

## Editorial

This first issue of *The Nordic Review of International Studies* (NRIS) focuses on NATO and the Nordics. The idea for launching a new journal has been brewing for a long time at the board of the Finnish International Studies Association (FISA). We have recognised the need for an arena that would bring together scholarly debates on international politics within and concerning the wider Nordic region. Such an outlet would not merely serve as a forum for discussion, but also foster a sense of academic community.

Most International Relations (IR) discussions on the Nordics are dispersed across different journals and arenas, which hinders communication between scholars who have common research interests. We believe that the NRIS can narrow this gap in the research field, providing a fruitful arena for scientific debates and scholarly exchanges. The NRIS embraces interdisciplinary approaches and appreciates a wide range of theoretical and methodological choices.

When we planned the practicalities of the journal, one of the tricky questions was the publication language. We value scientific publishing in Nordic languages and believe that it is important to develop theoretical vocabulary in our native languages. Nevertheless, we decided that the main publishing language of the NRIS would be English to enable the widest possible reach of audiences, readers, and authors. We therefore publish primarily in English, but submissions in Finnish or Swedish can be considered for publication.

Another important aspect that we discussed in the early phase was the value of open access publishing. We believe that the era of paywalls and restricted access on knowledge should be over and therefore decided to offer all NRIS content free of any access charges or barriers. The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies offers a quality platform for open access publishing, which enables us to achieve our aim of advancing knowledge without any access barriers.

The NRIS is committed to publishing articles that examine the international sphere empirically,

theoretically, or institutionally from a Nordic angle. This means that the contribution can include, for example, an empirical focus on one or several Nordic countries, a theoretical study that advances IR theory with a Nordic connection such as the Copenhagen School, or IR research that is produced in research institutions within the Nordic as well as Baltic countries.

The first issue of the NRIS is published in times of serious foreign and security policy ruptures. Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine has altered the security environment in the Nordic/Baltic region and the Arctic, resulting in Finland and Sweden applying for NATO membership. NATO is now high on the foreign policy agenda, which is why we decided to focus on the alliance in our first issue. The issue examines NATO and the Nordics from various perspective. Albert Weckman studies Finnish public opinion and NATO, showing how shifting views of NATO membership are related to changes in the security environment. Hanna Ojanen re-examines Finnish–Swedish relations and Nordic cooperation from the perspective of NATO. Emma Hakala focuses on NATO and climate, arguing that for Finland and Sweden climate security can prove to be a relevant topic through which to contribute to the agenda of the alliance, given that both countries prioritise climate issues in their foreign policies.

Tuomas Forsberg reviews the NATO debate in Finland over several decades, providing an analysis of four different “debate rounds”. In her article, Rachel Tausendfreund provides a transatlantic perspective by studying how progressives in the United States view the Swedish and Finnish bids for NATO membership. Finally, Tiina Mac Intosh analyses NATO and the Nordics from the perspective of a practitioner who has been closely following the evolution of NATO policies. The issue also includes two book reviews and a report from the triannual FISA Conference, which took place in May 2022 in Tampere.

It is our sincere hope that NRIS will become a vibrant forum for debates on and in the Nordics, engaging scholars from IR, political science, international law, and other adjacent fields of study.

Johanna Vuorelma, Ville Sinkkonen, Sanna Salo