

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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Abstract: *The fundamental objective of international studies in the modern world is to become the most in-demand multidisciplinary approach based on a complete analysis of problems of regional and global relevance. Whether the topic is international law, international economics, or diplomacy, the academic research approach to the subject of international relations has its own idiosyncrasies. All of this is due to their interest in "international" matters - they use special thinking and wholly unique techniques to notice and capture the stuff they are studying. As a result, they have a unique viewpoint on knowledge difficulties.*

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The modern world in its global and regional dimensions is quite complex, extremely controversial, and dynamic. Adequate understanding and timely response to such challenges typically acquire specific relevance in properly understanding and effective implementation of the priority directions of the modern state's foreign policy.

Tasks of this level in modern conditions sound in an altered manner and achievable only if we understand the importance of a radical revision of previous approaches and methods of training specialists for foreign policy and foreign economic activity and the transition to the best achievements of the world's leading universities in this direction. In accordance with the *National Strategy of Development for 2022-2026* pays special attention to the *organization of education, science, research, and training of highly qualified specialists* by radically improving the system of higher and secondary specialized professional education

In the contemporary world, the main priority of international studies is becoming the most in-demand interdisciplinary approach based on a comprehensive study of problems of regional and global significance.

The academic research approach in the field of international relations has its own quirks, regardless of whether the issue is international law, international economics, or diplomacy. All of this is due to their interest in things "international" - they apply specific thoughts and completely unique procedures to observe and capture the material they are examining. As a result, they have a particular perspective on knowledge issues. Such criteria determine the key activities of the *Institute for Advanced International Studies* in the format of an academic and interdisciplinary research structure established at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, as one of the leading research institutions in Central Asia.

Specifics of Inter-related Disciplines

(Interpretation of Political Processes by international law)

Many schools of international political studies describe international law as the body of laws and institutions intended to govern international interactions and as being applicable to the whole international community¹. Public international law, in contrast to private international law, which regulates interactions between private parties, is in theory applicable to "public" institutions like governments and international organizations.

The term "international law" is ambiguous since it refers to both the science that studies this body of laws and the organizations that make them up: International law analyses norms in terms of duty and penalty, or in terms of efficacy (which enables us to highlight the declarative or imperative nature of the standard); This field of study is primarily concerned with analyzing de facto institutions or circumstances using well-known and well-defined legal notions, such as source, subject, object, attribution, competence, or control². It uses a legal approach and analyzes a normative and institutional framework, which is sometimes referred to as an order (and hence examines how national and international orders are articulated), and the understanding of normative content and institutional authority. In both cases, legal analysis involves the study of a particular formal logic and an equally formalized technique, the mastery of which is required (law as a discipline). Legal

¹ Sobrero A. The Limits of the Scientific Method in International Relations <https://www.e-ir.info/2022/01/27/the-limits-of-the-scientific-method-in-international-relations/>, Jan. 27, 2022

² David Clinton Diplomacy and International Law. International Studies and Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.013.152> Published online: 30 November 2017

analysis occasionally leads to a description of reality, in order to improve knowledge about it (law as a science), but most often it is aimed at substantiating an advisory or prescriptive conclusion (law as an art).

This notion is the same for all legal systems: the law is primarily directed at a certain social control for security concerns. International law does, however, have unique traits in comparison to other areas of law. These aspects of international law have generally recognized sources³.

First of all, the international society to which it is applicable has the characteristic of having an anarchic legal system: it overlooks the phenomena of legal authority, wherein the state creates standards that are in conflict with the community in the internal order. the importance of the alleged general interest over the many different individual interests. There is neither a "superstate" that would represent the interests of a more or less fictitious "international community" nor a "law" that governs the behavior of nations under international law.

The international system is actually both legally organized and anarchic. It is organized according to a legal regime insofar as the behavior of states is subject to rules that at least partially determine it; anarchic, however, due to the lack of an internationally binding judge as well as the fact that these equal and sovereign states only tolerate this legal regime under the condition that none of them consider any aspect of the system to be in conflict with the interstate. Due to the lack of a peremptory foundation for international standards, some people are motivated to reject the legal standing of international law⁴.

This denial, which is founded on the dogmatic features of domestic law-making, must first be understood in its proper context: international law is never reduced to national law by nature. From this vantage point, dualism, or a rigid divide, is a necessary characteristic of the systemic link between domestic law and international law.

It is well known, that the "Common Law," a feature of the Anglo-Saxon countries, favors the procedure and role of the judge, and the "Romano-Germanic"

³ Klamberg M. Power and law in international society: International relations as the sociology of international law. *The Sociology of International Law Journal*. DOI - 10.4324/9781315752099 (2015/04/24)

⁴ Cedric Ryngaert *The Concept of Jurisdiction in International Law*. International Law, Utrecht University. 2014, 12.09 <https://unijuris.sites.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2014/12/The-Concept-of-Jurisdiction-in-International-Law.pdf>

rights, which are based less on judicial precedent and more on the contribution of the legislator, are particular examples of legal and cultural traditions from which such differences originate that contribute to the specificity of international law⁵. These rights have developed in different historical, social, and cultural contexts; as a result, the rules they establish are unique, and the solutions they suggest to legal issues are very specific because everything is intertwined with the cultural and ideological universe, as well as specific ideas about the social order that determines its function, which they reflect.

The intersection of multiple ideological currents, clashing political wills, and divergent normative methods, even more so than in other legal disciplines, gives international law unique characteristics.

A methodological issue for a novice in international relations comes at this point from this perspective: what role should the historical, political, economic, and social background play in the examination of a legal norm? Many attorneys are of the opinion that they should only analyze the formal features of legal phenomena since this is their professional responsibility and it enables them to keep their objectivity. They neglect, however, the philosophical underpinnings and practical applications of the movement to which they are committed, most notably the notion that a legal act's practical significance is determined by its formal legality.

To put it another way, whatever the state establishes must be legitimate in and of itself because it is legal. This claim is far from neutral because it makes the state the creator and exclusive "customer" of the international legal order, excluding subjects who may not have international legal personality; they also view acts as coming from the same subject, the state (contract, followed by custom and general principles of law).

Since there would be no law if the state, as a political subject, were to refuse to establish it, this is precisely what justifies the anarchy of the international legal system. The discrepancy thus shown compares *jusnaturalism*, which holds that natural law exists above positive law and to which the latter must comply since it would be an expression of justice, with legal positivism, which asserts the presence of positive law above natural law. Positive law and the law as they should be (as a

⁵ Парова Т. Б. Common law and Romano-Germanic law. Similarities and differences: openscience.academy/article?id=770. (11.06.2023)

moral postulate) must be differentiated, and since the law is a technical field, it is also required to undertake a technical-formal examination of a norm or a legal event.

However, there are divisions within international law that are even more specialized. The conflict between objectivism and voluntarism is among the most basic. According to many academics, international law would be a contractual sort of legal system based on the sovereign equality of all nations since, theoretically speaking, voluntarism is a philosophy based on the notion that international law is founded on the will of states. Opponents of objectivism contend that law, on the other hand, is founded on social demands and owes them both its duty and content.⁶ Therefore, necessities and different forms of social solidarity, on the one hand, provoke and, on the other hand, do not follow the desire of governments, International law will thus be imposed even on those governments who reject it, providing the justification for its existence.

Grasping the theory and philosophy of international law requires a grasp of these two approaches, which have a variety of connotations. Law comes before constructive international law, according to the objectivist perspective, which is a component of contemporary international law development. In the first place, it helps the virtual international community to come into being by fostering the establishment of shared ideals, which in turn sparks problems with the predominant voluntarism. The latter, however, asserts that international law both shapes and serves as the foundation for all other laws.⁷

When faced with a particular situation or phenomenon, the voluntaristic approach favors the will of the states concerned; the source of the reference will be the treaty and, to a lesser extent, the law derived from international organizations (since they are interstate). The researcher of international law may avoid such a division because the choice of one of the two theories leads to different research methods. The intent of states, as well as political and social factors represented in custom or basic legal principles, will all be considered in an objectivist manner.

The conflict between practical and idealistic methods is another significant division, and the theory of international relations also exhibits this basic division.

⁶ Alex Ansong The Concept of Sovereign Equality of States in International Law. *GIMPA Law Review*, 2(1), (2016), pp.14-34 Posted: 16 May 2018

⁷ Payandeh M. The Concept of International Law in the Jurisprudence of H.L.A. Hart - The European Journal of International Law Vol. 21 no. 4 © EJIL 2011; <http://www.ejil.org/about/index.php>

The idealist perspective is distinguished by the significance it accords to values and norms in explaining the perspectives and actions of international actors; as a result, international law will become an increasingly significant structuring factor in international life (extended competence of international institutions). and institutions, bolstering the defense of human rights at the local, national, and international levels, and advancing global justice) at the expense of the conventional Westphalian concept of state sovereignty. It seems conceivable that the expansion of the function of international law would promote world peace and progress.⁸

The realism approach avoids idealizing laws and principles instead favoring the examination of global processes and reality based on new information, personal interests, and the distribution of power. From this vantage point, international law serves as a supporting actor, or more precisely, one tool among others that states use to further their interests. Without an international supranational force that can impose penalties for breaking its laws, international law lacks independence from states. Therefore, the phrase "peace through law" is a hollow one that does little to conceal the enduring nature of power relations and national interests.

Depending on the desired theoretical perspectives and judgments, it is conceivable to reveal more theoretical and, consequently, methodological techniques in the study of international law. The researcher cannot be faulted for his decision as long as it is studied, explained, and defended because none of these ideas can, at the scientific level, be said to be superior to others. All of these legal concepts and theories, as well as those that underlie the study of international relations, geopolitics, international security, and other related fields, are derived from the knowledge of related social sciences and disciplines that is required (philosophy, social psychology, political science, history, etc.)⁹.

Interpretation of Political Processes in IR

International relations are in a far more vulnerable position than international law in terms of both its standing and approach. They are regarded as a subfield of political science by certain writers. The first department of international relations

⁸ Between Theory and Practice: The Utility of International Relations Theory to the Military Practitioner - Wild Blue Yonder Online Journal, Published Feb. 3, 2020, <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Wild-Blue-Yonder/Article-Display/Article/2063140/between-theory-and-practice-the-utility-of-international-relations-theory-to-th/>

⁹ Ibidem

was established at the University of Aberystwyth only in 1919, so the discipline is relatively new in the context of ongoing disagreements between theorists of various paradigms regarding the goal, object, and method of international relations. Nevertheless, we adhere to the scientific approach of those scholars who view international relations as a separate discipline. Since there is still disagreement among theorists on these points, we shall discuss the most significant paradigms' explanations as well as the major discussions in which their theorists take part.

Prior to defining "international relations," it is important to distinguish it from "international relations," which describes interactions between nations. From a research standpoint, "international relations" focuses on theory as a scientific field. The difference is based on Anglo-Saxon literature, where the theory of international relations was designated by the acronym *IR*. Most of the ideas and debates in this field have their roots in Anglo-Saxon literature. By establishing a praxeology of international relations, the renowned theoretical scholar Raymond Aron launched the theoretical discussion.

According to his theory, the foundation of international relations is the existence of consistent relationships between subjects who enjoy state sovereignty as well as the distinction between the hierarchical, unitary internal order of the state and the anarchic, but not chaotic, international order. A strategy like this would eliminate state-level conflicts like civil war from the scope of our research. The line between "domestic" and "international" has, however, become increasingly hazy in recent political development as a result of rising border permeability, governments' declining capacity to regulate cross-border interactions and other factors. and the growing ideological significance is given to the idea of "humanitarian intervention," which should permit the international community to become involved in internal conflicts to defend human rights¹⁰.

An illustration of how the fields of international relations and international

¹⁰ See also: Abbott, A. (2001). *The chaos of the disciplines*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Acharya, A., & Buzan, B. (2007). Why is there no non-Western international relations theory? An introduction. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 7, 287–312. Behera, N. C. (2007). Re-imagining IR in India. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 7, 341–368. Biersteker, T. (2009). The parochialism of hegemony: Challenges for "American" international relations. In O. Wæver & A. B. Tickner (Eds.), *International relations scholarship around the world* (pp. 307–326). London: Routledge. Blaney, D. L., & Inayatullah, N. (2008). International relations from below. In C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of international relations* (pp. 663–674). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

law, as disciplines, basically investigate the same topic of knowledge is the discussion around the tension between state sovereignty and the right to intervene in humanitarian crises. The researcher of international relations draws inspiration from a variety of fields, including geopolitics, political science, and history. The humanitarian intervention serves as an example of how international relations and international law are researched in conjunction with other social science fields. As academic fields, international relations and international law both focus on the same scientific topic.

The selection of a paradigm to support his theoretical approach is the first issue that a student conducting a research paper on international relations needs to address. Given that it is dependent on ontological and epistemological ideas, the paradigm choice is not random. Numerous writers continue to debate topics connected to the discipline's subject, the potential for developing a meta-theory, and the methodologies, qualitative or quantitative, that should be employed to improve our understanding of international relations because the field has not yet been unified.

The epistemological question is concerned with the very possibility of knowing this reality (how can we know international relations), whereas the ontological question is concerned with the actors that we consider to be the most important in international relations and their identities. Theories that assume reality is predetermined are referred to as rationalistic theories. In contrast, reflexive theories contend that international relations, as well as state identities and interests, are socially constructed, that it is impossible to distinguish between facts and values, and as a result, that objective knowledge of international relations is also impossible.

The rationalistic theories that make up the discipline's foundation are relatively new. They first appear in the 1990s as a reaction to the inability of preexisting theories to foresee actual Cold War impact mitigation. Their methods, albeit incredibly pertinent, have one significant flaw: they are unable to provide the best model for the study of international relations. They only contest the status quo and work to dismantle the mechanisms of power. The conventional paradigms of establishing linkages between diverse themes of international relations are being overturned by the rising change of globalization processes, yet they can still be

hopeful.¹¹

Political realism is by far the most influential rationalist theory in the discipline's history. By the middle of the 20th century, prominent anglo-saxon scholars had founded political realism, which is based on a number of fundamental presumptions, including that states are the primary actors in international relations and that the international system is anarchic, or that there is no power greater than state sovereignty. Therefore, states are equal both legally and philosophically. Any state's main objective is to maintain itself and increase its level of power. States' decisions will always be made without regard to morality or the law and will always be guided by their own national interests as established by the political force in power. Political realism questions the necessity of international law, whose adherence to no authority with the power to impose sanctions can ensure; this is a result of international anarchy, according to the school of political realism. When governments cooperate, it is only when there are shared interests at stake, like in the case of military alliances. Because one state can only gain by sacrificing others, cooperation is always a zero-sum game. Realistic thinking does not encourage faith in international institutions that would simply represent a change in the way power is distributed within the system¹². This reasoning holds that it is strong governments that employ institutions to make sure that their interests are upheld.

The liberal paradigm, which contends that peace is in the best interests of nations and is the natural condition of the international system rather than conflict as realists contend, has posed a challenge to this perspective. Peace guarantees the state's economic progress and prosperity. Because liberals believe that prosperity, not the consolidation of power, is the primary objective of governments. Whether or whether other nations profit more from collaboration, states have a natural propensity to work together for mutual benefit. The international system is structured by institutions, which also makes it easier for people to cooperate and stop wars from starting.

Institutions change how the international environment works in four ways:

¹¹ Jordan, R., Maliniak, D., Oakes, A., Peterson, S., & Tierney, M. (2009). One discipline or many? In TRIP Survey of International Relations Faculty in Ten Countries. Williamsburg, VA: Institute for the Theory and Practices of International Relations, College of William and Mary. Retrieved May 19, 2009, from http://irtheoryandpractice.wm.edu/projects/trip/Final_Trip_Report_2009.pdf

¹² Ibidem

they allow cooperation to be projected into the future, reducing the risk of defection; they facilitate negotiations, allowing questions to be connected; they raise the level of information in the system (thereby reducing uncertainty about others' intentions); and finally, they lower transaction costs. In contrast to realism, which views solely governments as important actors in international affairs, liberals view institutions as autonomous actors.¹³

Constructivism, which came into being in the early 1990s as a result of the excitement brought on by the end of the Cold War, is the final paradigm to be mentioned here. Constructivism serves as a link between rationalistic ideas like liberalism and realism and reflective theories like postmodernism or critical theory. Constructivism borrows positivist epistemology, or the idea that science may be used to learn about social reality, from rationalism. Contrary to rationalists, however, constructivists believe that reality is always being constructed and rebuilt through inter-subjectivity rather than being provided once and for all and waiting to be discovered. In fact, the entire international reality is a social construction; therefore, if international anarchy exists, it is because states, acting in accordance with their own interests, have transformed it into such through their actions. To put it more precisely, as far as the system of states is concerned, they do not have permanently established interests and identities.¹⁴ According to this method, the establishment of a state's identity and interests is influenced by its views of other states, global norms and values, and ideas in circulation.

The "mainstream" of global relations is made up of these three perspectives. The other theories, such as reflexive or post-positivist theories, are still at the metatheoretical level of reflection and have not yet been able to provide cohesive research models. The beginning international relations student will find it challenging to apply any of these theories—critical theory, postmodernism, or even feminism—to a case study because of this. Here, it is also feasible to summarize the development of the field of international relations in terms of four significant theoretical conflicts.

¹³ Katzenstein, P., & Sil, R. (2008). Eclectic theorizing in the study and practice of international relations. In C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of international relations* (pp. 109–130). Oxford, UK: Oxford Press. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287914880_Eclectic_Theorizing_in_the_Study_and_Practice_of_International_Relations

¹⁴ Ibidem

As is well known, the first debate, which takes place prior to World War II and is centered on the inquiry, "What is the purpose of the science of international relations?" separates the idealists from the realists. For idealists, the solution is normative: the objective is to avert violence and impose global peace. For realists, this is only an effort to comprehend and characterize a persistent reality: the condition of interstate hostility in an anarchic international system.

The best methodologies for analyzing international relations are the subject of the second significant discussion, which was brought on by the emergence of behaviorism in the social sciences in the 1950s and 1960s. Aside from those who believe the behavioral approach only makes it more difficult to understand reality as it is perceived by conventional methods, such as history, philosophy, or law, there are also those who oppose the use of new mathematical techniques in the human sciences.¹⁵

The focus of the discipline of international relations was the subject of a third argument that emerged in the 1970s. Realists exclusively analyze relationships between independent nations, but *transnationalists* think that it's also important to examine relationships between all sorts of players, particularly those between social classes. Rationalists and post-positivists, who are tempted to respond that there is no actual science of international relations, reject the most recent significant discussion that centered on the topic of "How to better understand international relations?" that took place in the 1990s.¹⁶

As a result, the researcher on the subject of international relations must first decide where he stands in reference to these paradigms and disputes. With the help of this theoretical improvement, he will be able to steer clear of eclecticism and adopt a unified perspective on the topic of his study.

Geospatial Inter-Disciplinary Aspect

It is incorrect to conflate "Geopolitics" with the term "political geography,"

¹⁵ Acharya, A. (2014). Global International Relations (IR) and Regional Worlds. *International Studies Quarterly*, pp. 647–659

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269041431_Global_International_Relations_IR_and_Regional_Worlds_A_New_Agenda_for_International_Studies

¹⁶ SMITH S. The discipline of international relations: still an American social science? *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, Vol. 2, No. 3, October 2000, pp. 374–402

<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.379.2226&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

which was first used in 1897 by German socio-geographer Friedrich Ratzel. The major objective of political geography is to examine how political power and its institutions interact in space. In an effort to understand how geographical factors impact international relations, it largely focuses on nations. According to the traditional interpretation of many scientists, geopolitics attempts to link together the key dynamic factors that determine the specified organization in order to achieve a synthesis of the current political situation and its potential. This is in contrast to political geography, which thus describes the structure of the world divided into states.¹⁷

The primary information in a geopolitical reflection is time and space. Some of these variables, or "main trends" are comparatively stable (geographical location, resource potential, geo-cultural factors, population, nature and typology of state borders, topographical data, territory size, enclave or exclave position, climatic, hydrological, biogeographic factors, etc.). Others, which tend to be more unstable over time, are connected to a wide range of topics that arise from the peculiarities of geography and human history, such as the accessibility of natural resources, long-term population trends, political and social institutions, and social or geo-economic factors.

Geopolitics has traditionally been separated into two subfields: First trend: In the field of analysis, the major trends—particularly geographic data—should be prioritized. Take "position," for instance. To the start of the 20th century, he played with space and its constraints while controlling the "land and sea communications" issue; access to the sea, in particular, was essential for the nation's growth. Take a look at the High Seas' (Mare Nostrum's) function. At the "race to the sea" of Peter the Great or at the long-standing link between the ocean and British strength in antiquity.¹⁸ The historical significance of straits and isthmuses is revealed in this context: straits with a dual strategic and economic interest, anchor points, and

¹⁷ Klaus Dodds and David Atkinson - Geopolitical Traditions: a Century of Geopolitical Thought. 408 pp. ISBN 0-203-44911-8 Master e-book ISBN <https://www.s-gs.de/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/9.1.f.-Dodds-und-Atkinson-Geopolitical-Traditions-a-century-of-geopolitical-thought.pdf>

¹⁸ Brückner, Helmut, Kelterbaum, Daniel, Marunchak, O., Porotov, Alexey, Vött, Andreas The Holocene sea-level story since 7500 BP – Lessons from the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black and the Azov Seas. October 2010 Quaternary International 225(2):160-179 DOI:10.1016/j.quaint.2008.11.016 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/229212008_The_Holocene_sea_level_story_since_7500_BP_-_Lessons_from_the_Eastern_Mediterranean_the_Black_and_the_Azov_Seas

stopping points, best represented by the Sonda, the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, Gibraltar, or Corinth, Schleswig, frequently revived (and this is not by accident) by the policy of developing transoceanic canals in the second half of the 19th century.¹⁹

Due to the appearance or growth of some contemporary factors, the second tendency is the unwillingness to attribute a leadership role to these heavy currents. Over the course of half a century and the "*nuclear saga*" some authors have pointed out, not without nuance, that the atom in the case (albeit, and fortunately, very hypothetical) of a nuclear conflict ignores the size of the territory, its position, the presence or absence of a coastline, and other spatial obstacles²⁰. However, this reasoning concerns geopolitics more than its younger sister, geostrategy. However, since the middle of the latter, the successors of Mackinder's prophetic visions, other experts are prone to ignore the latter in favor of economic considerations. The two "schools" eventually came to an understanding, which today has led to the observation of the predominance of three main themes: the universalization of economic and ideological factors; the (still-persistent) effects of the dual historical process of colonization and decolonization; and the multiplicity of "variable factors."²¹

According to the definitions of these three disciplines, there is, if not convergence, then at least proximity between them. These are connected disciplines, and the goals of their methodologies are to acquire balanced and complementary information on the subject of their research.

The three disciplines not only reveal their field of study, which is international but also most importantly the goal of research: it is, of course, a matter of accounting for reality as accurately as possible in order to advance knowledge. However, this research may also be intended to obtain an advisory or prescriptive opinion for the authorities and/or the public; in any case, it presupposes the mastery of a certain formality. These three fields do fall under the umbrella of the social sciences, which

¹⁹ Martín A.G. International straits: Concept, classification and rules of passage. January 2010 DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-12906-3

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287449168_International_straits_Concept_classification_and_rules_of_passage/citation/download

²⁰ Kourosh Ziabari. Despite official hype of a "strategic partnership," the Iranian public is skeptical of Russia. The Middle East Institute August 15, 2022 <https://www.mei.edu/publications/despite-official-hype-strategic-partnership-iranian-public-skeptical-russia>

²¹ Kruszewski Ch. The Pivot of History. Foreign Affairs. Published on April 1, 1954 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/1954-04-01/pivot-history>

are grounded in a well-defined theoretical and methodological framework, pragmatically developed, and backed by the observation of real-world phenomena.²²

The three disciplines, which have their roots in the social sciences, argue that knowledge must be acquired in accordance with specific standards and stringent methods (reasoned problem, explicit description of concepts, testing of hypotheses, systematic observations) in order to be valid.

In other words, there can be no other observations in the three disciplines without first constructing a theoretical frame of reference. The phenomena or situations being studied are then viewed from a perspective defined by theoretical concepts and explained by the researcher at the conclusion of that particular observation. Although the interaction between theory and observation may take many forms depending on the profession, the conceptual framework must be put into practice.²³

Methodological Integrity

These three disciplines can also be complementary to one another. For example, international law purports to investigate the interface between national and international regimes and offers an interpretation of the meaning of norms and the authority of institutions. However, such a descriptive or normative approach does not make it possible to capture all the phenomena pertinent to a situation or issue, particularly since there is the issue of more or less poor application of the rule of law, which arises as it does in legal matters and is even more relevant in the international context.

An important contribution is made by international relations, which seek to explain how relationships between nations, international organizations, and different transnational actors operate at the European level. alternate reading grids that take into account the complexity of global occurrences. With regard to geopolitics, it adopts the same methodology as the first two disciplines but adds interest in space (natural resources, long-term demographic patterns, political and social structures, geo-economic trends) and time (in particular, long-term historical views).

As a result, the reality may be seen and understood from a variety of

²² Muhammad Hassan Grounded Theory – Methods, Examples, and Guide
October 6, 2022, <https://researchmethod.net/grounded-theory/>

²³ Ibidem

viewpoints (or aspects), but also from distinct points in time (such as long-term historical horizons), political and social structures, and geo-economic tendencies. Consequently, the reality may be seen and understood from several perspectives that are complimentary to one another. both space (including long-term historical perspectives) and time (covering political and social structures, and geoeconomic patterns). Consequently, reality may be seen and understood from several perspectives that are complementary to one another.

Multiple disciplines are needed for an interdisciplinary approach, but rather than creating coherent points of view, it combines the usage of different disciplines into a single strategy that unites them in a cohesive fashion. It appears that each of them will gain real advantages from this "interdisciplinarity" in terms of both methodology and even substance. However, there are theoretical and practical grounds to question this.

Theoretically speaking, interdisciplinarity is the ideal in academia. To be fair, there is cause for concern about the fragmentation of knowledge in terms of knowledge objects, knowledge processes, and knowledge itself. Most social scientists regret the excessive specialization of viewpoints on reality and the fragmentation of disciplines. Interdisciplinarity would therefore aid scientists in understanding that it is this method that makes the item, allowing them to distinguish between the scientific work done by each discipline's observation and research.²⁴

Is it possible for a researcher to apply ideas, techniques, and theories from other disciplines to his own subject matter? This suggests that the language and information required to comprehend concepts, methodologies, and theories are there, as well as the capacity to internalize them. The business, however, demands a large intellectual commitment from the social scientist who takes the "classical" route and is therefore constrained to one discipline. He will encounter another issue even if he accepts their attempts. Epistemologically speaking, this is related. No field of study can claim to be completely objective, as each field is founded on a set of axioms—implicit or explicit—that cannot be proved but must still be cohesive as a whole. How can a method be really multidisciplinary while maintaining consistency? The

²⁴ David Alvargonzalez. Multidisciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity, Transdisciplinarity, and the Sciences *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* Vol. 25, No. 4, December 2011, pp. 387 – 403
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233352028_Multidisciplinarity_Interdisciplinarity_Transdisciplinarity_and_the_Sciences

sole cure: Interdisciplinarity requires a person to select a "master discipline" that directs all scientific reasoning in order to "function." Interdisciplinarity, however, does not exist anymore.

Many experts agree that there is no hierarchy among the sources of international law in principle, it is clear that in reality, treaties are preferred since they offer fewer chances for criticism. The existence of a general principle of law or a customary norm, on the other hand, may always be contested; a reference to a decision can always be refuted (with reference to the case law of the relevant jurisdiction).

However, the issue of how the legislation is to be interpreted continues to be the fundamental methodological issue. The collecting of materials is relatively straightforward, but their interpretation is significantly more complex. Interpretation is both the most crucial and challenging phase in the study of international law. However, textbooks place little emphasis on this, likely due to the persisting positivist conception of the phenomenon: interpretation would be a passive operation that involved consecrating the meaning of the text in question, which is defined as "clear" or "obvious"; it can only result in one correct legal decision.

Whatever the veracity of the texts under consideration, there is never just one interpretation; current theories. Contrarily, interpretation demands that the interpreter—in this case, the researcher—have a great deal of discretion. There is therefore no a priori meaning that might be applied. This does not imply, however, that all interpretations are equivalent; in fact, certain interpretations could be preferred over others due to better justification. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties has three articles (31, 32, and 33) that deal with how treaties should be interpreted; the broad guidelines and methods outlined in these articles can be applied to other kinds of documents or sources. Additionally, "any relevant rule of international law applicable between the parties" and any later agreements about the application of the treaty must be taken into consideration.²⁵

Writing a research paper on international relations generally entails coupling a number of theoretical claims with the evidence provided by the reality the

²⁵ Ivo Tarik de Vries-Zou, 'Divided but harmonious? The interpretations and applications of Article 31(3)(c) of the Vienna Convention on the law of treaties (2020) 16(1) Utrecht Law Review pp. 86–100. DOI:

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researcher wishes to analyze, comprehend, and explain. If this relationship between theory and empirical data forms the basis of the international relations method, then it is necessary to make some explanations regarding both the theoretical framework and the researcher's perspective on the reality being studied before proceeding.

A rigorous and scientific approach is in fact required to examine the geopolitical environment objectively. This approach focuses on incorporating numerous analytical grids provided by other fields. history or geography, as examples. Political science is thought to shed light on "the triple complexity of geopolitics:" centering on the "big," it descends to the "small" (micro-geopolitics); mass-oriented, interested in networks (particularly diasporas); traditionally grasping only the immovable (peoples identified with the territory), it seeks to grasp what moves: flows, migrations and etc.

Geopolitics is a branch of knowledge that is both practical and operational and is based on scientific analysis. It takes into consideration both the "modern variables" and the "heavy trends" of the subject under study.²⁶

Because of this, at the beginning of the study, emphasis will be placed on compiling the most thorough and objective list of the key parameters, "whether they are important and structuring in terms of their influence on the dynamics of the system, which escape attention." control of the subject in charge of reflection and/or being the carrier of the key uncertainties. Along with the creation and critical evaluation of sources, this should result in an objective description of the phenomena that have been seen²⁷.

Making the distinction between "heavy trends" and "variables" is the second phase since the former serve as the foundation for the search for explanatory factors and uncertainty may also serve as the inspiration for the premises of the suggested outline. List, explain, and explain the key elements of the geopolitical situation. This might (or should) subsequently lead to altering the size (the idea of capital in both political geography and geopolitics), elaborating on initial analyses, or offering

²⁶ Błażej Sajduk Geopolitics and Political Science - the controversies GEOPOLITICS, pp.131-151) IGNATIANUM UNIVERSITY PRESS August 2021

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357097671_Geopolitics_and_political_science_-_the_controversies

²⁷ Ivo Tarik de Vries-Zou, 'Divided but harmonious? The interpretations and applications of Article 31(3)(c) of the Vienna Convention on the law of treaties (2020) 16(1) Utrecht Law Review pp. 86–100. DOI:

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forecasts for the near future.

The goal of master's and doctoral dissertations is to advance knowledge by original clarification of the subject, rebuilding an explanatory corpus, or updating or deepening the analysis on a particular subject. This implies that they incorporate the author's own input along with descriptions and analysis in varied amounts. This is especially true for "theses," as this term encompasses both a proposition made and endorsed as well as a piece of writing created with the intention of earning a doctorate. The goal of the dissertation is to communicate to others the findings of your study and reflection in the most thorough and correct manner feasible. These attributes, however, are dependent on the working approach.

Every research project is different, and every researcher must be able to adjust to often unexpected circumstances. In no circumstance, however, should one act only on impulse or the available options. A scientific approach and adherence to broad scientific work standards are required for social science research, which is why it is systematic in nature. Clearly defining the objective to be accomplished is the first step in acting methodically. Next, determining the number of actions to be taken and the materials to be gathered is the next step. Finally, these actions are carried out in a systematic way.

Explanatory theories are viewed as ideological temptations for a lawyer who values neutrality above all else, which explains why there is a gap in many legal analyses. Positivism is the dominant paradigm in the legal sciences. As a result, many lawyers favored limiting their research to phenomena's formal features, using a distinctly "positivist" methodology. However, it is still true that they "make a theory" without even realizing it: by approaching facts in terms of causality, structure, and network, as most legal studies do, they implicitly accept deterministic approaches (causal, structural, functional), and as a result, a unique paradigm (structured dimension of the social).²⁸

In geopolitics and international relations, it is not the same. Problematic in these two fields refers to the theoretical viewpoint that the author deliberately and formally selects to adopt in order to address the issue raised by the first query. The

²⁸ David Alvargonzález. Multidisciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity, Transdisciplinarity, and the Sciences *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* Vol. 25, No. 4, December 2011, pp. 387 – 403
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problem makes a link between the subject of research and the theoretical tools at the author's disposal for analyzing it since it is about choosing the perspective from which the phenomena will be investigated. This is a challenging level that calls for the student to have a solid understanding of the major theoretical currents in the social sciences as well as the capacity to deploy these ideas and concepts with insight and relevance in particular studies. In geopolitics and international relations, it is not the same.

The discrepancy in these two fields relates to the theoretical viewpoint that the author deliberately and formally selects to adopt in order to address the issue raised by the first query. The problem makes a link between the subject of research and the theoretical tools at the author's disposal for analyzing it since it is about choosing the perspective from which the phenomena will be investigated. This is a challenging level that calls for the student to have a solid understanding of the major theoretical currents in the social sciences as well as the capacity to deploy these ideas and concepts with insight and relevance in particular studies.

Unlike law, which emphasizes cause-and-effect relationships and structures, international relations and geopolitics favor the procedural dimension and dynamic concepts of movement, interaction, conflict, strategies, production, and social networks. Thus, an analysis of geopolitics that may include descriptions in terms of "sinks" (a characteristic of "political geography") will also include, when the subject lends itself to this, an analysis in terms of "flows" (the evolution of basic characteristics). specified item over time). These disciplines also insist on the meaning of social phenomena: they approach them in terms of culture, ideology, history, and other social segments of research.

This third level of study in the field of international relations corresponds to the theoretical paradigm variant that the researcher has chosen to situate his research effort inside. This alternative will need to be supplemented by certain preliminary metatheoretical inquiries, which we have covered in more detail in the section on the details of the technique of international relations. In light of the responses to these queries as well as the particulars of the empirical object, the theoretical paradigm that will serve as the project's compass will be selected.²⁹

It is well recognized that issues pertaining to war lend themselves better to

²⁹ Ibidem

realistic analysis, that the liberal paradigm has enlarged the issue of collaboration and institutions, or that constructivism is in the best interests of the general public. Consequently, the problem is chosen gradually and pragmatically as exploratory research develops and the theories presented are read; it is really necessary to compare them, to highlight the various approaches that they offer; then, it is necessary to choose a theory that allows formalizing the problem, adapted to the subject under study.

The solution to this problem enables a reformulation of the original query: it involves narrowing the original query's purposefully broad object of analysis, as well as making it more concrete in light of the theoretical approach chosen to formulate the problem. This technique is often restricted to a straightforward comparison of the many disciplines: if they provide a specific analysis in connection to a shared subject of study, then the multidisciplinary approach offers just as much insight into the subject as other approaches do. because they are particular to each discipline being considered.

Conclusion :

All things considered, we may say, that the researcher or research group needs to choose the appropriate degree of interdisciplinarity - multidisciplinary (communication), multidisciplinary (comparison), or interdisciplinarity (comparison) - based on the study's goal and depth. cooperation (disciplinarity). The fourth level, or transdisciplinarity, is the most sophisticated method of communication between interested disciplines and entails a substantial decompartmentalization of academic sectors. Because transdisciplinarity entails a process of conceptual unification between disciplines, it is likely that transdisciplinarity can only be envisioned at the postdoctoral level and within the research team.

Interdisciplinarity is becoming increasingly important. Interdisciplinarity may be defined as the collaboration of several disciplines that support a shared goal and that, through their integration, enable the creation of new knowledge. This technique refers to a meeting and collaboration between two or more disciplines, each bringing to the level of a teaching or research project its own conceptual frameworks, its own manner of describing issues, and its own research methodologies. In a wide sense,

interdisciplinarity denotes a degree of integration across disciplines, among various fields of study, and among various methodologies, as well as the development of a shared vocabulary that facilitates the sharing of ideas.

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