**IFjP at 20: Reflections from the Teen Years**

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We had all known the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* across its full existence, if in very different ways. Laura had read its first issues as an undergraduate student and then as a graduate student. When *IFjP* published her second article (Sjoberg 2007), she was thrilled to be a part of a community that had been a source of so much inspiration. Cynthia had been one of the journal’s first Conversations editors, and had seen the journal evolve from an idea to a widely-read and respected outlet for interdisciplinary feminist work on global politics. Heidi had cited work in *IFjP* and been cited by work in *IFjP*, especially in her work on human security (e.g., Hudson 2005). Though we all had very different experiences of *IFjP*, we shared an understanding that the journal was central to what we saw as our intellectual home, the study of gender and sexuality in global politics.

We knew our experiences of the journal, and we knew *of* each other. And that was pretty much what we had going for us when we started talking about applying to edit *IFjP* in the fall of 2010. In six months of conversation assembling a team and putting together an application, though, all three of us realized both how much we wanted to edit *IFjP* and what a unique opportunity it was. We spent a significant amount of time both during the application phase and during our editorship thinking about what distinguishes feminist journal editing from journal editing that lacks a feminist ethos, as well as thinking about the unique needs and special contributions of the *International Feminist Journal of Politics.*

Ultimately, we are convinced that feminist journal editing requires conscious attention to power, privilege, opportunity, and fairness at every step of the editing and publishing process. To us, editing *IFjP* was a task of feminist scholarship – not only in terms of editing, reviewing, and publishing feminist work about global politics, but also in terms of a collaborative feminist process in *doing* that editing. Collaboration became a central point in how we did our work – collaboration among us as editors, collaboration with Section Editors and Associate Editors, collaboration with authors, and establishing opportunities for collaboration among and within the various feminist communities that study global politics.

The time that we began to edit *IFjP* was an exciting one. We literally guided IFjP through its teen years – we edited for six and a half years between Volume 13 and Volume 19. When we started editing *IFjP*, the journal was still new enough that more collaborators than not remembered its beginnings. Thanks to Sandy Whitworth, Catherine Eschle, and Teresia Teaiwa, *IFjP* had just that year been indexed by the Thomson-Reuters Social Science Citation Index (SSCI). In the first year that we edited the journal, it received 60 manuscripts. When we took over the journal, we inherited with it hard-copy archives of every manuscript that the journal had ever processed. We inherited a healthy and growing *IFjP*, and we were excited to move it into its next phases.

Many things changed during our editorial term. *IFjP* established its first independent website, where we were able to host multimedia content for the first time. The journal stopped processing email and hard copy manuscripts and moved to an online database for manuscript processing and reviewer management. The journal started its Twitter account. The journal went from having a two-issue backlog to a two-year backlog, despite a decreasing acceptance rate. As a result, we increased the journal’s page capacity by 20%, a move that we hear is now being repeated by the current editorial team. The journal’s impact factor tripled in six years, and many of its articles from our editorship and before were regular staples in classrooms and regularly relied on in research. In the last year we edited the journal, it received more than 100 manuscripts. We enjoyed being a part of *IFjP* as it grew, as it began to adapt to the world of digital publishing, and as it garnered more attention from researchers and teachers.

When we started editing the journal, there were several projects that were really important to us. Most of those projects revolved around internationalizing the contributors and readers of *IFjP.* The journal had always been a project that spanned multiple continents (e.g., founding editors in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia) and included a wide variety of voices (academic and practitioner) from a wide variety of places, both geographically and professionally. We hoped to build on that foundation to receive, edit, and publish more manuscripts from traditionally underrepresented scholars, in terms of location and research program. To that end, we started both the *IFjP* language collective and the *IFjP* Annual Conferences. The language collective idea was simple: we would match scholars writing in English as a second language with members of the Editorial Board who spoke the authors’ first language. We hoped those matches would help authors overcome translation issues both in terms of language and in terms of style. While the language collective was not as widely used as we had hoped, the manuscripts which were able to take advantage of it did broaden *IFjP*’s authorship.

The conferences were both more complex and more widely used. Our idea was that we would hold conferences *for the journal*, about work that could be published in the journal, and grooming special issues of the journal in different places around the world. We had seen the sense of intellectual community that *Millennium*’s conferences had brought about; we looked to replicate that, but by taking the show on the road in a sense. We hoped that conferences different locations would attract both a core audience and interested scholars, practitioners, and activists in each location – creating multiple overlapping dialogues. The *IFjP* conferences were more successful than we ever could have imagined. With the help of our editors, Associate Editors, and board members, we hosted six conferences, in Bloemfontein, South Africa (2012); Brighton, United Kingdom (2013); Los Angeles, California, USA (2014); Brisbane, Australia (2015); Cincinnati, Ohio, USA (2016); and Delhi, India (2017). The conferences averaged almost 200 attendees, and by our calculation netted about 100 submissions to the journal. Several attendees made it to three or more of the conferences; many attendees came to just a single conference. Surveys from the conferences showed a sense of intellectual community and conversation. We are pleased that the conferences will continue with the current editorial team, and hope that they become a part of the fabric of the journal looking forward.

As much as our editorship was in part about executing the ideals of feminist editorship that we set out in our proposal, we also ended up having some unexpected but equally important commitments as our editorship developed. Those commitments were more substantive in nature, and there were three: interdisciplinarity, decolonial scholarship, and queer scholarship. In terms of interdisciplinarity, we knew *IFjP* to be an interdisciplinary journal, and read it as such. Still, early articles we received from disciplines as diverse as Comparative Literature and National Security Studies challenged our abilities to find reviewers both appropriate to the context of the articles and ready to help the articles be accessible to *IFjP*’s broad readership. Regularly as our editorship progressed, we found ourselves intentionally sending manuscripts to reviewers of diverse disciplinary backgrounds to make sure that the journal could be, and was being, read across the social sciences, humanities, and even the arts. It was important to us to do as good a job reviewing quantitative political science articles and visual arts articles, and to show the readers of *IFjP* that we thought the two belonged in the journal not only equally but alongside each other. We expect that the challenge of being readable across disciplines and representing a wide variety of scholarship will remain for the journal, and we hope that the challenge is as exciting for future editors and future readers as it was for us.

A decolonial lens was also very important to us. Our editorship was the first time that the journal’s homebase had been in the United States, and we felt like some of the journal’s constituency had a (justified) concern that the pages of the journal would reflect that home, representationally and substantively. We were determined that neither would be the case – that the journal would take a decolonial approach to editing, that it would publish decolonial content, and that we would expand the representation of different authors on the pages of the journal. We were able to substantially expand the representation of authors from all around the world. We were able to host conferences in places from which the journal had not previously received significant submissions, and each conference resulted in a spike of local submissions. We were also happy to host, with Anne Sisson Runyan, the 6th Annual *IFjP* conference, with the theme Decolonizing Knowledges in Feminist World Politics. It was important to us that the journal continue its effort to *be* international as well as to include work that is substantively international, and we are happy that the current editors are invested in a similar concern and finding even more tools to build the journal’s diversity.

The third commitment that became very important to us was the understanding that the remit of the *International* Feminist *Journal of Politics* includes queer international work. During our time as editors, a journal primary concerned with gender rejected queer work as outside of the remit of gender as such. *IFjP* had published queer work previous to our editorship (e.g., Peterson 1999; Weber 1999; Smyth 2000; Richter-Montpetit 2007). Indeed, to *IFjP*, the questions that other gender journals seemed to face about the place of queer work were absent – queer work has always *fit* the journal. At a time when other journals and organizations fractured around this question, then, it was important for us to take a clear position. It is not that all queer work is feminist or all feminist work is queer – quite the opposite. While there is some queer work that understands itself as feminist and some feminist work that understands itself as queer, research is just as likely to be queer in critique of or outside of feminist work as it is to be queer/feminist. To us, that work also has a home in feminist dialogues and discussions, and in *IFjP*. We were happy to get to publish a queer special issue of *IFjP* called Murderous Inclusions (ed. Jin Haritaworn, Adi Kuntsman, and Silvia Posocco, 2013), to host a conference on (Im)possibly Queer International Feminisms (2013), and to be able to publish a number of very strong queer pieces of research during our term as editors. We strongly believe queer, feminist, and queer/feminist work belongs on the pages of *IFjP.*

Looking back on our six and a half years as Editors – *IFjP*’s teen years – we are excited and honored to have had the opportunity to guide the journal through such an interesting period of growth. There were things that we wanted to accomplish that were left undone, of course, as is always the case, but, at the end of the term, we felt very happy to have been able to do what we did for and with the journal, and very happy that the journal is entering its next phases – its twenties – with as amazing a team as the current editors. We could not have accomplished what we did without our Associate and Section Editors over our term: Soumita Basu, Suzanne Bergeron, Megan Daigle, Bina D’Costa, Kevin Dunn, Maya Eichler, Galia Golan, Katrina Lee-Koo, Marianne Marchand, Laura McLeod, Anne Runyan, and Inger Skjaelsbaek. We were also only able to accomplish *anything* because we had the help of excellent Managing Editors at the University of Florida: Jonathon Whooley, Anna L. Weissman, and Catherine Jean. The members of the board, the authors, special issue editors, book reviewers, and conversations contributors all made our job as Editors both possible and fascinating. In six and a half years, there was never a dull moment. We are excited to watch the journal continue to grow in its third decade, and thankful for the memories it gave us in its second.

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