

Preface

Scholars in political socialization and education and in psycho-politics gave considerable response to the call by *Politics, Culture and Socialization* to submit their manuscripts for a state of the art issue that discusses the key issues in the field. As a result, we can present you with this double issue that is entitled “Is Socialization into Democratic Politics a Matter of Psychology, Education, or Communication?” As you will see, the contents reflects a variety of approaches and methods, that are applied to different topics, all in the field of political psychology and political socialization and education, written by scholars from around the world. Together with my co-editors Russell Farnen (University of Connecticut at Hartford, USA), Dan German (Appalachian State University, USA), and Henk Dekker (University of Leiden, Netherlands), I hope that you will enjoy every single article in this issue as the reviewers and we did.

Political elites seem to be an important topic in our field nowadays. It is dealt with in this issue from various perspectives and it is researched with a number of methods.

The socialization of political elites forms the subject of articles by Arie Geronik (Open University of Israel) and by Alexandra Toader (Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iași, Romania). They respectively discuss “Moshe Dayan and other Israeli Leaders” and the Romanian leader “Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej’s Personality Cult”, using the method of psychobiography. Political elites also play important roles in the articles by Wojciech Ziętara (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland), Sam Sarpong (Cardiff University, United Kingdom), Christ’l De Landtsheer and Lieuwe Kalkhoven (University of Antwerp, Belgium), and Vimla Verma (Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India). While the last author presents us with a literature review of leadership studies, the former authors respectively offer a heuristic study of the Meaning of the Socialist International for Central and Eastern European parties, a qualitative analysis of political campaigning techniques in Ghana, and a quantitative discourse analysis of Belgian political crisis rhetoric.

While family socialization of political elites is investigated by Hilde Van Liefferinge, Carl Devos and Kristof Steyvers (University of Ghent, Belgium) through an intensive

survey, Mihály Csákó (Eötvös Loránd University ELTE, Hungary) focuses, by way of interviews, on citizen's socialization of citizens and more precisely historical socialization through the family.

Yet another important subject addressed by a number of contributors is that of attitudes held by citizens. Topics dealt with vary from perception (Helen Shestopal, Lomonosow Moscow State University) over political cynicism (Henk Dekker and Frits Meijerink, Leiden University, The Netherlands) and dissatisfaction (Ali Abdelzadeh, Örebro University and Joakim Ekman, Södertörn University, Sweden) to Right-wing Authoritarianism (Martina Zandonella, SORA Vienna, and Eva Zeglovits, University of Vienna, Austria).

In search of citizen's preferences are used, besides of classic methods of survey, less traditional very original ways of inquiry.

Four book reviews complete this double issue, one of which is on Islamophobia, (by Jolanda van der Noll, UC Louvain, Belgium), one on Policy issues concerned with race (by Daniel B. German, Appalachian State University, USA), one on Democracy and the Internet (by Hans IJsenbout, Amis, The Netherlands) and one about cognition and affect in right-wing ideology (by Christ'l De Landtsheer, University of Antwerp, Belgium).

The conference at Lomonosow Moscow State University hosted by Helen Shestopal October 26-27 was entitled "Citizens and Leaders in a Comparative Perspective. What can political psychology and political socialization researches tell us about recent trends and events"... The conference was a joint initiative of the IPSA Research Committees 21 and 29 and the Research Committee on Political Psychology of Russian Political Science Association. From more than fifty papers, at least six will find their way to a special issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* that focusses on Russian Politics.

The theme of the conference itself, however appeared to be so inspiring that it will serve as a theme for another call for articles in the near future.

The IPSA general Congress in Madrid (July 8-12, 2012) was a real success. Future meetings of IPSA RC21 and IPSA RC29 in collaboration with national political science associations in Xuzhou, China (September 18-20, 2013), and in Lublin (September 11-13, 2014), in between which there will be the general IPSA congress in Montreal, Canada (July, 2014) are events we all can look forward to.

Christ'l De Landtsheer, Editor.

Russell Farnen, Daniel German, Henk Dekker Co-editors
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