

Editorial Note

The Editorial Board of the Romanian Journal of Society and Politics is pleased to announce the launch of Volume 13, Number 1 of the journal. The present issue consists of three regular articles and two book reviews, ranging across various fields of study, from research methodology in social sciences to political science and security studies.

The first article of the issue, authored by Alin Savu and Ștefan Lipan, and titled *Doing social science research with and about children in Romania: methodological and ethical challenges*, seeks to explore a number of questions about the involvement of children in social scientific research. The authors draw on both their own research experiences, in which they have collected significant amounts of data through “semi-structured and in-depth interviews with children, parents, teachers and therapists; materials produced by and collected from children – weekly routine journals, photos and operationalized drawings” as well as on the existing Romanian legislative framework regarding the involvement of children in research, in order to formulate a number of normative prescriptions on how this type of research should be conducted.

The second article, *The rationalisation of parliamentary responsibility of the government in the French semi-presidential architecture*, written by Łukasz Jakubiak, addresses the constitutional construction of the present-day French political system, with an emphasis on the executive-legislative relations. In particular, the author enquires into the nature of parliamentary responsibility, claiming that the responsibility of the executive has been weakened by several extra-constitutional changes and that, ultimately, the instrument of a “no confidence vote” is not necessarily deployed as a legislative constraint upon the executive, but rather as a tool in support of majoritarian presidentialism.

The third article, titled *The perpetuation of violence. A perspective on the Rohingya minority crisis*, and authored by Alexandra Timofte engages in a discussion on the recent Rohingya crisis in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. The author relies on a complex theoretical background, which comprises of Foucault’s theory of the genealogy of knowledge, Judith Butler’s view on framing and Johan Galtung’s perspective on violence in order to argue that postcolonialism has not led to the cessation of domination, repression and violence in former colonies, but rather to a shift in the use of violence, that is now directed at particular minority groups in the respective countries.

Aside from the above-mentioned articles, the issue also contains two book reviews. The first one is authored by Fatma Yilmaz, who reviews Elham Manea’s 2016 book titled *Women and Shari’a Law: The Impact of Legal Pluralism in the UK*. According to the author of the review, the book “is a critique of a paradigm that demands the introduction of Islamic law into Western legal systems as a mean of “accommodation” for Muslim minorities”, while “[t]he most important topics of the book are: the real experience of legal pluralism in the UK and “non-Western countries” and its negative

consequences; the type of Islamic law applied through the “conflict resolution” method, which runs against the concepts of gender equality and human rights; the social context of “closed” communities where this law is enforced - where both young women and men are subjected to suffocating social control; the role played by political Islam in promoting Islamic law in non-Islamic societies”. The second review, authored by Antonia Cioanca, reviews Gary Marx’s 2016 book titled *Windows into the Soul: Surveillance and Society in an Age of High Technology*. She maintains that the book “offers a broad and complex image in a rather fragmented and dynamic field of inquiry, that is surveillance studies” and that it “provides highly valuable materials for building unhurried judgments about surveillance in contemporary society”.

The Editorial Team