

## Methodological Colonialism in Academic Publishing? Geographic Markers in Three Journals from Japan, Turkey and the US

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### 1. Aim

An emerging body of scholarship coming from the global South highlight a continuing Anglo-American dominance in academic publishing. Part of this has to do with the disproportionate number and influence of scholars that work in the UK and the US. More significantly, scholars coming from outside the Anglo-American center face particular epistemological and theoretical burdens. Broadly speaking, research in Anglo-American contexts are coded as “theory” where publications by scholars from other regions are relegated to “cases” to test and corroborate dominant theories. This global academic division of labor affects how scholars from different regions present the context and the methodological assumptions of their research. Scholars located in the global South are expected to introduce a complex setting in their writings (usually discussed in terms of “background” or “setting”). Therefore, scholars from outside the Anglo-American contexts have to address two issues when they publish articles in indexed journals: a) place the article in a country-specific context and provide sophisticated yet brief background information; b) make the article relevant for an international audience. These two requirements force scholars to embrace a methodological language that is sensitive to the contextual nature of their work. In other words, they continuously qualify their findings with contextual markers (such as, “in Japan”) and hence indicate their implicit acceptance that their writing relates to a case. Scholars from Anglo-American institutions are less likely to use these geographic markers, which present their findings as globally applicable theory.

### 2. Data and methods

We coded all the research articles published in the last 10 years in *American Sociological Review*, *Social Science Japan Journal*, and *New Perspectives on Turkey*. All three are published in English and represent one of the top social science journals in the US, Japan, and Turkey. The coding process included the institutional location of the lead author as well as the existence of geographic markers (e.g., “in Japan,” “Japanese,” or “in Tokyo, among others) in the title, abstract, keywords, and the main text of the article. Geographic markers were sub-national, national, or supra-national.

### 3. Results

Scholars publishing in *Social Science Japan Journal* and *New Perspectives on Turkey* place a large number of geographic markers in their titles, abstracts,