

Preface

It is a great pleasure to present the current issue of Politics, Culture and Socialization. Scholars from Israel, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Belgium, and China gave the best in their articles addressing new trends in political socialization, the study of political parties, and political leadership. This issue closes our fourth year as an international peer reviewed scientific journal and we can be proud of the result.

Is political socialization a re-emerging area in political and social sciences? In their reviewing articles, Orit Ichilov from Tel Aviv University, Israel ('Political Socialization In A World Of Conflict And Change') and Ellen Quintelier from the Catholic University Leuven, Belgium ('The Future of Political Socialization Research: Promising or Discouraging?') are launching a promising new research agenda for political socialization. Besides, this journal issue brings two empirical research articles that fit this scholarly area of inquiry. Victor Dahl from Örebro University, Sweden, presents a survey study among Swedish teenagers that addresses one dimension that remains understudied in political participation and socialization studies: youngsters involvement in illegal political activity ('The Origins of Adolescents' Involvement in Illegal Political Activities: a Function of Demographic Background, Political Dissatisfaction, Affective Commitment, or Political Communication?'). Findings suggest that gender and dissatisfaction explain the origins of adolescents' use of illegal political activity. Sara Zamir (Achva Academic College & Ben -Gurion University at Eilat) concluded from Israeli textbooks that the patriotic tendency in the Israeli society took a slight turn in a direction of internationalization ('From Patriotism to Globalism: A continuous social change mirrored in Israeli textbooks').

The subject of political parties worldwide and their ideological significance in a globalized context is a topic that is approached from various perspectives and countries in the current issue of Politics, Culture and Socialization. Wang Feng from China University of Mining and Technology, Jiangsu, China investigated the different political meaning of parties in China and in Western Europe. Western political culture developed in an environment that was favorable to two and multiple parties. Chinese culture never produced such a condition. In order to create cultural harmony in China and prevent regime destruction, strong factions from within must be avoided ('On Political Parties in China and Western Societies'). Sigal Ben-Rafael Galanti & Alon Pauker from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel describe the history and political meaning of the Kibbutzim movement ('Fluid Sectoralism and the Present-Day Kibbutz'). Lieuwe Kalkhoven (University of Antwerp, Belgium) aims at locating populism in today's political spectrum of Flanders and The Netherlands. He concludes that populism, ideologically speaking, in Western Europe – including Belgium-Flanders and the

Netherlands – almost exclusively exists in a right wing, economically and morally conservative and almost fascist-like shape ('Populist Ideological Stances in Western Europe: Contemporary Populism in the Low Countries in the Light of the European Context').

Leadership in politics is yet another subject that is intensively dealt with in this journal issue. Arkadiusz Żukowski from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland discusses the special case of leadership and leaders in Africa. It is claimed that Africa is suffering a crisis of leadership and lack of good leaders, but there are the positive examples that confirm this general rule ('Political leadership of South African statesmen: Jan Smuts and Nelson Mandela'). Frank Hendriks from Tilburg University, The Netherlands investigates the crucial factors behind credible political leadership, distinguishing between the X-factor, the Y-factor, and the Z-factor. His article connects to the relevant literature on leadership, credibility, charisma, rhetoric and dramaturgy, finding an empirical frame of reference in the Netherlands and other countries ('Credible Political Leaders: Reflections on the X-Factor and Beyond'). Jurriaan Middelhoff (Dutch Ministry of External Affairs) and Christ'l De Landtsheer from the University of Antwerp, Belgium investigate the personalities of the permanent president of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, the European High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, and the president of the Commission José Barroso. Is there any psychological reason to suspect a possible power struggle between their personalities ('The role of personality in politics: Ashton, Barroso and Van Rompuy, Trinity at EU?')?

We hope that you will enjoy this issue as much as the editors did. Do not forget to check the IPSA RC21 website www.politicalsocialization.org for exciting 2014 IPSA activities in Montreal, Canada, and Lublin, Poland!

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