Preface

The finding that in East European countries the relation between authoritarianism and social dominance orientation is negative (in contrast to other European countries where this relation is positive), certainly opens new theoretical perspectives. This empirical finding is of both social and methodological interest, and the research preceding it by Sabrina de Reght, Tim Smits, and Dimitri Mortelmans is the subject of the opening article (*On cross-national variation in the correlation between authoritarianism and social dominance orientation*) of the current, fourth Vol. 1 issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization.*

Authoritarianism, nationalism and political personality are classic themes in political socialization and political psychology and because of their actual relevance, it is good news that scholars invest their energy and talents in them. Besides of the opening article, two other studies in this fourth journal issue address these classic themes.

The importance of the personality of the leader for the course of political events has been recognized since Antiquity and it increasingly gains scientific interest since the thirties of the former century, even though political profilers are still scarcely dispersed among us. Of particular interest therefore, is the social constructionist study by Christos Kassimeris and Andreas G. Philaretou of the popularity of Makarios III who serves both as the Archbishop and the president of the Republic of Cyprus from 1960 until his death in 1977. The article is, besides of a case study of Cypriote political history, an inspiring analysis of the "branding" of charismatic leadership (*Playing Politics with charisma: Archbishop Makarios III and the Cyprus case*). Yet another traditional area of inquiry with actual importance is nationalism. Russell F. Farnen's empirical study about Islamophic tendencies with youngsters may bring less good news, but it clarifies a number of tricky terms and concepts *(Islamophobia: Definitions, Diagnosis, and Solutions. A Comparative Empirical Study of American and European student's attitudes and opinions on Arabs/Islam Today).*

But let us introduce one new topic that is addressed in two other articles of this issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization.* The topic "Internet and Politics" may possibly have, at this particular moment, even bigger social relevance compared to the former ones. In Tunisia we were able to see where the Internet and other new communication technologies can "catapult" us when used by young educated people who experience poverty, anger about corruption, and the frustration of their justified ambitions. Non legiti-

mate power-bases are damaged, abolished, or replaced by other more or sometimes even less legitimate power bases. Romania is the first example of a revolution facilitated by the Internet. Before that particular political break-through of new communication technologies, people made for several ages productive use of leaflets and newspaper articles, for attacking governments, emperors, oppressors, invaders and other power holders. This fourth issue of *Politics, Culture and* Socialization pays, with two articles, special attention to the impact of the internet in the political sphere, especially for adolescents.

This issue presents us with one article by Brian J. Bowe and Robin Blom that gives an insight in a number of relevant processes which in various countries have accompanied political dissent, such as the political organizing through social media. The Internet at times brings back the power to the citizens, but institutions are certainly aware of this possibility and tend to interfere, for the better or the worse (*Facilitating Dissent: The Ethical Implications of Political Organizing via Social Media*). The findings by Erik Anderson in his discursive study of the net community understate the positive news about the political function of new communication technologies. The study *(Stake in the political: Young people's condition for political socialization in social media)* testifies of the participatory effect of the internet for youngsters on political acting.

Hopefully you will enjoy the subjects dealt with in this issue, as well as the variety in the methods used and in disciplinary and cultural background of the authors. This fourth issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* testifies of the extreme richness of the focus and diversity of the domain that links political socialization to political psychology.

You are invited to taste the spirit of "psycho-political socialization" in Cracow, Poland, where the IPSA research committees RC21 on political socialization and RC29 on Psycho-Politics organize their coming expert meeting at the Jagellienian University starting June 23 until June 25. The call for papers is open at www.politicalsocialization.org!

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