



EDITORS' NOTE

Social Movements and Civic Rights in Eastern Europe

Note of the Editors of the *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques*

Issue 61/2019

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After fifteen years of continuous publishing of *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques*, the journal renews its editorial policy beginning with the Spring issue 61/ 2019 (April 2019).

This change marks the new journal strategy aimed to develop and enable a new phase of the Eastern European political, social, cultural, historical landscape. Maintaining the journal scope of publishing original papers, research notes and reviews highlighting the Eastern topics in the field of quality of democracy and threats to political pluralism, the following four issues of the journal will monitor and encompass

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the new stages of the social movements and civic rights in Eastern Europe, a variety of cross-sectorial analysis mapping citizenship, social structures, heritage of post-communism, Eastern Europe's systemic transformation, political communication, social media and social action etc.

Issue 61 of *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques*, launched in April 2019, expands the research area of the journal by focusing on the analysis and monitoring of the challenges of democracy and by refining the social and institutional cleavages in the area of:

- human rights monitoring in Central and Eastern Europe (**Elena Todorova**, *Human Rights in Central and Eastern European Countries: Towards Their Accession to the European Union*);
- pan-European constituency and the third wave of the electoral reform in the European Union (**Jakub Charvát**, *Pan-European Constituency and Transnational Lists: The Third Wave of the EU Politics of Electoral Reform?*);
- the conceptualization of the Romanian semi-presidentialism and its “formative moment” (**Loretta C. Salajan**, *The Challenges and Formative Moment of Romanian Semi-Presidentialism*);
- the analysis of the interviews with public figures of Yugoslav media space in 1989-1990 (**Marijana Ražnjević Zdrilić**, *Interviews with Public Figures of Yugoslav Media Space in 1989/1990 in Croatian Local Newspapers*);
- the discourse of freedom and its impact on English learning and teaching after the fall of the Romanian communist dictatorship (**Eleonora Olivia Bălănescu**, *The Fall of Communism and Its Impact on English Teaching and Learning*);
- the societal and educational cleavages (**Ecaterina Sarah Frăsineanu**, *The Beginning of Studies and the Prediction of University Abandonment*);
- the causes and effects of the failure of the socialist movement in modern Romania (**Florin Nacu**, *Why Did the Socialist Movement Fail in Modern Romania?*);
- the post-modern image production in post-communism (**Simber Atay**, *Post-Soviet Era and Postmodern Image Production*);
- social movements and offline mobilization (**Adina-Loredana Dogaru-Tulică**, *A bridge between online and offline mobilization: #Rezist Movement*).

As part of our new editorial strategy, the current issue of *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques* accepted papers at the border between the theoretical and/ or conceptual framework and other applied fields of research such as the history of arts and media monitoring. Furthermore, we appreciate that the Eastern European landscape needs additional tools for its research and investigation. Moreover, being the first issue of this year, issue 61 points a transitional phase for the journal by enabling comparative researches on human rights protection and promotion in Central and Eastern European countries and by focusing on cross-country variations in the field of social and political reforms.

The results of the researches feature the social and political changes of Central and Eastern Europe, most prominently in the Eastern Europe, as this Spring issue of the *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques* is published during a time when the social media and online communication reveal new paths of information, ideas and movements. While this issue is not entirely dedicated to the role of communication and online media, the contents of issue 61 feature a range of current themes with impact on the Europeans' daily lives: the launch of the social movements, the protection of civic

rights, the abandonment of studies, media and education, the rethorical encounters of the political engagements and social actions.

Following these insights, the first article deals with the legal provisions of the human rights and the “widespread support for civil and political rights” (**Elena Todorova**, *Human Rights in Central and Eastern European Countries: Towards Their Accession to the European Union*).

The next article examines the issue of the “reapportionment of the 73 British seats in the European Parliament in the 2019 elections” in the context of Brexit (**Jakub Charvát**, *Pan-European Constituency and Transnational Lists: The Third Wave of the EU Politics of Electoral Reform?*).

The third article maps the problematic issue of semi-presidentialism and the Romanian legal encounters (**Loretta C. Salajan**, *The Challenges and Formative Moment of Romanian Semi-Presidentialism*).

The fourth article delves into the local newspapers published in the city of Zadar, Croatia in 1989/1990 (**Marijana Ražnjević Zdrilić**, *Interviews with Public Figures of Yugoslav Media Space in 1989/1990 in Croatian Local Newspapers*).

The fifth article is an important contribution to language teaching and learning after the fall of communism (**Eleonora Olivia Bălănescu**, *The Fall of Communism and Its Impact on English Teaching and Learning*).

The sixth article advances a monitoring and research of the abandonment of the university studies (**Ecaterina Sarah Frășineanu**, *The Beginning of Studies and the Prediction of University Abandonment*);

The seventh article focuses on the particularities of the socialist movement in modern Romania and the progressive socialist elements (**Florin Nacu**, *Why Did the Socialist Movement Fail in Modern Romania?*);

The next article connects the postmodern image production and cultural conjunctures (**Simber Atay**, *Post-Soviet Era and Postmodern Image Production*).

The last article focuses the links between the social movements and the offline mobilization (**Adina-Loredana Dogaru-Tulică**, *A bridge between online and offline mobilization: #Rezist Movement*).

Finally, the RSP Editors wish to remind all readers that the analysis of the complexity of social movements and civic rights monitoring serves to emphasize the transitional changes in Eastern Europe launching new research questions and perspectives. All in all, this inaugural issue of 2019 is aimed at creating new research approaches in the field of leadership, communication, education and societal challenges.

Wishing you all the best,

The Editors