



Editorial

Editorial Introduction (Inaugural Issue)

As we present to you the inaugural issue of the *Journal of International and Prospective Studies* (JIPS), it is with a deep sense of responsibility and anticipation that we open a new chapter in the exploration of regional and global issues. This journal seeks to establish itself as a crucial forum for the exchange of ideas, providing a platform where international relations, regional dynamics, and interdisciplinary approaches converge to offer fresh insights into the most pressing challenges of our time.

The launch of JIPS comes at a pivotal moment in the dynamics of international relations. We are witnessing rapid transformations driven by geopolitical shifts, technological advancements, and environmental crises, all of which are reshaping the contours of global governance, security, and diplomacy. These developments, compounded by the increasingly multipolar world order, demand critical reflection and analysis from scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike. The need for a publication that promotes innovative and rigorous research on these complexities has never been greater.

Aims and scope: Promoting interdisciplinary dialogue

JIPS is committed to expanding the exploration and understanding of international relations through dialogue across disciplinary boundaries and regions. The journal welcomes contributions from a wide range of fields, including, *inter alia*, international relations, political science, security studies, diplomacy, environmental studies, economics, sociology, history, cultural studies, law, and philosophy. In doing so, JIPS aims to challenge the conventional silos that often limit the scope of international studies, offering instead a comprehensive lens through which to examine global issues and phenomena.

The present inaugural issue exemplifies this editorial mission. The contributions featured here explore diverse topics, bringing together eleven contributions across three sections—*Articles*, *Policy Perspectives*, and *Book Reviews*—each offering distinct yet interconnected insights into contemporary international and regional dynamics.

The *Articles* section opens with Mohamed El Bouchikhi's historical overview of Morocco–Korea diplomatic relations, followed by Omar El Hammoud's discourse analysis of Macron's rhetoric on "Islamic separatism." Samira Benboubker explores Morocco's alignment of gender legislation with international norms, while Imane Ezzehouany analyses Morocco's strategic position within China's Belt and Road Initiative. Azeddine Hannoun closes the section with a conceptual study of foreign policy realism in relation to the Sahara question.

In the *Policy Perspectives* section, Alberto Maresca proposes a "Cuban JCPOA" to counterbalance the US embargo, while Julia Rushchenko addresses resistance to gender reforms through the lens of positive masculinities. María del Pilar Rangel Rojas argues for African-led security solutions in the Sahel, Jaechun Kim discusses crisis management on the Korean Peninsula, and Jamal Ait Laadam assesses the repercussions of US tariffs on Morocco's economic relations with China.

The issue concludes with Moussa Mahamat Djibrine's critical review of *Le Sahel: Tribus, Jihad et Trafics*, shedding light on the complex nexus of tribalism, jihadism, and informal economies in the region.

Prospective analysis: Anticipating future trends and challenges

In addition to our commitment to examining contemporary issues in international relations, JIPS places a strong emphasis on prospective analysis. This approach enables scholars and practitioners to

anticipate future trends and challenges, providing valuable insights that can inform policy decisions and strategic planning.

Prospective analysis involves not only the exploration of potential scenarios and outcomes but also the critical evaluation of emerging issues that may shape the global landscape. As we move forward, JIPS will prioritise contributions that engage with prospective analysis, urging authors to consider how their research can inform our understanding of potential future developments in international relations. This focus will not only enrich our discourse but also enhance the journal's relevance in a rapidly changing global environment.

Closing note

The qualitative leap of the Moroccan scholarly community depends not only on publishing in high-impact indexed journals, but also on creating Moroccan platforms that adhere to international standards of research and publishing. This inaugural issue reflects this energy and passion driving our community of researchers. It presents new contributions and perspectives that we hope will spark new lines of inquiry and reflection.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who made this first issue possible—authors, reviewers, members of the editorial board, and colleagues—for their invaluable contributions.

We warmly invite you to explore this issue and discover the diverse dimensions of research it brings to light. This initiative represents a meaningful step toward building a dynamic and engaged research community.