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## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Siyasal: Journal of Political Sciences, of Istanbul University is a peer reviewed journal which endeavors to disseminate academic knowledge among scholars, educators, policy makers and other societal stakeholders. With the valuable contributions of the participating authors to date, it has succeeded to take its place among the significant journals that are nominees to play the role of shaping the content of political sciences discipline in Turkey. It is currently indexed in Emerging Sources Citation Index, Ebsco Political Science Complete, Turkish Index of Social Sciences and Humanities (ULAKBİM) and Academia Social Science Index (ASOS Index). Following the change of its title to “Siyasal: Journal of Political Sciences” in October 2017, the journal encourages theoretical and empirical articles majorly in the field of political sciences while also inviting substantive research from areas of social, humanities and administrative sciences.

This issue listed as Vol.32 Issue 1, March 2023 includes seven articles. The first article which is entitled as “Crisis and Corruption in Spain: Improving the Quality of Governance to Fight Corruption” is written by Prof. Ph.D Fernando JIMENEZ SANCHEZ from University of Murcia, Spain. The paper analyses data on the skyrocketing perception of corruption in Spain and links this perception not so much to an increase in bribery as to growing dissatisfaction with the functioning of the political system. For this reason, it argues that there is an urgent need to improve the quality of Spain’s government institutions if citizens’ trust in their public institutions is to be restored. The paper finally poses nine reforms to raise quality of government in Spain.

The second article which is authored by Prof. Ph.D. Jose-Ignacio TORREBLANCA from The National Distance Education University of Spain-UNED is entitled as “Social Networks and Democracy: Problems and Dilemmas of Regulating the Digital Ecosystem”. This article analyses how the disintermediation of information facilitated by social networks aggravates the crisis of democracy. It shows how the characteristics of the digital ecosystem facilitate the spread of disinformation and fake news, erode citizens’ trust in the veracity of information and contribute to the undermining of representative democracy and its institutions. It also examines the regulatory strategies being adopted by democratic governments to restore the quality of public space and public confidence in the media and the dilemmas and difficulties they face in doing so.

Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Erdal EROĞLU from Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University and Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Gülçin TUNÇ together with Mine AYDEMİR DEV from Bursa Uludağ University and contribute to this issue by their article “Measuring NGOs’ Active Participation in Municipal Decision-Making in Türkiye”. This study tries to develop a new scale for measuring the active participation relation between municipalities and NGOs. The authors emphasize that while citizen participation at the local level is widely researched, a scale that aims to get NGO members’ perceptions about their level of participation and focuses on the budgeting process is not available. They have developed a new two dimensional participation scale which consists of ‘Participation mechanism’ and ‘Participation process’ and expect that obtaining data from NGOs will make it easier to understand the complex participatory relationship between citizens and the local administration.

The fourth paper is entitled as “Politicization of Migration Policies in the Visegrad Group’s Member States: A Means of Creating External Enemies of the Political system?” and written by Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Przemyslaw Osiewicz from Adam Mickiewicz University of Poland. The main purpose of this article is to examine whether the process of politicization of migration policies in the member states of the Visegrad Group is used to create the image of external enemies of these societies. The author’s main assumption is that the leaders of the V4 states intentionally politicize migration issues and use them to achieve internal objectives. The author expects the main theoretical contribution of the article is to be the original typology of creating the image of migrants as enemies of the state, whereas the empirical contribution is actually based on an in-depth analysis of a selected cases of a group of V4 countries.

The next article of this issue which is authored by Assoc. Prof. Ph.D Marc Smyrl from University of Montpellier of France and Assoc. Prof. Ph.D Ceren Ark-Yıldırım from Istanbul University is entitled as “Between Locally Led Response and Domestic Blame Avoidance: Dilemmas in the Management of Syrians in Turkey”. In this article the authors try to find an answer to the question of “to what extent can humanitarian governance and host-country social protection schemes

converge?”. Although the 2016 humanitarian summit recommended a model of international humanitarian governance in which social policy instruments and actors should be given greater weight in humanitarian management, the authors argue that as long as supporting forced migrants from public resources is seen as an undesirable action by voters, host country governments must balance implementation of this internationally established norm with attention to “blame avoidance.”

The sixth article of this issue is entitled as “Citizens’ Attitudes Towards Online Communication Channels in Contacting Local Governments and the Emergence of Integrated Multi-Channel Platforms: The Case of Orange Table” and is written by Asst. Prof. Dr. Bengi Demirci and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Güner Bildik from Akdeniz University. The article explores attitudes of citizens towards online communication channels when contacting local governments. The research was conducted with residents of Muratpasa district of Antalya and revealed that citizens still prefer traditional offline communication channels when contacting municipality. Calling by phone was the most preferred way which was followed by going personally. Social media was one of the least preferred communication channels.

Asst. Prof. Dr., Saadet Ulaşođlu İmamođlu from Kırklareli University contributes this issue by her article entitled as “The Impact of Ethnic Discrimination on the Prevention of Human Trafficking”. The article starts by emphasizing the importance of human trafficking problem for the international community and the legal framework that requires countries to take effective measures to eliminate this crime. Then the author examines whether or not ethnic discrimination affects countries’ preventative measures for human trafficking. The results of statistical analysis based on a data set that involves 165 countries over the years between 2003 and 2015 show that ethnic discrimination deteriorates the prevention of human trafficking.

I would like to thank to the authors who participate in this issue with their valuable papers, the reviewers for their precious effort, the editorial board members of the journal while hoping this issue to be an enjoyable and useful read for all the readers.

Prof. Dr. Esra Nemli alıřkan  
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