

Editors' Note

The Romanian Journal of Society and Politics, a project developed under the auspices of The National School of Political Science and Public Administration, continues its publishing tradition with Volume 7, Number 2 (Issue 14). This new series of original research contributions consists of four articles and one book review, all covering a diversity of subjects in the following areas: International Relations, Security Studies and Political Science (from higher education and the gender dimension to the role of Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty in the Twenty-First Century, from the ethnicity formation and ethnic conflict in the 1991-1995 Yugoslav wars to the Transnational Crime, Human Rights Violation and Human Trafficking). The selected articles in Issue 14 reflect the international reach of RJSP.

In *(Un)Fashionable Disciplines: Gender Studies in Higher Education in Romania. Integration or Autonomy?* Theodora-Eliza Văcărescu thoroughly investigates some of the institutional mechanisms, transnational higher education structures and interests, and personal investments and strategies that shape the current configuration of gender studies particularly in the Romanian universities. By putting together quantitative and qualitative data, the author makes a clear argument regarding the need to develop further this area of academic interest and also puts forward some key points for future policies and actions in this regard. Within this framework, not only specific to the Romanian context, but, as shown in several studies, also to other Central and Eastern European countries, the annexation of gender-related concerns, equal opportunities legislation and gender studies as a valid field of teaching and research by various governmental and institutional agents in Romania could be read as part of the larger endorsement of the “democratization agenda.”

In the next article, *The Role and Rationale of Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty in the Twenty-First Century* by Tom Coppen, we are presenting to our readers a valuable contribution surrounding the nuclear non-proliferation debate. Nuclear non-proliferation is a relevant issue on world politics agenda, starting with the campaign against Iraq in 2003, proven by the crisis related to Iran's nuclear program and the related disapprobation by international actors system or by North Korea recent tests of its nuclear devices. The subject, which is an important component in the security policy area, brings forward a theoretical puzzle, trying to answer the following questions: Why do some states decide to pursue a nuclear military program? Why do other states abstain to do so? Why some states start a program and after that abandon it ?.

In the article *From the Zitzler Club to the Battle of Laslovo. The involvement of the Hungarian minorities in the 1991-1995 Yugoslav wars*, Szabolcs László addresses the ‘blind-spot’ of the scholarly works dealing the 1991-1995 wars in former Yugoslavia, namely: examining the involvement of the Hungarian minorities of

the Baranja and Vojvodina regions in the armed conflicts of the war in Croatia. He starts with a short presentation of the demographic and political situation of the Hungarian communities living in the two regions. The comparative analysis embeds the issue in the ongoing scholarly discussions on ethnicity formation and ethnic conflict, giving a conceptualization of the phenomenon discussed, and explaining the nature of the involvement of the Hungarian minority in the war. In theorizing the Yugoslav conflict as an 'ethnic war', the author uses the approach developed by Rogers Brubaker for explaining ethnicity as a project, as the 'crystallization of groupness'.

This Issue's last research article, *Transnational Crime, Human Rights Violation and Human Trafficking in Nigeria's Oil-Rich Niger Delta*, is written by the group of authors Richard Ingwe, Walter A. Mbotto and Ude Ugwu. It presents human trafficking in Nigeria's Niger Delta region as one of various forms of human rights violations resulting from the marginalization policies repeatedly formulated and implemented by the Nigerian government.

Finally, Mihai Zodian makes a review of *The Dictator's Handbook* written by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith, published in 2012. The review and the book may be of great interest for scholars looking for realist-inspired explanations of contemporary world politics.

The Editors