



परराष्ट्र मामिला अध्ययन प्रतिष्ठान Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Journal of Foreign Affairs (JoFA)

Volume 4, Issue 1, Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), Nepal

1. ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The Journal of Foreign Affairs (JoFA), a peer-reviewed scholarly journal published by the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), Nepal, invites proposals for original and unpublished scholarly and policy-oriented articles for Volume 4, Issue 1.

JoFA provides an interdisciplinary platform for academics, researchers, policy experts, diplomats, security experts, practitioners and professionals. It offers a space to critically examine contemporary issues in international relations, diplomacy, foreign policy, strategic affairs, international political economy, and contemporary global challenges. The journal particularly welcomes theoretically informed, empirically grounded, and policy-relevant contributions that advance understanding of Nepal's foreign relations and its evolving regional and global environment.

2. THEMATIC AREAS

JoFA welcomes submissions on the following thematic areas. The Editorial Board particularly encourages contributions that address contemporary developments, policy gaps, and under-researched areas, including their implications for Nepal:

1. Contemporary Global and Regional Foreign Policy and Strategic Issues
2. Securitisation and Non-Traditional Security
3. Climate Environment and Disaster
4. Artificial Intelligence and Digital Governance
5. Labour, Migration and Diaspora
6. Economic and Development Diplomacy
7. Geopolitics

3. TYPES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

This journal includes Research Articles, Book Reviews and Commentaries. This Call invites original research articles. Invited articles and book reviews are commissioned separately by the Editorial Board under their own criteria and formats, and are not part of this Call.

4. MANUSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS

The requirements below apply to full manuscripts, which will be requested **only from authors whose proposals are selected** (see Section 8). Prospective authors are encouraged to review them carefully before submitting a proposal.

Word Limit: Manuscripts should be between 6,000 and 8,000 words, including the abstract, main text, tables, acknowledgements, and references.

Originality: Submissions must be original, unpublished, and not simultaneously under consideration by other publications.

Academic Standards: Articles should demonstrate appropriate methodology, theoretical grounding, use of relevant evidence and research instruments, analytical depth, academic rigour, and relevant policy recommendations.

Language: Manuscripts must be written in clear academic British English, using consistent terminology and appropriate scholarly expression.

Manuscript Structure: The general structure of the article should flow as below:

1. Title
2. Abstract (150–250 words)
3. Keywords (4–6)
4. Introduction (including context, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives, and scope)
5. Literature Review and/or Theoretical Framework and/or Research Gap (if applicable)
6. Research Methodology
7. Analysis and Results
8. Policy Recommendations and/or Way Forward, where applicable
9. Conclusion
10. References
11. Appendices, where applicable

Title Page (separate file): To preserve anonymity during peer review, the following must be provided in a separate title page and not in the main manuscript:

- Title of the manuscript
- Author name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact details (email and ORCID, if available)
- Author biography (up to 100 words per author)
- Author contribution statement (for co-authored manuscripts)
- Conflict of interest statement
- Acknowledgements and funding information, where applicable
- Declaration on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (see Section 5)

Section Numbering: Authors should use a consistent hierarchical numbering system throughout the manuscript. For example:

- 4. Analysis and Results
 - 4.1 Subsection
 - 4.2 Subsection
 - 4.2.1 Sub-subsection
 - 4.2.2 Sub-subsection

The same numbering system should be followed throughout all sections and subsections.

Referencing and Formatting:

- Follow the APA 7th Edition referencing style.
- Submit manuscripts in Microsoft Word (.docx) format.
- Number all tables, figures, charts, and illustrations consecutively and refer to them in the text.
- Ensure that all in-text citations correspond to the reference list and that references are accurate and complete.
- Follow accepted standards of research ethics, academic integrity, and responsible use of sources, as set out in Section 5.



5. PUBLICATION ETHICS, PLAGIARISM AND USE OF AI

Originality and Plagiarism: All submissions will be screened using plagiarism-detection software. Manuscripts with a similarity index above [15] per cent (excluding references and properly quoted material), or containing plagiarised, fabricated, or falsified content, will be rejected. Duplicate submission and redundant publication of the author's own previously published work are not permitted.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Authors must disclose any use of AI tools in the preparation of their proposal or manuscript, stating the tool used and the purpose. AI tools may be used only for language editing and readability; they must not be used to generate substantive content, analysis, data, or references, and cannot be listed as authors. Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of their work. Undisclosed or inappropriate use of AI may lead to rejection or retraction.

Conflict of Interest: Authors must declare any financial, institutional, or personal interests that could be seen to influence their work. Editors and reviewers with a conflict of interest regarding a submission will recuse themselves from its evaluation.

Editorial Board Members and IFA Staff: Members of the JoFA Editorial Board and staff of the Institute of Foreign Affairs are not eligible to submit articles under this Call.

Research Ethics: Research involving interviews, surveys, or other human participants must have obtained informed consent and must protect the confidentiality of respondents where required.

6. SELECTION AND PEER-REVIEW PROCESS

Selection will take place in two stages:

Stage 1 – Proposal Selection: The Editorial Board will review all proposals for their relevance to the thematic areas, originality, clarity of the research problem and objectives, and soundness of the proposed structure. Only applicants whose proposals are selected will be contacted and invited to submit a full manuscript.

Stage 2 – Full Manuscript Review: Full manuscripts will undergo an initial editorial screening for originality, academic quality, and compliance with the manuscript requirements. Manuscripts passing this screening will be evaluated through a double-blind peer-review process by qualified reviewers with expertise in the relevant thematic area. Authors must therefore ensure that the main manuscript does not contain identifying information that could compromise the anonymity of the review.

Manuscripts will be assessed on the basis of:

- Originality and contribution to knowledge
- Theoretical and conceptual clarity
- Analytical and methodological rigour
- Quality of evidence and argumentation
- Policy relevance and clarity of recommendations
- Relevance to the journal's scope
- Quality of writing, citations, and presentation

Selection of a proposal does not guarantee publication. The Editorial Board reserves the right to request revisions or reject manuscripts that do not meet the journal's academic and editorial standards.

7. IMPORTANT DATES

- **Proposal Submission Deadline: Mangshir 7, 2083 (23 November 2026)**



8. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

At this initial stage, full manuscripts should not be submitted. Interested authors should submit a proposal for initial selection, containing the following:

1. **Title** of the proposed article
2. **Abstract** (150–250 words)
3. **Keywords** (4–6)
4. **Statement of the Problem**
5. **Objectives** of the research article
6. **Organisation of the Article:** the proposed sections and subsections (subheadings), with a brief description of what each will cover

How to submit:

1. Visit the IFA website and go to the **Journal of Foreign Affairs** section.
2. Open the **Call for Articles** and complete the online form with your basic information.
3. Upload your proposal as a single **anonymised** Microsoft Word (.docx) file. The document must not contain your name, affiliation, or any other identifying information, as these details are captured through the form.

Please note: Due to the expected volume of submissions, **only applicants whose proposals are selected will be contacted.** Selected authors will be invited to submit a full manuscript in line with the requirements in Section 4.

Editorial Office

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