

# Preface

With the invasion by Russia of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 started a new period in situations of international conflict. For many of us, collaboration with friends and colleagues from Russia abruptly became a problematic issue. Almost similarly, the period of Covid Pandemic slowly came to an end. On March 17, 2022 there took place an IPSA RC21-29 Workshop at Antwerp University, Belgium. At least two volumes of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* would be dedicated to the themes of this workshop, “Political Identities Challenged: Exploring the Consequences of the Confrontation with COVID and Communicative Changes”. Incoming papers, before and after the Workshop, however, discussed, much less than we expected, the theme of Covid Pandemic. In contrast, “Democracy” and “Communication” turned out to be the most chosen topics!

We followed the preferences of our colleagues, which indicate significant trends in the research on Politics, Culture and Socialization, as we present the two special issues covering 2023 and 2024 of the journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization*. The first special issue is entitled *Political Identities Challenged: Democracy, Culture, and Socialization*. Guest editors are Paul Dekker (Tilburg University, The Netherlands), with Henk Dekker (Leiden University, The Netherlands) and Daniel B. German (Appalachian State University, USA). *Political Identities Challenged: Exploring the Consequences of Communicative Changes* is the theme of the second special issue. Guest editors are Hongna Miao (Nanjing University, PRC) and Oleksii Polegkyi (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland), with Christ’l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp, Belgium). More detailed information about the focus and contents of the special issues can be found in a separate foreword to every issue composed by the guest editors. The incoming articles on communication being numerous, a second special issue on this topic is being planned for 2025. The journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization* will meanwhile continue with its mission to report on scientific research that discusses recent trends and history-based analyses in the areas of political socialization and political education, and in the field of political psychology. Article submissions are welcome!

The peer-reviewed articles in the two issues are again written and/or edited by scholars of multiple origin: The Netherlands, Canada, USA, PRC, the UK, Poland, Belgium, and Turkey. There is much variation in the subjects dealt with, in the scientific perspectives, and in the methods of these scholars involved in political socialization and political psychology research. The 2023 volume on “Democracy” opens with an analytical article by Henk Dekker (Leiden University, The Netherlands) entitled “Democracy, Democracy Support and Democracy Socialization”. The volume continues with a critical analysis of “Trump’s New Face of Power in America” by Bob Hanke (independent scholar, Canada). Furthermore, there is the section Work in Progress with “The State of America IV: A Nation Divided, But Still Strong”, by Daniel B. German (Appalachian State University, USA).

The 2024 volume on “Communication” brings four empirical articles. Peter Bull (Universities of York and Salford, UK) details “The analysis of political equivocation by British political leaders”. Furthermore, one article is focusing on the topic of the relation of Ukraine and the European Union before the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014. The qualitative metaphor analysis by Oleksii Polegkyi (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) and Christ’l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp, Belgium) reveals a disappointed attitude at the Ukrainian side (“Knocking at the House with Closed Doors: Metaphorical representation of European integration in Ukrainian media discourse before 2014”). A third article consists of a

quantitative content analysis of ISIS propaganda by Onur Sultan (University of Antwerp) and Ismail Aslan (Independent scholar, Ankara, Turkey) (“Mere Duplication or Original? ISIS Ability to Adapt Propaganda to Different Target Audiences”). A fourth article is by Richard D. Anderson, Jr. (University of California at Los Angeles, USA). The author starts from a prominent recent book by political scientists to “deconstruct” the bias in survey questions research (“*Voicing Politics: Linguistics and the Debility of Political Science*”). His article, which can be seen as a political-linguistic case study, is highly critical, so that the book authors are invited to defend themselves in a coming issue of *Politics, Culture and Socialization*.

Perspectives taken in the articles of the 2023-2024 issues stem from public opinion studies within political science and political philosophy, and from speech communication and propaganda studies. The methods for these studies in politics, culture and socialization consist of descriptive survey analysis, psychohistory, speech and metaphor analysis, and statistical content analysis. The 2023-2024 issues also present reviews of three recent fascinating books! The reviews by Daniel B. German discuss scholarly work on violent conflicts in “the Post-Soviet Space” and the impact of technology in communications. It is clear that the book reviews in this issue are thematically related to some of the scholarly articles.

As always, we encourage you 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. Even more, we invite you to submit your own manuscripts to the international and interdisciplinary (peer reviewed) journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization*!

Christ’l De Landtsheer, Managing Editor  
Daniel B. German, Henk Dekker, Co-Editors  
*Politics, Culture and Socialization*