

POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION IN THE AGE OF AI: IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRATIZATION AND DE-DEMOCRATIZATION

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ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 3 February 2025

Revised: 17 February 2025

Published: 11 March 2025

ABSTRACT

This review article examines the multifaceted impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital communication technologies on political socialization, with implications for democratization and de-democratization. It highlights the critical role political socialization plays in shaping individuals' political beliefs, values, and behaviors, influencing their engagement in democratic processes. The authors explore the transformative effects of AI on political socialization, emphasizing both its potential to enhance civic engagement through personalized information delivery and its inherent risks, such as the proliferation of misinformation and the creation of echo chambers. The analysis delves into the diverse impacts of political socialization across different socio-political contexts, comparing experiences in established democracies with those in authoritarian regimes and nascent democracies. The influence of regime type, cultural norms, historical legacies, and access to technology on political socialization is discussed, emphasizing how these factors shape political engagement and contribute to either the strengthening or undermining of democratic institutions. The authors also analyze the complex interaction between political socialization, populism, and de-democratization, highlighting the role of AI in amplifying divisive narratives and reinforcing existing biases. Finally, the article offers recommendations for fostering inclusive and equitable political socialization processes, addressing the challenges posed by AI-driven misinformation, and promoting robust media literacy and critical thinking skills among citizens. The paper concludes by emphasizing the urgency of developing strategies to safeguard the integrity and resilience of democratic institutions in the age of AI.

Keywords: Political Socialization, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Communication Technologies, Democratization, De-Democratization

CITATION INFORMATION: Rotjanawasuthorn, S., Wongmahesak, K., Wekke, I., & Wakano, A. (2025). Political Socialization in The Age of AI: Implications for Democratization and De-Democratization. *Procedia of Multidisciplinary Research*, 3(3), 63.

Data Availability Statement: The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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