

## ANNOTATION

**Nessipkaliyev Dauren's dissertation on the Political socialisation of student youth: comparative analysis in the context of a large city', presented for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

**6D050100 – Sociology**

**The relevance of the research.** Political socialization is a complex, dynamic process and young people respond to it by shaping their agency. Young people are part of multiple realities and are influenced by a variety of factors, including family, community and where they live; education, schools and peer groups; religious elements and mass media. Young people are not passive recipients of political stimuli, but play an active role in shaping their own political views by reflecting in certain socio-political contexts.

The relevance of this study is due to a number of circumstances, firstly, it lays the foundation for understanding the political socialisation of student youth in Kazakhstan, but also in the fact that this process involves numerous constructs and elements of social reality. Secondly, studies of political socialisation, both classical and contemporary, focus around a number of key issues: perceptions of political socialisation, key agents, youth participation and behaviour. These are summarised in the first section of the thesis, summarising the finding that, even after decades of research, many of them remain unresolved. Third, young citizens do not experience massive changes in their political attitudes and preferences when they become eligible to vote upon reaching their eighteenth birthday. Lastly, the comparative analysis carried out on the example of Almaty as a large city with trends of increased concentration of universities and student youth, revealed the main tools and mechanisms of political influence on young people, outlined the process of formation of political values, as well as revealed the role of agents and their influence on the political consciousness of student youth.

**The purpose of the** study is to examine the political socialization of student youth and determine the role of national universities in shaping their political behavior and activism, using the advantages of comparative analysis.

**Hypothesis of the research:** (1) Young people's interest in the political world is largely determined by the environment in which they are socialized. They adapt their attitudes and behavior to the real situation. (2) Political socialization of student youth is mediated by civic participation, which is more attractive than the traditional form of political participation and is more often used by young people as more effective in promoting socio-political change.

**Object of research:** student youth of a large city (on the example of Almaty).

**Subject of research:** political socialization of student youth.

## **Research objectives**

- To systematize of theoretical approaches and scientific concepts from the social sciences on the mechanisms, models and institutions of political consciousness and attitudes formation in the context of youth political socialization;
- To analyze of the social agents of political experience transmission and acquisition and the factors that contribute to the ability to understand, interact and act in the political system according to the student's self-perception;
- To identify the specificities of political socialization in the context of the development of Internet technology, new media and social networks;
- To consider of students' civic and political engagement in the development of democratic values;
- To define perceptions students national universities as advanced universities in Kazakhstan on civic and right-wing culture, political the system and patriotism in Kazakhstani society; the role of students and university education in the formation of political culture and the formation of civic qualities of the individual.

**The theoretical and methodological bases of research** political socialization, explaining the interaction of the subject politics and socio-political system of society were: 1) the theory of structural functionalism, according to which social systems tend to perform certain tasks necessary for the stability of the political system, as well as for internal security; 2) conflict theory, according to which the difference in political participation of people is due to their own interests. There are group differences in political socialization due to conflicting interests of different groups; 3) rational choice theory, according to which political participation is based on people's rational choices; 4) symbolic interactionism, whose representatives believe that the study of social interaction is the key to understanding human behavior; 5) elite theory and circulation is related to political socialization, as understanding political systems and political culture can help the masses participate in political Furthermore, if leadership qualities are developed from the outset, this can develop abilities in the non-elite stratum and thus enable the circulation of elites, and nations can move towards a participatory form of democracy. 6) Kohlberg's theory of moral development suggests that moral development includes an understanding of justice and is linked to the process of political socialisation, as it provides insight into the stages of civic and political engagement.

**Empirical research methods.** The present study is descriptive in nature and a mixed-method design was adopted. This study used three types of data to describe a holistic view of the phenomenon. The first, the use of re-analysis of the issue under study to describe and explain trends in the political socialisation of student youth. The second was to collect data using a self-administered questionnaire and a survey of national university students in Almaty. The data was collected during the survey from January 25 to February 20, 2022. The obtained data was processed and statistically disaggregated by gender, city village and field of study. Respondents were selected from the undergraduate program students. A total of 711 students participated in the

survey. The sample consisted of 305 men (42.9%) and 407 women (57.1%). Third, a focus group discussion using a guided interview (FGD) on students' perceptions of the country's political issues, their involvement in politics and the impact of university education on students' democratic attitudes was applied. Fourteen students participated in the FGD. This work was implemented by analyzing a comparative study from the JSTOR database, Google scholar, and public domain publications and by interpreting the focus group interview. Focus group participants were selected using the network method. The duration of the FGDs was 1 hour and 40 minutes. The FGDs were transcribed and verbatim transcribed from the audio recordings. All types of data were analysed separately, compared and combined to draw conclusions.

### **Scientific points of the thesis to be defended**

Provision 1: Theoretical understanding of political socialisation can be traced back to the teachings of both classical socio-political scientists and modern and postmodernist perspectives. Marxist ideological orientation and class consciousness are driving factors for political engagement; Weber's concept of power and leadership suggests that responsible action is a means to political ends; according to Durkheim, education is an important factor in political socialisation, turning people into citizens ready for moral participation in society; Habermas distinguishes different forms of political participation and stresses the importance of the media for democracy; Gabitus Bourdieu, planning political participation is gradually built within a mental construct; Beck's risk society is linked to 'sub-politics', in such a system people are more educated, reflective and self-critical and better able to deal with the multiple risks associated with advanced modernity;

Provision 2. Socialisation involves the internalisation of dominant norms that are used by people who can decide how to act in a given situation. The primary agents of socialization are those that directly produce a particular political orientation - these include the family, the peer group and educational institutions. Secondary agents of socialisation are less personal and are involved in the socialisation process in a more indirect way - the media, political parties, voluntary organisations and government. In today's realities, there are other, perhaps more powerful, arguments and facts that influence a person's political orientation: new media, social media, gender, region, religious orientations, and life cycle and generations. The complexities of the new media system are reflected in the variety of content available. Today 90% of people aged 18 to 29 use social media. If democratic ideals are embedded through different socialisation agents, this can influence political participation and leadership development in people.

Provision 3. Students play an important role in the struggle for democracy. Student youth are generally interested in politics, but not in politicians. Young people are reluctant to vote, a decline in the proportion of young people voting in national elections has been observed in many countries. Working in a political party is not an attractive activity. Students believe that non- traditional forms of participation are

more effective in promoting social change and are less likely to see voting as the best way to change society. They are mostly active on global issues such as environmental issues, opposing racism, homophobia and they are concerned about practical issues such as increasing tuition fees, etc.

Provision 4: Young people are not apolitical at all; they are exploring different ways of political participation. Students find creative ways to express their dissatisfaction with the status quo and demand a more just, equitable and sustainable future; they are much more likely to participate in public politics and protest actions. Students take action on issues that concern them and make efforts to promote positive change; they find their commitment, activism to strengthen democratic principles more useful in changing the status quo in society. Community service gives students the opportunity to solve social problems in practice. This generation wants idealistic politics, putting the public interest above personal or party interests. This generation believes in dynamic politics more than ever before.

Provision 5. The evidence that university education contributes to the socialisation of students towards liberal values and attitudes is rather limited. In Kazakhstani higher education institutions, the process of political socialisation and identity development, which encompasses the diversity of each student's experiences and identity, is cognitive in nature. Curricula that include a mix of social subjects cannot compensate for the lack of learning strategies that motivate self-reflection on political developments and critical reflection on the political system to prepare young people for citizenship. Unfortunately, mere lectures, a series of examinations and the traditional model of teaching, learning and assessment are unlikely to result in meaningful and productive graduates developing democratic values.

**The scientific novelty of the thesis results is as follows:**

- According to a comparative analysis of various theories, concepts, approaches to the political system and theoretical, methodological and empirical studies on political identity, political involvement, activity, values and attitudes, orientation, attitude to a political party, behavioral intentions, an understanding of political socialization in its modern interpretation was formulated, which boils down to the civic participation of young people in the socio-political life of society.
- An extended analysis of the consideration of the agents of socialisation has led to a better understanding that the classification of agents of socialisation goes beyond the traditional approach, since rapid technological change has also entailed a transformation of the ways of receiving information, led to changes in patterns of family influence, and the issue of gender inequality, regional specificity, level of democratic development, religious orientations, life cycle and generations play an important role in the political socialisation of young people.
- It is determined that the political activity of Kazakhstani youth is not directly related to demographic factors such as ethnicity, religion, race, level of education, geographical location, gender and more.

- It is revealed that multiple social identifiers that influence the formation of political socialization of youth are manifested in the intersection of social (family), cultural (identity) and political environment (behavior/participation).
- It is shown that the formation of values and national identity of Kazakhstani youth occurs through the interaction between collective discourse and individual experience. These interactions are part of political socialization, which shapes youth activism within a broader community narrative that creates "us" and "others".
- The influence of unstructured and structured educational systems penetrating into all aspects of everyday life of student youth and being an important factor influencing their political socialization has been revealed.
- It is established that the lack of participation of Kazakhstani youth in the political process is not inactivity and lack of political interest, rather they do not have interest and trust in the political structure.

**Relevance to the directions of science development or state programs.** The research has a correlation with the main state programs and messages of the President of the country, among which are: "Strategy "Kazakhstan-2050": a new political course of the established state" from December 14, 2012; Program article "A look into the future: modernization of public consciousness" from 2017; Address of the Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan "Constructive public dialogue - the basis of stability and prosperity of Kazakhstan" from September 2, 2019; Address of the Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan "Kazakhstan in a new reality: Time for Action" dated September 1, 2020; Message of the Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan "Unity of the people and systemic reforms - a solid basis for the prosperity of the country" dated September 1, 2021; Message of the Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan "Fair State. A united nation. A prosperous society" from September 1, 2022 and others.

**The validation of the research results and their implementation.** The dissertation was discussed at the Department of Political Science and Socio-Philosophical Disciplines of KazNPU named after Abay (report #10) and recommended for defense. The main scientific results of the dissertation work are presented at various international scientific-theoretical and practical conferences, in scientific journals. The main ideas of the dissertation were reflected in 7 scientific papers.