and Survival Biases.](#)" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50, 3: 811-823.

Chowdry, Geeta and Shirin Rai. 2009. "[The Geographies of Exclusion and the Politics of Inclusion: Race-based Exclusions in the Teaching of International Relations.](#)" *International Studies Review* 10, 1: 84-91.

Abu-Bakare, Amal. 2022 online first. "[Your Work Is Not International Relations.](#)" *Alternatives*.

Shilliam, Robbie. 2020. "[Race and racism in international relations: retrieving a scholarly inheritance.](#)" *International Studies Review* 8: 152-195.

Lake, David. 2016. "[White Man's IR: An Intellectual Confession.](#)" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 14, 4: 1112-1122.

Kaczmarska, K., Ortmann, S. 2021. "[IR theory and Area Studies: a plea for displaced knowledge about international politics.](#)" *Journal of International Relations and Development* 24, 820–847.

## **Week 7**

**(22 January, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

### **Citations and other biases**

Maliniak, Daniel, Ryan Powers and Barbara Walter. 2013. "[The Gender Citation Gap in International Relations.](#)" *International Organization* 67, 4: 889-922.

Teele, Dawn Langan and Kathleen Thelen. 2017. "[Gender in the Journals: Publication Patterns in Political Science.](#)" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50, 2: 433-447.

Colgan, Jeff. 2017. "[Gender Bias in International Relations Graduate Education? New Evidence from Syllabi.](#)" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50, 2: 456-460.

Kristensen, Peter. 2015. "[Revisiting the 'American Social Science' – Mapping the Geography of International Relations.](#)" *International Studies Perspectives* 16, 3: 246-269.

Phull, Kiran, Gokhan Ciflikli, Gustav Meibauer. 2019. "[Gender and bias in the International Relations curriculum: insights from reading lists.](#)" *European Journal of International Relations* 25, 2: 383-407.

Sumner, Jane Lawrence. 2018. "[The Gender Balance Assessment Tool \(GBAT\): A Web-Based Tool for Estimating Gender Balance in Syllabi and Bibliographies.](#)" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51, 2: 396-400.

## **Week 8**

**(5 February, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

Discussion about ongoing paper writing process.

**Week 9**

**(19 February, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

**Meeting with journal editors**

**Week 10**

**(5 March, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, 15:00 – 17:00)**

**Conference-style paper presentations**