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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### Problems of researching religion in Political Science

We have already discussed main problems in researching religion in Political Science, but there are still some issues that should be analyzed. When I started doing research on religion and politics, I realized that there is a yawning gap in the field of Political Science regarding religion. My impression was that religion cannot remain on the margins of Political Science, on contrary – due to its role in political events around the globe, religion should hold a central place for Political Science. However, it never came to my mind that the Western scientists have never analyzed this issue in details. By working in this field mainly focusing on the Former Yugoslavia, I have established a discipline which would deal with religion as a specific political phenomenon. As a result, the politology of religion has been founded, and introduced in the syllabus of the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Political Science in school year 1993-1994.

After foundation of politology of religion, I did a comparative research on its development at international Universities and institutions. As English language does have a term “Political Science” and “Political Scientist”, but no terms which would refer to politology, or politicologist – I have decided to focus on French sources where such terms exists. Long time ago, I have googled a term “Politologie des religions”. At back then there was only one result: that a center titled “L’Observatoire du religieux” was founded in Aix-en-Provence in 1992, and that is has been known for its work in sociology and politology of religion. And nothing more to it. As I was curious to find out more about its work in politology of religion, I have searched the catalogues of major French libraries in order to find sources published in this field, and that would have the term “Politologie des religions” in its name. Thus, I have searched catalogues of the SciencesPo library, and then other French libraries in the world. I have found literally nothing. Not a single monograph, article, or title which would refer to the term “politologie des religions”. Once I was completely sure that this was the case, I wrote an article entitled “Political Science and Religion” and submitted it to the prestigious French journal – *Revue française de science politique*. The aim of this article was to explain that politology of religion has its own place in the world of Political Science. Alongside the article, I have sent a very kind letter to the Editorial Board of the Journal. All of this happened in 2005.

Shortly after, I have received a reply via regular mail, signed by the editor-in-chief of *Revue française de science politique*. It was not a very pleasant letter. The editor-in-chief of the *Revue française de science politique* from back in the days told me that I am knocking on the already open doors, and that the problems I was tackling in my article was solved long time ago. I have sent a very kindly phrased reply, saying that I have already did my research on the topic, and there was not a single title in the French libraries that would refer to the politology of religion. At the same

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time, I have kindly asked the editor-in-chief to refer me to the sources that deals with politology of religion, how they defined it, etc. Of course, he never replied me back.

I stopped paying attention to the *Revue française de science politique*, and continued my work on developing politology of religion. However, occasionally I would search the SciencePo library catalogue to see if there is something new in there. And there was nothing new for years. Not even a keyword “politologie des religions”. In the meantime, we have started publishing the *Politics and Religion Journal*, with additional two titles in French (*Politologie des Religions*) and Serbian (*Политикологија религије*). Finally, I have stopped checking the catalogue of the SciencePo library.

Many years have passed since. However, just out of curiosity I searched the catalogue once again. I was very surprised to see that under a keyword “Politologie des religions” there was only one result – this very Journal. Other Paris-based libraries did not have it. Since then, I have been frequently following the catalogues of the SciencePo library, and the National Library of France. Over the years, the number of results under a keyword “Politologie des religions” has increased. So, having said that, how do we stand today, 17 years after the letter I have received from the editor-in-chief of *Revue française de science politique*?

While I write this editorial, I am searching the catalogue of the SciencePo library. Under the keyword “Politologie des religions” I have found 74 sources, and 35 of these have a term “Politologie des religions” within it. Others do not. And all of the 35 sources have been published in this Journal. The catalogue of the National Library of France also has this term, which is a great progress. But, this Library only has 5 sources listed, and none of them have a keyword “Politologie des religions” within it. It is the same in the world’s biggest libraries. If you search a catalogue of the world’s greatest library – the Congress Library in Washington D.C. and search “Politologie des religion” – the only results you will get is this Journal. The same goes with the catalogue of the Columbia University.

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