

Preface

In this second issue of *Politics, Culture & Socialization* the policy lines of the journal set out in the very first issue are further developed with great energy. We are most pleased to bring out this issue with articles that show in several respects a high degree of diversity and that cover major topics in the domain of political socialization and education, and of political psychology. The journal presents, in these internationally founded domains, articles from scholars in various parts of the world.

The empirical cases in the articles allow us to travel to countries like Turkey, Norway, France, and Belgium, and to get a better insight in how children acquire their political opinions and in how youngsters understand political participation. The articles, in fact, talk to each other, as it can be observed how adolescents are actively socialized into politics and become involved in real public action. The cases make use of qualitative as well as quantitative research methods. There is however, one article in the second issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* that stands alone, because it reads as a macro-level theoretical article. In this philosophical essay, Andy Koch and Amanda Gail Ezddy reflect upon the meaning of the Private as part of Western Political Socialization.

One empirical article, by Philippe De Vries et al., presents us with experimental research with children. This Belgian case reveals how particular political preferences by children are developing, in this case their preferences in regard to the election of a new mayor. According to another empirical article by Kjetil Borhaug, on how Norwegian seventeen year old students understand political participation, youngsters would become, in an old-fashioned way that resembles the way their parents did, involved in politics. A third empirical study by Lorenzo Barrault details, at the event of educational policy reform in France, the relation between the public action and political socialization. Karianne Westrheim, in her article, introduces us with the completely unknown world of the youth section of the Turkish PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party).

The journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization* has an international scope, but it wants to make even a bigger effort to include contributions from scholars around the world. Therefore, the journal, in the future, welcomes articles written in other languages than English. There will be room for one article in each issue in French, German, Italian or Spanish.

You may know that the journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization* is sponsored by the International Political Science Association (IPSA) Research Committee on 'Political Socialization and Education' (RC 21) (and equally by IPSA RC 29 on Psycho-politics). We can bring you the real good news that, after favorable evaluation, the Research Committee 21 was recognized by IPSA for another six years.

Finally, let me invite you to participate in the coming expert meeting of RC21-RC29 that will take place at the University of Aalborg, Denmark, September 15-17, 2010, on the topic of "Citizenship education: Democracy, Culture, Socialization, Media". More information can be found at www.politicalsocialization.org.

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