

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



WILEY

How international are public administration journals? An analysis of the persistent Anglo-American dominance in public administration journals

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Funding information

Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities, Grant/Award Number: 20720201032; National Natural Science Foundation of China, Grant/Award Number: 42101199

Abstract

This study provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of four dimensions (editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical focus of research) of the internationalization of 45 major public administration journals and examines whether and how one dimension is related to the others. We find that Anglo-American dominance is significant and persistent across all four dimensions in most public administration journals during 2011–2020, with the dimension of editors being the most pronounced, followed by the dimension of editorial board members, the authors' dimension, and the dimension of geographical focus of research. There are notable differences between journals. Further analyses show that the Anglo-American dominance in editors has a self-perpetuating tendency and is likely to lead to the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members, which is further significantly and positively associated with the Anglo-American dominance in authors and the Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research in public administration journals.

1 | INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, there have been repeated calls for the globalization of public administration research to address critical global challenges by overcoming the US-centric parochialism and advocating for a more diverse, inclusive,

and international approach to public administration research and knowledge production (Beagles et al., 2019; Gaylord George Candler, 2006; Candler et al., 2010; Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012; Haque et al., 2021; Hou et al., 2011; McDonald III et al., 2022; Perry, 2016; Riggs, 1998; Ventriss, 1991; Welch & Wong, 1998). The globalization of public administration research not only helps to develop public administration theories with greater explanatory power and higher acceptability (Beagles et al., 2019; Hou et al., 2011), but also stimulates global innovation and diffusion of best administrative practices and solutions in dealing with natural disasters, epidemic diseases, transboundary environmental problems, and other pressing global challenges expressed in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012; Hou et al., 2011).

It is increasingly becoming a consensus among public administration scholars around the world that advancing the field of public administration as a global social science is beneficial not only for the Global South but also for the Anglo-American countries, which include the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand (Candler et al., 2010; Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012). As the primary gatekeepers and main vehicles of knowledge dissemination in the field of public administration, major international public administration journals play an essential role in shaping the research landscape and advancing the globalization of public administration research. Scholars have pointed out that it is imperative to “put the international” in public administration journals in order to globalize public administration research (Aoki et al., 2022; McCandless et al., 2022; Schwoerer et al., 2022).

However, “are we on a path to building global public administration knowledge?” (Perry, 2016). More specifically, (1) how international are the major international public administration journals? Have there been notable changes in the last decade between 2011 and 2020? Is the Anglo-American dominance in these journals persistent? (2) If so, what are the possible underlying mechanisms behind this persistent Anglo-American dominance? In this study, we define Anglo-American countries to include the five Anglophone countries, although the following analysis of Anglo-American dominance in public administration journals will show that there is clear stratification within the five countries, and the critical players are just the United States and the United Kingdom.

This study aims to answer the above research questions by assessing different dimensions of journals' internationalization, such as the diversity in countries of the affiliations of editors, editorial board members, authors, and the diversity in the geographical foci of research, and understanding whether and how one dimension is associated with other dimensions. It should be noted that this paper does not intend to diminish the role and contribution of major journals and Anglo-American countries in the production and dissemination of public administration research. Instead, this study seeks to highlight the bias toward Anglo-American scholars and research in most of the public administration journals, to raise questions about the impact of Anglo-American dominance in journal editorship and editorial board membership on the internationalization of public administration research, to assess the progress of journals toward internationalization, and finally to help inform future strategies for internationalization. With respect to the definition of Anglo-American scholars, this study follows an approach of using one's institutional affiliation in previous studies (Hattke & Vogel, 2023; Melhem et al., 2022; Smith et al., 2023) and defines a scholar who is affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries as an Anglo-American scholar.

The rest of the article is organized as follows. The second section provides a brief review of the current literature on the internationalization of public administration journals. The third section presents a theoretical model and related hypotheses. The research design, including data collection and analysis methods, is described in the fourth section. The fifth section presents the results of the analysis, followed by a discussion of the results and suggestions for promoting the internationalization of public administration journals. The final section concludes with a brief summary of the findings.

2 | LITERATURE REVIEW

A growing number of publications have focused on the internationality of academic journals in recent years, but most of them focused on other disciplines, such as criminology (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021), geography (Gutierrez &

Lopez-Nieva, 2001; Imhof & Muller, 2020; Kong & Qian, 2019), psychology (Wang et al., 2020), accounting (Dhanani & Jones, 2017), and so forth. Studies on the internationalization of public administration journals are relatively scarce, outdated, and only investigated pieces of the internationalization of a small number of public administration journals in a piecemeal manner (Candler et al., 2010; Van Wart & Cayer, 1990; Welch & Wong, 1998). Ko (2013) analyzed the geographical focus of research in nine public administration journals during 1990–2011 and found that, despite the growing political and economic importance of Asia, only 5.1% of articles published in these journals dealt with public administration in Asian countries. Hou et al. (2011) surveyed articles published in 12 public administration journals during 2003–2008 and found that two-thirds of the articles focused on the United States, and 53% of the editorial board members were US-based scholars. Gulrajani and Moloney (2012) also examined the diversity of geographical focus of articles in public administration journals. Their analysis of 2049 articles published in 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, and 2008 from 10 selected journals showed that only 14% of the articles focused on non-Western countries. In addition, their examination of the author dimension of internationalization showed that only 19.4% of articles were written by authors affiliated with non-Western countries (Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012).

Previous studies have shown that public administration scholars have noted the Anglo-American dominance in some public administration journals in terms of authors, editorial board members, and the geographical focus of research. Furthermore, scholars have explored the reasons for this and provided some qualitative insights. For example, Hou et al. (2011) argued that the lack of diversity in editorial boards leads to bias in the decision to recommend articles for publication. Gulrajani and Moloney (2012) and other scholars offered a similar explanation: leading public administration journals are owned and managed in the United States and the United Kingdom, and their editorial boards are composed primarily of scholars trained in Western academic traditions (Haque et al., 2021; Ko, 2013).

In summary, previous studies have laid the groundwork for this line of inquiry into the internationalization of public administration journals. However, these studies only examined specific dimensions of internationalization for a small number of public administration journals and, therefore, did not provide a complete picture of the status of internationalization of major public administration journals. Moreover, these studies were conducted more than a decade ago and it remains unknown whether, to what extent, and why the Anglo-American dominance persists. This study aims to address these research gaps.

3 | THEORETICAL MODEL AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

What makes a journal international? There seems to be no agreed definition (Aoki et al., 2022). According to the Marriam-Webster dictionary, “international” means “of, relating to, or affecting two or more nations.” Thus, literally, any journal associated with two or more nations can be considered international. In general, however, a truly international journal is expected to reflect a global perspective rather than a regional or local one (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021). We argue that there is a continuum between being international and being global for a journal, with one end of being barely international which involves simply two or three countries and reflects a perspective mainly from a region, and the other end of being truly international which involves the whole world and reflects a global perspective. The latter end can also be called being global. A journal that aims or claims to be global usually carries a higher burden than one that aims or claims to be international by involving only a few countries. For example, those public administration journals with a dominant Anglo-American perspective, as shown in the literature review above, cannot be defined as global in a strict sense.

What are the dimensions of internationality for a journal? As one of the most important communication channels for scholars to communicate their research (Bernick & Krueger, 2010), academic journals involve different actors and components in the communication process, including authors, editors, readers, the research findings, and their societal impact. In this regard, Harold Lasswell's model of communication can be used to deconstruct and analyze the dimensions of internationality for a journal in the communication process of research and knowledge through journals. According to the model (Lasswell, 1948), there are five essential components in the communication process:

who, says what, in which channel, to whom, and with what effect. Specifically, in the context of an academic journal, the authors are the communicators (“who” in Lasswell’s model), the research and knowledge based on observations from a particular geographical area in the publications are the messages (“says what”), the “gatekeepers” of the journals consisting of editors, editorial board members, and reviewers are the communication medium (“in which channel”), the readers are the recipients of the messages (“to whom”), and the impact of the research on society is the effect (“with what effect”). Following these considerations, a truly international journal in the strictest sense should meet the following five criteria. The first three criteria determine the supply side of research: (1) under the review by a globally diversified team of editorial staff members (editors, editorial board members, and reviewers) from different countries, (2) a globally diversified community of authors contribute (3) a diverse body of knowledge based on observations from different countries. The last two criteria denote the demand side: the publications in a truly international journal are read by (4) a globally diversified readership from different countries, and thus (5) having a global impact.

The first three criteria on the supply side are likely to have structural effects on audience composition and the global impact. Therefore, this study investigates a journal’s internationality by analyzing the degree of Anglo-American dominance in four dimensions: editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research. The theoretical model of this study is shown in Figure 1. The subsequent subsections elaborate on the theoretical model and its related hypotheses.

3.1 | The self-perpetuating Anglo-American dominance in journal gatekeepers

The gatekeepers of journals include editors, editorial board members, and reviewers. Editors and their editorial board members, aided by reviewers, screen and scrutinize the incoming manuscripts, determine whether or not to accept the manuscripts, and control who may publish in the journal. Thus, the journal gatekeepers have significant control over the authors and contents of publications. Given the importance of journal gatekeepers in the process, how do editors and editorial board members get selected? The selection of editors in some journals is based on former editors’ recommendations. Other journals may follow a formal selection procedure. For instance, the journals managed by the Academy of Management in the United States typically select their editors through a formal selection process chaired by the Academy’s Journals Committee, which consists of the current editors and the Academy’s board members (Cascio, 2008, p. 232). The editorial board members are usually selected by the current editors (Feldman, 2008).

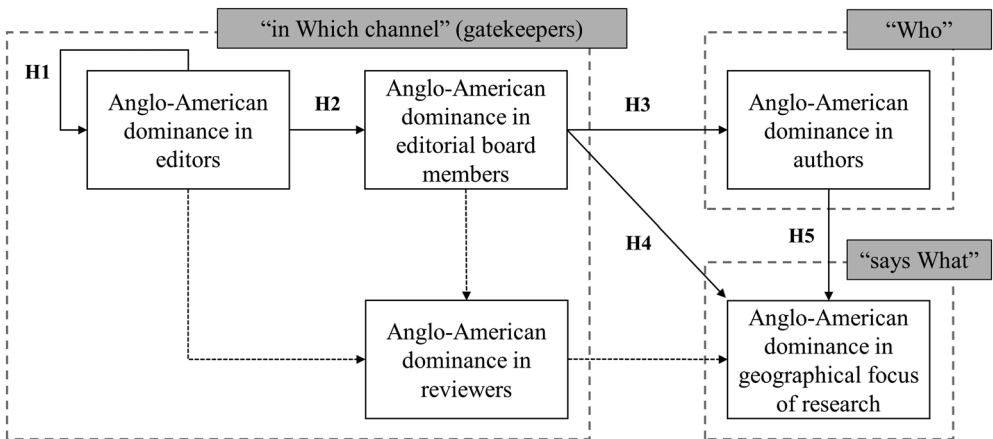


FIGURE 1 The theoretical model.

For instance, in *Public Administration Review*, the editor is responsible for selecting the editorial board members in consultation with the president of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) (Feeney et al., 2019).

The selection process for editors and editorial board members may be influenced by the homophily principle in social networks. Homophily in this context refers to the tendency for people to establish social connections with others who share similar socioeconomic characteristics like professional affiliation (status homophily), as well as similar values (value homophily) (Lazarsfeld & Merton, 1954; McPherson et al., 2001). For instance, Dr. Daniel Feldman, a former editor of the *Journal of Management*, discloses that many editors prefer to look for candidates of associate editors from their present workplace (Feldman, 2008). Besides the homophily principle, the theory of status characteristics can also elucidate the inclination of editors in handpicking their editorial board members. As indicated by status characteristics theory, social categories such as affiliation form individual status characteristics, which shape the expectations of other people toward that individual (Bianchi, 2010; Howell et al., 2015). Ordinarily, people hold higher expectations and higher estimates of the ability of individuals with high-status characteristics (Berger et al., 1972), whereas individuals with low-status characteristics often have to demonstrate higher levels of ability to be considered equal to their counterparts with high status (Bianchi, 2010).

Therefore, editors affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries tend to select Anglo-American scholars who share similar social identities, social statuses, values, and cultural backgrounds as the next editors and editorial board members. Scholars from non-Anglo-American countries, on the other hand, generally face more difficulties in being selected as editors or editorial board members unless they outperform their Anglo-American counterparts (Burgess & Shaw, 2010; Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021; Wu et al., 2020). In summary, the Anglo-American dominance in editors not only perpetuates itself but also extends to the editorial board members, creating a self-perpetuating tendency in the Anglo-American dominance in journal gatekeepers. Therefore, we propose the following two hypotheses:

H1. There is a significant association between the country circles of the affiliations of current editors and former editors, and the editorships of journals with Anglo-American editors are more likely to be succeeded by Anglo-American scholars.

H2. There is a significant association between the country circles of the affiliations of editors and their editorial board members, and journals with Anglo-American editors have a higher proportion of Anglo-American scholars on the editorial boards than journals with non-Anglo-American editors.

3.2 | The association between the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members and the Anglo-American dominance in authors

The Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members may have an impact on the representation of Anglo-American authors in publications. As per the homophily principle and status characteristics theory, editors and editorial board members affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries may have a bias against non-Anglo-American authors (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021). Consequently, papers submitted by non-Anglo-American authors receive more critical evaluation and are thus less likely to be reviewed and published (Aalbers, 2004). Moreover, Anglo-American authors are more likely in a better position than non-Anglo-American authors to play within the paradigm defined by Anglo-American editors, editorial board members, and authors in order to publish: They know what research topics and problems may interest the journals' editors, editorial board members, and readers, they know how to connect the work already published in the journals, they know who to cite in writing the papers. Therefore, we propose the following hypothesis:

H3. There is a significant association between Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members and Anglo-American dominance in authors. Journals with a higher proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members tend to have a higher proportion of publications by Anglo-American authors.

3.3 | The association between the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members and the Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research

The Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members may also impact the geographical diversity of study areas in publications. This impact may occur via two pathways. First, the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members may influence the Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research through the Anglo-American dominance in authors, since papers that focus on Anglo-American countries are typically written by Anglo-American authors.

Second, Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members may directly influence Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research. As the late Fred Riggs pointed out, many Anglo-American scholars tend to assume that public administration knowledge based on observations in Anglo-American countries is superior and universally applicable to non-Anglo-American countries (Candler et al., 2010; Riggs, 1998). When there are inconsistencies between observations in other countries and the knowledge produced in Anglo-American countries, it is often assumed that the problem is not with Anglo-American knowledge but with misunderstandings or flawed reasoning in studies that focus on other countries (Riggs, 1998).

In addition, because of the inward-looking academic culture, many Anglo-American scholars rarely pay attention to non-Anglo-American countries and are usually unwilling to engage with research from non-Anglo-American countries (Candler et al., 2010). As a result, indigenous work from non-Anglo-American countries is often regarded as “local knowledge” and defined as marginal or irrelevant (Candler et al., 2010), and therefore likely to be excluded from publication. These indigenous studies from non-Anglo-American countries may increase their chances of publication by putting themselves into an Anglo-American theoretical context and engaging with Anglo-American literature. However, very often, the Anglo-American concepts, models, and theories are not sufficient to fully explain the public administration issues in non-Anglo-American countries due to their incompatibility with the unique historical, political, and cultural context in non-Anglo-American countries (Haque, 2013; Ko, 2013; Welch & Wong, 1998).

In summary, under the influence of ethnocentric parochialism in the field of public administration (Beagles et al., 2019), editors and editorial board members of major public administration journals, many of whom are affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries, may assume that papers focusing on non-Western countries and the knowledge generated based on observations from non-Western countries are irrelevant or inferior to those from Western countries. As a result, these papers focusing on non-Western countries are subject to more rigorous and hypercritical reviews, leading to an underrepresentation of scholarship from non-Western countries in public administration journals (Bertelli et al., 2020; Haque et al., 2021; Hattke & Vogel, 2023; Ongaro, 2021). Therefore, the following two hypotheses are proposed:

H4. There is a significant association between the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members and the Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research. Journals with higher proportions of editorial board members affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries tend to have higher proportions of papers that focus on Anglo-American countries.

H5. The effect of Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members on Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research is partially mediated by Anglo-American dominance in authors.

4 | DATA AND METHODS

4.1 | Data

This study selects journals based on the 2020 Clarivate Journal Citation Report (JCR) for two reasons. First, the journal list in the category of public administration of the Clarivate Journal Citation Report is a globally recognized and widely used journal list. Second, the journal list is inclusive and includes all the leading journals and the majority of the most influential emerging journals in the field of public administration. The journal list contains 48 journals indexed in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) and 31 journals indexed in the Emerging Sources Citations Index (ESCI). From the list, we select 42 English SSCI journals and 3 ESCI journals with a Journal Citation Indicator greater than 0.5 (Table 1). We do not include the six non-English SSCI journals because of access and language difficulties. The list of 45 journals covers most of the journals selected by previous studies (Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012; Hou et al., 2011; Ko, 2013; Welch & Wong, 1998). Data on the countries of institutional affiliations of editors and editorial board members for each journal were collected from the journal home pages or the mastheads of print versions. The titles, author information, and abstracts of all articles published during 2011–2020 in these journals were collected by searching the Web of Science database. The geographical foci of articles, namely the countries of the study areas in these articles, were determined by reading the titles and abstracts. In cases where the title and abstract of an article did not provide sufficient information on the geographical focus, the entire article was read. Articles that did not include empirical data or focused on multiple regions across different continents were excluded from the analysis. This study did not examine the geographical diversity of reviewers as such data were unavailable.

4.2 | Methods

To answer the first research question, this study used four metrics to measure the degree of Anglo-American dominance in editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research, respectively. The degree of the Anglo-American dominance in editors for a journal is measured by calculating the proportion of Anglo-American editors to the total number of editors for the journal (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021). Note that the editors in this study refer to the principal editors of a journal who are responsible for managing editorial policies and the production of content. Similarly, the proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members to the total number of editorial board members of a journal measures the degree of Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members for the journal. The proportion of papers whose lead authors were affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries to the total number of paper published in a journal measures the degree of Anglo-American dominance in authors for the journal. The degree of Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research is measured using the proportion of papers focusing on Anglo-American countries to the total number of paper published in the journal. This study defines an editor, an editorial board member, and an author as Anglo-American scholars if their affiliated institutions are located in Anglo-American countries.

For the second research question, this study established two datasets to test the hypotheses. In order to examine whether there is an association between the country circles of the affiliations of current editors and former editors (H1), this study created a hierarchical dataset containing data on the countries of the affiliations of current editors and former editors at each change of editorship for each journal. A multilevel mixed effects logistic regression with random intercepts at the journal level is used to test H1 due to the hierarchical structure of the data. For H2–H5, we created a journal-year panel dataset, and used random effects models. In addition, we used a mediation analysis to examine the mediating role of Anglo-American dominance in authors in the relationship between Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members and Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research. We also considered 1-year time lag for analyzing these associations, given the time lag from submission to publication.

TABLE 1 The 45 major public administration journals for analysis in this study.

ID	Journal title	Country of publication	Quartile of impact factor
1	<i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>	United Kingdom	Q1
2	<i>Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory</i>	United States	Q1
3	<i>Public Management Review</i>	United Kingdom	Q1
4	<i>Regulation & Governance</i>	Australia	Q1
5	<i>Review of Public Personnel Administration</i>	United States	Q1
6	<i>Public Administration Review</i>	United States	Q1
7	<i>Policy Studies Journal</i>	United States	Q1
8	<i>Climate Policy</i>	United Kingdom	Q1
9	<i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i>	United States	Q1
10	<i>Policy and Society</i>	United Kingdom	Q1
11	<i>Policy Sciences</i>	United States	Q1
12	<i>Governance</i>	Canada	Q1
13	<i>Policy and Politics</i>	United Kingdom	Q2
14	<i>Public Administration</i>	United Kingdom	Q2
15	<i>Public Policy and Administration</i>	United Kingdom	Q2
16	<i>Journal of Social Policy</i>	United Kingdom	Q2
17	<i>Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space</i>	United Kingdom	Q2
18	<i>International Review of Administrative Sciences</i>	Belgium	Q2
19	<i>International Public Management Journal</i>	United States	Q2
20	<i>Journal of European Social Policy</i>	United Kingdom	Q2
21	<i>Nonprofit Management & Leadership</i>	United States	Q2
22	<i>American Review of Public Administration</i>	United States	Q2
23	<i>Journal of Accounting and Public Policy</i>	United States	Q2
24	<i>Public Performance & Management Review</i>	United States	Q2
25	<i>Social Policy & Administration</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
26	<i>Local Government Studies</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
27	<i>Science and Public Policy</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
28	<i>Administration & Society</i>	United States	Q3
29	<i>Journal of Public Policy</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
30	<i>Journal of Chinese Governance</i>	China	Q3
31	<i>Public Personnel Management</i>	United States	Q3
32	<i>Public Money & Management</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
33	<i>Critical Policy Studies</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
34	<i>Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis</i>	Canada	Q3
35	<i>Policy Studies</i>	United Kingdom	Q3
36	<i>Review of Policy Research</i>	United States	Q3
37	<i>Australian Journal of Public Administration</i>	Australia	Q4
38	<i>Human Service Organizations Management Leadership & Governance</i>	United Kingdom	Q4
39	<i>Public Administration and Development</i>	United Kingdom	Q4
40	<i>Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management</i>	United States	Q4

TABLE 1 (Continued)

ID	Journal title	Country of publication	Quartile of impact factor
41	<i>Contemporary Economic Policy</i>	United States	Q4
42	<i>Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences</i>	Romania	Q4
43	<i>Risk Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy</i>	United States	ESCI
44	<i>International Journal of Public Administration</i>	United Kingdom	ESCI
45	<i>International Journal of Public Sector Management</i>	United Kingdom	ESCI

Note: The journals are listed in descending order of journal impact factors in 2020. The three ESCI-indexed journals without impact factors are attached at the end of the list.

Abbreviation: Emerging Sources Citations Index.

5 | RESULTS

5.1 | Descriptive analysis

5.1.1 | Summary statistics of Anglo-American dominance in journals

Table 2 presents the summary statistics of the degree of Anglo-American dominance in all four dimensions, including editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research. For comparison purposes, this study calculates the degree of dominance of the European Union (EU), East and Southeast Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, and the Caribbean and the Pacific in all four dimensions, respectively. The degree of dominance of each of the five Anglo-American countries in all four dimensions is also calculated. Among these regions, the EU and East and Southeast Asia are expected to be the most comparable to the Anglo-American countries in terms of the four dimensions because the three regions have similar sizes of population and GDP, which means similar levels of research funding support, academic training, and number of well-trained scholars.

This study identified three key patterns from the results. First, the average degrees of Anglo-American dominance in all four dimensions are significantly higher than those for other regions. For example, the average proportion of Anglo-American editors in public administration journals is 77.1%, while only 17.4% and 4.2% of editors are from the EU and East and Southeast Asia, respectively, despite the fact that the latter regions have comparable or much larger populations. Second, the degree of Anglo-American dominance in editors is higher than that for editorial board members, which is further higher than the degree for authors and geographical foci of research. In contrast, for the EU and East and Southeast Asia, the degree for editors is generally lower than that for editorial board members, and the degree for editorial board members is further lower than the degree for authors and geographical foci of research. As a result, of all four dimensions (editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research), the difference between the degree of Anglo-American dominance in editors and the degree of dominance in editors from the EU and East and Southeast Asia is the highest, indicating that the Anglo-American dominance is more pronounced in editorship, followed by that in editorial board membership, authorship, and geographical foci of research. Thirdly, there is a clear stratification within the five Anglo-American countries. Scholars in the United States and the United Kingdom account for two thirds of the editor positions, more than half of the positions of editorial board members, and over 40% of the positions of lead authors in public administration journals. The degrees of dominance of the United States are even higher than those of any other regions in all four dimensions. This is probably due to the large population sizes of the United States and the United Kingdom, as our analysis shows that the proportions of editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research from the five Anglo-American countries are highly correlated with the five countries' population sizes (the correlation coefficients

TABLE 2 Summary statistics of the internationalization of major public administration journals in 2020.

Regions	Editors (%)	Editorial board members (%)	Authors (%)	Geographical foci of research (%)
Anglo-American countries	77.1	64.7	48.1	38.2
United States	44.2	41.0	30.6	27.0
United Kingdom	23.8	14.6	9.5	5.1
Canada	5.9	2.8	2.5	1.6
Australia	3.2	5.6	4.6	2.8
New Zealand	0.0	0.7	0.9	0.4
European Union	17.4	18.9	29.9	22.9
East and Southeast Asia	4.2	8.4	10.8	10.6
Africa	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.3
Middle East	0.6	1.5	3.3	2.2
Latin America	0.0	2.0	2.3	2.1
South Asia	0.0	0.4	0.7	1.2
Caribbean and the Pacific	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2

Note: The table presents the average values of the proportions of editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research from each region. The editors in this study refer to the principal editors of a journal who are responsible for managing editorial policies and the production of content. The column labeled “Geographical foci of research (%)” shows the proportions of papers that have selected a specific region/country listed in the first column as the study areas to collect empirical data. The European Union is composed of 27 member countries. East and Southeast Asia includes China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, and 11 Southeast Asian countries. Latin America includes Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and other 30 countries. Africa is made up of 54 countries in Africa. South Asia includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Afghanistan. The Middle East region consists of 18 countries, including Israel, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. Caribbean and Pacific countries include Cuba, Jamaica, Fiji, and so forth.

are 0.93, 0.98, 0.99, and 0.99, respectively). In this sense, all five Anglo-American countries co-dominate the public administration journals equally on a per capita basis.

5.1.2 | Differences in Anglo-American dominance between journals

There are notable differences between these public administration journals. Table 3 presents detailed calculations of the proportions of Anglo-American editors, editorial board members, authors, and the geographical focus of research on Anglo-American countries in 2020 for each journal. Table 3 also indicates whether a journal claims/aims to be international/global. Two independent coders coded whether a journal claims/aims to be international/global by analyzing whether the journal's statement on its aims and scope and author guideline used affirmative words or words expressing purposes. When disagreements occurred, coders discussed and determined the final coding results.

Among all journals, the *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management* has the highest proportions of Anglo-American dominance in all four dimensions. All of its editors and editorial board members are Anglo-American scholars, and more than 90% of its published articles focus on Anglo-American countries and are written by Anglo-American authors. *Administration & Society* has the second highest proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members (94.6%). *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Governance* has the second highest proportion of Anglo-American authors (83.3%) and also the second highest proportion (79.2%) of Anglo-American dominance in geographical focus of research.

TABLE 3 Proportions of Anglo-American editors, Anglo-American editorial board members, Anglo-American authors, and papers with their geographical foci of research on Anglo-American countries for each public administration journal in 2020.

Journal	Whether claims/aims to be international/global	Editors (%)	Editorial board members (%)	Authors (%)	Geographical foci of research (%)
<i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i>	Claims to be global	100.0	100.0	90.7	92.5
<i>Administration & Society</i>	None but claims to produce global knowledge	100.0	94.6	66.2	50.0
<i>Contemporary Economic Policy</i>	None	100.0	94.0	70.0	56.7
<i>Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management</i>	Claims to be international and global	100.0	93.8	68.4	79.0
<i>Human Service Organizations Management Leadership & Governance</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	91.7	83.3	79.2
<i>Review of Policy Research</i>	Aims to be international	100.0	89.5	67.6	54.1
<i>Policy Studies Journal</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	87.7	72.5	62.3
<i>Public Personnel Management</i>	None but claims to produce international knowledge	100.0	86.3	62.9	68.6
<i>American Review of Public Administration</i>	None but welcome international contributions	100.0	81.9	74.3	60.8
<i>Nonprofit Management & Leadership</i>	Aims to be international	100.0	81.0	60.5	44.2
<i>Public Money & Management</i>	Claims to be international and aims to have a global impact	100.0	73.6	44.6	40.0
<i>Policy Sciences</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	73.5	46.0	40.5
<i>Review of Public Personnel Administration</i>	None	100.0	73.0	62.1	51.7
<i>Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory</i>	Claims to be international and have global readership	100.0	71.9	52.6	58.8
<i>Journal of Public Policy</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	71.4	43.3	50.0
<i>Australian Journal of Public Administration</i>	Aims to be international	100.0	70.5	74.4	72.1
<i>Policy and Politics</i>	Aims to be international, produce global knowledge, and be inclusive to scholars in the Global South	100.0	70.0	46.9	28.1
<i>International Public Management Journal</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	69.6	35.9	28.3
<i>Public Policy and Administration</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	69.1	52.9	31.4
<i>Journal of Social Policy</i>	None but claims to produce international knowledge	100.0	58.1	53.9	33.3

(Continues)

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Journal	Whether claims/aims to be international/global	Editors (%)	Editorial board members (%)	Authors (%)	Geographical foci of research (%)
<i>Public Administration</i>	Claims to be international and have global readership	100.0	56.4	51.2	42.7
<i>Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis</i>	Aims to be international and produce global knowledge	100.0	53.3	34.8	23.9
<i>International Journal of Public Administration</i>	Claims to be international and global	100.0	52.6	25.4	13.2
<i>Public Management Review</i>	Claims to be international	100.0	43.8	37.1	30.5
<i>Policy Studies</i>	Claims to be international and aims to produce global knowledge	100.0	43.5	44.7	29.8
<i>International Review of Administrative Sciences</i>	Claims to be international and global	100.0	32.7	22.2	12.1
<i>Public Administration and Development</i>	Claims to be international	87.5	41.2	42.9	7.1
<i>Local Government Studies</i>	Claims to be international	80.0	82.1	37.7	37.7
<i>Journal of Accounting and Public Policy</i>	None	80.0	81.4	50.0	65.0
<i>Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space</i>	Claims to be international and global	80.0	56.3	63.6	21.2
<i>Regulation & Governance</i>	Claims to be international	75.0	66.7	45.1	25.7
<i>Critical Policy Studies</i>	Claims to be international and aims to produce global knowledge	66.7	59.4	31.0	26.2
<i>Climate Policy</i>	Claims to be international	66.7	29.4	31.5	23.9
<i>Public Administration Review</i>	Aims to be international and global	60.0	71.9	59.7	50.0
<i>Public Performance & Management Review</i>	Claims to be international	50.0	75.4	49.0	43.1
<i>Governance</i>	Claims to be international	50.0	52.3	41.7	4.2
<i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>	Claims to be international	50.0	47.8	32.8	8.0
<i>Science and Public Policy</i>	Claims to be international, produce global knowledge, and have global readership	50.0	40.5	20.6	21.9
<i>Journal of Chinese Governance</i>	Claims to be international	50.0	30.8	23.9	2.2
<i>Policy and Society</i>	Claims to be international and global	25.0	67.6	28.6	10.7
<i>Social Policy & Administration</i>	Claims to be international	0.0	65.4	36.9	29.1
<i>Risk Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy</i>	Aims to be international	0.0	58.1	64.7	52.9

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Journal	Whether claims/aims to be international/global	Editors (%)	Editorial board members (%)	Authors (%)	Geographical foci of research (%)
<i>International Journal of Public Sector Management</i>	Claims to be international and global	0.0	47.5	19.1	9.5
<i>Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences</i>	Claims to be international	0.0	24.0	6.3	9.4
<i>Journal of European Social Policy</i>	None but welcome international contributions	0.0	22.7	35.1	10.8

Note: Among the 26 journals with all their editors affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries, 19, 2, 4, and 1 journals have only one editor, two editors, three editors, and four editors, respectively.

In addition, of all 45 journals, 23 journals have only one editor, 6 journals have two editors, 7 journals have three editors, and 9 journals have more than three editors. Their corresponding average proportions of Anglo-American editors are 82.6%, 66.7%, 76.2%, and 72.7%, respectively. Twenty-six journals have all of their editors affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries (i.e., 100% Anglo-American dominance of editors). The result suggests that, when a journal has more than one editor, it is more likely to have one or more of those co-editors be non-Anglo-American scholars. The high proportion of Anglo-American editors for those journals with more than three editors (72.7%) indicates the dominance of Anglo-American scholars, but also suggests the great potential of including more non-Anglo-American scholars as editors. Among the 45 journals, 37 (82.2%) have made a commitment to internationalization in their aims and scopes and author information. In particular, 8 (17.8%) journals claim or aim to be a global journal.

Figure 2 shows two scatterplots of the public administration journals in 2011 and 2020, with the horizontal axis representing the proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and the vertical axis representing the proportions of Anglo-American authors in public administration journals. The scatterplots visualize the positions of public administration journals in four quadrants according to whether they are more or less Anglo-American than the means for editorial board members as shown on the vertical line and authors as shown on the horizontal line. The scatterplot in 2011 has missing data (Figure 2a) and therefore, it is included only for comparison and this study primarily introduces the results in 2020.

As shown in Figure 2b, in 2020, the majority of public administration journals (17 journals, about 38%) are located in the upper right quadrant titled Anglo-American core. These journals are characterized by higher proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and Anglo-American authors. Most of the leading public administration journals are located in this quadrant, including *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Public Administration Review*, and *American Journal of Public Administration*. There are nine public administration journals (about 20%) in the lower right quadrant. These journals have higher proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members, but lower proportions of Anglo-American authors. According to the theoretical model in Figure 1, a higher proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members may lead to a higher proportion of Anglo-American authors. Therefore, some of the journals in this emerging Anglo-American quadrant may “move” to the Anglo-American core quadrant in the future. Thirteen journals (about 29%) are in the lower left quadrant titled international core, where journals have lower proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and Anglo-American authors. Journals in this quadrant include *Governance*, *Public Management Review*, and *International Journal of Public Administration*, among others. Journals in the upper left quadrant are characterized by lower proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members but higher proportions of Anglo-American authors. Only four

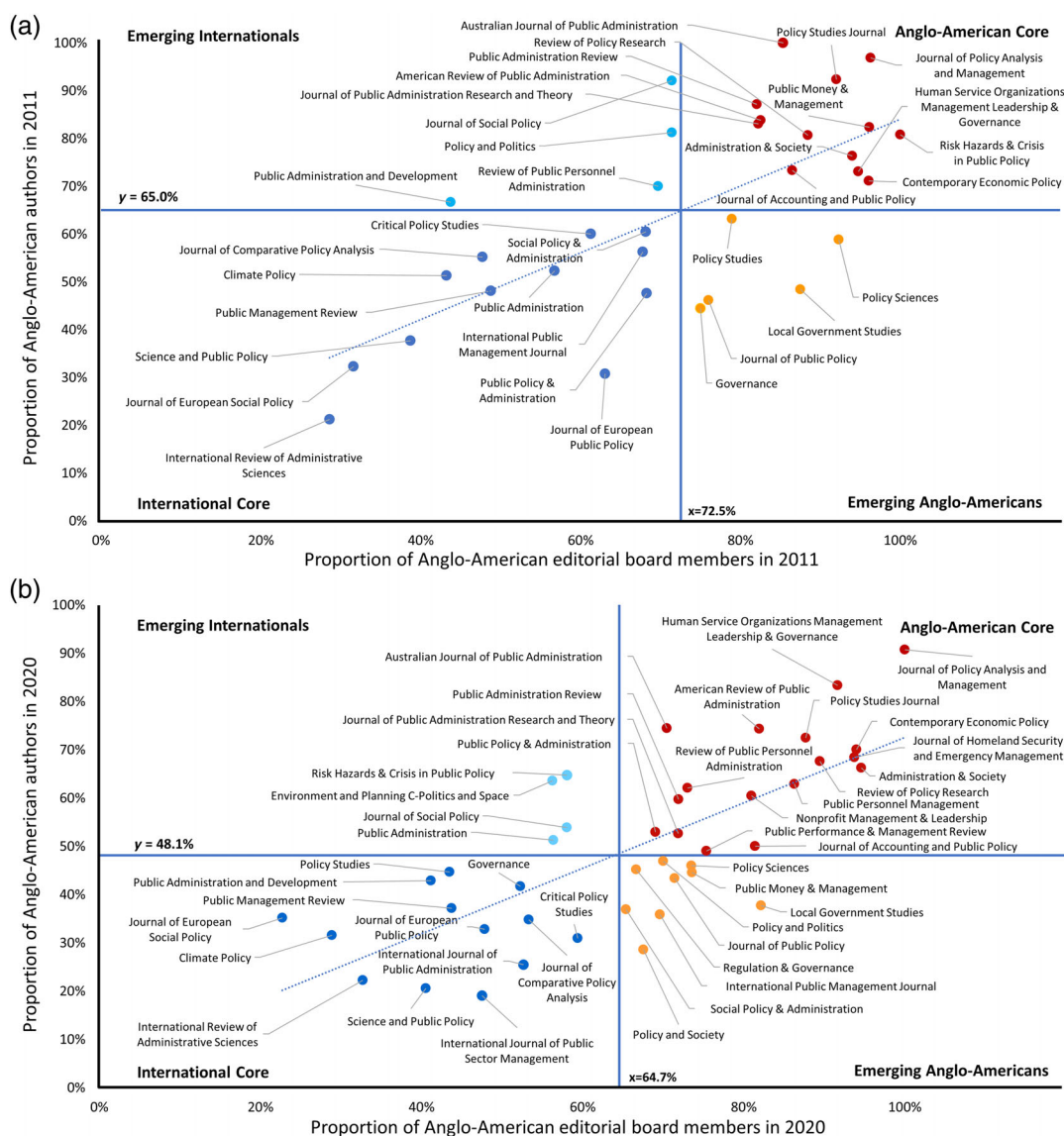


FIGURE 2 The two-by-two matrix of public administration journals in 2011 (a) and 2020 (b). Note that the *Journal of Chinese Governance* and *Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences* were removed from the third quadrant of “International Core” of (b) because the two journals, if viewed from a perspective of Chinese dominance or Transylvanian dominance, should not be listed in the third quadrant of “International Core.” In addition, 11 journals are not shown in (a) due to missing data. [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com)]

journals (about 10%) are located in this quadrant, including *Public Administration*, *Journal of Social Policy*, *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, and *Risk Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*. As the theoretical model suggests, a lower proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members may lead to a lower proportion of Anglo-American authors. Therefore, some of the journals in this quadrant titled emerging internationals may “move” to the international core quadrant in the future.

A comparison between the results in 2011 and 2020 shows that most journals remained at the same quadrant from 2011 to 2020, especially for the quadrants of Anglo-American Core and International Core. For example,

among the 13 journals in the quadrant of Anglo-American Core in 2011, 11 journals stayed in the quadrant in 2020, including *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Public Administration Review*, and *American Journal of Public Administration*. Some journals jumped between different quadrants. For example, *Public Policy & Administration* moved from International Core in 2011 to Anglo-American core in 2020 because not only its proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and authors increased, but also the means for the proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and authors decreased from 2011 to 2020.

5.1.3 | Changes in Anglo-American dominance in public administration journals during 2011–2020

The above analysis provides a snapshot of the Anglo-American dominance in the 45 public administration journals in 2020. Have there been any notable changes in the past decade between 2011 and 2020? Has there been a persistent Anglo-American dominance in these journals? To answer these questions, this study analyzed the changes in Anglo-American dominance of public administration journals from 2011 to 2020. The results show that none of the 45 public administration journals showed a significant decrease in the degree of Anglo-American dominance in all four dimensions. Instead, some journals, including *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Policy Studies*, and *Science and Public Policy*, showed a significant increase in the degree of Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members instead. In sum, the Anglo-American dominance in most public administration journals generally persists during 2011–2020.

Although Anglo-American dominance continues, there is also an encouraging trend of increased diversity in authorship and geographical foci of research in some public administration journals. For example, a consistently decreasing trend in the degree of Anglo-American dominance in authorship and geographical foci of research during 2011–2020 was observed for *Public Administration Review* (from 87.1% to 59.7% in authorship, from 77.4% to 50.0% in geographical foci of research), *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* (from 83.0% to 52.6% in authorship, from 66.0% to 58.8% in geographical foci of research), and *International Journal of Public Sector Management* (from 57.1% to 19.0% in authorship, from 48.6% to 9.5% in geographical foci of research). Moreover, journals such as *Public Administration* have been making moves to further promote internationalization and diversity by including scholars from every continent in the editorial board in recent years (Aoki et al., 2022; Lodge, 2022; McDonald III, 2021; Rhodes, 2022), and many American scholars have become more willing to engage with the work by scholars and practitioners from non-Anglo-American countries (Haque et al., 2021).

5.2 | Hypothesis analysis

Table 4 presents the definitions and descriptive statistics of all the variables used in the hypothesis testing in this study.

5.2.1 | Effect of the country circle of the affiliation of former editor on the country circle of the affiliation of current editor

Based on the dataset of journal editorship changes, this study summarizes the frequencies of four combinations according to whether the editors and former editors are affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries. We find that among the 219 editorship changes in these public administration journals, 183 changes (about 83.6%) are between Anglo-American scholars, which means that the event of both the editors and their predecessors being

TABLE 4 Definition and descriptive statistics of variables.

Variable	Definition	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<i>Country circle of current editor</i>	Whether the affiliation of current editor is in Anglo-American countries or not (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	0.863	0.345	0	1
<i>Country circle of former editor</i>	Whether the affiliation of former editor is in Anglo-American countries or not (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	0.936	0.245	0	1
<i>Proportion of A-A editors</i>	Proportion of Anglo-American editors in a journal	0.861	0.281	0	1
<i>Proportion of A-A editorial boards</i>	Proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members in a journal	0.699	0.205	0.200	1
<i>Proportion of A-A authors</i>	Proportion of papers whose lead authors were affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries in a journal	0.560	0.209	0	1
<i>Proportion of A-A geographic foci</i>	Proportion of published papers focusing on Anglo-American countries in a journal	0.415	0.239	0	0.967
<i>Number of publications</i>	Number of articles published in a journal during a year	42.186	19.328	11	114
<i>Impact factor</i>	Impact Factor of a journal	1.823	1.196	0.139	7.339
<i>Country circle of journal's publication country</i>	Whether the journal's publication country is one of Anglo-American countries or not (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	0.913	0.282	0	1
<i>Advertised as international</i>	Whether a journal has billed itself in its aims and scope and author guideline as "international" or "global" (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	0.752	0.433	0	1

TABLE 5 Effect of the country circle of the affiliation of former editor on the country circle of the affiliation of current editor.

	Model 1 <i>Country circle of current editor</i>	Model 2 <i>Country circle of current editor</i>	Model 3 <i>Country circle of current editor</i>
<i>Country circle of former editor</i>	1.812** (0.740)	1.756** (0.739)	1.598** (0.746)
<i>Country circle of journal's publication country</i>		1.687 (1.234)	2.128 (1.378)
<i>Advertised as international</i>		−0.384 (0.792)	−0.254 (0.859)
<i>Number of publications</i>			−0.028 (0.016)
<i>Impact factor</i>			−0.373 (0.271)
Odds ratio	6.124	5.788	4.942
Observations	219	219	219
Number of journals	38	38	38

Note: Robust standard error values are in parentheses. Journals with missing data are excluded from analysis.

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$.

Anglo-American scholars has occurred 183 times. In comparison, the event of the former editors being Anglo-American scholars and their successors being non-Anglo-American scholars occurred only 22 times (10.0%). As the results of a multilevel mixed-effects logistic regression show (Table 5), the country circle of the affiliation of the

current editor is significantly associated with the country circle of the affiliation of the former editor. The coefficients decrease slightly when control variables are included, but remain significant (Models 2–3). Therefore, the empirical analysis confirms H1, indicating that there is a significant association between the country circle of the affiliation of the current editor and the country circle of the affiliation of the former editor, and that the successor editor of a journal with an Anglo-American editor is most likely to be an Anglo-American scholar.

5.2.2 | Effect of Anglo-American dominance in editors on Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members

Table 6 presents the estimated effect of the proportion of Anglo-American editors on the proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members based on the journal-year panel dataset. As shown in Table 6, the estimated coefficient of the independent variable (the proportion of Anglo-American editors) is significantly positive and remains significant when the control variables are included. The results indicate that the Anglo-American dominance in editors and the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board are significantly associated. Journals with a higher proportion of Anglo-American editors also have a higher proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members. Hence, H2 is supported.

5.2.3 | Effects of Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members on Anglo-American dominance in authors and geographical foci of research

We use a mediation analysis based on the paradigm proposed by Baron and Kenny (1986) to examine whether Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members is associated with Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research through Anglo-American dominance in authors. We use a 1-year time lag for Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members and editors considering the potential delayed effects on Anglo-American

TABLE 6 Effect of Anglo-American dominance in editors on the Anglo-American in editorial board members.

	Model 1 <i>proportion of A-A editorial boards_{i,t}</i>	Model 2 <i>Proportion of A-A editorial boards_{i,t}</i>	Model 3 <i>Proportion of A-A editorial boards_{i,t}</i>
<i>Proportion of A-A editors_{i,t}</i>	0.084*** (0.031)	0.090*** (0.029)	0.053*** (0.019)
<i>Proportion of A-A authors_{i,t}</i>		0.125*** (0.045)	0.047 (0.043)
<i>Proportion of A-A geographic foci_{i,t}</i>		0.076** (0.036)	0.056* (0.032)
<i>Number of publications_{i,t}</i>			−0.001** (0.000)
<i>Impact factor_{i,t}</i>			−0.014** (0.005)
<i>Country circle of journal's publication country</i>			0.397*** (0.037)
<i>Advertised as international</i>			−0.092*** (0.035)
Observations	321	321	321
Number of journals	45	45	45
R ²	0.183	0.573	0.582

Note: The subscript *i* refers to the *i*th journal and *t* refers to the *t*th year. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered by journals.

p* < 0.1; *p* < 0.05; ****p* < 0.01.

TABLE 7 Mediation analysis of the effects of Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members on the Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research through Anglo-American dominance in authors.

	Model 1 <i>Proportion of A-A geographic foci_{i,t}</i>	Model 2 <i>Proportion of A-A authors_{i,t}</i>	Model 3 <i>Proportion of A-A geographic foci_{i,t}</i>
<i>Proportion of A-A editorial boards_{i,t-1}</i>	0.352** (0.179)	0.336** (0.136)	0.220* (0.129)
<i>Proportion of A-A editors_{i,t-1}</i>	0.020** (0.030)	0.038 (0.039)	0.003 (0.018)
<i>Proportion of A-A authors_{i,t}</i>			0.567*** (0.062)
<i>Number of publications_{i,t}</i>	−0.000 (0.001)	−0.000 (0.001)	−0.000 (0.001)
<i>Impact factor_{i,t}</i>	−0.003 (0.010)	−0.016* (0.008)	0.009 (0.007)
<i>Country circle of journal's publication country</i>	0.203* (0.104)	0.256*** (0.075)	0.028 (0.079)
<i>Advertised as international</i>	−0.129* (0.068)	−0.058 (0.047)	−0.089** (0.050)
Observations	265	265	265
Number of journals	39	39	39
R ²	0.505	0.525	0.725

Note: The subscript *i* refers to the *i*th journal and *t* refers to the *t*th year. Robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered by journals. An additional mediation analysis using a 2-year time lag is conducted, and the coefficients for variables of interest remain statistically significant with their signs unchanged. Journals with missing data are excluded from analysis.

p* < 0.1; *p* < 0.05; ****p* < 0.01.

dominance in authors and geographical foci of research. As shown in Table 7, both Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research and authors are positively and significantly associated with Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members. The effect of Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members on Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research is partially mediated by Anglo-American dominance in authors. Therefore, H3–H5 are supported.

6 | DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the Anglo-American dominance still persists in most public administration journals during 2011–2020, despite years of calls by many public administration scholars for more international and inclusive public administration journals (Candler et al., 2010; Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012; Haque et al., 2021; Hou et al., 2011; Ko, 2013; Van Wart & Cayer, 1990; Welch & Wong, 1998). The average proportions of Anglo-American editors, Anglo-American editorial board members, Anglo-American authors, and papers with their geographical foci of research on Anglo-American countries are 77.1%, 64.7%, 48.1%, and 38.2%, respectively, whereas the corresponding proportions for East & Southeast Asia are 4.2%, 8.4%, 10.8%, and 10.6%, respectively—values that are symbolic and far below the weight of their population size and growing influence in economy and academic research. There is a growing number of papers pointing out the Anglo-American dominance in the social sciences. Our findings are in line with these studies on the internationality of academic journals in other disciplines (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021; Gutierrez & Lopez-Nieva, 2001; Imhof & Muller, 2020; Kong & Qian, 2019; Wang et al., 2020). In this regard, this study not only provides a comprehensive and up-to-date quantitative assessment of the internationality of major public administration journals, but also extends the line of research on the internationality of journals in social science by evidencing the persistent Anglo-American dominance in the field of public administration and related fields.

This study further explored the potential mechanism behind the persistent Anglo-American dominance, which previous studies did not investigate empirically (Candler et al., 2010; Gulrajani & Moloney, 2012; Haque et al., 2021; Hou et al., 2011; Ko, 2013; Van Wart & Cayer, 1990; Welch & Wong, 1998). The study finds that journals with Anglo-American editors are more likely to have incoming editors affiliated with institutions in Anglo-American countries, and often have a higher proportion of Anglo-American scholars on the editorial boards. This suggests that the Anglo-American dominance in editors perpetuates itself and is significantly associated with the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members. A qualitative study based on 45 interviews of editors and publishers in the neighboring discipline of public administration—sociology—reveals that editors acknowledge the presence of “cronyism” within the journals’ editorial boards (Collyer, 2018). As one editor from the United States said, “you want people with good taste on your editorial board” (Collyer, 2018).

This study also finds that journals with a higher proportion of Anglo-American editorial board members usually publish more articles authored by Anglo-American scholars and more articles with Anglo-American countries as the study areas. This shows that the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members is significantly associated with the Anglo-American dominance in authors and geographical foci of research. These findings fit well with many studies on international scientific production (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021; Wang et al., 2020). An analysis of over a million papers in over 500 journals published by *PNAS*, *IEEE*, *PLoS*, *MDPI*, and *Hindawi* reveals that countries in Asia, Africa, and South America are frequently underrepresented on editorial boards, and authors from those regions usually face more selective and lengthier peer review processes (Liu et al., 2023). A recent randomized controlled trial performed in an ecology journal *Functional Ecology* provides strong experimental evidence that authors from English-speaking or higher-income countries have an advantage due to the perceived prestige linked with their identity, with reviewers more prone to perceive that the research by these authors is of higher quality (Fox et al., 2023).

Apart from the theoretical model proposed in this study, other interpretations attempted to explain the Anglo-American dominance in public administration journals. One plausible explanation is that many authors in non-Anglo-American countries tend to publish their work in their own languages in their own national journals (Faraldo-Cabana & Lamela, 2021). Nevertheless, there is also a very strong tendency in many non-Anglo-American countries for authors to publish their work in major international journals since institutions and research administrators strive to elevate their institutions’ rankings in various global rankings of academic subjects and institutions. Another explanation is that non-Anglo-American scholars and their work may not be deemed good enough. However, as Ko (2013) points out, there are a substantial number of public administration papers written by many well-trained scholars in East Asian countries, but only a small number of articles authored by East Asian scholars get published in major public administration journals.

The persistent Anglo-American dominance in many public administration journals indicates that the past efforts for the internationalization of journals have been inadequate. So, what efforts can be made to promote the internationalization of public administration journals? Our findings show that Anglo-American dominance is more pronounced in editorship and editorial board membership, followed by authorship and geographical foci of research. Furthermore, the Anglo-American dominance in editors and editorial board members might have an impact on the Anglo-American dominance in authors and geographical foci of research. Therefore, a straightforward approach to deepen the internationalization of public administration journals would be to increase the diversity in editors and editorial board members by including more non-Anglo-American scholars and involving more non-Anglo-American scholars as referees. This is particularly true for journals located in the Anglo-American core and emerging Anglo-American quadrants (Figure 2) that have explicitly stated a commitment to promoting internationalization in their aims and scopes. In particular, our results show that the average proportions of Anglo-American editors for journals with one editor, two editors, three editors, and more than three editors are 82.6%, 66.7%, 76.2%, and 72.7%, respectively. The decreasing pattern in the proportions of Anglo-American editors suggests that increasing the number of editorships and including more non-Anglo-American scholars as the editors might be a workable strategy. Another way to promote the internationalization of public administration journals is to develop high-quality international journals dedicated to administrative issues and public policy in non-Anglo-American countries or comparative public

administration studies (Haque et al., 2021). More importantly, the constraints of epistemology, research paradigms, and the impact-ranking scheme of JCR on journals' internationalization must be recognized and addressed proactively, especially for those journals with a global vision.

We should emphasize that this study provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the internationalization of major public administration journals, but the empirical analysis for explaining the Anglo-American dominance is limited due to data constraints. We could not access detailed data on the internal processes of journals, including the selection of editors and editorial board members, manuscript review, and publication. Consequently, we have to rely on journal-level data to test possible associations between variables. We also find it difficult to obtain data on the nationality of editors, editorial board members, and authors. Therefore, we have to rely on their institutional affiliations to measure the degrees of Anglo-American dominance in editors, editorial board members, and authors, as previous studies have done (Hattke & Vogel, 2023; Melhem et al., 2022; Smith et al., 2023). We acknowledge that this approach of using one's institutional affiliation is imperfect, but it might be the only method that is currently feasible due to data limitations. Also, the quality of paper submissions matters, as the paper quality varies across different countries and regions. However, due to data limitations on paper quality, this study is unable to examine the possible effect of paper quality. In this regard, this study does not prove that having Anglo-American editors and editorial board members necessarily leads to fewer non-Anglo-American authors and articles that study non-Anglo-American countries. Future research can offer a more rigorous analysis if relevant detailed data become available. In addition, this study excludes six non-English SSCI journals from analysis because of access and language difficulties. Although the six journals are not considered as major international public administration journals and excluding them likely would not change the main findings of this study, future studies may consider including these journals and other public administration journals that are not indexed in SSCI and ESCI for a complete understanding of the detailed landscape of journals in the field of public administration and related fields.

7 | CONCLUSIONS

This study provides a comprehensive and updated assessment of four dimensions (editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical focus of research) of the internationalization of 45 major public administration journals. We find that Anglo-American dominance is significant and persistent in all four dimensions in most public administration journals between 2011–2020. Among the four dimensions of internationalization, the Anglo-American dominance is most pronounced in editors, followed by editorial board members, authors, and geographical focus of research. We also find that there is clear stratification within the five Anglo-American countries, and the critical players are just the United States and the United Kingdom.

Further analysis shows that the proportions of editors, editorial board members, authors, and geographical foci of research from the five Anglo-American countries are highly correlated with the five countries' population sizes, which suggests all five Anglo-American countries co-dominate the public administration journals equally on a per capita basis. There are notable differences between journals. Using a two-by-two matrix divided according to whether the journals are more or less Anglo-American in terms of editorial board members and authors, we find that, in 2020, the majority of major public administration journals, including most of the leading public administration journals such as *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, and *Public Administration Review*, are characterized by higher proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and Anglo-American authors. Meanwhile, journals such as *Governance*, *Public Management Review*, and *International Journal of Public Administration* have lower proportions of Anglo-American editorial board members and Anglo-American authors.

This study also explores the potential mechanism behind the persistent Anglo-American dominance by analyzing the associations between the dimensions of internationalization of journals. We find that the Anglo-American dominance in editors has a self-perpetuating tendency. Moreover, there is a significant association between Anglo-

American dominance in editors and Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members, suggesting that Anglo-American dominance in editors is likely to lead to Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members. In addition, the Anglo-American dominance in authors and the Anglo-American dominance in geographical foci of research are positively and significantly correlated with the Anglo-American dominance in editorial board members.

It is important to note that, in addition to the geographic diversity of editors and editorial board members, paper quality also matters. Due to data limitations on paper quality, this study is unable to examine the possible effect of paper quality. Therefore, although our results reveal the possible links between the geographic diversity of editors and editorial board members and the geographic diversity of authors and geographical foci of research, association does not imply causation, and this study does not prove that having Anglo-American editors and editorial board members necessarily leads to fewer non-Anglo-American authors and articles that study non-Anglo-American countries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (Grant No. 20720201032) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 42101199).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

This article analyzes existing, publicly available data. Data on editors and editorial board members for each journal were collected from the journal home pages or the mastheads of print versions. The publication records in these journals were collected by searching the Web of Science database.

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How to cite this article: Liu, J., Xu, Y., Zhang, X., Yu, W., & Zhong, H. (2024). How international are public administration journals? An analysis of the persistent Anglo-American dominance in public administration journals. *Public Administration*, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.13018>