

Preface

We are proud to present the second issue of the second year's *Volume of Politics, Culture and Socialization*.

With articles and reviews by scholars from Poland, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, The Netherlands, and USA this, again, is a truly international issue in the way we prefer it. All articles detail actual phenomena of major importance: the transformation of values in post-communist society, the propaganda techniques by the Taliban in Afghanistan, political socialization agents for adolescents in- and outside the classroom, in Sweden and in Belgium, and civic education through literary texts. Moreover, attention to e-politics is paid in the final sections of the journal.

The opening article by Urszula Swadzba (Silesian University of Katowice, Poland) reflects upon the transformation of Polish society and how it affects the value system in terms of family, work and religion. This article entitled "From the society of real socialism to a market society: Changes in the value system of the Polish Society" presents a sociological model. The model is based upon a variety of empirical studies. It seems that, more than anything, the Polish citizens view themselves as being very religious with 93-97 % describing themselves as believers.

We go back to a very classic field in political psychology, propaganda studies, in the second article of this issue, written by Lieuwe Kalkhoven and Allison Luyckx (University of Antwerp, Belgium). In "The visual propaganda of the Taliban: a combination of camera framing, metaphors, colors and symbols of nature", we can take a closer look at 97 propaganda videos through the frame of a sophisticated methodological instrument. Terrorist's communication strategies now are a lot less mysterious for us.

Yet another, more philosophical subject is dealt with in the third article on "The Narrative Approach: Dostoevsky's Grand inquisitor as Classical Text for Civic Education". Instead of using textbooks full of stereotypes, teachers are encouraged to stimulate creative thinking of students by using various "narratives" that give them access to political themes.

Political education again is addressed in the empirical article by Joakim Ekman (Södertörn University, Sweden) and Pär Zetterberg (Uppsala University, Sweden). In "Schools and democratic socialization: Assessing the impact of different educational set-

tings on Swedish 14-Year olds political citizenship” it is concluded that the development of citizenship is less determined by what goes on in the classroom and more by the composition of the students population.

Ellen Quintelier’s (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) closing article suggests that this finding may be more general than one would think at first sight. It comes to the conclusion that at the later age of 16 and 18, political socialization agents from outside the school may gain even more prominence.

The closing part of this issue focuses on the power of new technologies in politics. We here present the text of Daniel B. German’s (Appalachian State University, US) lecture on “The State of America Today” which he delivered, May, 2011, at China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT) Xuzhou, China. He was the guest there of Professor and Dean of Graduate Affairs, Song Yingfa. This lecture with research in progress focuses on the concept of a DICE economy, the move from a product manufacturing economy to a digital economy, which is causing a cultural/economic shift in America. There soon no longer will be a “paper trail.” We will live in an electronic world. Government, for example, someday will be E-Government with no hard copy communication.

Finally, Henk Dekker (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) treats us on an extensive review of Henry Milner’s exciting new book about *The Internet generation: engaged citizens or political dropouts*.

We all look forward to the meeting of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Madrid, to be held July 8-12, 2012. You may know that the journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization* is sponsored by the IPSA Research Committee on 'Political Socialization and Education' (RC 21) and the IPSA Research Committee on 'Psychopolitics' (RC 29). After the favorable evaluation of the Research Committee 21, we can announce that also the Research Committee 29 was recognized by IPSA for another six years. We are proud to report here that the interest for the Madrid sessions of both IPSA RC21 and IPSA RC29 is overwhelming. More news about the Madrid Program and events, and about inter-conference IPSA RC21-RC29 meetings in Moscow, Russia (September 2012) and Xuzhou, China (September 2013) in the next issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization*!

Christ’l De Landtsheer
Russell Farnen
Daniel B. German
Editors of *Politics, Culture & Socialization*