

New special section on ‘The dynamics of dissent’ published in *International Affairs*

Press release

A new collection of articles titled ‘The dynamics of dissent’ examines the contestation of the international norms that influence state behaviour. Edited by Anette Stimmer and Lea Wisken, the articles form a section in the May 2019 issue of leading IR journal *International Affairs*.

Research on norm contestation has previously focused largely on open debates about norms, however this special section identifies a second type of norm contestation. This is behavioural contestation, which is defined as the different ways in which actors shape the implementation of norms.

In their introductory article, [Anette Stimmer and Lea Wisken](#) develop the concept of behavioural contestation and outline the triggers and effects of this form of expression of dissent. Building on this, the special section contains four articles which further develop the role of behavioural contestation in norm contestation more generally.

- In his article on China and the World Health Organization (WHO), [Christian Kreuder-Sonnen](#) details how both resorted to behavioural contestation during the SARS crisis.
- [Jacqui True and Antje Wiener](#)’s article evaluates practices of contestation with regard to affected ‘Women, Peace and Security’ (WPS) stakeholders’ access to political agency and assesses ‘whose practices’ affect norm change and transformative change in the WPS agenda.
- In her article on the role of digital advocacy organizations in norm contestation, [Nina Hall](#) asks when and why these organizations engaged in behavioural norm contestation during the refugee crisis.
- [Emily Paddon Rhoads and Jennifer Welsh](#)’s article analyses the constitutive relationship between the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in peacekeeping and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the impact of discursive and behavioural contestation on their joint evolution.

‘The dynamics of dissent’ is free to download until 31 May 2019 via the [International Affairs website](#).

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[*International Affairs*](#) is a leading peer-reviewed journal covering the whole discipline of International Relations. It is published by Oxford University Press and is edited at [Chatham House](#), **the Royal Institute of International Affairs** in London.