

Call for Papers for Special Issue of *Political Communication*

Communication and Political Socialization Special Issue of *Political Communication*

Special Issue Editors

Jack M. McLeod and Dhavan V. Shah

School of Journalism and Mass Communication

University of Wisconsin, Madison

115 Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706

Email: jmmcleod@wisc.edu

Email: dshah@wisc.edu

The role of communication in the process of political socialization is gaining renewed attention among both mass communication and political science researchers. This intensified attention is partly a consequence of concerns about the effects of media on declining rates of political participation, especially among adolescents and young adults. Yet, it also grows out the rise of the Internet, the development of life-long learning models, the increase of studies on generational and contextual differences in communication effects, and the expansion of research scope to include civic participation alongside the political. *Political Communication* is dedicating a special issue to this topic.

In recent years, political socialization research, writ large, has debated the role of electronic media for democratic participation, with television and the Internet often named the source of the erosion of social interaction and civic engagement and the rise of citizen apathy and political cynicism. Others have lamented the decline of print newspaper reading and the parallel reduction in political learning, especially among young people, though scant attention has been paid to the effects of rising levels of online newspaper reading on socialization and participation. Along these lines, research has begun to consider how the Internet and related digital media technologies might mobilize younger citizens into action, not simply by providing information but by offering a sphere for communication via email, instant messaging, personal websites, blogs, online forums, and virtual gamespaces. Other studies have begun to explore the effects of social context and the cross-level interactions of individual and environmental factors on socialization.

We particularly welcome papers that address these issues at the intersection of communication, socialization, and participation. We encourage submissions that treat media consumption and social communication as central to models of civic and political socialization. We encourage authors to attempt to explain the process of socialization beyond adolescence into life stages when parental and educational influence is comparatively reduced. This is not to underemphasize the importance of family communication patterns in the socialization process, or the potential influence of children on their parents, both of which demand further scholarly attention. We are also interested in highlighting research on the role of media in the socialization, enculturation, and cultural negotiation of immigrant populations, and the associated implications of a global media environment for issues of political identity and community belonging. Efforts to understand the relationship of contextual phenomena to socialization processes, from campaign message placement and community differences to neighborhood characteristics and localized norms, would add to the import of the submissions.

This is a call for two types of papers:

1. Empirical research contributions in any of the domains listed above of a length suitable for *Political Communication*, up to 30 pages of 300 words a page (Length: 6000 – 9000 words), inclusive of notes and bibliography. Studies that focus on the interplay of conventional and “new media” in political socialization processes are especially welcome, as are comparative cross-national studies.
2. Theoretical contributions in any of the domains listed above, but especially ones that are focused on extending models of political socialization beyond adolescence and into earlier and later life stages (Length: 3000 – 6000 words).

The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2008. Submit two hard copies of your manuscript to Jack McLeod and Dhavan Shah and send as an email attachment. Please use the standard paper format for *Political Communication*. Decisions about publication of your manuscript will be made in June 15, 2008.

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<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10584609.asp>

