

## Through the Global Looking Glass: Canadian Foreign Policy in an Era of Globalization<sup>1</sup>

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The concept of globalization, while omnipresent in many circles, seems strangely absent from recent scholarly writings on Canadian foreign policy. On the one hand, globalization is a conditioning factor 'out there' that suggests the need to re-examine the foundations of the discipline. Andrew Cooper speaks of the fact that the "time is ripe for a fundamental re-examination of the nature of Canadian foreign policy" given, in part, the "accelerated processes of globalization."<sup>2</sup> Notwithstanding the sweeping nature of international changes, Cooper reaffirms the importance of the traditional middle power framework to the study of Canadian foreign policy, although he argues that it can and should be complimented by some 'critical voices.' Kim Nossal, on the other hand, while acknowledging the profound changes that have confronted the international system over the past decade, suggests that "for those who make (and study) the foreign policy of a particular nation, the essence of their task has not changed much."<sup>3</sup> Globalization may be 'out there,' but for these two preeminent scholars of Canadian foreign policy, at least to varying degrees, *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*.

This paper argues that we need to take globalization seriously in the study of foreign policy, not simply as something 'out there' that may or may not have changed the opportunities and constraints under which policy is formulated or framed, but as a set of meanings which fundamentally alters our ability to conceive of foreign policy in the first instance, whether as analysts or as practioners. More specifically, the paper suggests that we need to understand the discursive construction of globalization; how it represents itself and shapes the terrain upon which foreign policy is framed, in order to