

A large, light blue globe graphic is centered behind the title text. The globe shows the outlines of the continents in a slightly darker shade of blue. The title 'Politikon' is written in a large, black, serif font across the middle of the globe. Below the title, the subtitle 'the IAPSS Journal of Political Science' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Politikon

the IAPSS Journal of Political Science



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Editorial Note

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Academic publishing sees a dynamic development with increasing focus on accessible online materials and author-friendly submission guidelines. While *LAPSS Politikon* operates with limited resources, the journal has taken steps over the past months in these directions as well. Firstly, we are pleased to introduced the new Open Journal System website of the journal, which is now accessible at <https://politikon.iapss.org> along with the journal's archives as well as the call for papers & new submission guidelines. The Editorial Board encourages all authors to use the new guidelines available at <https://politikon.iapss.org/index.php/politikon/about/submissions> for future submissions.¹ Secondly, the license agreement with the authors has been modified to reflect the transformation into an unrestricted open access model: embargo times on posting the files with the articles have been removed although we still encourage all authors to refer to the version of their publication that is freely accessible on the journal's website so that the readership of the piece is reflected in the statistics. Thirdly, the journal implemented a pilot webinar on the topic of 'Predatory Publishing, Open Access, and the Philosophy of *LAPSS Politikon*' to provide an additional resource to prospective authors and the wider audience on the situation of the journal in contemporary academic publishing in the social sciences, and reiterate some useful strategies to avoid falling victim to predatory publishing. The webinar recognises the complications inherent in the concept (Eriksson and Hegelsson, 2017), especially due to the fact that many publishers faking the peer review process seek other than direct financial benefits from the authors through article processing charges (see Kobey et al., 2018; Mcleod and Savage, 2016). That is why it provides a broader conceptualization to direct attention to a set of problems inherent in publishing that only pretends to meet academic standards, including the implications on the erosion of the credibility of fact-based expertise and the rise of 'pseudo-science'. The recording of the webinar is available at <https://youtu.be/jdsLRCgDjKg> and the slides at <https://bit.ly/politikonpilotwebinar>.

Volume 42 contains four research papers, including one that, for the first time in the journal's history, presents more extensive supplementary material in the form of an online appendix that allows for an in-depth insight into the method of data collection and analysis. The issue opens with a special section with two articles presented at the 2018 IAPSS Academic Convention (Head of Convention: Jennifer Yi). Katsiaryna Lozka who served as Panels Coordinator for this Convention and helped coordinate the Special Section, summarises their contribution:

¹ Manuscripts adhering to the old submission guidelines will be accepted for consideration until December 15, 2019.

This special section brings together selected papers presented at the 2018 IAPSS Academic Convention held in Singapore on November 19-23. Through a series of panels, workshops and roundtables with the ASEF diplomats, around 100 students convened to discuss the topic “Rethinking Development: Innovative Policies for Social and Economic Advancement”. The selected articles explore the complex issues of social inclusion from the bottom up and the impact of technological advancements on vertical accountability in hybrid regimes. Francisca Sasseti examines the effect of crowdsourced elections monitoring on transparency and quality of the electoral process. The article analyses electoral campaigns in Nigeria from 2003 to 2015, put into a broader context of elections in Sab-Saharan Africa. The author finds that crowdsourcing techniques have a causal effect on electoral transparency by encouraging a more peaceful and democratic electoral process. The second article of the section by Baptiste Brodard analyses the impact of the initiatives promoted by Islamic grassroots organisations in Switzerland. Based on the findings of the field studies, the author argues that social participation of Islamic organisations can have a positive value by rethinking and redefining social work practices. The article further contends that these organisations extend the provision of social welfare services to non-Muslim population of Switzerland and find support from several local authorities.

Katsiaryna Lozka (College of Europe in Bruges)

The issue then continues with two timely articles which stress the importance of framing for structuring political choices and individual and collective visions about oneself. Andrew Devine scrutinises the policy of one of the world’s most influential non-democratic political regimes in the field of internet governance. In particular, he identifies China’s approach to promotion of its preferred norm of internet governance known as cyber sovereignty, and examines the frames the Chinese government employs during the World Internet Conference to win support for the norm among other governments. Using a combination of frames, this form of global internet governance is being advanced especially towards developing countries in opposition to the currently prevailing ‘multistakeholder model’, backed by the United States and the European Union. Velomahanina Tahinjanahary Razakamaharavo shifts the attention to framing at the domestic level, using an innovative methodology to determine how grand narratives she calls ‘metanarratives’ shaped the dynamics of domestic conflicts in Madagascar. Collecting an impressive pool of data from various sources (including newspapers, traditional songs, videos and, importantly, interviews with respondents knowledgeable about local discourses), she codes these data for the purpose of conducting a qualitative comparative analysis of conditions for different dimensions of conflicts. This method is supplemented by a qualitative explorative analysis of the metanarratives discovering

the capacity of metanarratives to shape identities and in turn increase or reduce conflicts. The resulting study provides valuable insights into the recent political development of Madagascar, among others.

In the end, the Editorial Board also extends its welcome to two new members: Karla Drpić (King's College London) and Emmanuelle Rousseau (University of Montreal), both former Editorial Assistants for the journal. That welcome comes with a farewell as well: Senior Editor Justinas Lingevičius who has been with the journal since December 2016 has decided to step down from the Editorial Board after serving more than one full two-year term. The Editorial Board thanks Justinas for his important intellectual contribution and wishes him all the best in his further academic endeavours and beyond.

Max Steuer

Editor-in-Chief

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