

Katarzyna Kącka*

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International relations is one of the most dynamically developing disciplines within the social sciences. For many years, a multitude of scientists in numerous research centers around the world have been attempting to demonstrate the meaning and importance of their particular research, both theoretical and empirical. Yet in parallel, the discipline of international relations is struggling with a wave of criticism undermining its legitimacy and the very sense of its existence, raising doubts about the research focus and achievements in theory formation. Part of the scientific community, mainly sociologists and political scientists, also consistently question the autonomy and independence of international relations as a separate discipline. Despite these obstacles, its representatives for quite some time have been firmly demonstrating their research autonomy, arguing that despite the undeniable inspiration drawn from many scientific branches, international relations as a discipline has enough specific, individual features. This does not mean, however, that an attempt is being made to separate this discipline from its roots, entrenched in the science of politics, and undermine the impact such disciplines as sociology, economics, history and law have had on the discipline of international relations.

An important challenge for international relations as a discipline is also the rapid development of the surrounding reality. It forces the representatives of this scientific discipline to deal with the constant need for redefinition and finding new terms to explain the emerging phenomena. The pressure of having to keep up with the ongoing changes is often a cause of frustration resulting from the simple observation that keeping pace – in scientific terms – with the changing world is virtually impossible. These conditions in no way facilitate the performance by researchers of a predictive role, recognized as crucial in the study of international relations. It is also a situation that, to an extent, inspires creative restlessness among scholars in international relations, bringing a positive effect for the discipline as a whole thanks to stimulating reflection and lively discourse.

* Katarzyna Kącka, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. e-mail: kkačka@umk.pl.