

Editorial

Welcome to this new issue of *Politics, Culture & Socialization!* The most recent trends in the areas of political socialization and political education, and in the field of political psychology are tempting indeed. What we see is political socialization of political leaders, historically conceived spaces for political concepts, techniques in political perception studies, metaphors for enemy construction, and micropolitics of face. This volume is, again, a double issue. The volume consists of peer-reviewed articles by scholars from around the world: Russia, Israel, USA, Ukraine and Belgium. You will be able, as always, to observe great variety, not only in the subjects dealt with, and in the scientific perspectives, but certainly in methods which scholars chose for their research in political socialization and political psychology. This volume details such issues as the Donbass conflict, the colonial roots of democracy, the contemporary image of Russia with Russians, the socialization of Benjamin Netanyahu, and, last but not least, Trumpism.

Perspectives taken in the articles stem from media rhetoric, political philosophy, political psychology, leadership studies, and micropolitics. The methods for these studies in politics, culture and socialization concern metaphor analysis, discourse analysis, perception analysis, psychohistory, and Face-work. Vol. 9 also presents five topical reviews of highly attractive books! The reviews discuss recent scholarly work that focuses on such issues as “media and right-wing extremism”, “neuroscience and international relations”, “left-wing populism”, “media and emotions in politics”, and “political socialization of women in schools”.

The first two articles emphasize the role of language in political socialisation at both the micro- and the macro-level. The opening article of this volume by Ganna Diedkova and Christ’l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp, Belgium) is entitled “Going negative by metaphors: The Donbass conflict in the Russian and the Ukrainian press”. This article consists of an empirical study on how media employ metaphors as framing devices for enemy construction. This comparative research applies metaphor power index theory by De Landtsheer as a political-psychological method. For the second article, “The Colonialist

Roots of Democratic Decay: Collective Action, Experimental Psychology, and Spatial Discourse” we move into the sphere of international studies and discourse analysis. The author, Richard D. Anderson Jr. (University of California, Los Angeles) argues that colonialism has motivated whites’ fears, whereby colonialism is responsible for the decay of democracy. Anderson’s multidisciplinary historical analysis relates colonialism to democracy by using a discourse theoretical approach.

The third article in this volume, „The Image of Russia in Contemporary Russian Society: Political and Psychological Analysis”, focuses on original public opinion research within Russia. The article explains much of what is actually happening in Russian society. The author, Elena Shestopal (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia), is treating us on methods which she conceived herself, methods in perception. Shestopal uses these original methods to investigate Russian citizens’ perception of their own country. In this very extensive empirical study of public opinion in 15 Russian regions, the author discusses how the country’s image is currently constructed and composed. Based on the results, the article concludes that Russian society since the 1980s, in the post-Soviet period, suffers from a serious complex of “national inferiority”.

The fourth and fifth article in this volume address leadership studies in political socialisation and political psychology. How leaders do what they actually do, and what factors dominate their socialization process, is the subject of the fourth article to this volume. The article is entitled „The Influence of Early Childhood Socialization on Political Decision Making in Adulthood: Benyamin Netanyahu’s Potential to Become a Peacemaker“. The article applies the method of psycho-history from political psychology, and more especially leadership studies, in an exemplary way. Arie Geronik (The Open University of Israel, Raanana, Israel) examines the Prime Minister of Israel’s true potential to reject his current ‘hawkish’ views and to become a peace maker.

The book reviews we present in this issue more or less connect to the earlier mentioned scholarly articles are written by students in political communication and political psychology from the University of Antwerp.

Jessica Jansen reviewed the very interesting book by Ico Maly (University of Tilburg, The Netherlands) on “New Right” (2018). The book was published in Dutch, but the review provides for a good insight in the profound and extensive research by Maly on contemporary right-wing organizations. Chantal Mouffe (emeritus from the University of Westminster) is known for a novel view on the origin of populism and discontent in society, which would be the result of a wrong effort at consensus. Maud Peeters reviewed for us her new book “For a Left Populism” (2018).

Two other book reviews focus on neuroscience and emotion in connection to respectively international studies and to media. It was Marie Blanche de Posch who discussed the book by Marcus Holmes (William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia) on “Face-to-face diplomacy, social neuroscience, and international relations” (2018). Lotte Daens read the work on “Emotions, Media and Politics” by Karin Wahl-Jorgensen (2019). But it is Natacha Waldmann who reviewed a by now classic book in political socialization. “Mothers, Daughters and Political Socialization – Two Generations at an American Women’s College” (2013), by Krista Jenkins (Fairleigh Dickinson University, Cali, New Jersey). All those who are interested in the importance of political socialization for the discrimination of women should not miss this work!

We want to remind our readers not to hesitate to contact Ganna Diedkova (ganna.diedkova@uantwerpen.be), editorial secretary, and Oleksii Polegkyi, senior editorial secretary (polegkyi@hotmail.com) with your ideas on new books in the area that you would like to review, or in case you would like to submit your manuscript to the journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization*.

A final sad note. It is with deep sorrow that we have to inform you that our editor Russell F. Farnen passed away April 2, 2020. Russell F. Farnen had so many good ideas, was very initiative-oriented, worked hard, led discussions and meetings effectively and with a lot of humour, had authority, you could trust and rely on him, he organized many meetings at which also others could spread their expertise and flourish, was not only a very good ambassador for the USA but also a good friend for many people in the world. Together with a few colleagues, he laid the foundation for a series of top international comparative studies in the field of political socialization, which are among the most important highlights of the research in that field. He served the Research Committee on Political Socialization and Education of the International Political Science Association for many years as chairperson. He also served the scientific journal *Politics, Groups, and the Individual; International Journal of Political Psychology and Political Socialization*, first as executive manager and later as managing editor. He invited colleagues from all over the world to conferences in Connecticut but also elsewhere in the USA, e.g., Florida, and helped them with the translation into English and final editing of their contributions. Thanks to his assistance, many young researchers from, among others, central and eastern Europe, have been able to publish in English in the 1980s and 90s, which facilitated them to receive a scientific career, and to give the research on political socialization a more solid foundation at their universities. In many of his edited books, young colleagues from many different countries received an international worldwide stage. We remember Russell F. Farnen with deep respect, great gratitude, and warm friendship.

Christ'l De Landtsheer, Managing Editor
Daniel B. German, Henk Dekker, Co-Editors
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