

## Preface

Let us start this first issue of the second year's Volume of Politics, Culture Socialization with the announcement of a number of meetings that offer the opportunity to meet with your colleagues in the field and to present work in political socialization and education and in political psychology. The meetings find place at superb locations and we all look forward to learn to know you and your work better at these occasions!

First of all, we are pleased to announce that the website for the 22nd World Congress of Political Science to be held in Madrid on July 8-12, 2012 is now open! You are encouraged to submit your paper or panel proposal to a Main Theme or Research Committee (RC) session on Political Socialization and Education (RC21) and on Psychopolitics (RC29). Please contact the Main Theme Chair or RC Chair to advise them of your intentions. Non-members of RCs are also encouraged to participate in RC sessions. All proposals must still be submitted via the online submission process. Deadline to submit abstract/paper proposals is October 7, 2011, or July 1, 2011 for panel proposals. For more information, visit the IPSA website and click on the tab on the left called "World Congress – Madrid 2012" <http://www.ipsa.org/events/congress/madrid2012/congress-theme>. Madrid in July may be hot but the conference rooms and very impressive museums over there are air-conditioned!

Second, let me remind you that there is yet another opportunity in the very near future to learn from others at a wonderful location, and to meet colleagues in your field from around the world! Professor Teresa Sasinska-Klas is hosting at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland an expert-meeting entitled "Psycho-political socialization in the Internet Age" (June 24-25, 2011, arrival June 23). The meeting is, again, a joint initiative of the IPSA Research Committees 21 and 29. More information at [www.politicalsocialization.org](http://www.politicalsocialization.org). Do not forget, when in Cracow, to go and see the breath-taking Leonardo da Vinci painting of "the lady with the hermine".

Third, it was possible to secure an extraordinary and very special location for a future joint meeting (of our IPSA RC21 on Political Socialization and Education and IPSA RC29 on Psychopolitics). The prospective visit by the former and present RC21 presidents to Xuzhou, China could only raise lots of enthusiasm. Professor Song Yingfa, Dean

of the Political Science Faculty at China University of Mining and Technology, who is also a member of the Editorial Board of this journal, is ready to host an expert-meeting in September 18-20, 2013. The interesting city of Xuzhou, to be reached by bullet-train, lays in-between the world cities of Shanghai and Beijing that can easily be used as fly-in/out destinations for this exciting China meeting.

But let this tempting information for the world-travelers among us not distract us from the contents of the present issue of Politics, Culture and Socialization.

We all remember Lyndon B. Johnson as the president who made the Vietnam war last far too long. The opening article by Robert E. Gilbert (Northeastern University, Boston, USA) offers an intriguing analysis of the personality of Johnson and how his psychological dysfunction affected his policy. Lyndon B. Johnson's rivalry with Bobby Kennedy by far exceeds our imagination. The second article in this year's first issue of Politics, Culture and Socialization, by Igor Y. Kiselev and Anna G. Smirnova (Yaroslav State University, Russia), equally addresses foreign policy. The article deals with Russia's Self-perception and its socialization in the "Big Eight". This article concludes that the acquisition of status by Russia in the "Big Eight" contributed to the formation of its new identity.

Two articles in the current issue deal with political communication. One article describes the phenomenon of campaign donations in the elections of the sub-Saharan African country Cameroon. The author, Teke Ngomba (Aarhus University, Denmark) argues that the concept of "politics na njangi" offers an appropriate framework for understanding this central identifying feature of election campaigns on the African continent, the "distribution of money by politicians to the electorate". One other article by Christ'l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp, Belgium) and Dieter Vertessen (Karel De Grote Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium) describes how Belgian political parties from the Left to the Right employ emotive strategy of metaphor in their written press communication with the electorate. Parties that approach the extremes of the political spectrum distinctively use more "metaphor style" compared to those in the middle of it.

This issue further presents a Spanish empirical socialization study of childhood and adulthood processes leading to politically engaged citizens in Spain. According to the author, Carolina Galais (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) either of these stages should be ignored since both early and late experiences contribute to encourage or discourage political engagement.

Three book reviews in the sphere of communications conclude this issue. The first review, by Hans IJsenbout (IT-eye, The Netherlands) comments on the book by Scot Macdonald on "Propaganda and Information Warfare in the Twenty-First Century" (2007). The second review, by Dan German (Appalachian State University, USA), discusses the book by Andrea L. Press and Bruce A. Williams on "The New Media Environment: An Introduction" (2010). The third review by Jurriaan Middelhoff (University of Antwerp, Belgium) analyzes the prognostic book about the Italian president Silvio Berlusconi, "Papi. Uno scandalo politico" (2009) by Peter Gomez, Marco Lillo and Marco Travaglio. Needless to say that none of these books can be missed in your library.

*Christ'l De Landtsheer*