Political Socialization Theory, Research, and Application

History and Analysis of Forty Years of the Research Committee on Political Socialization and Education of the International Political Science Association: 1979-2019

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Abstract:
The Research Committee on Political Socialization and Education of the International Political Science Association celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2019. The RC was recognized by IPSA in 1979 following a solid and successful pioneering phase in the 1960s and ’70s. The RC flourished with a full board during 40 years, more than fifty RCPSE panels at IPSA World Congresses, more than thirty RCPSE conferences in thirteen countries, more than 60 RCPSE sponsored books, and its RCPSE journal during 27 years. Research highlights include four international comparative political socialization studies and several political socialization panel studies. For more than thirty different political orientations and behaviours it has been investigated whether political socialization contributes to the explanation of the variance therein. Research focused on eight political socialisation agents and about thirty specific political socializers in these domains. Forty years of research has yielded a lot of insights and an auspicious theory development. Some topics deserve much more attention than they have received so far while new political, economic and social developments require a retest of what was discovered about political socialization in the past and a study of the many new ways, forms and contents of political socialization at the present time and in the future.

Introduction

Researchers of political education and socialization have been meeting, cooperating and supporting each other in the last forty years in, first, the Research Committee on Political Education (RCPE) and later in the Research Committee on Political Socialization and Education (RCPSE) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). This Research Committee is a professional network and brings together political scientists, political educationalists and political psychologists from all over the world. It aims to advance the study of political education and socialization by encouraging and facilitating research, es-

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especially cross-national studies, disseminating relevant information at international congresses and conferences, publishing scholarly research, and by providing a framework and platform for co-operation between individuals and organisations involved in research and teaching on political education and socialisation. On the occasion of the 40th birthday we present in this article a short history of the RCPE and the RCPSE in factual data, intended as a birthday present for scholars in countries where research into political socialization has recently begun and for new generations of young researchers worldwide who want to build on what others have already discovered. The topics are Run-up, foundation and recognition; Organization; Panels; Conferences; Books; Journals; Highlights; States-of-the-art; and Looking from the past to the present.

Run-up, foundation and recognition


The driving force behind the birth of the Study Group and later the Research Committee on Political Education has been Artur Bodnar from the University of Warsaw, Poland. He started to pave the path in 1973 at the 8th World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Montreal in a series of ad hoc panels, and at an international conference in Bloomington, Indiana (IN), United States of America (U.S.A.) in 1975. IPSA recognized the Study Group on Political Education as its 9th Study Group in 1976 at the Council Meeting at the Xth IPSA World Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland. Following the recognition as a Study Group in 1976, Artur Bodnar co-organized an international conference in Tützing in the Federal Republic of Germany (1977) and an international conference in Jaszowiec, Poland, in 1979 with about forty participants from Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), The Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the U.S.A., who presented thirteen papers and three communiqués. Bodnar also organized a panel on Political Education at the 10th IPSA World Congress in Moscow, 12-18 August 1979. Five papers were presented from Austria, The Netherlands, Rumania, the USSR and the U.S.A. It was during this Congress, on 18 August 1979, that the IPSA Executive Committee granted the research group its new status as Research Committee. The Research Committee on Political Education (RCPE) became IPSA’s 21st Research Committee (IPSA, 1999). Bodnar was elected as Chairman of the Executive Board at a meeting in Salzburg, Austria in October 1979,
together with eleven board members (reported in *Participation, Newsletter of the International Political Science Association*, 4: 3, October 1980) and continued to serve the Research Committee as Chairman until the IPSA World Congress in Paris 1985. Papers of the conferences in Jaszowiec and Moscow were published in Bodnar and Göhring (1982).

In the 1990s, the members changed the name into Research Committee on Political Socialization and Education (RCPSE) to express that their research also focused on political learning outside the school, and not only on cognitions but also on affections and behaviours. In 2003, the Research Committee entered into a cooperative arrangement with another IPSA Research Committee, RC29 Psycho-politics (with Ofer Feldman and Paul Dekker), which renamed itself in 2016 into RC29 Political Psychology. Since 2003 the two RC's have been working together in conferences and publications. Both RC’s frequently report about their activities to IPSA and every 6 years IPSA review their results (IPSA, 2018).

**Organization**

The organizational structure of the RC includes Members, Business Meetings for members, and an Executive Board. Membership of the RC is open to all individual members of IPSA and to all members of national associations affiliated to IPSA as collective members. Business Meetings for members of the RC21 are regularly held during IPSA World Congresses and RC21 Round Table Conferences, corresponding to IPSA regulations. Members discuss past activities, decide upon future activities, and elect the Executive Board and the Chairperson. The reports of the Business Meetings are published in the RCPSE Newsletter, sent to the members, and posted on the website.

The Executive Board of the RC organizes, among others, the Panels at the IPSA World Congresses, the RC Round Table Conferences, and the Business Meetings for members. The Board members, including the Chairperson, are elected at Business Meetings. The RC has had a full board during 40 years. The members of the first complete Executive Committee, elected at a meeting in Salzburg in October 1979, were Artur Bodnar (Poland; Chairperson), Suna Kili (Turkey; Vice-Chairperson), Walter Göhring (Austria; Vice-Chairperson), Willem Langeveld (The Netherlands; Vice-Chairperson), Gunnel Gustafsson (Sweden; Scientific Secretary), Ryszard Zelichowski (Poland; Organizational Secretary), Theophilus D. Odetola (Nigeria), Vladimir Kazimirtschuk (USSR), Harry Proß (West Berlin), Wlodzimierz Knobelsdorf (Poland), Bernhard Claußen (Federal Republic of Germany), Karl-Heinz Röder (German Democratic Republic) and Richard M. Merelman (U.S.A.). Chairpersons came from 6 different countries: U.S.A (2), Poland (2), and Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, and China. Chairpersons have been so far: Artur Bodnar (Centralny Ośrodek Metodyczny Studiów Nauk Politycznych Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warsaw, Poland, for the years 1979-1985), Bernhard Claußen (University of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, for the years 1986-1992), Russell F. Farnen (University of Connecticut, U.S.A., for the years 1992-1997); Henk Dekker (Leiden University, The Netherlands, for the years 1997-1999), Daniel B. German (Appalachian State University, Boone, U.S.A., for the years 1999-2007), Christ’l De Landtsheer (University of Antwerp, Belgium, for the years 2007-2013), Maria Marczevska-Rytko (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland, for the years 2013-2018), and Yingfa Song
Within the RC also various informal cross-cultural and cross-institutional research groups were and are active. These groups meet and report about their work also during the IPSA World Congresses and the RC Round Table Conferences.

For internal communication with and between the members the RCPE published a RCPE Bulletin between 1980 and 1992, an average of two issues per year (including reports, calls for papers, announcements, book reviews, scientific articles, obituaries, etc.). The editor was Ryszard Zelichowski from Poland, 1980-1984, and Bernhard Claussen from Germany, 1985-1992. Since 1992, several RCPSE Newsletters have been published and edited by changing members of the Executive Board. The RC21 websites www.ipsa.org/page/rc21-political-sozialization-and-education, and www.politicalsocialization.org have been set up by Christ'l De Landtsheer and Lieuwe Kalkhoven and continued by Oleksyy Polegkyy and Ganna Diedkova, all from University of Antwerp with IPSA grants.

Certificates of Achievement for outstanding contributions to the RCPE/RCPSE have been awarded to Bernhard Claussen in 1999 (affiliated to IPSA and some of its Study Groups or Research Committees since 1980, paper giver and discussant, organizer of Panels and Conferences, editor and fund raiser as a member of the Executive Board of RC 21, 1980-1997, Chairman, 1985-1992, Co-Chairman 1992-1997), Henk Dekker 18 May 1999 (for his outstanding contribution as Chair of the IPSA/RCPSE), and Heinz Sünker in 2001 (for his scholarly and administrative excellence). At the retirement in 2008 of Dan German, former President of RC21 and still active as Vice-President, his university – Appalachian State University – instituted the ‘Dr. Daniel B. German Eminent Professorship in Political Science and Criminal Justice’ to honor Dr. German’s 36 years of service to the students of Appalachian State University (McMahon 2008).

**Panels**

The RCPSE organizes one or more Panels at the IPSA World Congress which takes place every three years and since 2014 every two years. The first panel was in 1979 at the XI World Congress, August 12-18, 1979 in Moscow, USSR; the IPSA Study Group 9 Political Education organized a panel about ‘Political Socialization’. The Convenor was, as we reported earlier, Artur Bodnar of the Centralny Osrodek Metodydzny, Studiow Nauk Politycznych, Warsawa, Poland. We counted 15 congresses and 53 panels.

**Overview 1: IPSA World Congresses and RCPSE Panels at these congresses 1979-2018**

- XI IPSA World Congress in Moscow, 1979; Panel: Political Education: Political Socialization.
- XII IPSA World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, 1982; Panels: New Approaches to Political Socialization and Political Education
- XIII IPSA World Congress in Paris, 1985; Panels: Changing Structures of Political Power and Political Education; and Political Socialization through Mass Media
- XIV IPSA World Congress in Washington, D.C., 1988: Panels: Political Education Research as a Topic of Global Political Science; Perspectives of Globalization and Internationalization of Political Education and Political Socialization; Comparative Political Education Research: Aspects of Cross-Cultural Studies; and Political Socialization for Citizenship