MATTHEW POLACKO

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Academic Appointments

2025 (Sept)–Present	**Postdoctoral Researcher** University of Calgary, Department of Political Science
2023–2025	**SSHRC/FRQSC Postdoctoral Research Fellow** University of Toronto, Department of Political Science
2021–2023	**Postdoctoral Research Fellow** University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), Department of Political Science

Education

2021 (Oct)	**PhD, Politics and International Relations** Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, UK *The Politics of Income Inequality: Policy Polarisation, Representation, and the Decline of Social Democracy* Committee: Oliver Heath, Jonathan Hopkin, Armin Schäfer, Kaat Smets
2016	**Master of Science, Public Policy and Management** King's College London – London, UK

Publications

Peer Reviewed

2026 **Polacko, M**. "Partisan Bias of Non-Voters in Canada and the Consequences for Representative Democracy." *Representation*. OnlineFirst.

2026 Harell, A., S. Soroka, **M. Polacko** & W. Kymlicka. "Communicating Commitment to the Nation? A Simulated Social Media Experiment on Immigrant Deservingness." *European Journal of Political Research*. (In Press).

2026 **Polacko, M**., G. Di Pasquale & E. Lofstedt. "Bridges and Walls: How Rising Income Inequality Drives Anti-Immigrant Sentiment and Republican Realignment." *Political Research Quarterly*. 79(3): 994–1008.

2026 **Polacko, M**., P. Graefe & S. Kiss. "Revisiting the Sectoral Cleavage in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Election Studies." *Canadian Review of Sociology*. 63(1): 1–15.

2025 **Polacko, M**. "Canada's Increasing Class-Based Voting Disparities Amidst Declining Economic Policy Saliency." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 58(4): 821–847.

2024 **Polacko, M**., P. Graefe & S. Kiss. "Subjective economic insecurity and attitudes toward immigration and feminists among voters on the Right in Canada." *Social Science Quarterly*. 105(2): 281–295.

2024 **Polacko, M**., & A. Harell. "Racial discrimination at the polls? The Canadian case of Jagmeet Singh." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 12(4): 876–895.

2023 Kiss, S., **M. Polacko** & P. Graefe. "The education and income voting divides in Canada and their consequences for redistributive politics." *Electoral Studies*. 85: 102648.

2023 **Polacko, M**. "Who benefits from the social democratic march to the middle?" *European Political Science Review*. 15(4): 502–522.
*** Winner of *EPSR* Early Careers Prize for best biennial early career article in *EPSR*.**

2023 **Polacko, M**. "Turning off the base: Social democracy's neoliberal turn, income inequality and turnout." *Politics & Policy*. 51(4): 538–568.

2022 **Polacko, M**., S. Kiss & P. Graefe. "The Changing Nature of Class Voting in Canada, 1965–2019." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 55(3): 663–686.

2022 **Polacko, M**. "The Politics of Income Inequality: Redistribution, Turnout and Responsiveness." *Statistics, Politics & Policy*. 13(2): 201–218.

2022 **Polacko, M**. "Inequality, policy polarization and the income gap in turnout." *Party Politics*.

28(4): 739–754.

2022 **Polacko, M**. "The rightward shift and electoral decline of social democratic parties under increasing inequality." *West European Politics*. 45(4): 665–692.

2021 **Polacko, M**., O. Heath, M. Lewis-Beck & R. Dassonneville. "Policy Polarization, Income Inequality and Turnout." *Political Studies*. 69(2): 455–477.

2021 **Polacko, M**. "Causes and Consequences of Income Inequality – An Overview." *Statistics, Politics & Policy*. 12(2): 341–357.
*** Winner of Emil J. Gumbel Prize for best annual article in *SPP*.**

2020 **Polacko, M**. "Party Positions, Income Inequality, and Voter Turnout in Canada, 1984–2015." *American Behavioral Scientist*. 64(9): 1324–1347.

Revised & Resubmitted

Polacko, M., & M. Javdani. "The Housing-Based Cleavage: Property and Political Behaviour in Canada." *Socio-Economic Review*.

Under Review

Di Pasquale, G., **M. Polacko** & E. Lofstedt. "Inequality and the Two Faces of Exclusion: Labor-Market and Social Exclusion of Immigrants in Comparative Perspective."

Polacko, M. "Anti-Immigration Pro-Redistribution Attitudes and Voter Turnout in North America."

Polacko, M. "When Inequality Concern Fails to Mobilize: Elite Bias, Vote Choice, and Electoral Participation in Canada."

Wood-MacLean, B., S. Asadolahi, **M. Polacko,** MJ. Donnelly, & MA. Rancourt. "The Evolution of Immigration Rhetoric in Party Manifestos in Canada and the United States."

Book Contract

Polacko, M. *Class Dismissed: Class Politics and Inequality in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Book Chapter

2025 **Polacko, M**., S. Kiss & P. Graefe. "The Long and Short View of Class Voting in Canada." In Royce Koop, Jacob Robbins-Kanter & Daniel Troup (eds.), *Working-Class Politics and Representation in Canada*, (185–211). Vancouver: UBC Press.

Non-Peer Reviewed

2026 **Polacko, M**., P. Graefe & S. Kiss. "Economic Insecurity is Increasingly Linked with Opposition to Immigration in Canada." *Institute for Research on Public Policy*. 9: 1–5.

2026 **Polacko, M**., P. Graefe & S. Kiss. "The Changing Class Basis of Canadian and Social Democratic Futures." *Perspectives Journal*. 5: 48–68.

2023 **Polacko, M**. "Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy." *Elections Canada.*

2019 **Polacko, M**. "Canada's Failed Corporate Tax Cutting Binge." *Monitor*. 26(4): 20–21.

2016 **Polacko, M**. "The Case for Keeping and Reforming Inheritance Tax." *Spectrum*. 6: 12–13.

2015 **Polacko, M**. "Cameron's Corporate Tax Cuts Are Not Working for Britain." *Spectrum*. 5: 1–6.

Academic Blogs

2026 (July) **Polacko, M**. "Why rising inequality drives anti-immigrant voting in America." *The Loop*.

2025 (Dec) **Polacko, M**., P. Graefe & S. Kiss. "What Canada's public sector voting divide could mean for future elections." *The Conversation*.

2025 (Aug) **Polacko, M**. "Canada's class divide at the ballot box is growing." *The Conversation*.

2023 (Oct) Kiss, S., **M. Polacko** & P. Graefe. "Educated voters in Canada tend to vote for left-leaning parties while richer voters go right." *The Conversation*.

2021 (Oct) **Polacko, M**. "Has economic moderation contributed to the decline of social democratic parties?" *LSE EUROPP – European Politics and Policy*.

2021 (May) **Polacko, M**. "Can policy choice reduce the income gap in voting?" *The Loop*.

2015 (Nov)	**Polacko, M**. "The Spending Review: Short-termism, Ideology and Economic Illiteracy." *King's Think Tank*.

Scholarships and Awards

2025–2027	VPR Postdoctoral Excellence Award (CAD$60,000) – University of Calgary
2025	EPSR Early Careers Prize (£500) – Biennial award for *European Political Science Review*
2023–2025	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD$115,000)
2023–2025	FRQSC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD$10,500 *& $90,000 declined*)
2021	Emil J. Gumbel Prize (€500) – Best article in *Statistics, Politics & Policy*
2020–2021	SSHRC Doctoral Award (CAD$20,000)
2017–2021	Electoral Studies Doctoral Scholarship (£62,464)
2017	Progressive Economics Forum Graduate Essay Award (CAD$1,000)
2014–2016	King's Masters Scholarship (£2,000) – King's College London

Grants

2025 (July)	**SSHRC Insight Development Grant – PI (CAD$65,866)**
2020–2026	Canadian Political Science Association Travel Grants x4 (CAD$2,000)
2023 (Dec)	University of Toronto Jackman Scholars-in-Residence Grant (CAD$2,000)
2023 (Nov)	Elections Canada/C-Dem Research Grant (CAD$5,000)
2023 (Feb)	UQAM Faculty Mobility Grant (CAD$1,175)
2023 (Jan)	CSDC Conference Travel Grant (CAD$1,000)
2022 (June)	CSDC Methods Training Grant (CAD$1,750)
2018–2021	Royal Holloway Politics and IR Travel Grants x5 (£2,200)
2020 (Jan)	PhD Winter School Travel Grant – Dublin, Ireland (€500)
2019 (May)	DVPW Political Economy Travel Grant – Konstanz, Germany (€400)
2018 (Dec)	Politics and Inequality Workshop Grant – Warsaw, Poland (£425)
2018 (May)	ECPR Summer School Grant – Budapest, Hungary (€415)

Conferences and Talks

2026 (Sept)	European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Krakow, Poland.
2026 (Sept)	Prairie Political Science Association (PPSA). Banff, Canada.
2026 (June)	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). Ottawa, Canada.
2026 (May)	C-Dem Forum on Election Democracy. Toronto, Canada.
2026 (May)	Alberta Quantitative Political Science Workshop (AQPSW). Calgary, Canada.
2025 (Sept)	American Political Science Association (APSA). Vancouver, Canada.
2025 (Jan) *(invited)*	Apathy is Boring. Lunch and Learn Seminar. Montreal, Canada.
2024 (Sept)	American Political Science Association (APSA). Philadelphia, USA.
2024 (June)	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). Montreal, Canada.
2024 (Jan)	C-Dem Junior Scholar Workshop. Toronto, Canada.
2023 (Nov) *(invited)*	Elections Canada C-Dem Forum Reports. Ottawa, Canada.
2023 (July)	International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP). Montreal, Canada.
2023 (June)	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). Toronto, Canada.
2023 (May)	Forum on Democratic Citizenship. Montreal, Canada.
2023 (April) *(invited)*	Political Behaviour Research Group (PBRG). London, Canada.
2023 (Jan)	Southern Political Science Association (SPSA). St. Petersburg, USA.
2022 (Nov) *(invited)*	Social Solidarity and Intergroup Relations. Siena, Italy.
2022 (Sept)	American Political Science Association (APSA). Montreal, Canada.
2022 (June)	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). Online
2022 (May) *(invited)*	C-Dem Forum on Election Democracy. Toronto, Canada.
2021 (Sept)	Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) specialist group. Online.
2021 (Aug)	European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Aarhus, Denmark.
2021 (June)	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). Online.
2021 (March)	Political Studies Association (PSA). Online.
2020 (Sept)	4th Annual University of Manchester Conference. Online.
2020 (Jan)	PhD Winter School in Political Economy. Dublin, Ireland.
2019 (Dec) *(invited)*	Canada Research Chair in Electoral Democracy Seminar. Montreal, Canada.
2019 (May)	German Association for Political Science (DVPW). Konstanz, Germany.

2019 (April)	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA). Chicago, USA.
2019 (March)	5th Leuven-Montréal Winter School on Elections. Leuven, Belgium.
2018 (Dec) *(invited)*	Politics and Inequality across Nations and Time. Warsaw, Poland.
2018 (Sept)	Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) specialist group. Egham, UK.
2017 (June)	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). Toronto, Canada.

Teaching

	Sessional Lecturer
	University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs – Toronto, ON, Canada
2023–Present	Comparative Public Policy (Master's 2nd year)
	Teaching Assistant
	Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, UK
2020–2021	Introduction to Politics (undergrad 1st year)
2018–2019	International Political Economy (undergrad 2nd year)

Additional Training

2026 (Aug 3–7)	**Research Design for Causal Inference Workshop** Northwestern Pritzker School of Law – Chicago, USA
2023 (Aug 21–25)	**R Summer Bootcamp** McGill University – Montreal, Canada
2022 (June 20–July 1)	**MethodsNet Summer School in Research Methods** "Introduction to R" and "Collecting Web Data with R" Radboud University – Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2021 (Aug 2–7)	**ECPR Summer School: Theories and Methods in Party Politics** University of Aarhus – Aarhus, Denmark
2020 (Jan 15–16)	**New Political Economy of Europe PhD Winter School** University College Dublin – Dublin, Ireland
2019 (March 1–9)	**5th Leuven-Montréal Winter School on Elections** University of Leuven – Leuven, Belgium
2018 (July 25–Aug 9)	**ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques** "Multivariate Statistical Techniques for Comparing Countries" Central European University – Budapest, Hungary

Research Assistantships

	Research Assistant
2019–2021	Simon Kiss, Wilfrid Laurier University – Waterloo, ON, Canada
2020–2021	Kaat Smets, Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, UK
2019	Raul Gomez, University of Liverpool – Liverpool, UK
	Progressive Economics Fellowship
2019	Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Ottawa, ON, Canada

Professional Memberships

2022–Present	American Political Science Association (APSA)
2021–Present	Consortium on Electoral Democracy (C-Dem)
2017–Present	Progressive Economics Forum (PEF)
2016–Present	Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA)

Service to the Discipline

	Speaker Series Organizer
2026–Present	Canadian Municipal Barometer – monthly online
	Editorial Assistant
2018–2021	Electoral Studies – Egham, UK
	Conference Co-Organizer
2018	Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) – Royal Holloway, Egham, UK
	Reviewer
2018–Present	*American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; British Journal of Political Science; Canadian Journal of Political Science; Canadian Public Policy; Comparative Political Studies; Democratization; Electoral Studies; European Journal of Political Research; International Political Science Review; Italian Political Science Review; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties; Journal of European Public Policy; Journal of Politics; Labour/Le Travail; Parliamentary Affairs; Party Politics; PLOS One; Political Behavior; Political Studies; Political Studies Review; Socio-Economic Review; Social Science Research; South European Society and Politics; West European Politics*

Other Skills

Languages	English (native speaker); French (intermediate)
Methods Training	Causal Inference; Logistic & OLS Regression; Multilevel Models; Panel; Text Analysis; TSCS
Software	Office; R; SPSS; Stata

References

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