



BRIDGING THE GAP: GLOCAL TENSIONS AND GEOPOLITICAL ORDER

EDITORIAL

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Globus et Locus
info@globusetlocus.org

A critical feature of our interconnected world seems particularly relevant nowadays: the inherent tension between global reality and a rigid geopolitical order. In a world that appears increasingly closed within national or regional borders, we are faced with a transformation of the relationship between global and local and the intellectual, cultural, and political challenges that such a transformation brings. The perpetual endeavour to traverse the chasm between glocal tensions and the concrete realities of heterogeneous societies, cultures, and political terrains is of paramount importance.

The advent of globalization, accompanied by its promise of interconnectedness and interdependence, has undeniably precipitated substantial changes. Nevertheless, this interconnectedness has also served to exacerbate preexisting inequalities and give rise to new challenges. In the contemporary geopolitical landscape, these challenges manifest as a disorderly geopolitical order. However, interpreting this disorder as a “retreat” from the globalization process is an oversimplification. It is imperative to comprehend how glocal tensions persist and metamorphose within the contemporary geopolitical milieu to effectively address pressing challenges, including war, climate change, poverty, and political instability.

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This issue of *Glocalism. Journal of Culture, Politics and Innovation* aims to contribute to this understanding by examining how universal principles can be effectively adapted and implemented in diverse contexts. It also recognizes the importance of local agency and the potential for localized solutions to contribute to global progress. By comprehending the interplay between global and local forces in the contemporary geopolitical landscape, we can formulate more effective and equitable policies, promote more inclusive and sustainable development, and navigate the intricacies of our interconnected world with enhanced wisdom and resilience.

Surbhi Sharma, Nagalaxmi M. Raman and Amit Kumar Mishra investigate the challenges faced by women in the Indian Foreign Service. The study employs a meticulous examination to unravel the intricate dynamics between entrenched patriarchal structures within Indian society and the impediments they present to women's professional advancement, particularly within the diplomatic milieu. Through qualitative research drawing on historical analysis and contemporary case studies, they identify the key obstacles and propose better strategies for promoting greater gender inclusivity within diplomatic institutions.

In the context of the shift towards a regenerative economic model, Maria Luísa Vasconcelos and Sandra Bernardo examine the challenges of effectively integrating these principles into European public policy. The text undertakes a thorough examination of the dynamic interplay between overarching environmental guidelines and the specific needs and constraints of diverse regions of the EU, with a focus on regulatory barriers from 2014 onwards. The authors adopt a mixed-methods approach, integrating legal analysis with empirical data concerning the implementation of these policies across various jurisdictions. The findings underscore the necessity for a more nuanced approach that considers the varied economic and social realities of disparate regions.

Manasi Singh covers the historical trajectory of liberal internationalism, with particular emphasis on its crisis and transformation into a new rules-based order. The article posits that both these systems frequently align with the interests of the richest and



most influential global actors, while falling short in addressing the concerns of marginalized communities. Utilizing historical analysis and critical international relations theory, the author examines the current limitations of the existing framework (war, economic inequality, social turmoil), and advocates for a more inclusive and equitable approach that centres the voices and needs of diverse stakeholders.

Finally, Odysseus Makridis explores the contributions of philosophical analysis to comprehending the intricate interplay between global and local forces. The paper challenges the prevailing notion that philosophical inquiry is divorced from the realities of our interconnected world and rather develops a conceptual framework to demonstrate how philosophical tools can illuminate the dynamics of glocalization, offering valuable insights for navigating the challenges of our increasingly interdependent world.

Despite their different historical and geographical contexts, the articles included in the “Other essays” section explore the complex interplay between global forces and local realities, as they demonstrate how global processes significantly shape and often challenge local practices and institutions. Uwomano Okpevra and David Ovuede examine how British colonialism disrupted the *Odionwere*, a traditional conflict resolution system in Benin Kingdom, Nigeria. The imposition of colonial rule undermined the authority of this long-lasting institution, leading to the erosion of traditional governance and the rise of Western legal systems.

From an alternative vantage point, Naveen Cherupelly, Siriman Naveen and Naveen Kolloju investigate the challenges faced by small and marginal farmers in Telangana, India, in navigating the increasing reliance on agrochemicals in modern agriculture. The authors meticulously examine consumption patterns, assess farmers’ knowledge of safe handling practices, and underscore the environmental and social ramifications of excessive pesticide utilization.

The case studies and reflections presented in this issue offer a range of perspectives on the complex interplay between global and local forces in today’s geopolitical landscape. They underscore the necessity of context-specific approaches, the



imperative to address power imbalances, and the value of interdisciplinary collaboration in navigating the challenges of our interconnected world. These findings carry profound implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers grappling with a myriad of global challenges.

Future research should continue to explore the multifaceted dimensions of glocalization, focusing on issues such as the role of technology, the impact of cultural diversity, and the development of more equitable and sustainable models of global cooperation. By deepening our understanding of these complex dynamics, we can work towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

