

Iranian view on BRICS and developments in international system: Examining the research approaches of Iranian scientific-research articles on international relations

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Article Info	Abstract
Original Article Main Object: International Relations Scope: BRICS Received: 11 December 2023 Revised: 21 January 2024 Accepted: 22 January 2024 Published online: 28 January 2024 Keywords: BRICS, international relations, international system, Iranian international relations, pathology of international relations.	Analyzing the articles of each discipline based on concepts can finally show the weaknesses and strengths in dealing with that concepts in the form of generalizable numerical data and can be used as a basic research in the direction of future research with a pathological approach. Coalitions and alliances have a special place in IR and determine how power is distributed in the international system; On this basis and due to the adoption of the serious and pragmatic foreign policy doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran based on looking to the East, the approach measurement of the concepts related to the organizations that play a role in this doctrine becomes important. For this reason, 109 articles with the approach of IR, which have exclusively or partially dealt with the issue of BRICS were evaluated using the categorical content analysis method based on theoretical keywords. Finally, we achieved results in this field of study, including the attention of publications of research institutes affiliated with institutions and organizations effective in foreign policy to BRICS-related articles, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or The Expediency Discernment Council, the Iranian researcher's political economy-based view on BRICS and welcoming the fundamental or partial change of the current international order and international system, analysis of issues related to BRICS based on the approach of multilateralism and the desire to transform the unipolar world into a multipolar one. In general, symptoms of Kissinger syndrome are also evident, which should be diagnosed in future research.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Examining the research approaches of international relations knowledge with the aim of pathology and understanding the place of concepts and issues in indigenous international relations is a common thing in successful and leading academic societies, which ultimately leads to the advancement of this part of humanities. The comprehensive assessment of concepts can display the view of local academic on international relations numerically and can be evaluated in a comparative studies, and it can be considered as a basic research to determine the problems of the pathology of knowledge in the future. Due to the adoption of the serious and pragmatic foreign policy doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran based on looking to the East, the examining the research approaches of the concepts related to the organizations that play a role in this doctrine becomes important for the Iranian academic. BRICS is also beyond the organization, coalition and function. It is a concept of international relations that has the possibility of local scientific approach. The examining the research approaches of Iranian international relations in connection with the concept of BRICS finally displays the view of Iranian researchers on this coalition in a tabulated framework that can be evaluated with similar concepts, which is capable of comparative study and finally measuring with similar cases. In this research, 109 scientific-research articles that have been exclusively or partially (as part of the discussions) on the issue of BRICS have been evaluated and finally we have achieved results in this field of study. Iranian researcher of international relations has a kind of evaluation and judgment system in research related to international and regional organizations and has a "positive view" of the performance of BRICS, ASEAN, SCO, ECO and OIC. On the contrary, it has a "negative view" on the performance of the UN, the GCC and the Arab League, and a neutral view on the performance of OPEC. It is considered the performance of international organizations as a guarantee of "maintaining the current situation" and it provided the interests of the great world powers.

Methodology

Considering that the current research is of an exploratory type and seeks to identify propositions derived from "conceptualization" and finally determine a theory, the research method of "Constructivist Grounded Theory" was recognized as suitable. The articles were analyzed using the "categorical content analysis" based on theoretical keywords, first by expert human resources and then by the dedicated computer software of this research, and using three stages of coding.

Results

In the general surveys, we found that 35 articles exclusively and 74 articles as a part of research with an international relations approach

have addressed the issue of BRICS. We also found that the trend of producing BRICS articles has been declining since 2021. In the general survey, we found that the role of scientific-research journals of research institutes affiliated with policy-making government institutions and public university publications is very colorful, which shows the priority given by the policy-making and government sector to articles related to BRICS. Also, we found that the issue of BRICS has attracted the attention of academic members as well as students and graduates (specialized doctoral degree).

Conclusions

After reviewing 109 articles on BRICS, we found that:

- The majority of Iranian researches on international relations with BRICS consider the special work of BRICS in the framework of political economy with the aim of fundamentally changing the current international order and system (as the maximum goal) or at least in the form of a critical collective action with the aim of partially changing the "Status Quo". They consider BRICS as a coalition against the current international power distribution and analyze and examine its performance in this framework.
- The majority of Iranian international relations researches on BRICS are focused on issues related to Iran, China, Russia and India, relying on the position and future of emerging powers based on multilateralism and the possibility of transforming the unipolar international system into a multipolar one.
- Iranian researchers of international relations regarding for Russia the role of fundamental transformation in the current international order with the aim of returning to the club of world powers, for China the role of an economic balancer in the form of soft power with the aim of consolidating its position as an international economic power, for India the role of a bridge between supporters and opponents of the current international order with the aim of creating an economic infrastructure in the style of China and for other BRICS members consider the role of a regional communication bridge in accordance with the economic and geopolitical needs of this alliance and coalition. From this point of view, for Iran as a new member, they emphasize on energy-based policies and the position of this alliance to neutralize sanctions.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including

informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the author on reasonable request.

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