

CHAPTER 7

Security Dialogue on the Edge of International Security Studies: Uncovering a Process of Innovation

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Introduction

Between the 1970s and 1990s, security studies have moved from being a traditional strategy-oriented subfield to a contested International Security Studies¹ (ISS) subfield of International Relations (IR). A certain vision inherited from the sociology of knowledge holds that changes affecting a field follow a set of practices pertaining to academic journals (Aguinis and Vaschetto 2011; Baruch et al. 2008; Michaux Bellaire 2013; Schmidt 2002; Vennesson 1998; Waever 1998). For instance, journals offer descriptions of rival schools of thought, conceptual and paradigm development, and the results of research programs: in sum, they produce and disseminate knowledge (Kuhn 1970). Journals act in many ways to organize the coherence of a field – or a subfield. The combination of these practices with a changing international context offers an entry point from which to question ISS (see Close and Jadot in this volume), the other key subfield of IR alongside International Political Economy (IPE).

The institutionalization of the field ISS is a particularly salient question, because it developed as a subfield autonomous from political sciences in these decades. Unlike a discipline, a field is not an indissoluble sociological and epistemological nexus and its institutionalization can be traced historically (Favre 1995). The evolution of ISS can be portrayed as a maturation process, stemming from internal and external factors (see Angelini in this volume). For instance, theoretical developments were fostered by major events in international relations (Allison 1971), which make the context a

¹ ISS is understood following Buzan and Hansen (2009) as encompassing “several distinct but inter-related flows of literature”. In addition to traditional, military-centred Strategic Studies and Peace Research, there is also Critical Security Studies, Feminist Security Studies, the Copenhagen School, Poststructuralism and Constructivist Security Studies.

variable of a field (Lowi 1992). A second reason is that *security* is a contested concept among IR scholars and across disciplines (Gallie 1956; Baldwin 1997). Security thus is a transdisciplinary object found in political science, psychology, criminology or anthropology just to name a few. Defining its very meaning has acted as a spur to the transformation of ISS, at least in the two last decades. These aspects are not always visible in the field, but their ambiguities abound in *Security Dialogue*, a journal of ISS situated at the borders of IR. Its publications and editorial line have therefore been studied at length in this chapter in order to uncover the journal's process of innovation.

We focus on journals, the gatekeepers of knowledge production and dissemination (Aguinis and Vaschetto 2011; Beyer 1978; Yoels 1974). Innovations within a field appear within academic journals because they act both as a place and as a means of competition for scientific authority (Bourdieu 1976). The *Bulletin of Peace Proposals* was created in 1970 to foster innovative peace solutions to international crises, while *Security Dialogue* was only launched in 1992. It continues the work of the *Bulletin of Peace Proposals*, although at a more ambitious international level both in terms of dissemination and of the input of new and even more challenging contributions. In general terms, journals possess a technical capacity to disseminate contributions and the authority to attract and assert the knowledge produced by researchers in the field. In its modern form, *Security Dialogue* possesses key features to provide a global impact in ISS. It is recognized as a highly-ranked peer-reviewed journal in IR (12/82). It also possesses a significant scientific identity constituted by an ideology and ontology, although journals do not always officially recognize this identity. The critical and transdisciplinary identity of *Security Dialogue* locates it on the edge of ISS journals. Its editorial line encourages multiple strands of literature ranging from traditionalist to feminist security studies. It aims, as it describes itself, to “combine cutting-edge advances in theory with new empirical findings across a range of fields relevant to the study of security”². For these reasons, the journal occupies a niche-type position in ISS.

It is surprising that a non-mainstream journal should have experienced such growth in the field, both in terms of number of contributions and audience, while remaining at the edge of the field. This chapter intends to track the evolution of this journal by focusing on its editorship and editorial line. This implies both looking at how this line has been defined internally and how external factors such as the IR field may have contributed towards forging this reputation (see Close and Jadot in this volume). The chapter thus asks how the journal's process of innovation explains the success of *Security Dialogue*'s niche position within ISS. The hypotheses explore three dimensions of this process. First, the widening and deepening of ISS has led the editorial line of the journal to encompass a plurality of securities and practices (H1). *Security Dialogue* participated in the maturation of the ISS subfield because its process of innovation offers a critical journal within the field (H2). Finally, rather than competing with mainstream ISS journals, *SD* has continuously reaffirmed its niche identity, giving this Scandinavian journal a reputation for innovation at the edge of the

² Online access to the journal *Security Dialogue* SAGE journals website: <http://sdi.sagepub.com> (consulted 6 May 2013).

field (H3). It was initially defined as a place for practitioners to empirically innovate without theoretical ambitions. The journal then prolonged this “edgy” theoretical tradition by embracing a critical posture and a transdisciplinary approach to security.

This chapter analyses *Security Dialogue*’s contributions over thirty years, together with its editorial process. Its third editor Magne Barth stresses how intertwined the editorial line is with the IR context: “the transformation of the international political system; the political fusion and fragmentation of states; military, economic and environmental dimensions of regional and global security” (Barth 1992). The journal’s history is thus embedded in what was then the emerging post Cold-War ISS field centred around challenges to the “security” principle (Buzan and Hansen 2009). In order to understand its editorial line, the chapter analyses the plural definitions of “security”, which became influential in the 1990s. Although the origins of this extension of the concept can be traced to the Cold War period (Wolfers 1952), Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and Jaap de Wilde later formalized this development by framing security issues into five sectors – military, political, economical, societal and environmental (Buzan et al. 1998). Their new framing of security mirrored the restructuring of the field and offered theoretical guidelines about the objects of study (Smith 1998). How security would be defined and with what practical effects would constitute the research agenda for the next thirty years – and still does (Rothschild 1995). Indeed, one core epistemological fracture in ISS divides researchers wishing to broaden the agenda of ISS research from those fearing that this would reduce the analytical value of the term by making every issue one of security, especially in national security debates (Deudney 1990; Levy 1995). This sectoral framing of the contributions takes account of this necessary bias in order to reflect the plurality of definitions of “security”.

In line with Bourdieu’s notion of “reflexive science” (Bourdieu 2004), this chapter aims to validate the assertion that “*Security Dialogue* encourages ground-breaking reflection on new and traditional security issues”, as stated by the journal itself³. The chapter is divided into three parts. The first reveals those socio-institutional attributes of a journal, which explain the process of innovation. Drawing on the sociology of knowledge, it provides an explanation of the evolution of the editorial line by reference to the role of journals in a field. This preliminary discussion offers a reflexive study of *Security Dialogue* before developing a theoretical framework suited to the longitudinal method of content analysis. The method used in this second section was to explore at length the content of the editorial line on security sectors over thirty years. The title of each article was assigned to one of the five security sectors set out in Buzan’s and al. framework. Finally, the results show how the content has evolved in the past thirty years. In this way, the research method questions the widening and deepening of the journal’s content, while the historical review of its socio-institutional development uncovers how the editorial line is adopted. It hopes to bring new evidence of the evolution of the field of ISS.

³ *Ibid.*

1. The editorial line: journals as the gatekeepers of a scientific field

Before tracing the evolution of the editorial line of *Security Dialogue*, the first part of the section which follows examines the role of academic journals within a field and discusses the features of an editorial line. It provides a basis for understanding the position of *Security Dialogue* within ISS by revealing the role of the journal and the editorial process. The discussion emphasizes the journal from the dual perspective of its editorial “black box” and field to which it belongs.

1.1. Blurred lines: journals, disciplines and the field

A reflexive approach to the study of journals therefore implies understanding how a journal institutionalizes a field. Journals and disciplines constitute the boundaries of a field. Even if these frontiers are often blurred by evolving editorial lines, the chapter argues that journal articles found a scientific field through one or more institutionalized disciplines (Michaux Bellaire 2013).

The role of a journal goes beyond being a showcase; journals play a part in constituting a field. As mechanisms of knowledge dissemination, journals are the cornerstone of the institutionalization of a field (Favre 1995). According to modern scientific requirements, an academic journal does not exist separately from a discipline and a field. Favre stresses for that matter the indissoluble sociological and epistemological nature of a discipline. It is within this specific relation to disciplines and its objects that a journal plays a part in the institutionalization of a field. The discipline thus acts as an institution within which journals are one instrument – others being job position at universities, courses, etc. These instruments socially embody the discipline in a unique context co-constituted by national intellectual climates along with “access to information, research support, links between government and academia, and the general structure and character of the university system” (Simpson 1998 cited in Smith 2000: 6). To a certain extent, a discipline is the result of a fortunate coincidence of institutional and historical contexts that allow its emergence. It is formalized by academics as they write the history of a particular science or set boundaries between disciplines. Favre describes a field as more like a mosaic of research studies that combine at a given moment, a moving map of disciplines composed of unresolved issues and migrating concepts that define new sites of research.

The idea of the maturation of a field composed of one or more disciplines stem from these epistemological and ontological claims. For a transdisciplinary journal focused on the principle of *security*, the scientifically constructed object of study belongs to several disciplines. While it is common sense to say that innovations occur across disciplinary boundaries, it is important to stress the disciplinary affiliations of a journal in order to understand the process of innovation. A journal stabilizes the object of research within a field that gains visibility. The results of the content analysis confirms this by tracking articles that put an object on the research agenda, followed by a process of development of the object – perhaps scientific controversies, perhaps competition among approaches, etc. As a consequence, the state of a field and its history are important for situating a journal within its field. There are three approaches to studying the history of a field: a historiographical approach (e.g. Schmidt and his critical internal discursive history), a historical sociological approach (e.g. Waever

and his sociology of science view), and a genealogical method informed by the work of Foucault (e.g., Smith and his comparison of IR handbooks).

A growing literature portrays IR in the 1990s as a “discipline in ferment, a field dominated by one “Great Debate” after another, an arena in which two or three fundamentally different schools or approaches fight out their differences, or an area of scholarship characterized by the incessant questioning of its proper object of study and even of the proper meaning of knowledge” (Goldmann 1995: 245). Goldmann argues against this idea because the usual suspects of the main discourse of IR are pictured as *clichés* of a more controversial history. This paradox of IR history is also supported by Smith, who argues that the discipline of IR has been in better shape and more reflexive than its self-image suggests (Smith 1996). In spite of these arguments, two main factors of IR’s institutionalization holds true. First, in his historiography and history of IR, Schmidt situates the “Great Debates”⁴ as the *story of IR* which provides one of the most dominant self-images of the field (Schmidt 2002). Secondly, Vennesson concludes that how these three “Great Debates” were formulated remains inspired by American IR in its desire to grasp world political dynamics (Vennesson 1998). How does *Security Dialogue* participate in the institutionalization of IR and its subfield ISS?

First of all, the journal is part of the historical subfield within IR. *Security Dialogue* has contributed towards building the legitimacy of ISS. According to Goldmann, there are two subfields within IR, International Political Economy (IPE), and Peace and Security Studies, to which *Security Dialogue* belongs. Up until the 1970s, causes of war and conditions for peace/security/order were the prevailing objects. It could be argued that an evolution of IR happened under the Cold War paradigm. Between 1972 and 1992, articles in the IR field became more theoretical and based on empirical evidence. Goldmann also identifies two types of concepts in IR that explain a faddish feature of the discipline. Some concepts, such as “institution”, remain stable, whereas others support an object of study, but evolve in line with trends. An example of this is the way “imperialism” has been replaced by “hegemony” in the literature. Journals seek to move with the times by innovating through concepts. In his last *Letter from the Editor*, Marek Thee stressed both the evolution of the aim of the journal as well as giving a hint on how the journal would be evolving in the next years. “A distinct goal of the journal was to make more transparent the nature and dynamics of armaments and disarmament, of underdevelopment and development, of the struggle for human rights and for the betterment of the human condition, all so as to move public opinion and governments to genuine action for peaceful change” (Thee 1988). He called for efforts to achieve this research agenda, noting after 18 years of publishing that *BPP* had only partially succeeded in accomplishing its aims. The fierce arms race context and stupendous imbalance in the resources available for military research on the one hand, and for peace research on the other, had limited the journal in its role. Moving

⁴ The three Great Debates are as follows: 1) the “foundational myth of the field”, as termed by Miles Kahler in 1997, positioned between interwar idealists and post-war realists; 2) the debate about the scientific identity of the field opposing Hedley Bull to Morton Kaplan in the middle of the behavioural revolution; and 3) the inter-paradigm debate of the early 1980s between realists, pluralists and structuralists.

“with the times” the journal acted as an outlet, “a means of legitimizing the new field and seeking to ensure its continued existence” (Dunn 2005: 66).

Secondly, this chapter follows Waever’s seminal sociology of the IR discipline to explain variations amongst national IRs (Waever 1998). These factors are not at the core of this study, but they inform us that the search for reflexivity within a field is a crucial process if a discipline is to become recognized. This chapter borrows Waever’s third variable – the internal intellectual and social structures of the IR discipline, including its theories and forms of debate – to study it within one Scandinavian journal. According to Waever, Scandinavia represents the second or third largest IR community in Europe today, which makes the study of a Scandinavian journal in this field all the more relevant. The role of leading journals in IR is absolutely central to the sociology of IR. The hierarchy among them supports the claim that so far, these have served American IR more than European IR, where power rests either in subfields or in local universities. Besides, IR communities each form a more independent core in Europe. European journals develop more independently, even if they meet international scientific standards. For instance, in 2011, *Security Dialogue* put out a special issue on the “Politics of Securitization”, a theory developed by the Copenhagen School of ISS. This not only demonstrates the evolution of the journal toward international academic standards, but makes it a factor in the evolution of the field. It responded to controversial critiques of the Copenhagen School formulated a decade ago such as the lack of causal inference in theory (Skidmore 1999). It corresponds to what Bourdieu named the “art of inventing” (Bourdieu 1976). It acknowledges the rise of new approaches to ISS developed in universities while continuing to scrutinize other epistemologies. However, the sociology of science warns of epistemological positions that hide ideological strategies in order to maintain representations of science or discredit opponents and their strategies (Bourdieu 1976).

In spite of these remarks about the field, Hoffmann’s first review of American academic production remains central (Hoffmann 1977). American production is the most often cited and officially channelled through modern science, meaning that to study a European journal is to adopt a heterodox position within IR.

1.2. A niche journal: identity, prestige and satisfaction

This chapter proposes a sociology of journals where articles and their content, as much as the publishing process, editorship, committees and peer review are all matters of importance. These mechanisms ensure epistemological and methodological vigilance to provide a validation process of scientific knowledge. They furthermore transmit knowledge under specific intertwined processes: an innovation process, an informational process and an advisory process (Michaux Bellaire 2013). This chapter only focuses on the first type, where innovation is associated with academic practices. These rely at their core on articles that look at reality not as it is seen by lay people, but in an attempt to understand and explain underlying realities. Scientific articles can be recognized by a cluster of indications such as a cognitive ambition or an interpretation of reality referring to a valid theoretical or methodological apparatus: in sum investigational principles and practices rather than mere exposition of facts. This scientific knowledge competes with other products of social representations

(Bourdieu 1995), but the aim here is only to be able to associate innovations with journals' characteristics.

Among the wide set of scientific, expert and professional publications, academic journals became central vectors of knowledge, because they provide the most convenient tool of modern science to innovate. In reviewing French IR journals, Michaux Bellaire notes that scientific journals are born from the difficulty other academic forms of communication have in adapting to the new requirements of modern science. These include faster, wider dissemination combined with an official scientific recognition (Michaux Bellaire 2013). Journals disseminate scientifically-approved results or on-going work. They monitor scientific quality, under the peer review process, and protect data through intellectual property. They are archives and play a part in creating *scientific memory* of innovations that is traceable. For instance, theoretical frameworks and paradigms change over time. The epistemological and ontological claims of researchers gain or lose relevance. As such, journals are creative galleries of points of view, a place where the viability of a scientific claim is determined. With regard to innovation, this means that "a journal is not a desirable adjunct to an evolving movement: it is a necessity, and without it the movement for innovation would be less equipped for the task of innovation" (Dunn 2005: 66). In sum, a field matures and journals mirror this process.

A journal brings about innovations in the field in two ways. On the one hand, innovation is the renewal of knowledge based on existing knowledge in a continuous progression of science through sets of disciplines and fields in constant composition and re-composition. On the other hand, innovation also lies in scientific breakthroughs, or Kuhn's concept of scientific revolutions (Kuhn 1970). Paradigm development in this second mode renews knowledge through disruptions with past practices and breakthroughs in knowledge. The establishment of objects of study illustrates this process at length. An object is defined in response to a *problématique* and thus has a limited lifetime before it changes. These objects become visible through the constitution of a scientific literature, which cannot make itself heard in the absence of supporters, outside any social consideration of its acceptance (Favre 1995). As a consequence, knowledge – and even more, innovation – does not exist without communication and successful dissemination. Journals make these processes visible, first disseminating knowledge and then guaranteeing its acceptance as legitimate by the epistemic community. An object arrives at a time ripe for scientific innovation, and reveals the maturation process pertaining to scientific research. The paragraphs which follow discuss how *Security Dialogue* pursues these aims of innovation in the production of knowledge.

The innovatory character of a journal can be traced in the first place through its contribution to the field in terms of scientific identity. In its earlier form, the *Bulletin of Peace Proposals (BPP)* disseminated expertise, a form of knowledge which aimed at forecasting and advising policymakers. The aim of the *BPP* was to offer the possibility for innovative policy-oriented peace solutions to emerge. Launched in 1970 under the editorship of Marek Thee, the *BPP* was supported by Johan Galtung, the editor of the other Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) *Journal of Peace Research (JPR)* (Galtung 1970). The new journal, following the PRIO's institutional leadership in

Peace Research, aimed “to present systematically, to compare and discuss in the light of general peace theory [which it was clearly now assumed to exist after two decades of work] various plans, proposals and ideas for justice, development and peace” (Thee 1970). Under the aegis of this Norwegian institute, the journal was in itself an innovation for the ISS field, the institutionalization of a scientific identity. Jonsson argues that “Scandinavian researchers do not share the American preoccupation with theories predicated on bilateral and symmetrical relationships. Moreover, they are more prone to focus on subnational actors, they are more embedded in political science, they are generalists rather than specialists, their primary role is that of being observers rather than advisers, and they are in a better position to escape from the entrapment of an ahistorical current-events approach” (Jonsson 1993: 145).

Innovation is not only about scientific identity; it is also about the journal’s assets or its prestige. Baruch and al. define categories of journals according to how a journal preserves and enhances its social capital over the years. These may enlist *top academic* journals seeking challenges and gratifications; *global* journals rather than regional ones; *independent* journals as opposed to those under the “cover” of a major publisher or association; journals offering a *bridge* between policy and academia; *newcomers* in the journal market; and strictly *electronic* journals. According to their categorization, *Security Dialogue* went from being a bridge journal to a top global journal (Baruch et al., 2008). *SD* transformed itself from a Scandinavian-based, PRIO-supported publication into a truly international journal, although it should be made clear that *SD* has retained a Scandinavian identity. The point has been made that Scandinavian IR had developed its own particularities compared to the hegemonic American IR community. The uniqueness of *Security Dialogue* lies in its capacity for worldwide dissemination and its international audience for its Scandinavian identity. It has achieved its internationalization “both in terms of ambitions for its dissemination, and in terms of input of new and even more challenging contributions” (Barth 1992).

This strategic repositioning of the journal provides compelling evidence of modern science described by Bourdieu (2004). *SD* enjoys a certain degree of independence from the state’s bureaucracy, religious, economic and political powers because it is jointly published by a university, PRIO, and an academic publishing house, SAGE Publications. Its editors have successfully promoted the journal and seek new authors at international congresses, while the editing committee rotates on a regular basis. It meets the standards of an international journal of IR, mainly through anonymous peer reviewing. Although this is not the core aspect of the methodology of this chapter (see Angelini and Wavreille in this volume for a micro analysis of authors’ professional background), the authors publish not according to an institutional or geographic affiliation, but the *guiding ethos* of the editorial line. The international scale of the journal guarantees the development of an epistemic community whether a national or regional one (Michaux Bellaire 2013).

In becoming a prestigious academic journal, *SD* has succeeded in its transformation from a non-peer reviewed bridge-type journal mediating between academic and practitioner communities to a fully peer-reviewed one in the 1990s.

Evidence from the interview with the Editor⁵ indicates that *Security Dialogue* could even be described as a niche-type journal, meaning that it focuses on one political science principle, *security*, and objects of study from the discipline of IR. However, he stressed the transdisciplinarity of the journal's approach to security⁶. This chapter defines a niche journal as meeting two conditions: firstly it is one supported by a major publisher, university or association, and secondly, its editorial line mainly focuses on understanding one single political science object. This object has legitimacy in the field because it is supported by an active, identified epistemic community, but is only one stable concept, although a contested one in essence. Under these combinations of features, *Security Dialogue* is generally recognized as a top niche journal.

By adopting a certain specialization, journals play a necessary role in satisfying the claims of researchers. Their satisfaction lies in the recognition of a journal's prestige and identity. Indeed, each journal has its own particular ideology, whether this be openly claimed or barely recognized, as was argued during the above-mentioned interview. This satisfaction is encouraged by the invisible struggle for scientific domination (Bourdieu 1976). Journals are also part of researchers' strategy to ensure satisfaction as scientists. If researchers undertake what they consider to be important research, their intrinsic satisfaction and interest in a discipline or a method does not only bring recognition by peers or a wider audience. Journals thus act as resonance chamber for scientific satisfaction. They have a research agenda embedded in both theoretical development and the practices of academics. Discussing the goal of the *BPP*, the chief editor stresses the intention to share the scientific satisfaction which authors could obtain through collaboration with this journal. "Establishing the *Bulletin of Peace Proposals* as a scholarly, value-based and policy-oriented journal of peace research, my aim was to deepen and disseminate knowledge on the causes of conflict and war, and on conditions for the maximization of the values of peace" (Thee 1988).

A niche journal contributes to institutionalize a field and its boundaries. This process relies on the identity and prestige of the journal in relation with the authors' satisfaction.

1.3. A gatekeeper and social performer: the editorship of Security Dialogue

The journal's content and how this has evolved constitute the core element of the rest of this chapter. This justifies some precautions, both as regards what the editorial line is and as regards constraints surrounding the editorship. Several authors have emphasized the dual "gatekeeper" role of scientific journals editors (Beyer 1978). Behind a journal lies an editorial process that demonstrates how journals are much more than just a collection of academic contributions. Rather, the editorship is pictured as a relationship between its chief editor, a board and contributors. It is a legitimacy-building process. Researchers build up the legitimacy of the journal and the journal builds up the legitimacy of a researcher. For instance, *Security Dialogue*

⁵ Interview, 26 January 2014

⁶ *Ibid.*

published several articles by Thomas G. Weiss⁷ while he co-directed the United Nations Intellectual History Project from 1999 until 2010⁸.

Defined by Konrad, the goal of editing is “to adjudicate the intersubjective knowledge-conversion process whereby a manuscript representing the personal knowledge of the author(s) becomes part of the common body of knowledge in the field” (Baruch et al. 2008). Baruch and al. describe various facets of effective editorship, encompassing setting up and managing the peer review process, communicating with authors, staffing the editorial board and securing ad hoc reviewers, using technology to improve the editorial process and moving a journal up the rankings. Their discussion about the roles of editors and the processes of editorship in knowledge creation and dissemination sums up the relationship between journals and their field. For instance, the editorship is composed of several teams around the editor in chief without whom the process would be incomplete and lacking scientific support (Baruch et al. 2008). These constituencies of the journal revolve around a direction, the editorial line, given by the editorial team. As recalled during the interview, the increased number of contributions sent to *Security Dialogue* in the early 2000s could not have been successfully managed without the creation of associate editorial positions⁹. Being part of a team of editors induces a clear agreement upon the editorial line and selection criteria for evaluating articles.

Editorship covers several fundamental roles pertaining to the ongoing life of a journal. In the frontline, the editor is responsible for the decision-making inherent in the *publish or perish* environment of modern science. Editorship encompasses ambassadorial, mentorship, and managerial aspects of editing. The editor acts as an evaluator, while also being a style coach, fostering incremental and revolutionary change, providing the conditions for knowledge development, framed around the creation and the shifting of consensus. Consensus building is important in that the editorial line gives the editor a direction shared with authors wishing to publish in the journal. It is one of the tools with which to manage tensions arising within the editorship. While editors have a certain leverage, they are also dependent on what comes in from authors. They hold significant power over the selection of manuscripts to be published, but they are equally dependent on what they receive from authors. They occupy a key position in the publishing process that influences the shape of future knowledge, in relation to the field and discipline. Editorship carries with it a prominent scholarly position and prestige. The editor must earn the trust of the community, while the honour and responsibility of the position are accompanied by substantial hard work which often includes facing severe dilemmas (Baruch et al. 2008), such as whether to accept investment in the journal in order to build up an

⁷ Publications by Thomas G. Weiss in *Security Dialogue*: “Humanitarian Shell Games: Whither UN Reform?” (1998), “The Politics of Humanitarian Ideas” (2000), “The Sunset of Humanitarian Intervention? The Responsibility to Protect in a Unipolar Era” (2004), “Compromise and Credibility: Security Council Reform?” (2005), “An Unchanged Security Council: The Sky Ain’t Falling” (2005).

⁸ Online access to the project description and data: <http://www.unhistory.org> (consulted 6 May, 2013).

⁹ Interview, 24 January 2014.

international audience. The journal appears from this angle as cooperation around the identity, prestige and satisfaction.

There is an ethical dilemma surrounding the position of editorship. Aguinis and Vachetto describe this unsolvable trade-off for editors as one between doing *good* (outstanding editorial performance) and doing *well* (maximizing their research performance) (Aguinis and Vaschetto 2011). This dilemma was confirmed in the study interview as a matter of reconciling incoming articles and the editor's own agenda. In this model, the editor is caught in the middle of a world of invisible competition, along with reviewers and editorial board members, the journals they serve, and a journal's sponsors such as publishers and professional organizations. This relationship between journal editors and stakeholders is framed at multiple levels of analysis to include a consideration of editorial economic, social, and environmental performance.

Applied to *Security Dialogue*, the social performance of the first two editors, Marek Thee and Magne Barth, was a practical affair. The editorial line of the *BPP* as defined by Marek Thee was purely policy, where practitioners around the world would come up with ideas about solving some practical peace conflict problems. The editors spent much time in conferences, trying to meet people who had knowledge about conflicts and get them to write and publish in the journal. When Pavel Baev took over in 1995, the journal was still described as PRIO's policy-oriented quarterly journal. The journal itself had begun to evolve because SAGE took a half-ownership in 1994 and the journal became more academic, with the introduction of peer reviewing. From its non-peer reviewed days, the journal retained one-third of non peer-reviewed content, together with a book review section. At this stage, the journal maintained an open editorial line. Practically anything was published about security provided it had some scientific quality. At this stage, the legitimacy building intended to build *Security Dialogue*'s reputation rather than a satisfactory reward for its contributors in the field of ISS.

Under the editorship of Peter Burgess, this social performance evolved toward a type of family-bonded editorship. The editor was constrained by the incoming flow of articles, so the first task was to build confidence and an identity. He defines the editorial line like a research question to which academics were invited to answer. In order to produce knowledge following a sharp editorial line, the editor has to show leadership, bravado and courage. In 2002, Peter Burgess changed the entire editorial board, a symbolic change that also represented an opportunity to change the conditions under which the board worked. The board was not used as a pool of referees and had guarantees that it would not be asked to perform this service, except under emergency conditions. The task of the board is however to suggest articles and give advice in general terms, for instance in cases of reservations about a particular article or in the production of special issues. PRIO also sponsored small-scale biennial conferences with the board.

After a certain period following the introduction of these changes, the number of submissions drastically increased and PRIO had to insert a new level of management with associate editors, of which there are five today. The editor organizes regular Skype meetings to ensure the continuity of the editorial process with his team. Communication has created an active and personal, family-like style of editorship. The

articles and their object of study progressively started to form a niche-type journal. The overall high quality of the articles received increased the work of the selection process and quality was no longer the main editorial requirement, with the editorial line being used as a selection criterion. This social performance of editorial functions may in fact lead to the creation of a social network that in turn has an effect on the number and quality of future submissions. “Laband and Piette (1994) and Medoff (2003) have shown that an editor’s personal and institutional connections contributed to the identification and submission of high-quality and high-impact papers to the journal” (Aguinis and Vaschetto 2011: 417).

Since the editorship is a paid position at PRIO, the editorial line of *Security Dialogue* falls on the shoulders of the editor. During the interview, the chief editor defined this as having been a research question from the outset: “What is security?”¹⁰. The editorial line is not neutral; rather it reflects a set of values, of preferences, an ideology, assumptions and questions. The editorial line is subjective as regards content and includes epistemological considerations of two kinds. Coming as it does from a different discipline to political science or even a sub-discipline of IR, the editorial line reflects dissatisfaction with the existing definition of security within these disciplines. The journal’s process of innovation can be thus defined as the quest for transdisciplinary definitions of an object. In addition, the editorial line of *Security Dialogue* is characterized by its positioning within the field of IR. The journal wanted to be *critical* not in the sense of the cottage industry of Critical Security Studies (CSS), but in a sense inspired by Luc Boltansky as discussed in-depth during the interview.

Currently, the online journal describes the scope and aim of the journal¹¹. *Security Dialogue* is a fully peer-reviewed and highly ranked international bi-monthly journal. The editorial line supports articles that combine contemporary theoretical analysis with challenges to public policy across a wide ranging field of security studies. Indeed, it encourages ground-breaking reflection on new and traditional security issues. It covers “globalization, nationalism, ethnic conflict and civil war, information technology, biological and chemical warfare, resource conflicts, pandemics, global terrorism, non-state actors and environmental and human security”¹². Another aim of the journal is to revisit and recast the concept of security through new approaches and methodologies, echoing the interview. The journal aims to promote analysis of the normative dimensions of security, theoretical and practical aspects of identity and identity-based conflict, gender aspects of security and critical security studies. The editorial line was not defined outside the field at all. As recalled by the chief editor interviewed, they tried to capture the big fields, and within these, they paid attentive care to what the authors submit. “Even if they’re not acceptable articles, we listen to what the ideas are. And then we just try to use our intuitions, and our instincts, and

¹⁰ Interview, 26 January 2014: “That’s the question. I put my feet on the floor every morning asking what is security. And I only, as a general rule, really generally speaking, we only published articles that provide an answer to, that asks the same question, and to some sense, a little sense, provide an answer to that”.

¹¹ Online access to the journal *Security Dialogue* SAGE journals website: <http://sdi.sagepub.com> (consulted 6 May 2013)

¹² *Ibid.*

our taste to look into the future”¹³. Special issues were also organized around objects within the field. These features of the editorial line and editorship build the legitimacy of the knowledge produced.

The editorial line plays a role in determining the rules by which scientists play. It delineates the limits of what can be discussed, and what issues or theories or methods are outside the field boundaries. Launched in the post-Cold War context, the journal in its previous form was no longer able to cope with the enormous ongoing flux and rapid changes. This period of dramatic historical change influenced the journal’s new guidelines. The exercise carried the risk of proposing an editorial line made irrelevant by the turn of the events. The editors deliberately chose dimensions which they believed would “remain central in the debate – and consequently within the pages of *Security Dialogue*: the transformation of the international political system; the political fusion and fragmentation of states; military, economic and environmental dimensions of regional and global security” (Barth 1992). However, a journal’s editorial line is in no way equivalent to the field itself, which includes several journals. It is worthy of note that *SD* was not the only ISS journal opening out to encompass other dimensions of security. The editors of *International Security* observe the evolving direction of international security policies as nations increasingly define their security “not only in the conventional modes of military strength, economic vigour, and governmental stability, but also in terms of capabilities previously less central: energy supplies, science and technology, food, and natural resources” (*International Security* 1976: 2). Journals navigate within a field, setting boundaries and innovation channels. They share the “big field”, but dig in different waters to fulfil their ethos.

2. Theoretical framework and method of the longitudinal study: quantitative data for qualitative analysis

2.1. Reflexive theoretical framework

This chapter approaches the principle of *security* through a sectoral classification of the object of study. The methodology takes stock of the dense literature that discusses the principle itself or its practices, particularly recent publications that delve into the epistemological evolution of the principle (Gros 2012). It focuses on one specific discussion – the broadening of security into a plurality of security sectors and referents – because this has fed the research agenda of the ISS epistemic community.

Unlike some mythic stories about the development of ISS, these widening approaches were not caused by the ending of the Cold War as can be seen from the first articles published on this issue (Baldwin 1997; Buzan 1991; Rothschild 1995; Ullman 1983; Wolfers 1952). This perception reflects a self-understanding of the discipline as one following the international context. Buzan and Hansen argue that in reality, the literature that laid the groundwork for the rise of widening and deepening approaches in the 1990s was developed in the 1980s¹⁴. The first call for a theorization of widening was made in 1983 by Barry Buzan, and emerged through the work of the Copenhagen School, in particular Wæver on societal security. Barry Buzan, Ole

¹³ Interview, 14 January 2014.

¹⁴ This assumption is discussed in the results of this research.

Waever and Jaap de Wilde proposed a new framework with which to analyse security in 1998. This opposed a narrow vision of security that only concerned the military sector and took states as its actors. They identified five security sectors to organize their research agenda: military, political, economic, environmental, and societal.

“Generally speaking, the military security concerns the two-level interplay of the armed offensive and defensive capabilities of states, and states’ perceptions of each other’s intentions. Political security concerns the organizational stability of states, systems of government and the ideologies that give them legitimacy. Economic security concerns access to the resources, finance and markets necessary to sustain acceptable levels of welfare and state power. Societal security concerns the sustainability, within acceptable conditions for evolution, of traditional patterns of language, culture and religious and national identity and custom. Environmental security concerns the maintenance of the local and the planetary biosphere as the essential support system on which all other human enterprises depend” (Buzan et al. 1998).

This was strengthened in 1998 in a comprehensive new security framework viewing security as “a particular type of politics applicable to a wide range of issues” (Buzan et al. 1998). Through an analysis of five sectors, this framework “offers a constructivist operational method for distinguishing the process of securitization from that of politicization – for understanding who can securitize what and under what conditions” (Buzan et al., 1998). Each sector represents specific types of interactions: the military as relationships of forceful coercion; the political of authority, governing status, and recognition; the economic as the interaction of trade, production and finance; the societal of collective identity; and the environmental as relationships between human activity and the planetary biosphere.

The methodology of this study is based upon the widening and deepening theoretical framework proposed by Buzan and al. (Buzan et al. 1998). Indeed, the data used in this study was produced by scientists who depended to a large extent on the philosophy of the science of the day. Furthermore, a reflexive sociology of science challenges the legitimacy of science and the legitimate use of science. A longitudinal study of a journal contributes in its humble way to shed the light to more reflexivity within a field. It intends to throw into question scientific knowledge and its associated normative epistemology. As pointed out by Gaston Bachelard, a normative epistemology thinks “too much about the truths of established science and not enough about the errors of science in progress, scientific activity as it actually is” (Bourdieu 2004: 3).

This widening is part of a process of change and evolution within ISS. In this way, there is no normative pronouncement from these authors as what security should be. ISS has been well suited to acting as a home to multiple perspectives rather than to providing a deterministic grand theory (Buzan and Hansen 2009). However, there has been a rather normative call concerning whether issues should or should not be securitized. The securitization theory developed views the securitization process as a negative one.

Four main critiques have been made of the framework developed by Buzan and his colleagues (Skidmore 1999). As a result of beginning with definitional and

methodological questions, the framework permitted unfocused conceptual wandering and identified no compelling or concrete puzzle. Secondly, the framework eschewed causal analysis, preferring to give a complex conceptual framework without a complementary causal theory. Consequently, efforts to specify cause and effect were rendered far too arduous in such a broadly gauged exercise. Security issues are always contested and had to be proven to be security matters. For instance, to be able to talk about environmental security, research first has to prove that the issue at stake is a security one, which represents a weakness of the field. It also underlines the difficult integration of ISS within political sciences. The five security sectors are still not widely accepted today in political science. The third critique concerns the constructivist epistemology of the framework. The emphasis on discursive practices rather than what political actors are “able and willing to do as a predictable consequence of their words” was criticized (Skidmore 1999). Finally, the distinction between politicization and securitization was problematic. Securitization processes were differentiated in three ways from politicization: a special kind of politics, beyond politics, and an extreme version of politicization. Indeed, security is not necessarily characterized as beyond the normal political rules of the game.

Critiques targeted actual areas of theoretical weaknesses besides the conceptual widening and deepening. To some extent, this only emphasized the contested nature of the concept itself (Battistella 2006). Above all, these critiques stressed the renewal of the ISS research agenda for the coming decades. In less than 20 years, securitization theory has gained enough maturity for instance to develop a causal mechanism methodology, to foster debates beyond the *act* or to use it as a normative theory (Floyd 2011; Guzzini 2011; Huysmans 2011). There is therefore relevance in analysing *Security Dialogue* through the framework developed by Buzan and his colleagues in spite of the initial critiques¹⁵. This supports a reflexive longitudinal study of the ISS field.

2.2. Data collection and coding

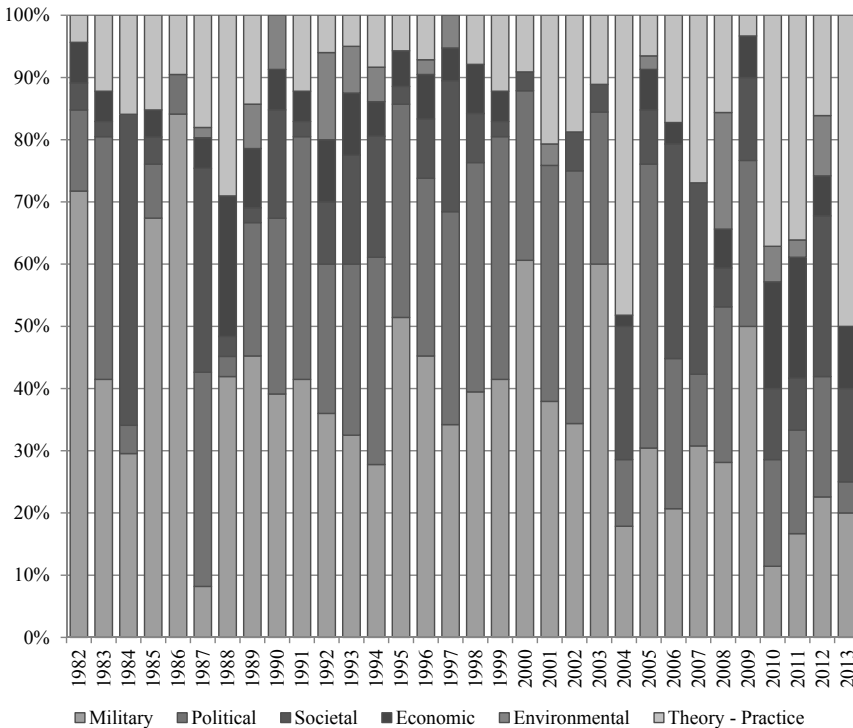
The main issues defined by the journal’s editorial line served as guidelines for classifying the articles: globalization, nationalism, ethnic conflict and civil war, information technology, biological and chemical warfare, resource conflicts, pandemics, global terrorism, non-state actors and environmental and human security. To complement this approach, other recurrent issues discussed by the articles were also classified empirically into the sectors. The following categories were created for each sector.

1. Military: means of war and strategic weapons (nuclear, information technology and biological and chemical warfare); global terrorism;

¹⁵ “The most useful aspect of this analysis is the initial insight that perceptions of threat and insecurity are not limited to states alone or to military competition. Intimately shaped by the Cold War context in which it was born, the field of security studies should indeed broaden its horizons and sharpen its analytical tools. Yet, the contribution of this study to that broader goal is not very significant”. D. SKIDMORE (1999). “Review Security: a new framework for analysis”, *American Political Science Review* 93: 1010-1011.

2. Political: nationalism; international organizations actors, mainly UN and NATO, and their policies such as intervention; political violence manifestation; non-state actors;
3. Societal: human security; causes of ethnic conflict and civil war; migration, forced displacement and mobility; humanitarianism, emancipation and post-colonial analysis; elements of identity, divisions or undermining groups or individuals' identities, especially women and the most vulnerable;
4. Economic: globalization; finance and market;
5. Environmental: resource conflicts; pandemics; environmental security.

Figure 7.1: Sectorial classification of *Security Dialogue's* contributions from 1982 to 2013



This study takes each article's title, assigns it to at least one category and calculates the number of occurrences in each category per year over the 30 years from 1982 until 2013 (see Figure 7.1). The titles reflect a content orientation through the concepts used, scientific recognition from the peer-reviewed process and an indication of the focus of the editorial line. Each publication is coded into one category only, according to the title. This data enables a qualitative interpretation of the publication content. The *theory-practice* category complements the five security sectoral categories. It was added due to the large amount of articles debating theoretical and practices of security, rather than empirical sectors. The objective is to identify the evolution of the editorial

line. The focus of the results analysis is how the editorial line changed over 30 years of publication.

The main challenge of the exercise was the difficulty in classifying some articles. It was also the strength of this chapter than to be able to provide a comprehensive picture of the sectoral distribution of *Security Dialogue* articles. When contradictions or hesitations remained after reading the title, a careful reading of the abstract or introduction was carried out. The sector was decided on the basis of the object addressed by the article, the means by which it was addressed, or its theoretical value. For instance, the article *Genealogies of resilience: From systems ecology to the political economy of crisis adaptation* could have been classified either in an environmental, economic or theoretical category (Walker and Cooper 2011). It was decided to place it in the environmental category as it studies the influence of ecological resilience over political economy explained by theoretical resemblances. The added value was more important in environmental security because it provided information about the increasing legitimacy of this sector. A second reason was that it demonstrated the impact of environmental security studies over the whole ISS research field. Indeed, the new logic of security in the 2000s results from the transformation of the question “how do we keep threats out?” to “how do we manage threats?” Security has become a matter of society’s *resilience* to security threats.

3. Results analysis

This chapter develops a comprehensive double-headed analysis. A quantitative reading of the data was complemented by a qualitative investigation of the journal’s articles conceptual content. Both analyse the evolution of ISS between 1982 and 2013. The results provide information on the editorial line in complementary ways.

3.1. Trends in the editorial line and the profusion of concepts

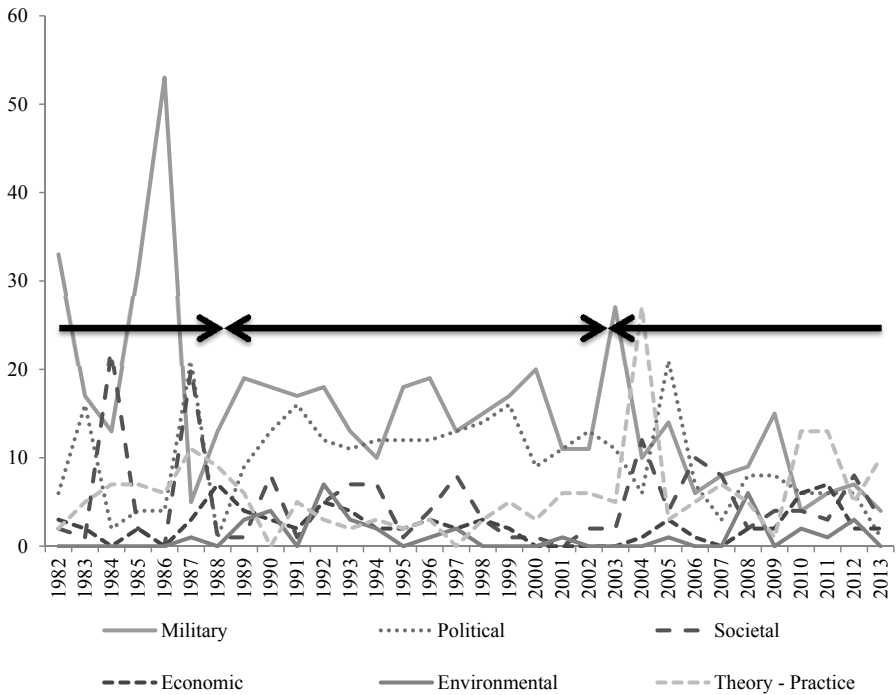
Patterns for each sector were identified over the 30 years of the study. Explanations of the amount of articles published in each sector were deduced from elements external to the editorial line mission statement. Variables from the international context and special issues reflecting the research agenda of the epistemic community were particularly valuable. These were of great use in explaining the evolution of the sectoral distribution and the definition of trends.

Figure 7.2 reveals 3 periods of analysis that can be related to the international context: the end of the Cold War, 1990s patterns, and post 9/11.

Each period also corresponds to a trend in the amount of contributions devoted to one or more categories (see Figure 7.2). The first one ends around 1988 and corresponds to the Cold War context. It reflects the domination of more traditional security and peace studies through the three sectors (military, societal and political). According to the figure, the military sector takes the lion’s share in the 1980s and 1990s compared to the other categories. The political sector is also significantly represented and accounts for the second major ISS sector during the first two periods. A few societal peaks also regularly appear. The variations in their representation are explained either by an editorial choice to cover a special issue or a specific momentum within the international context. In 1987 for instance, there was a series

of articles stemming from an International Seminar on *Ethnic Conflict and Human Rights* (societal) and a special issue about Humanitarian Organization-Building in the Third World (political). Being a reflection of the editorial priority of the journal, they partly explain peaks for societal security. These results, rather than surprising ISS field researchers, confirm the focus of the research agenda of ISS researchers and the contested meanings of security. “Military” is not the only traditional meaning of security. Political and societal sectors were already part of ISS prior to any formal splitting of the security concept into multiple sectors.

Figure 7.2: Two editorial lines, three trends: variations in the sectorial repartition of *Security Dialogue’s* contributions from 1982 to 2013



Attempts to more clearly define sectors emerged in the second period. Sectors such as societal or environmental appear heterogeneously on the figure, but other publications in the field testify to their emergence not only within the PRIO network¹⁶ but also in the American IR literature (Deudney 1990; Homer-Dixon 1994; Homer-

¹⁶ Researchers at PRIO work to identify new trends in global conflict, as well as to formulate and document new understandings of and responses to armed conflict. Founded in 1959, the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) is an independent research institution known for its effective synergy of basic and policy-relevant research. The diversity of disciplines at PRIO creates a thriving research community that attracts both scholars and funding from around the world. The Institute owns and hosts the editorial offices of two international peer-reviewed journals – *Journal of Peace Research* and *Security Dialogue* – both of which are

Dixon and Levy 2011; Levy 1995; Mische 1989). The figure suggests that the editorial line was almost equally shared between political and military preoccupations, but this second period was also characterized by the rise of “hyphenated security” concepts. It runs from 1989 until 2002.

This period ended after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on US territory that reflects a renewal of interest in the *contested* qualification of security: what does security consist of and how do actors make political uses of security? Debates arose for instance about *insecurities* (Huysmans) and *creeping vulnerabilities* (Liotta)¹⁷. These reflect epistemological concerns about what constitutes security, and why this issue is a threat, to whom and for what reasons, rather than what is a threat. Above all, it stresses the growing theorization that the subfield is going through. This last period has seen the rise of a number of debates within the ISS research field of. Theory-practice, economic, societal, political and military sectors receive more equal attention, while environment is less represented than the others. The maturity of the ISS field grew as the research agenda of academic ISS expanded in both deepening and widening directions.

In reading this figure, the editorial line of *Security Dialogue* responds to its commitment to its audience to show the plural nature of debates. These discussions embedded within the wider field of ISS research reveal the stage of maturity of the field. These developments support the widening of the ISS agenda and the position of the editorial line.

The concepts contained in article titles support the figure readings and also enable development of another key argument. They reflect the three categories of concepts which have spun off from security: *complementary* concepts (deterrence for example), *parallel* concepts (like power) and *oppositional* concepts (such as peace) (Buzan and Hansen, 2009). These concepts surround the core concept of security and define the spectrum for each sector.

For instance, the military themes of nuclear weapons, arms control and the arms race, the ban on chemical weapons, space, deterrence, conflict management and trust-building dominate the journal’s research agenda during the Cold War. The consistent number of political security articles can be seen in concepts of sovereignty and legitimacy related to interventions by states, IOs and the role of the United Nations. Questions of intervention in internal conflict and of the institutionalization of international cooperation gain in importance by the end of the Cold War and still occupy a central place in the field of ISS. These were particularly acute issues in the 1990s due to the increasing number of international peace missions, such as those in

edited at PRIO and published by Sage Publications in London. Information provided by PRIO website. Consulted 24 January, 2014 at <http://www.prio.no/About/>.

¹⁷ Huysman’s article was even part of a special section “Theorizing the Liberty-Security Relation: Sovereignty, Liberalism and Exceptionalism” of the volume that stresses the growing theorization of ISS in the journal. J. HUYSMANS (2006). “International Politics of Insecurity: Normativity, Inwardness and the Exception”, *Security Dialogue* 37: 11-29; Ph. LIOTTA (2005). “Through the Looking Glass: Creeping Vulnerabilities and the Reordering of Security”, *Ibid.* 36: 49-70.

Kosovo, Albania and post-USSR states, as well as violence in fragile states such as Rwanda or Liberia.

These two themes coexisted with societal security themes that include the role of Churches (1984 special issue), peace education and movements with an emphasis on human rights in the 1980s. The editorial line was consistent with regards to the military sector in the first instance, but societal and political security sectors have shaped the research agenda of the emerging ISS.

The profusion of security concepts also relates to the deepening of the field. The development of human security for instance shown in the title of numerous articles demonstrates two points. This follows the launch of the concept of human security with the publication in 1994 of the annual UN Human Development Report, which sheds light on a key trend within the field: the deepening of security through acknowledging levels of security and the all-encompassing presence of security in society.

These tremendous developments reveal the profusion of ISS concepts over this period. These concepts define the boundaries of ISS research agendas. Furthermore, by covering several contexts, they assert which truths in the political world scientists struggle to uncover. As Bourdieu notes, when scientists explore concepts, they help to increase the maturity of a field without necessarily knowing so. The question of intervention remains a structuring truth within ISS. The number of truths that have already been discovered can thus define the maturity of a field. However Bourdieu, with a certain modesty, also reminds us that the struggle for the truth is necessarily endless.

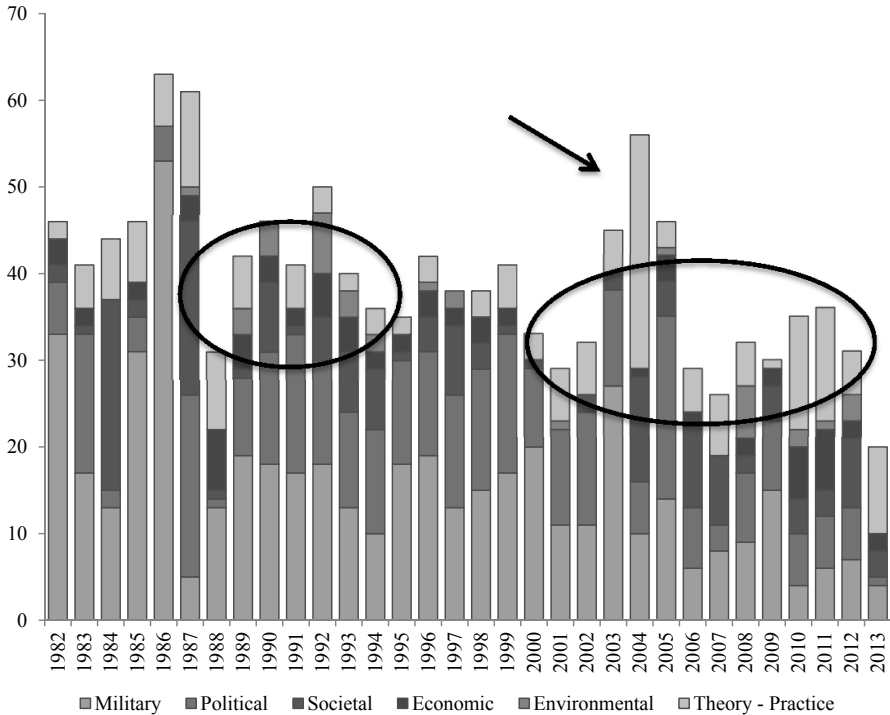
3.2. Choices made: an implicit hierarchy amongst sectors?

Apart from the confrontation of the context with the qualitative representation of each sector, what else is new in the post-Cold War agenda?

The environmental sector emerged in the late 1980s (see Figure 7.3 circle). It first appeared in 1987 in an article titled “The Quest for a Disaster Early Warning System Giving a Voice to the Vulnerable”. This reflects a more general turn in the international community’s attitude toward humanitarian natural or man-made disasters interventions. The preparedness and human security agendas pertaining to the most vulnerable has impacted more widely on ISS and practices of intervention: “The vital debate on the foundations and frontiers of humanitarian intervention – of which this special section on the ethics of humanitarian intervention can only scratch the surface – is perhaps the greatest political question of our time, involving a renegotiation of the fundamental ideas by which modern Western civilization understands itself” (Burgess 2002)¹⁸. It furthermore marks the first reflexions on disasters and risks, which are certainly on the agenda of contemporary academics.

¹⁸ A key article making a call for the development of the intervention paradigm is *Resilience and human security: The post-interventionist paradigm* (2012).

Figure 7.3: What titles say about the editorial line: an analysis of *Security Dialogue* contributions' title from 1982 to 2013



Later, between 1989 and 1993, the environmental security research agenda was strengthened by the context of the first Rio conference in 1992 and the recognition within Earth Sciences of dangerous global environmental changes such as global warming. Contextual arguments are not the only explanatory variables. The first environmental security articles were published in 1989 and discussed this hyphenated concept's foundations, the need for international governance of the security of environment and the evolution of security as a contested concept. Three key articles were published in *Security Dialogue* under the titles "Security and the Environment: A Preliminary Exploration", "International Organization for Environmental Security" and "The Environmental Component of Comprehensive Security". However, there are almost no existing traces of debates on environmental conflict, scarcity and the tragedy of the commons, which were vivid at this moment. This reveals an editorial choice either not to promote these research efforts which were spawning the controversies over the constitution of a research agenda after the end of the Cold War or not receiving enough scientific high quality contributions. It was indeed during this period that Homer-Dixon published the first results of his landmark, but contested research project on violence and environment (Homer-Dixon 1994; Homer-Dixon 1991).

The analysis of this sector clearly reveals three elements that shape the trend of evolution of the research agenda: contextual events, research-based events and impacts

from other sciences. The reflexivity aroused by this claim is quite significant because it shows that the definition of what constitutes security is a structuring question for this field of research. The major added value of this analysis is the recognition of the role of other sciences in the security agenda. The latter is today the least valued argument while its impact has actually been more profound on the definition of the security research agenda. Nuclear and chemical weapons would not have emerged without the technological availability and the economic promises they compounded. Environmental concerns would not have grown into security issues if earth system sciences had not proved anthropic climatic changes. Reflexivity recognises the transdisciplinary nature of ISS not only in terms of method of analysis and theory, but also in terms of the data used to identify those threats, risks and urgencies that affect policy-making¹⁹.

The theory-practice nexus was initially added due to the importance of non-sectoral articles in the 2000s (see Figure 7.3 circle and arrow). It is worth noting that theoretical articles have taken a more prominent place in the last decade, fostered by longstanding debates on human security, critical security studies and securitization theory. Nonetheless, if there are no more theory-practice nexus articles, this is justified by the method used. Articles were ranked in priority within a sector even if they provided a discussion of the theory or security practices. The bias thus produced can also be regarded as a methodological advantage because theory-practice articles only discuss the emergence of new security practices or theoretical debates.

3.3 Qualitative interpretations: the journal as a research practice, field maturity and the widening and deepening of security

A first general comment of the qualitative analysis of the titles concerns the vitality and diversity of the theoretical debates²⁰. Beyond reflecting the vast range of these discussions, the titles provide a gauge of the field's maturity. Furthermore, when editorials have been written for special issues or due to specific events on the international scene, they proved to be valuable readings with which to interpret dialogues among ISS researchers.

The content of titles enables refinement of the definition of each sector. Political stability is not only about state legitimacy. It is about the legitimacy brought by state

¹⁹ A special issue focused on Security, Technologies of Risk, and the Political (2008).

²⁰ Key examples of Human Security debates emerge in these titles: "Human Security as Political Resource: A Response to David Chandler's Human Security: The Dog That Didn't Bark" (2008), "The Critique That Doesn't Bite: A Response to David Chandler's Human Security: The Dog That Didn't Bark" (2008), "Human Security II: Waiting for the Tail to Wag the Dog – A Rejoinder to Ambrosetti, Owen and Wibben" (2008). Another landmark is the controversial boomerang effect of 9/11: "Converging Interests and Agendas: the Boomerang Returns" (2002), "Securitization and the Boomerang Debate: A Rejoinder to Liotta and Smith-Windsor" (2003), "Through the Looking Glass: Creeping Vulnerabilities and the Reordering of Security" (2005). The key argument is "that terrorism is one of a number of vulnerability issues, that vulnerabilities left unchecked over time can become threats, and that we must focus on a long-term security agenda do not justify his allegations of 'inconsistencies [and] ill-developed or uncorroborated contentions and concepts'" (Liotta, 2002: 489).

and non-state actors to the political institutionalization associated with building peace. The analysis also shows how theoretical and philosophical debates are embedded in security sectors. The legitimacy arguments within the political sector implicitly question who obtains and *who doesn't obtain* security. These are embedded in a discussion of the relationship between liberty and security which is crucial to the political sector and confirmed in the editorial line.

“One of the constitutive problems of modern political life has been the relationship between claims about security and claims about liberty. This problem may be traced to various attempts to think about philosophical and theological questions about free will in an apparently determinate universe in relation to the emerging authority of the modern state and system of states in early modern Europe. It may also be traced to the more specifically liberal aspiration to cultivate subjects capable of thinking and acting for themselves within the determinations and legal jurisdictions of sovereign states acting in a system of sovereign states” (Walker 2006).

The titles offer compelling evidence that sectors provide only a narrow representation of the widening and the deepening of ISS. A particularity of ISS is the profusion of conceptual innovations. These may emerge from theoretical deepening such as the concepts of resiliency or biosecurity. Moreover, the vast increase in intellectual references within political science indicates an effort to broaden the affiliation of ISS to a wider field of research²¹.

Deepening has triggered theoretical and methodological innovations. ISS methods include discourse analyses as much as media framing, sociological analysis of practices or analyses of images²². New objects and places of violence emerge with the observation of security practices. Their presence in the title demonstrates a stage of maturity of a field of research able to theorize within a reflexive science. Marieke de Goede for instance studies how “premediation” as a new security practice of the media self-consciously deploys imagination to feed economies of both anxiety and desire²³. These arguments reveal a mature state of development in the ISS research field. The practice of reflexivity develops the maturity of a field, defined when a generalized relativity of points of view actively constitutes the field. In other words, it is when the space of points of view widens to reach closer truth, the “view without a point of view” as defined by Bourdieu. This space where all the points of view meet is what constitutes a field. A field is where “the antagonistic points of view clash in accordance with regulated procedures and are gradually integrated, through rational confrontation” (Bourdieu 2004: 116). This leads to an understanding of the maturation

²¹ Examples of articles with these references are “Towards a Political Sociology of Security Studies” (2010); “Foucault’s Legacy: Security, War and Violence in the 21st Century” (2010), and “Foucault in Guantánamo: Towards an Archaeology of the Exception” (2006).

²² For instance, “Performing Identity: The Danish cartoon crisis and discourses of identity and security” (2013), “Military and Visual Culture in the Worlds of Post-9/11” (2007), “Steve Bell’s Eye: Cartoons, Geopolitics and the Visualization of the War on Terror” (2007), and “Digitized Virtuosity: Video War Games and Post-9/11 Cyber-Deterrence” (2007).

²³ The title of the article reflects the theory-practice nexus: “Beyond Risk: Premeditation and the Post-9/11 Security Imagination” (2008).

of a field within a path of confrontations. The notion of path-dependency can explain the way a field matures toward a truth.

Nonetheless, qualitative interpretation of the titles has its own limits. While it reflects the content, and conceptual and sectoral evolution of the widening and deepening of ISS, it does not provide us with sociology of that widening. Who are the editors? Why do we have these special issues? How can we explain the domination of certain authors and schools within ISS? These questions remain unanswered by this chapter. A longitudinal study of the process of publishing a special issue would require a different, but complementary method of research based on interviews with the other chief editors and assessment of the authors' biography. Finally, a comparison of editorships between journals of one field would be a way to analyse domination patterns within the subfield. To provide more reflexivity engages researchers to deliver a refined sociology of the field.

Despite this complementary remark, what is missing from this single-heading title analysis is an appreciation of a given article's content. Because in several cases a short reading of the title did not provide sufficient information to enable an article to be classified within a security sector, reading most of the abstracts or introductions increased the value of the analysis, but this was not done systematically. Finally, a systematic analysis of the concept would also have brought a more refined analysis of the conceptual geography of ISS beyond these five sectors. Indeed, by using a complementary method, this study could draw a map of *complementary*, *parallel* and *oppositional* concepts to security and assess the evolution of their use. This would leave the sectoral analysis aside, but would draw a refined picture of the conceptual understanding of ISS.

Conclusion

This chapter analysed *Security Dialogue*, a global academic journal recognized in the IR subfield of international security studies (ISS). It stressed how a journal mirrors both external contexts and internal debates amongst its epistemic community and assessed thirty years of its existence in order to categorize these developments. Both of these features of a journal were supported by the findings of the study. The methodology combined quantitative and qualitative data in order to provide complementary interpretations of the innovation process within ISS, understood as the widening and deepening of the object of study *security*. It provided compelling evidence of how *Security Dialogue* as an academic journal fulfils a role in the subfield by promoting the "art of innovating". The journal in fact plays on two chords to study security and these have shaped its editorial line over the past 30 years. Under the Cold War paradigm, security became a legitimate object of International Relations. Meanwhile, security also developed within other disciplines, making it a transdisciplinary object of study. The editorial line of the journal has made room for both discussions to interact and thus produce innovation in an ISS subfield that does not intend to enter into competition with mainstream ISS journals. In the 1990s, its repositioning as a theory journal supported by empirical research studies explains the current burst of contributions received by the editors.

The chapter questioned how the process of innovation of a journal explains the success of *Security Dialogue* in ISS. Apart from the first hypothesis, the last two have been verified by the study. First, the widening and deepening of ISS has not constituted the editorial line of the journal; instead, the chapter supports the idea that the context of IR and the co-constitution of the field and disciplines have been hosted by the journal (H1). In fact, the journal's identity and its editorial ideology have created the process of innovation in the pages of *Security Dialogue* (H3). The broadening of the concept of *security* has been influenced by external factors, mainly the IR context and internal factors within the field, namely researchers' satisfaction to impose their epistemological and ontological claims. It is not surprising to note that the evolution of ISS subfield is wider than the mere evolution of one journal's editorial line. Indeed, the editorial line of *Security Dialogue* has not been defined in terms of widening and deepening of security, but being part of the evolution of ISS, it reflects this widening and deepening, but only partially. It supports that the historiography and reflexivity of the field is the result of a co-construction by its journals and authors. Besides, some features of the evolution of its editorial line, such as the shift from a policy- to theory-oriented journal, reflect not only the evolution of the subfield, but of IR at large. These elements justify how editorial lines play a role in the maturation of the ISS subfield. As a process of innovation, it provides a niche journal located within the field (H2). In this socio-institutional process, it can be assumed that rather than competing with mainstream ISS journals, *SD* continuously reaffirms its "edgy" identity. Its editorial line acts as the gatekeeper of innovation, in guaranteeing the Scandinavian journal a rather independent process of innovation at the edge of the IR field. *Security Dialogue* contributes to the emergence of debates at the edge of ISS while keeping track of mainstream discussions.

This study of the relationship between a journal and its field confirmed existing historiographies and histories of IR. Indeed, our finding shows that the field gained maturity not only in the aftermath of the ending of the Cold War, but that this trend started even under the Cold War paradigm. Reviewing *Security Dialogue's* contributions from 1982 until 2013, the results show that the context acts as if it provides new insights with which to forge and frame the concept of security. The Cold War period gave birth to ISS through strategic and peace research studies. Complementary, parallel and oppositional concepts have set the boundaries of the subfield within a paradigm. These concepts have changed between the Cold War and post 9/11 paradigms, the latter being representative of the age of insecurities. In fact, a paradigm is helpful when revisiting and recasting the concept of security through new approaches and methodologies. The proliferation of security concepts has played an important part in the maturation of the field. It defines a space of points of view where concepts aggregate towards truth. Moreover, by addressing issues of enmity and threat not only in a moment of war, the development of ISS has given more relevance to this subfield. With regards to the sectoral distribution of ISS, the study supports the view that ISS is organized into a plurality of securities with no hierarchy between them. However, it was obvious that ISS derives from a more military – political – societal axis of securities. The development of a plural ISS remains even today a challenging conceptualization for the field.

Finally, although the chapter does not wish to generalize too widely, it also offers information about the evolution of political science as a discipline. Political science relies upon its fields and subfields, and their particular concepts that challenge the principles of political science. The maturity of the subfield depends on the capacity of its researchers to innovate theoretically, but the art of innovation is not restricted to one discipline. On the contrary, innovation can be stimulated by other disciplines within social and natural sciences. It has been argued that ISS field is more transdisciplinary because what makes a threat depends on the sciences related to each of the sectors. Cultural studies, ethnology and psychology are assets for societal security. Earth system science, cultural studies, risks studies and geography are assets for environmental security. Political theory, law and philosophy are assets for political security. This transdisciplinarity is another demonstration of the evolution of the subfield. Ripeness for innovation within a field not only derives from contextual changes in dominant structures or scientific breakthrough in the discipline of research. It also derives from communicating outside the core discipline.

This study of *Security Dialogue* tends to support the idea that within this niche-type journal, scientific breakthrough is the product of the association of critical ontology and transdisciplinary research studies. A nuance which should be made to this study concerns the epistemology bias induced by focusing on one core concept of political science. Indeed, looking at what security is, as a set of practices or as a discursive act, offers little information about what makes security a contested concept in political science. A niche-type journal only participates on the margins of what happens in the rest of the discipline. It mainly focuses on its editorial line and may leave to one side debates that animate the rest of political science. A journal aims to bring reflexivity to the field in many ways, but it appears from this study that a key to success is striking a balance between the ideology of the editorial line and its core discipline.