

# Building Bridges in Academic Publishing and Research

## A Study of the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies

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This study explores the publication practices and collaboration networks of the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies in order to understand its contribution to global academic knowledge production and the way in which semi-peripheral academic institutions can navigate global academic hierarchies, achieve greater visibility, and foster equitable knowledge production. The analysis shows that fellows at the institution overwhelmingly prioritise high-impact journals, with approximately 70% of their work published at Q1-ranked venues. This focus underscores the institute's dedication to academic excellence and its commitment to increasing the global visibility of Hungarian research. Most of the publications are concentrated in Western academic journals, especially those based in the United States, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, reflecting the extant academic networks of the fellows, and the institution's strategic emphasis on high-quality, internationally recognised publication outlets. However, while international journals dominate, a smaller, yet significant, portion of publications appears in local journals, indicating a balance between global engagement

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and local impact. Situated within a world-systemic framework, this paper argues that Institutes for Advanced Studies can act as bridges between semi-peripheral academic institutions and leading global research networks. By supporting international collaboration and emphasising impactful publishing, the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies not only enhances its own reputation but also serves as a model for other institutions seeking to raise their profile in the competitive landscape of global academic publishing.

**Keywords:** publishing patterns, journal selection, co-authorship in academic publishing, global knowledge production, Institutes for Advanced Studies

## Introduction

In today's increasingly interconnected world, Institutes for Advanced Studies (IAS) hold a vital place in the academic landscape (Clark, 2023). These institutions act as centres of innovation and knowledge production, offering scholars the freedom and resources to engage in transformative research across disciplines (Padberg, 2020). By prioritising international collaboration and knowledge exchange, IAS contribute significantly to addressing complex global challenges while fostering intellectual growth. This paper examines the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS), a relatively new Central and Eastern European IAS, exploring its role in publication excellence, in advancing academic internationalisation, and its impact on both regional and academic global knowledge production.

IAS are essential not only for generating new academic knowledge but also for bridging local and global publication and cooperation networks (Hollstein, 2023). We argue that CIAS exemplifies this dual function, positioning itself as a regional hub that elevates Hungarian and Central European scholarship while establishing strong ties with international research communities, especially in the Global North. This study highlights several CIAS achievements, including its ability to attract a diverse range of international scholars, its emphasis on publishing in high-impact journals, and its extensive collaboration networks. These accomplishments demonstrate how CIAS connects the semi-peripheral region of Central and Eastern Europe with the core of global academia. We found that CIAS attracts scholars predominantly from Western Europe, the United States, and Central and Eastern Europe. The majority of publications by CIAS fellows appear in Q1-ranked journals, emphasising academic excellence, while their collaboration networks are strongest with the USA, the U.K., and Hungary, which positions CIAS as a bridge between global academic hubs and Central and Eastern European research. This function is very important in regions like Central and Eastern Europe, where IAS are instrumental in reversing brain drain, cultivating talent and producing internationally visible publications (Rüland & Gräber-Magocsi, 2022). By attracting world-class researchers and stimulating collaboration, CIAS not only strengthens the regional academic ecosystem but also contributes significantly to the global exchange of ideas. By interpreting the internationalisation patterns of CIAS in a world-systemic theorisation (Demeter, 2019), we argue that the results of our study go beyond presenting CIAS as a case study: CIAS

serves as a powerful example of how institutes in semi-peripheral regions can enhance their international presence while also driving regional academic development. CIAS's achievements highlight the enduring importance of IAS as bridges between local and global scholarship that advance innovation and collaboration in an ever-changing international academic landscape.

## Institutes for Advanced Study

“Anyone who wants to equip a special heaven for men and women of scholarship and science should take the Princeton Institute as model,” asserted János Kornai (1928–2021), Emeritus Professor at both Harvard and Corvinus University of Budapest in his *By Force of Thought. Irregular Memoirs of an Intellectual Journey* (cited in Klaniczay, 2016, p. 87). This is indeed the case: most institutes for advanced study – themselves seen as standing at the apex of academic/scholarly research – continue to view The Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton as their model. Since its establishment in 1930, it has “served as a model for protecting and promoting independent inquiry, prompting the establishment of similar institutes around the world, and underscoring the importance of academic freedom worldwide” (Institute for Advanced Study, 2024). Its historic achievements over almost a century seem unsurpassable:

“[...] among its present and past faculty and members are 36 Nobel Laureates, 46 of the 64 Fields Medalists, and 23 of the 27 Abel Prize Laureates, as well as many MacArthur Fellows and Wolf Prize winners. Past faculty have included Albert Einstein [...] and distinguished scientists and scholars such as Kurt Gödel, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Erwin Panofsky, Hetty Goldman, Homer A. Thompson, John von Neumann, George Kennan, Hermann Weyl, and Clifford Geertz” (Institute for Advanced Study, 2024)

To date, the world's most comprehensive overview of the institutes for advanced study has been Britta Padberg's authorative paper, “The Global Diversity of Institutes for Advanced Study” published in *Sociologica* (Padberg, 2020), in which she convincingly argues these institutes are “both products and driving forces of the globalization of research and are closely intertwined with different trends of global science policies” and that they constitute “spaces of global production of knowledge” (Padberg, 2020, p. 119). These characteristics explain the increase in the establishment of such institutions around the world in the decades following Princeton's inception, the first wave of which lasted for approximately forty years (1930–1970) with the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) in Palo Alto, California in 1954, an institute that initially focused most on social sciences. In 1965, for the first time outside the Western world, the Indian Institute for Advanced Study was set up in Shimla, India. In Europe, 1968 saw the founding of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld, West Germany, and the following year marked the establishment of a similar research centre at the University of Edinburgh in the U.K., and elsewhere, such as Dublin and Paris. The second wave, between 1970 and 2000, saw the establishment of national and independent institutes for

advanced study in, for example, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea and Sweden. The first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed a rapid increase in the number of institutes of advanced study, on the global scene. Whereas twenty-five years ago, in the late 1990s, there were fewer than thirty such institutes, today they number around 200 to 250. Most of these more recently established institutes are based at universities and one can now find them on every continent. Apart from the Americas, Asia, and Europe (see above), the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Western Australia in Perth was established in 2000, and in Africa there are such institutes in Ghana (est. 2018 at the University of Ghana) and in South Africa (Stellenbosch, est. 1999, and Johannesburg est. 2015).

### Institutes for advanced study in Central and Eastern Europe

In terms of the Central and Eastern European region, to which the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies belongs geographically, we have taken those institutions into account that lie in countries between Germany and Russia, south of Scandinavia and north of Greece and Turkey. Many of the region's countries are now full members of the EU and NATO, some are candidate countries, and all of them share the common heritage of having belonged to the Communist world during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It follows from this definition that certain countries that are sometimes classified as being a part of this region will be excluded, for example Austria in the West and Russia in the East. At the same time, it also means that historically at least three major academic traditions have contributed to shaping the current landscape of regional research practices, institutes, and researchers' habitus: the Prussian–German model (pre-World War Two), the Soviet model (1948–1989), and the Western model (post-transition period, i.e. since the 1990s, especially after the accessions to the EU that began in 2004 with eight formerly Communist countries: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia, and was followed by Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 and Croatia in 2023).

The most recent development in terms of establishing institutes for advanced studies and their umbrella organisations in this region was in 2024 with the foundation of RECAS (Regional Network of Centres for Advanced Studies in Southeast Europe) in order to “induce societal change by promoting the visibility, quality, and relevance of Western Balkans and Southeast European (SEE) research while enabling early career researchers to conduct socially engaging and policy-relevant research in the region” (RECAS, 2024). Just as in the case of CIAS (see below), RECAS was also intended to reverse *brain drain* from the region and attempt to establish practices and policies that would foster the opposite: *brain gain*. Currently RECAS has eight national members: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Regional institutes for advanced studies that had been established earlier include New Europe College, Bucharest, Romania (est. 1994); the Centre for Advanced Study, Sophia, Bulgaria (est. 2000); the Institute for Advanced Study at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary (est. 2011); the Center for Advanced Studies Southeast

Europe, Rijeka, Croatia (est. 2013); the Polish Institute of Advanced Studies, Warsaw, Poland (est. 2016, but ceased its activities in 2023 due to financial difficulties and “less than satisfactory” results [PAN, 2023]), and the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Study (CIAS) at Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary (est. 2017).

Most of these institutes do a very impressive job when it comes to internationalisation and research publication, for example, the oldest of them, New Europe College, Bucharest, (in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2024) has hosted close to eight hundred fellows from around fifty countries across its history, representing a huge number of academic disciplines. It has also hosted several European Research Council grants, which has significantly contributed to their global visibility and collaborative research output (New Europe College, 2024). Another example is the IAS of Central European University, which remained in Budapest even after its host institute (CEU) moved to Vienna in 2019. In its 14<sup>th</sup> year of operation they hosted close to 400 fellows from dozens of countries, and quite apart from Scopus indexed journal publications, many CEU IAS fellows have published academic volumes (monographs, edited volumes, etc.) with prestigious publishing houses such as, for example, Cambridge U.P., Cornell U.P., Oxford U.P., and Routledge (Institute for Advanced Study: Central European University, 2024).

### **Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies: An overview**

Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS) belongs to the so-called university-based category of institutes for advanced studies. Globally, these number fewer than one hundred, and examples of their host institutes include: Fudan University, Nagoya University, National Taiwan University, Peking University, and Waseda University (Asia); University of Western Australia (Australia); KU Leuven, Trinity College Dublin, University of Amsterdam, University of Cambridge, University of Konstanz, University of London, and University of Turku (Europe); Duke University, Harvard University, and Stanford University (the USA). Established in 1920, Corvinus University of Budapest (CUB) has always been one of the most prestigious social sciences research universities in Hungary and the East-Central European region. In the past century, it has gone through some dramatic changes, strongly reflecting the turbulence of Hungarian and East-Central European history. Today, Corvinus University of Budapest is a non-profit, public-benefit higher education institution and a research-intensive university. It has consistently ranked in the top 25% of Eastern European universities, indexed by QS (Topuniversities QS, 2024); 15% of the faculty and more than 20% of its students are international.

After a very careful and in-depth analysis of some of the best models in contemporary global higher education, in 2017 the decision to establish a cutting-edge research hub within the university was taken and CIAS came into being as of 1 January 2018. CIAS was created as a research university-based institute for advanced studies whose ultimate mission is to engage in top level research, attracting globally leading scholars, researchers, and academics as fellows. The mission statement, formulated in the Senate decision of 19 December 2017, is as valid today as it was back then: “Our goal with the establishment

of CIAS is the dramatic improvement of the research output and the international potential of the university.”

CIAS is pursuing manifold objectives that can be introduced on two levels. Its embeddedness within the research university can be seen as its foundational level. CIAS is an integral part of the university as a whole, serving its research goals in close and coordinated cooperation with the departments, the institutes, and other academic research units of the university. The next level is its contribution to the national research output (both in basic and applied research) in coordination with the various Hungarian and European Union research agencies and institutes. The highest level, evidently, is its role in the global community of similar institutions and their host universities, which explains why CIAS has reached out to partner institutions not only in the East-Central European region, but far beyond it as well: in Africa, in the Americas, in Asia, in Australia, and in Europe.

The first seven international fellows arrived in the 2019–2020 academic year: three from the U.S., two from Italy, one each from China and Portugal, respectively (this latter researcher arrived as a junior fellow and is now a full-time faculty member at the university). At the beginning of the 2024–2025 academic year, i.e. in its sixth year of operation, CIAS welcomed more than twenty international fellows to start their research in Budapest. This robust increase is a good indication of the success of CIAS’s international fellowship programmes. By the end of the current academic year CIAS will have had close to one hundred international and fifty Hungarian fellows. When translated into *fellow months*, this represents above 200 months. The disciplines and national backgrounds of these fellows are diverse. In the past six years, CIAS has hosted academics representing, among others, the following disciplines: Business, Communication, Computer Science, Economics, Finance, Game Theory, Geography, Geopolitics, History, International Relations, Management, Mathematics, Network and Data Science, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Sociology. A non-exhaustive list of the countries represented by CIAS fellows would include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Croatia, France, India, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, the U.K., and the USA. To better serve the internationalisation goals of the host university, more than 90% of the successful applicants are international researchers, i.e. come from non-Hungarian institutions. In an attempt to reverse brain drain from the country, Hungarian nationals already employed in research faculties at well established, internationally respected research universities outside of Hungary are also welcome to apply. Other, university-wide international collaboration also takes place at various levels and in various contexts. Corvinus University of Budapest, the home institution of CIAS, has historically worked with a large number of international partners (more than 200). Apart from what might be traditionally labelled *Western institutions* (universities and research centres) predominantly in Europe and North America (e.g. Charles University, Prague; Club of Rome; Concordia University, Montreal; European SPES Institute, Leuven; Princeton University; Tel Aviv University; Stanford University; University of California, Berkeley; the University of Chicago; the University of Economics and Business, Vienna; University of Jena; University of Oxford; University of Tartu; University of Washington, Vilnius University, etc.), CUB continues its active collaboration with many non-Western institutions as well, including but not limited to: the Chinese University



of Hong Kong, Fundacao Getulio Vargas; Kobe University; Korea University; National Taiwan University; National University of Singapore; Tecnologico de Monterrey; Tsinghua University; Universidad Adolfo Ibanez; Universidad de los Andes, etc. Its international accreditations include the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the Association of MBAs (AMBA), and the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD); it is a member in the Community of European Management Schools (CEMS).

In terms of research projects, various levels should be differentiated: 1. individual level; 2. research group/research centre level; and 3. Institute (CIAS) level, flagship projects. Most permanent fellows belong to a particular research centre within CIAS, whereas most visiting fellows/grantees who come for a semester or a full academic year work on their own individual research projects, often collaborating with other fellows and/or colleagues from the various university departments. With regard to the results of these projects, the international publication record of CIAS affiliated researchers is outstanding. In the past year alone, that is, between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2024, thirty D1, twenty-two Q1 and fourteen Q2 papers were published. Looking back on the publication history of CIAS as a whole, the number of internationally recognised research publications (in Scopus and WoS indexed venues) has more than doubled in five years. Whereas the combined number of such publications from the first two years of CIAS activity (AY 2019–2020 and 2020–2021) was a humble 20, by 1 September 2024 it had passed 60 (for 2024 only). In terms of disciplinary breakdown, the D1, Q1, and Q2 publications have appeared in internationally highly ranked academic journals categorised by Scimago Journal Ranking (SJR) as, for example: *Accounting; Artificial Intelligence; Arts and Humanities; Business and International Management; Communication; Cultural Studies; Computational Mathematics; Demography; Economics and Econometrics; Environmental Science; Information Systems and Management; Operations Research; Political Science; Renewable Energy and Sustainability; and Social Sciences*.

In terms of currently run international flagship research projects, in 2023 the CIAS-affiliated research project proposal for a European Research Agency (ERA) Chairship was approved and was founded within CIAS for a period of five years (2023–2028), led by internationally recognised researcher, Chilean-American César Hidalgo. In 2024, CIAS was joined by the globally leading scholar of convex optimisation, Yurii Nesterov. It was later that year that a multiple year joint research project was launched in collaboration with the University of Chicago, led by Nobel Laureate James J. Heckman.

### Internationalisation of academic research and publishing: A world-systemic perspective

In this paper, we adopt a world-systemic perspective to analyse academic publishing and collaboration patterns. This approach builds on Wallerstein's world-systems theory and applies it to the global structure of knowledge production (Demeter, 2019; 2020). Within this framework, *power relations* refer to the unequal distribution of resources, visibility,

and influence in academia, which often mirrors geopolitical and economic hierarchies. *World-systemic position* describes an institution's or a scholar's position within the global academic hierarchy – whether it is in the core (dominant institutions from the Global North), semi-periphery (emerging or transitioning academic hubs), or periphery (under-represented institutions with limited global reach). For example, collaborations with elite U.S. or U.K. institutions often indicate a core affiliation, while limited international co-authorship or local publishing may signal peripheral positioning. Our analysis uses this lens to interpret the publication strategies and collaboration patterns of CIAS as an institute from a semi-peripheral region striving for greater integration into core academic networks.

The expansion of Institutes for Advanced Studies around the world highlights a significant shift in the academic landscape, marked by growing international collaboration and the crossing of national boundaries in research (Clark, 2023). These institutions, including the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS) and others in Central and Eastern Europe, play a dual role: fostering local academic growth while embedding themselves in global research networks (Demeter, 2018). This interconnectedness ties directly into the broader trends of internationalising academic research and publishing (Moldashev & Tleuov, 2022; Waisbord, 2022; Xu, 2020). The focus on these trends, discussed earlier, provides a foundation for exploring their impact on institutional visibility and scholarly influence. The next section delves into these issues from a world-systemic perspective, shedding light on how globalisation shapes academic publishing and affects the positioning of institutes like CIAS within the broader hierarchy of academic knowledge production.

The need for the internationalisation of research and publication followed the *publish or perish* paradigm (Parchomovsky, 2000) because the skyrocketing number of published papers was only possible through frequent and large-scale collaboration. A variety of reasons lie behind the internationalisation trends in publishing. For instance, there are scientific problems in both natural and social sciences such as climate change, pandemics and energy transitions that are global in scope and cannot be solved within the confines of national borders (Holm et al., 2013). Bringing together diverse expertise and perspectives from around the world enhances the ability to develop innovative and comprehensive solutions for these problems (Salazar et al., 2012). In direct contrast to the character of other scientific topics, in the social sciences and humanities in particular, that cannot be understood without reference to their cultural backgrounds, in these cases, only comparative international research can reveal both the common features and individual differences (Rokkan, 2021). Moreover, many research programmes, such as the European Union's Horizon Europe programme, prioritise international collaboration, incentivising cross-border research partnerships (Kalisz & Aluchna, 2012). To prioritise international research makes sense because unique datasets, advanced laboratories, specific expertise in advanced methodologies or specialised facilities may not be available in any single country or institution, but an international research team can bring all this together (Brooks et al., 2013). From a world-systemic point of view, the internationalisation of a research institution or a university contributes to its global visibility and also places it on the world-system of academic knowledge production (Demeter, 2019). All the aforementioned aspects of internationalisation – publications, cooperation, and the capacity to gain international funds – marks world-systemic positions with specific characteristics



that consists of power relations (Demeter, 2017). Specifically, publishing in international journals enhances a university's research visibility and influence, which is a critical factor in rankings (Kivinen et al., 2017). High-impact journals, often indexed in databases like Scopus and Web of Science, reach a global audience, ensuring that the research is widely read, cited and recognised (Pranckutė, 2021). Rankings typically consider citation metrics, such as field-weighted citation impact or h-indices, to gauge the significance and influence of a university's research. Papers co-authored by international teams tend to receive more citations, as they are disseminated through diverse academic networks and often address transnational issues of broad relevance (Parish et al., 2018). This directly boosts the university's citation scores, a core component of many ranking methodologies. In this vein, it is of crucial importance that internationalisation patterns of research publishing are analysed, understood, and critically interpreted because the results can shed light on real-life power positions as they develop over time (Demeter, 2019).

To gain prestige in an increasingly competitive field such as academia, internationalisation is one of the most important factors and, as world-systemic analysis shows us, it is especially true for institutions from emerging countries (Comel et al., 2024; Tóth & Demeter, 2021). First, internationalisation and prestige in academia are closely related because global engagement might signify a commitment to top-tier research and collaboration. Specifically, collaborating with already established international institutions like elite universities or researchers with high international impact enhances an emerging institution's reputation by association, showing that it operates at a comparable level of excellence (Dobbins & Kwiek, 2017). In the world-system of global publication, cooperation with institutions that already have top positions can also enhance the power position of the agents connecting with them, so co-publishing with researchers from leading institutions raises the international visibility of scholars from emerging world regions as well (Kwiek, 2021). International cooperation, especially with experienced researchers from top institutions, often leads to publication in prestigious journals, which guarantees high visibility and impact in the corresponding research field, as well as showing the potential of the participating institutions to produce high-quality research. Accordingly, while these publications increase the visibility of the institution's research they also reflect positively on its academic standards and output quality (Sasvári & Lendvai, 2024).

As discussed above, attracting established researchers from around the world contributes to visibility and prestige. A diverse team of researchers demonstrates that the institution is a hub for global intellectual excellence (Mapes et al., 2020). The most characteristic field to be directly influenced by internationalisation is that of research assessment and international rankings, where it plays a leading role in at least two ways. First, as more and more countries strive for greater visibility on the international rankings, they push their researchers to publish in outlets that are recognised by global rankings such as QS World University Ranking, Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) or Times Higher Education (*THE*) (Demeter et al., 2024). With this, international publication excellence has become a key factor in research evaluation at both institutional and individual levels that highly influences the career trajectories of scholars (Gao & Zheng, 2020). This phenomenon can be partially explained by the categories that university rankings use for evaluation, since the internationalisation of research is closely tied to an

institution's performance in global university rankings that emphasise research output, impact, and international collaboration. These elements are integral in the way universities are assessed for their global standing (Hazelkorn, 2024). From a world-systemic point of view, university rankings clearly show intellectual and academic power relations with a set of top-tier institutions (and countries) at the centre, a more diverse and numerous set of countries in the semi-periphery, and legions of research institutions and universities at the periphery of academia that are not even represented in global rankings (Demeter, 2020). To gain international visibility, more peripheral countries and their institutions should cooperate with elite institutions if they want to be represented in the world-systemic network of science production (Syed et al., 2012).

Beyond publishing co-authored papers, international collaborations also influence rankings by showcasing a university's ability to engage with the global academic community (Gao & Zheng, 2020). Metrics like the proportion of research outputs resulting from international collaboration are explicitly considered in systems like *THE* and *QS* (Loyola-González et al., 2020). These collaborations demonstrate the institution's integration into global knowledge networks and its capability to contribute to internationally relevant research. For example, co-authorship with researchers from high-ranking universities or institutions in multiple countries signals a level of prestige and academic excellence that rankings reward (Sasvári & Lendvai, 2024). Furthermore, international research efforts often lead to partnerships with renowned global institutions, resulting in joint projects, grants, and shared initiatives (Kwiek, 2020). Such partnerships enhance the university's reputation among peers, which is another significant metric in rankings, especially in those relying on academic and employer reputation surveys (Selten et al., 2020). An institution seen as a hub for high-quality, internationally engaged research is more likely to receive favourable evaluations in these assessments, which may be important to universities, especially from emerging world regions where good positions on international rankings are of crucial importance in attracting international students (Pham et al., 2021).

In the past decade, CIAS invited many experienced international scholars who have produced a significant number of papers, and the resultant rise in visibility of the institute is beyond question. However, we still lack knowledge on the geographical distribution of the scholars, their papers and their cooperation networks. From a world-systemic point of view, the international patterns of research production can show not just the international visibility of the corresponding institution but can also help to shed light on its world-systemic position (Demeter, 2019), making it possible to interpret its development in the past and to suggest further steps for future internationalisation. Following our literature review and the world-systemic theoretical considerations on research publishing, we developed the following research questions:

**RQ1:** What is the geographical and regional diversity of CIAS fellows, and how does it reflect the global representation of academic knowledge production?

Despite the growing literature on the internationalisation of academic research (Demeter, 2019; Kwiek, 2020; Waisbord, 2022), there remain significant gaps in our understanding of how IAS in semi-peripheral regions navigate global academic hierarchies. While prior

studies have emphasised the role of international collaboration and high-impact publishing in gaining visibility (Demeter et al. 2024; Comel et al., 2024), few have examined how these dynamics play out at the institutional level within Central and Eastern Europe. Specifically, there is a lack of research that combines institutional-level data with network-based approaches to explore how IAS fellows from semi-peripheral regions integrate into global publishing and collaboration networks.

**RQ2:** What are the publication patterns of CIAS scholars, including journal selection, publisher geography, and journal prestige, during their tenure at CIAS?

**RQ3:** What is the structure of the international cooperation network among CIAS scholars, and how does co-authorship represent the geographical composition of publishing?

## Methods

### *Data collection*

From CIAS archives, we downloaded the curriculum vitae of all CIAS fellows between 2019 and 2023. The first year in which CIAS received fellows was 2019, and 2023 was the last year for which we have full data in terms of publication. We collected data on both academic profile and publication patterns. After careful data cleaning, we had the profiles of 63 CIAS fellows.

For academic profiles, we collected data on academic history (place of BA, MA and PhD studies) and current academic background (affiliation, nationality, seniority, research field). The data was incomplete for several variables, so we used nationality to identify geographical position as we have this data on all the CIAS fellows.

Nationality was selected as a proxy for geographical position because it was the most consistently reported variable across all CVs, and it typically reflects the scholar's academic and cultural background. While we acknowledge that nationality may not fully capture a fellow's current institutional location or research network, it offers a practical and reasonably accurate means of coding world-region affiliation – especially in the absence of uniform data on current institutional ties or citizenship/residency status.

For publication patterns, we collected data from Scopus, recording the number of publications, journal names and journal quartiles. Scopus is generally considered to be the widest international database for peer-reviewed academic publications, and its coverage is especially broad in the social sciences (Rajkó et al., 2023). Scopus was chosen due to its extensive coverage of peer-reviewed journals in the social sciences, which aligns with the disciplinary profiles of most CIAS fellows. Additionally, it offers consistent metadata on authorship, affiliations, and journal quartiles (e.g. Q1–Q4), enabling structured comparison across publications. Although other databases like Web of Science or Google Scholar were considered, Scopus provided the most complete and reliable dataset for our research aims.

## ***Analysis***

To address our first research question regarding the international composition of CIAS fellows, we coded their nationalities as presented in their curriculum vitae. We also coded world regions (Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and Oceania). For the analysis and visualisation, we used Gephi (version 0.10).

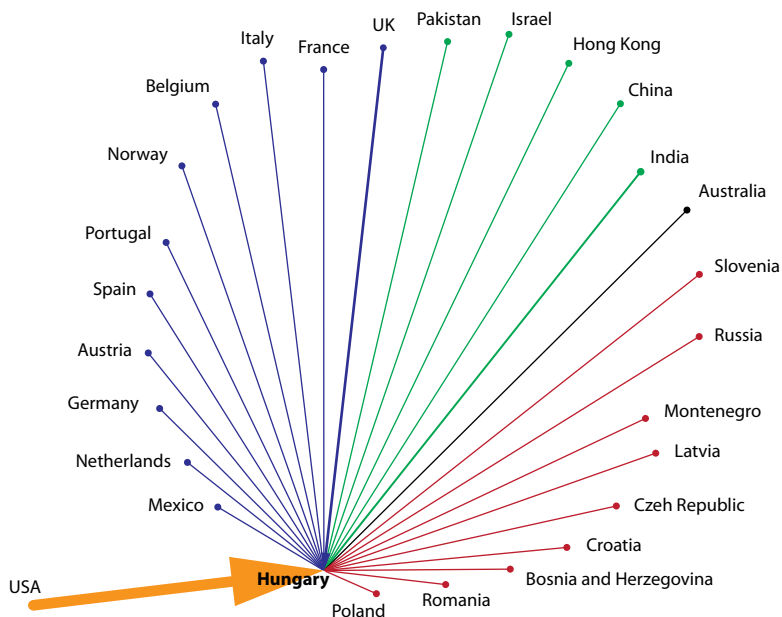
To answer our second research question that related to the publication patterns of CIAS scholars, we analysed their publication trajectories during their stay at CIAS. We checked their publication records on Scopus, we recorded the journals in which they published and also recorded the publishers and the prestige factor of the journals (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4).

Finally, to address our third research question regarding the cooperation network of CIAS scholars, we conducted network analysis in which we analysed international cooperation. We coded all the published papers affiliated to CIAS, focusing on the nationality of the co-authors to draw the international cooperation network. For the analysis and visualisation, we used Gephi (version 0.10).

## **Results**

Our first research question was related to the national diversity of CIAS fellows. Our results show that most scholars came from the Western world, especially from the USA. However, the analysis reveals that a significant number of scholars arrived to CIAS from the Central and Eastern European region alongside researchers from the Asiatic region as well, and from India in particular. Both the Western and the Central and Eastern European hubs are diverse as many countries are represented in the corresponding world regions, with a specific presence of British academics (Figure 1). Latin America and Oceania are represented by Mexico and Australia.

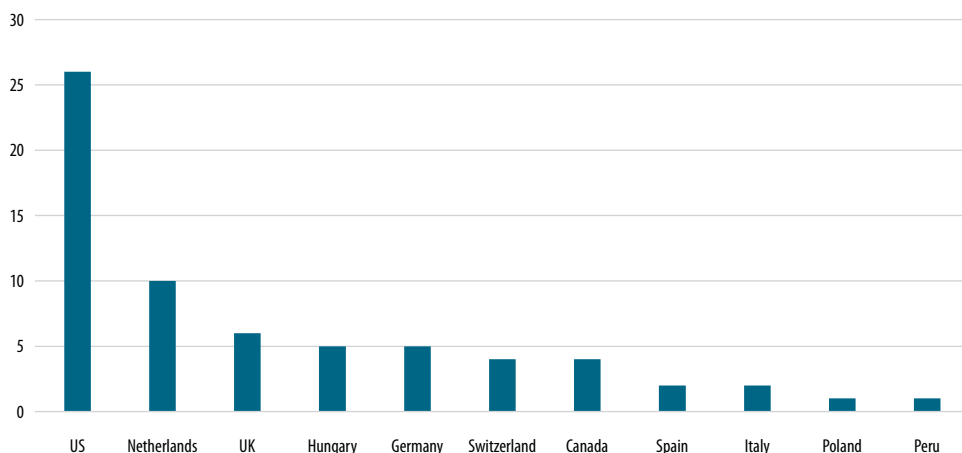
When considering the publication trends, we found that most articles by CIAS scholars were published in the Western countries where the most prestigious publishers are located (the USA, the Netherlands and the U.K.). However, the presence of Hungarian journals are also perceptible, showing that some of the CIAS scholars also decided to write for the local community (Figure 2). Notwithstanding that, the national distribution of the preferred publishers clearly shows that CIAS scholars brought their own publishing cultures to Hungary, and they tended to publish in journals with which they were already familiar. This suggests that CIAS scholars aim to reach a global, well-regarded academic audience and are inclined to publish in well-established, highly ranked outlets that may bolster the visibility and impact of their research, and through this, they contributed to the international visibility and impact of CIAS, too. In other words, CIAS scholars brought their prior publishing preferences and academic networks with them, even when working in Hungary, rather than fully adopting local or regional publication venues. This dynamic underscores both the international orientation of the CIAS scholars and the influence of established scholarly networks, cultures and habits on their publishing choices.



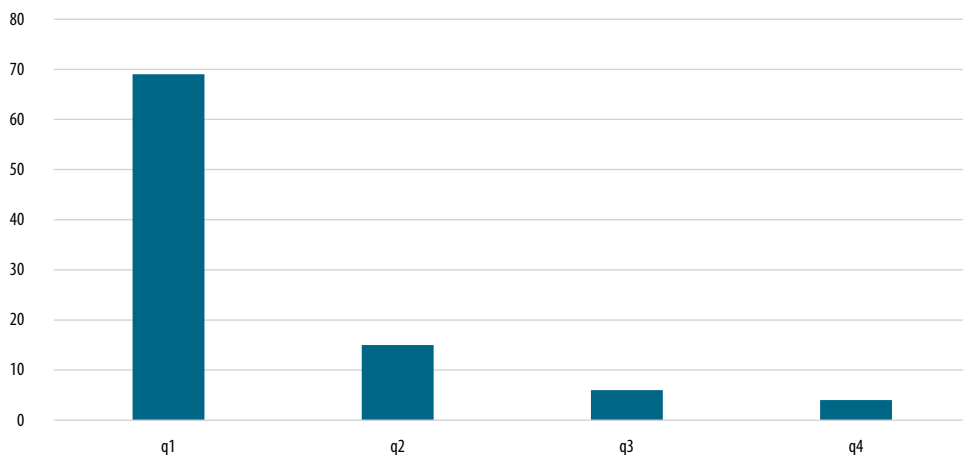
*Figure 1:*  
*Countries and regions of CIAS fellows*

*Note:* Blue = Western Europe; Orange = USA; Red = Central and Eastern Europe; Green = Asiatic region. The direction of the lines represent source–target relations, where Hungary (the home of CIAS) is always the target. The width of the lines represent the frequency of the corresponding mobility.

*Source:* Compiled by the authors.



*Figure 2:*  
*Countries of publishers*  
*Source:* Compiled by the authors.

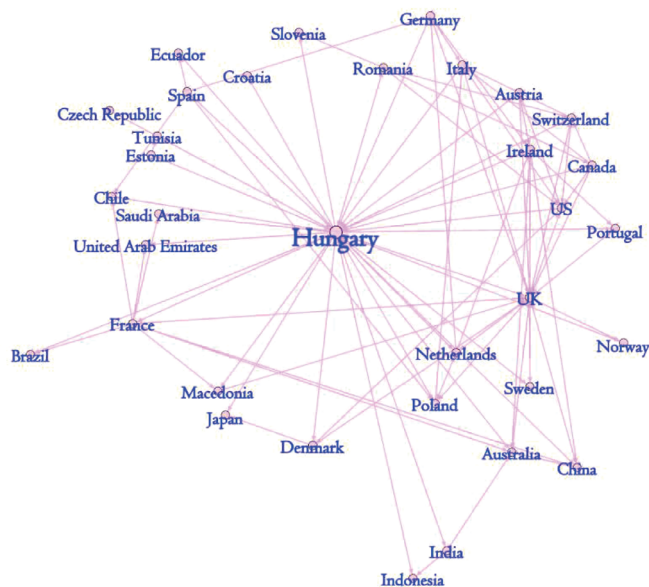


*Figure 3:*  
*Journal prestige factors*  
*Source:* Compiled by the authors.

Another finding is that the vast majority of publication output from CIAS scholars was published in the most prestigious journals in the first quartile of Scopus (Q1). As Figure 3 shows, around 70% of the published work was published in Q1 journals, and the proportion of papers in lower quartiles (Q3–Q4) is below 5%. This distribution shows that CIAS scholars prioritise high-impact outlets, likely aiming to maximise the visibility, academic credibility, and influence of their research. Such a pattern could reflect both the fellows' commitment to academic excellence and the rigorous standards expected by CIAS, emphasising the centre's focus on high quality research, international visibility and reputation.

Finally, our third research question relates to the international pattern of CIAS scholars' publication trajectories, with a specific emphasis on their collaboration networks. As Figure 4 shows, the collaboration network is even more diverse than the national diversity of CIAS scholars presented in Figure 1. The most characteristic network is formed by a legion of Western countries with the USA and the U.K. in central positions. Interestingly, Poland is more incorporated in this Western hub than in the Central and Eastern European hub, which is already a loose one, showing that scholars from that region tend to cooperate more with Western coauthors than with their Central and Eastern European peers. France is in a *star position* in the loose hub of several countries of the Global South such as Brazil, Chile, Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, and France also has more connection with these countries than with countries of the Global North. Finally, as the size of the loop around Hungary shows, Hungarian–Hungarian cooperation is substantial, meaning that a huge number of published papers were written by more than one Hungarian author. This reflects the integral role of CIAS in leading Hungarian research, involving many scholars from different national universities to cooperate with CIAS fellows that brought their longtime experience in research excellence. With this, CIAS fellows do not just enhance the prestige and international visibility of CIAS and its home institution, Corvinus University of Budapest, but significantly contribute to the wider context of Hungarian academia.





*Figure 4:*  
*Co-authorship networks of CIAS fellows*

*Note:* The lines represent co-authorship, referring to the authors of the same papers with different affiliations. For instance, an edge between Hungary and Brazil represents a paper that is co-authored by a Hungarian and a Brazilian researcher where countries represent the nationality of the affiliation of the researchers (and not the authors' nationality).

*Source:* Compiled by the authors.

## Discussion

The findings of this study offer a multifaceted understanding of the internationalisation dynamics of the Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS). By examining the geographical diversity of its fellows, the publication patterns during their tenure and their international collaboration networks, this research highlights both the achievements and challenges inherent in advancing the institution's global academic footprint. This discussion situates these findings within the broader theoretical framework of research internationalisation and world-systemic analysis (Demeter, 2019; 2020) and contributes to the ongoing discourse on how institutions in Central and Eastern Europe can enhance their global academic relevance (Sasvári & Lendvai, 2024).

Understanding the internationalisation efforts of CIAS holds broader significance for global academia. As a semi-peripheral institution, CIAS operates in a space often characterised by structural disadvantages in the global distribution of academic capital (Demeter, 2019). Its success in attracting international scholars, prioritising high-impact publishing and fostering global collaboration provides a compelling model for how institutions outside traditional academic power centres can enhance their visibility and influence.

In a period marked by increasing interest in the decolonisation and decentralisation of academic knowledge production (Comel et al., 2024), studying CIAS offers valuable insights into how emerging academic hubs can challenge entrenched hierarchies and contribute to a more pluralistic and equitable global research landscape.

The geographical and regional diversity of CIAS fellows (*Research Question 1*) demonstrates significant representation from Western Europe, the United States, Central and Eastern Europe and to a lesser extent, Asia. This reflects CIAS's success in integrating into the core of global knowledge production networks, attracting Western scholars with collaboration networks, knowledge and academic culture. The inclusion of scholars from diverse backgrounds aligns with theories that posit institutes for advanced studies act as cross-cultural academic hubs (Rüland & Gräber-Magocsi, 2022). Incorporating scholars from the world-systemic centre contributes to both the international visibility of CIAS and, through institutional cooperation, it helps to develop regional research culture and publication habits (Demeter, 2020). However, despite the building of strong ties to the centre being a fruitful strategy for semi-peripheral institutions (Xu, 2020), the underrepresentation of fellows from regions like Latin America, the Middle East and Africa suggests room for improvement in fostering a more globally equitable academic presence. This gap underscores the need for targeted outreach and strategic partnerships to enhance representation from these areas, contributing to a more inclusive global academic landscape (Demeter, 2020). Moreover, according to current decentralisation and de-Westernisation trends in the world system of academic knowledge production (Comel et al., 2024), non-Western world regions can be potential strategic partners in enhancing the visibility of non-core world regions such as Central and Eastern Europe (Demeter, 2018). Thus, while building strong ties to the centre is obviously a positive way of developing research excellence and international visibility, focusing more on excellent scholars from emerging world regions, especially from China (Demeter et al., 2024; Xu, 2020) would be a reasonable next step for CIAS in their internationalisation strategy.

The publication patterns of CIAS scholars (*Research Question 2*) reveal a clear preference for high-impact journals, with approximately 70% of their output appearing in Q1-ranked venues. This trend underscores CIAS's emphasis on academic excellence and global visibility and justifies its aim to appeal to prolific international researchers. Most CIAS-affiliated publications are associated with Western-based publishers, reflecting the fellows' central academic networks and their focus on reaching international audiences. While this approach enhances CIAS's prestige and aligns with global academic standards, the limited engagement with regional journals beyond the Western world highlights a potential trade-off between global visibility and local academic impact (Demeter, 2018). Encouraging dual publication strategies that include regional outlets could address this issue, supporting both international and local academic ecosystems (Comel et al., 2024). However, we found that some researchers published in Hungarian journals, and that can be interpreted in at least two different ways. On the one hand, it is possible that those researchers who prefer Hungarian journals have topics related to the local community. In this sense, local publications can help to keep local themes, traditions, and audiences, while through indexing on Scopus, Hungarian scholarship is attached to the central knowledge production network. On the other hand, however, it is also possible that these

authors prefer journals in which they were published before their CIAS membership, and did not want to change their publication trajectories. Future research should explore whether the choice of Hungarian publication outlets is a sign of serving local academic cultures or a sign of some lack in competitiveness (Tóth & Demeter, 2021).

The international cooperation networks of CIAS scholars (*Research Question 3*) are dominated by collaborations with Western academic institutions, particularly in the United States and the United Kingdom. These connections enhance the visibility and impact of CIAS's research outputs, consistent with the findings that international co-authorship often leads to higher citation rates (Comel et al., 2024). From a world-systemic perspective, collaboration networks signify power relations within the field of academic knowledge production, where semi-peripheral collaborators gain prestige and recognition, while central collaborators gain the wider international significance and diversity that have become increasingly important in knowledge production (Demeter, 2020; Mapes et al., 2020). While the most typical pattern in the case of CIAS is to make ties with central scholars, interestingly, the collaboration networks reveal a robust Hungarian–Hungarian cooperation dynamic, reflecting CIAS's integral role in strengthening national academic networks. This duality – between strong international ties and active local engagement – positions CIAS as both a global and a national academic leader. However, the relatively loose integration of other Central and Eastern European countries within the network suggests opportunities to foster stronger regional academic ties (Demeter, 2018).

The findings of this study hold important implications for CIAS's strategic positioning and its role within Central and Eastern European academia. First, the success of its fellowship program and publication record shows its potential as a model for other Hungarian and regional institutes (Tóth & Demeter, 2021; Sasvári & Lendvai, 2024). By promoting high-quality research and international collaborations, CIAS enhances not only its own reputation but also the visibility of Hungarian and Central and Eastern European scholarship in the global academic field. This achievement aligns with the goals of reversing brain drain and promoting brain gain in the region, and could help to make Hungary more attractive to international scholars and students (Pham et al., 2021).

However, the study also highlights areas for improvement. To achieve a more inclusive internationalisation strategy, CIAS could implement measures to attract scholars from underrepresented regions, such as Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia (Salazar et al., 2012). These efforts could include targeted outreach, the establishment of thematic research programmes relevant to these regions, or partnerships with institutions in the Global South (Demeter, 2020). Such initiatives would enhance CIAS's role as a truly global academic hub that not only strives to provide Hungary and the region with a more central position, but also to help decentralise the international field of academic knowledge production (Comel et al., 2024).

To deepen engagement with underrepresented regions and stimulate interdisciplinary, cross-regional research, CIAS could consider implementing several targeted strategies. One approach would be to launch thematic research calls that explicitly encourage cross-regional collaboration – such as joint proposals between scholars from Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia – focused on globally relevant but locally grounded issues (e.g. migration, sustainability, digital inequality).

CIAS could also establish seed funding programs or short-term mobility grants to enable researchers from underrepresented regions to initiate collaboration, conduct fieldwork, or to co-author with CIAS-affiliated scholars. Additionally, by integrating interdisciplinary workshops and summer schools into its programming – particularly those that combine social sciences with emerging technologies or policy studies – CIAS can serve as a platform for innovative, inclusive and globally connected knowledge production.

The underrepresentation of scholars from Africa and Latin America likely reflects a range of structural barriers that inhibit participation in programs like CIAS. These may include limited access to international research funding, fewer institutional partnerships between CIAS and universities in these regions, and logistical challenges such as visa difficulties or language barriers. Additionally, regional disparities in digital infrastructure, academic visibility, and publication opportunities may constrain the ability of researchers to compete for international fellowships. Addressing these challenges would require a combination of proactive outreach, financial support (e.g. travel grants or language training), and partnership-building with institutions in the Global South. Doing so would not only broaden the geographical diversity of CIAS fellows but also reinforce its role as a truly inclusive hub in the global academic landscape.

To operationalise deeper engagement with emerging publishing hubs such as China and Ibero-America, CIAS could consider several targeted strategies. One approach would be to launch region-specific fellowship programs that invite scholars from institutions in these regions to apply, possibly with reserved slots or thematic research focuses that align with shared academic priorities. Additionally, bilateral institutional partnerships – including exchange agreements, co-hosted events, or joint PhD supervision – could help build sustained collaborations. Co-funded research initiatives, especially those aligned with global issues such as sustainability or digital transformation, could also serve as vehicles for deepening engagement. Such measures would not only strengthen CIAS's ties to dynamic non-Western academic communities but also contribute to the broader goal of de-Westernising global knowledge production networks.

Another key consideration is the balance between global and local engagement. While our results show that CIAS fellows focus on publishing in high-impact international journals that strengthen the global visibility of CIAS, this might risk sidelining regional academic platforms. Developing a dual publication strategy – with an international focus – that emphasises both international and regional dissemination could mitigate this risk. For instance, encouraging fellows to publish in Scopus-indexed Hungarian or other Central and Eastern European journals on topics of regional relevance would reinforce CIAS's contribution to local academic discourse without compromising its international impact (Tóth & Demeter, 2021). Similarly, those CIAS scholars that have topics related to non-Western academic cultures (such as Asia, Latin America, Africa or the Middle East) could publish more in Scopus indexed journals by non-Western publishers. It is well known that the majority of high-impact journals are in the hands of Western publishers (Kwiek, 2020), but there is a significant counter-movement from both China (Xu, 2020) and Ibero-America (Loyola-González et al., 2020) to make high quality journals indexed in international databases such as Scopus and Web of Science (Demeter et al., 2024). CIAS might need to participate in this de-Westernisation process by seeking publication

in high-quality non-core journals while, in order to keep its pioneering position as a producer of high-quality international research, its focus should remain on international excellence (Comel et al., 2024).

In addition to enhancing international visibility, contributing to Central and Eastern European journals offers important benefits for regional engagement. Publishing in high-quality regional outlets enables scholars to address context-specific issues, reach local academic and policy communities, and contribute to the development of regional research cultures. These journals often provide a platform for emerging scholars from the region, and by contributing to them, CIAS fellows can play a role in mentoring, capacity-building, and fostering a stronger, more resilient local academic ecosystem. A dual publication strategy – where fellows aim for international visibility while also engaging with regional journals – can therefore help balance global recognition with meaningful local impact, reinforcing CIAS's role as both a bridge to global networks and a pillar of regional academic development.

Similarly, the findings suggest that the collaboration networks of CIAS could be leveraged further to address structural inequities and the Westernisation processes in global knowledge production (Demeter, 2020). By actively fostering South–South (or periphery – semi periphery) collaborations or projects that prioritise underrepresented voices, CIAS could contribute to a more equitable academic ecosystem. This approach would not only diversify its networks but also align with global science policy trends emphasising inclusivity, diversity and decentralisation (Waisbord, 2022).

In conclusion, our study showed the transformative potential of research internationalisation for semi-peripheral academic institutions like CIAS. By attracting a diverse cohort of international fellows, promoting research excellence and high-impact publications and cultivating extensive collaboration networks, CIAS has established itself as a key player in the Hungarian academic landscape that can be considered to be a role-model for other regional (and other semi-peripheral) countries. However, the findings also reveal critical areas for growth, particularly in diversifying geographical representation and balancing global and local engagement in the Central and Eastern European context (Demeter, 2018). Addressing these challenges will be essential if CIAS is to fully realise its mission of advancing knowledge production and stimulating equitable academic exchange. Through strategic initiatives and sustained efforts, CIAS can continue to serve as a model for research excellence and international collaboration in Hungary, Central and Eastern Europe and beyond.

While this study focuses on CIAS, its implications extend beyond the Hungarian context. CIAS exemplifies a broader pattern among semi-peripheral institutions – particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and parts of Asia – that are actively repositioning themselves in global academic hierarchies. Through targeted strategies such as attracting international scholars, prioritising high-impact publishing and cultivating global collaboration networks, these institutions challenge the traditional centre–periphery divide in knowledge production. By examining CIAS in this light, our study contributes to a growing body of research on how semi-peripheral academic actors assert agency in a stratified global research system (Demeter, 2020; Kwiek, 2021).

## Limitations and future research directions

While this research provides valuable insights into the internationalisation dynamics of CIAS, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the reliance on secondary data sources, such as Scopus and manually collected curriculum vitae, may introduce biases related to incomplete or inconsistently reported information. For instance, gaps in the fellows' academic profiles or publication histories might impact the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Second, the analysis of publication patterns focused heavily on quantitative metrics (e.g. Q1 rankings, publication counts) while qualitative aspects, such as the thematic relevance or societal impact of the research, were not explored. Finally, the network analysis conducted to map collaboration patterns primarily emphasises co-authorship connections. This approach may overlook informal or emerging academic networks that are not yet reflected in publications but could significantly influence the international presence of CIAS.

Future research should aim to address these limitations by expanding the methodological and geographical scope. For instance, longitudinal studies tracking the career trajectories of CIAS fellows post-tenure could provide deeper insights into the sustained impact of the institute on global and regional academic ecosystems. Similarly, comparative studies involving other institutes for advanced studies in Central and Eastern Europe such as the New Europe College in Bucharest, Romania or the Centre for Advanced Study in Sophia, Bulgaria could identify best practice and unique challenges in promoting international collaboration. In addition, future research should integrate qualitative methodologies – such as interviews with fellows and institutional stakeholders – to reveal the motivations, challenges and perceived benefits of participating in CIAS programs. This approach would add important nuances to the understanding of how internationalisation shapes academic experiences and outcomes in the CIAS community.

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