Editorial

This new volume of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* brings life a little bit "back to normal" after the Covid-19 Pandemic. At least two coming volumes will nevertheless have a thematic focus pointing partly at those Covid times. The volumes will be dedicated to the themes of the former IPSA RC21-29 workshop "Political Identities Challenged: Exploring the Consequences of the Confrontation with COVID and Communicative Changes". The workshop of which the program can be found at the back of this issue, was held at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Antwerp University, Belgium on March 17, 2022. You can still contact the managing editor (christl.delandtsheer@uantwerpen.be) if you would like to submit a contribution for the special on 'Political Identities and the Pandemic' or 'Political Identities and Communicative Changes'. Other, regular manuscripts are of course, as always, equally welcome. Manuscripts should follow the guidelines of the journal (https://budrich-journals.de/index.php/pcs/pages/view/einreichungen).

For now, with Vol. 11, our regular issue consists of articles and book reviews covering various themes that are highlighting the core areas of the journal. The mission of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* is indeed to report on scientific research that focuses on recent trends and history-based analyses in the areas of political socialization and political education, and in the field of political psychology.

In this issue we see the following subjects: political socialization on the university campuses in the US, effects of perception politics in social media, the rhetoric of authoritarian leaders, the electoral potential of politicians in an authoritarian regime, diversifieing forms of political organization in Israel, and the meaning of Berliner locations in respect to the actual evocation of democratic feelings.

This volume is a double issue. The volume consists of peer-reviewed articles by scholars of multiple origin: USA, Belgium, Latvia, Israel and Germany. There is not only much variation in the subjects dealt with, but equally in the scientific perspectives, and in the used methods. Perspectives taken in the articles stem from political education, communication technology and political communication, linguistics, political personality studies, political philosophy, and sociology. The methods for these studies in politics, culture and socialization consist of surveys and interviews, visual and statistical social media analysis, critical discourse analysis, psychodiagnostic meta-analysis, modern structural analysis, and social anthropology method.

Vol. 11 also presents two interesting reviews of recent books in the area of political socialization and political psychology. Books reviewed argue that positive emotions can lay at the base of political protest, and that we live in an era of lonely people, but that we can learn to deal with this.

The opening article of the 2021section of this issue found that leadership opportunities socialize students to have the skills for and interest in future political office-holding. Student governments are influenced in many ways by the current politics of the day. This especially holds for surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion. This article entitled "The Political Socialization of College Students: Student Government, Diversity, and Political Power" used surveys and in-depth interviews of student leaders. The study focused on US campuses and the authors from the US are Elizabeth S. Smith (Furman University), Sabrina S. Roof (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Katherine West (University of Cincinnati), and Nicole Hyman (University of Connecticut). In their visual analysis of politicians on Instagram, Stéphanie De Munter and Sam Pinxteren (University of Antwerp, Belgium) had expected that politicians would adhere to the

informal character of social media to garner more voter engagement. They had to conclude, however, that the image that resonates best with the voter is a formal one, similar to the pre-social media age ("Making Sense of Political Images on Instagram: Analysing the Online Image and Impression Management of World Leaders versus Belgian Politicians. A Comparison of Two Case Studies"). Similar to the authors of the former article, Solvita Denisa-Liepniece (University of Latvia) pays much attention to methodology in her study of the political metaphors by the president of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko. Her article presents a new approach, the Polito- linguistic Metaphor Approach, which is designed for the longitudinal study of metaphors, specifically those metaphors used in authoritarian regimes. Based on her empirical study, the author concludes that Lukashenko's policy towards Russia can be derived from the study of his metaphor discourse.

The 2022 section opens with an at-a-distance assessment study to compare the personalities of two political rivals with unequal access to the political arena, the president of Russia, and his most important opposition leader ("Political Suitability in an Authoritarian Regime: A Comparison of the Personality Profiles of Vladimir Putin and Opposition Leader Alexei Navalny"). The authors, Anna Diedkova and Christ'l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp) emphasize the need to differentiate between distinctive environment attributes (the context of a marginalized opposition and a ruling elite) within the general context of an authoritarian regime when studying the value of certain personality patterns for leadership emergence. It is clear that according to his personality, in a democratic regime Navalny may be able to defeat Putin.

Ingo Juchler (University of Potsdam, Germany) demonstrates in his article that Sites of memory not only make it possible to visualize previous democratic processes, but also offer an opportunity to critically reflect on one's own political experiences. This author examines historical upheavals as constitutive lines of a democratic tradition and he describes the places of remembrance still visible in Berlin where the events took place ("Sites of Democratic Awakenings in Berlin: 1848, 1918, 1968 and 1989").

Carmit Fuchs-Abarbanel (Center for Education, Beit Berl College, Israel) examined Jewish communities with a new sociopolitical pattern (secular, religious, and traditional members) which is also expressed in an inclusive educational system. The researcher found that these organizational innovations resulted in ties between individuals and between population groups, which seems an unprecedented phenomenon in Israeli society ("The Mixed Communities as an Innovative Form of Political Organizing").

The book reviews in this issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* deal with different topics compared to the scholarly articles. The reviews are written by students in political communication and political psychology from the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

The first review by Bas Schueremans discusses the book "*Hot Contention, Cool Abstention: Positive Emotions and Protest Behavior During the Arab Spring*", by Stephanie Dornschneider (2021). The main question in the book, is what suddenly motivated millions of Arabs to mobilize against their rulers. Dornschneider argues that previous research has been looking in the wrong direction, there have always been oppositional forces. So, she opens a new path, using the field of political psychology. The main argument of the book is that decisions to participate in the protests of the Arab Spring are "hot", meaning based on positive emotion, whereas decisions not to join the protests are "cool", meaning that life was safe, conditions were getting better and that the head of the state was found acceptable.

Another recent work was reviewed by Max Runge, "*The Lonely Century: coming together in a world that's pulling apart*" by Noreena Hertz (2020). His review really encourages us to read her book. Hertz argues that loneliness is one of the most pressing problems today with major consequences both for society and for the individual. She discusses the different causes,

consequences and possible solutions to tackle the problem of loneliness. For loneliness is not inevitable.

One final word: do not hesitate to contact the editors with your ideas on new books in the area that you would like to review, or to send them your own new book for review in the international and interdisciplinary journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization!*

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