

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL

GRADUATE ESSAY COMPETITION 2006

RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. PROFILE OF THE *ISSJ*

The *International Social Science Journal*, founded by UNESCO in 1949, is published quarterly in six language editions: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

Its purpose is to bridge diverse communities of social scientists, working in different problems and disciplines, from different parts of the world. It provides information and debate on subjects of interest to a broad international readership, written by an equally international range of authors. The *ISSJ* has a particular interest in policy-relevant questions and interdisciplinary approaches. It serves as a forum for review, reflection and discussion informed by the results of relevant research, rather than as an outlet of “first publication” for the results of individual research projects.

2. THE GRADUATE ESSAY COMPETITION

International essay competitions on topics of current intellectual concern were popular in the 18th century, and a number of works of enduring significance were originally written as submissions to them. Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s *Discourse on the Sciences and Arts* actually won the 1750 prize of the Academy of Dijon, France, in response to the question “Whether the restoration of the sciences and arts has contributed to the improvement of morals”. Rousseau submitted another essay to the 1754 prize of the Academy of Dijon, but was less fortunate: in view of its content, the Academy refused even to consider his work. History has been kinder, and Rousseau’s *Discourse on the Origin and Bases of Inequality among Men* has remained a key work of political philosophy to this day.

For its 2006 Graduate Essay Competition, the *ISSJ* proposes to consider exactly the question that preoccupied the Academy of Dijon when it opened its competition in November 1753:

What is the origin of inequality between men, and whether it is authorized by natural law.

To what extent the terms of this question are still relevant, and how, if at all, it demands revision, are precisely among the issues that submissions will be expected to address.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION

Graduate students from any discipline and from any country are eligible to participate by submitting an essay of between 10,000 and 12,000 words to the *ISSJ* by March 31 2006.

Submissions may be accepted in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese or Russian. The prize-winning essay will be published in issue n° 190 of the ISSJ (December 2006).

Authors should provide proof of registration in a university for the current academic year. This should be mailed to the Journal or faxed to: 33 1 45 68 57 24.

Articles should be submitted as email attachments readable by Word for Windows and addressed to: issj@unesco.org. If this is not possible, a diskette may be accepted. Normally, hardcopy is not necessary. If neither of the above is possible, the author should contact the editorial office beforehand.

Essays should not have already been published elsewhere, or be in press or under consideration by other journals or publishers. However, essays already submitted in fulfilment of course requirements are eligible.

4. GENERAL POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND WHEN WRITING

- In line with the profile of the *Journal*, articles should be appealing and accessible to those not specialised in their particular subjects. Excessive technicality, jargon and methodological protocol are to be avoided in favour of direct, clear language.
- Since the *ISSJ* is translated into six languages, and moreover is read by many persons in what, to them, is a foreign language, the exposition should be as clear as possible, avoiding colloquialisms and explaining any local circumstances, terms or concepts which might not be widely familiar.
- Controversial ideas or doctrines should, as far as possible, be discussed in a positive manner, and in such a way as to avoid the imputation of ulterior motives to those who hold different views.
- Texts should not contain passages likely to cause offence to Member States of UNESCO and should not impair the spirit of international understanding and cooperation.

5. HOUSE STYLE

Even though competition essays will not necessarily be considered for publication, authors are strongly recommended to prepare their essay in accordance with ISSJ style.

Title: should be clear and informative, without straining for literary effect or allusion. Not too long (should preferably fit into one line, without subtitle), without quotation marks within it, and not in interrogative form.

Notes should not be multiplied unreasonably. It is generally possible and often preferable to integrate elegantly much note material (and indeed, sometimes all of it) as asides in the text itself. They should not be used as a means of calling references, which should instead be called directly from the text.

When used, notes should be numbered consecutively, called at the appropriate point of the text with the call number raised one space thus¹, and presented in numerical order at the end of the text (not at the bottom of the page).

Authors are requested *not* to use special endnote formatting systems. Notes should be in plain text, the same font as the main text (12 point Times New Roman) and should not be automatically numbered.

Acknowledgements: if any, they should be placed in a note, marked by an asterisk rather than a numeral, at the beginning of the notes section, and called from the article title.

References: given the profile of the *Journal*, in general authors should not seek to compile comprehensive reference lists. The references should be restricted to those that are really useful to the readers or necessary for authentication. Normally, the list should not exceed 25 items.

As with notes, authors are requested *not* to use special reference formatting systems, as this creates difficulties of manuscript manipulation for the editorial office, translators, publisher, and printer. References should be in plain text, the same font as the main text (12 point Times New Roman).

Bibliographical details should be complete and correct. They should be gathered at the end of the article (not at the foot of each page) after the notes (if any) in the following forms for articles and for books. A more detailed guide to citation of other kinds of sources is available from the editor on request.

LI, T.M., 1996. Images of community: Discourse and strategy in property relations. *Development and Change*, 27(3), 501-27.

HOY, D.C., 1986. Power, repression, progress: Foucault, Lukes and the Frankfurt School. *In*: D.C. Hoy, ed., *Foucault: A Critical Reader*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 123-48.

ARMSTRONG, J., 1985. *Long-Range Forecasting: From Crystal Ball to Computer*. Toronto: Wiley.

MERCER, P.A. AND SMITH, G., 1993. *Private Viewdata in the UK*. 2nd ed. London: Longman.

These references would be called in the text thus: (Armstrong 1985), (Li 1996, p.521).

Quotations. They should be as few as possible and should not exceed one paragraph in length. “Keynote” quotations are not accepted. Quotations should be in the same language as the main text of the article.

When the quotation has been translated by the author, it *must* be accompanied (on a separate sheet for the editor) by the full original language version. The *ISSJ* is translated into six languages (one of which may even be the original language of the quotation), and chain translation produces linguistically unacceptable and bibliographically incoherent results.

Spelling. Apply the spell-check and grammar-check of the word-processing system before submission. For articles written in English, please use English rather than American spelling (e.g. labour, centre, through, analyse). Optional spelling for words like globalise/globalize.

Large numbers. If the article uses the term ‘billion’ in the text or tables, please make it clear to the reader whether this is meant as ‘thousand million’ (US usage) or ‘million million’ (UK usage). Both are accepted, but the meaning must be clear.

Emphasis. Avoid excessive use of emphasis – too much emphasis destroys its effect. It should be expressed by italics (rather than bold or underlining).

Formatting. Use 12 point type in Times New Roman with standard margins at one-and-a-half line spacing; justified text; one extra space between paragraphs. Do not indent paragraphs. Put emphasis and foreign words in italics.

All titles and headings should be in the same font and size as the text. Title and author name should be bold and centred. Main headings in bold flush left; second level of headings in italic flush left, third level in italic underlined indented 1.5 cm. Try to avoid further layers of headings.

As indicated above, notes and references should be in the same typeface as the main text, *without* automatic formatting systems.

Tables and figures. They may be included but should not be multiplied beyond necessity. None should require more than one printed page and each should carry a number (e.g. Table 1) and title above, and a source below. Footnotes should not be attached to figures or tables; such information should be incorporated into the caption or source.

6. COMPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE TEXT

Abstract of fewer than 200 words. It is not necessary to list key words.

Short biographical note of fewer than 75 words, giving the author’s name, institutional affiliation and e-mail address, main research interests and (optionally) most recent and/or forthcoming publication with date only.

7. SEQUENCE OF PRESENTATION

Please order the material of the article as follows, beginning each item on a new page:

- Abstract (with title of article and author’s name)
- Biographical note
- Body of the text (with title and author’s name repeated at top of first page)
- Notes if any
- Other auxiliary material e.g. appendices, tables, figures, if any
- References

8. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Essays will be evaluated by the Editor, with the assistance of the International Advisory Board of the ISSJ.

9. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries relating to the Graduate Essay Competition should be addressed to:

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