

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 <i>The Politics of Income Inequality: Policy Polarisation, Representation, and the Decline of Social Democracy</i> 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. “ <u>Partisan Bias of Non-Voters in Canada and the Consequences for Representative Democracy.</u> ” <i>Representation</i> . OnlineFirst.
2026	Harell, A., S. Soroka, M. Polacko & W. Kymlicka. “Communicating Commitment to the Nation? A Simulated Social Media Experiment on Immigrant Deservingness.” <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> . (In Press).
2026	Polacko, M. , G. Di Pasquale & E. Lofstedt. “ <u>Bridges and Walls: How Rising Income Inequality Drives Anti-Immigrant Sentiment and Republican Realignment.</u> ” <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> . 79(3): 994–1008.
2026	Polacko, M. , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “ <u>Revisiting the Sectoral Cleavage in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Election Studies.</u> ” <i>Canadian Review of Sociology</i> . 63(1): 1–15.
2025	Polacko, M. “ <u>Canada’s Increasing Class-Based Voting Disparities Amidst Declining Economic Policy Saliency.</u> ” <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> . 58(4): 821–847.
2024	Polacko, M. , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “ <u>Subjective economic insecurity and attitudes toward immigration and feminists among voters on the Right in Canada.</u> ” <i>Social Science Quarterly</i> . 105(2): 281–295.
2024	Polacko, M. , & A. Harell. “ <u>Racial discrimination at the polls? The Canadian case of Jagmeet Singh.</u> ” <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i> . 12(4): 876–895.
2023	Kiss, S., M. Polacko & P. Graefe. “ <u>The education and income voting divides in Canada and their consequences for redistributive politics.</u> ” <i>Electoral Studies</i> . 85: 102648.
2023	Polacko, M. “ <u>Who benefits from the social democratic march to the middle?</u> ” <i>European Political Science Review</i> . 15(4): 502–522. * Winner of EPSR Early Careers Prize for best biennial early career article in EPSR.
2023	Polacko, M. “ <u>Turning off the base: Social democracy’s neoliberal turn, income inequality and turnout.</u> ” <i>Politics & Policy</i> . 51(4): 538–568.
2022	Polacko, M. , S. Kiss & P. Graefe. “ <u>The Changing Nature of Class Voting in Canada, 1965–2019.</u> ” <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> . 55(3): 663–686.
2022	Polacko, M. “ <u>The Politics of Income Inequality: Redistribution, Turnout and Responsiveness.</u> ” <i>Statistics, Politics & Policy</i> . 13(2): 201–218.
2022	Polacko, M. “ <u>Inequality, policy polarization and the income gap in turnout.</u> ”

	<i>Party Politics</i> . 28(4): 739–754.
2022	Polacko, M. “ <u>The rightward shift and electoral decline of social democratic parties under increasing inequality.</u> ” <i>West European Politics</i> . 45(4): 665–692.
2021	Polacko, M. , O. Heath, M. Lewis-Beck & R. Dassonneville. “ <u>Policy Polarization, Income Inequality and Turnout.</u> ” <i>Political Studies</i> . 69(2): 455–477.
2021	Polacko, M. “ <u>Causes and Consequences of Income Inequality – An Overview.</u> ” <i>Statistics, Politics & Policy</i> . 12(2): 341–357. * Winner of Emil J. Gumbel Prize for best annual article in <i>SPP</i>.
2020	Polacko, M. “ <u>Party Positions, Income Inequality, and Voter Turnout in Canada, 1984–2015.</u> ” <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> . 64(9): 1324–1347.
Revise & Resubmit	Polacko, M. , & M. Javdani. “The Housing-Based Cleavage: Property and Political Behaviour in Canada.” <i>Socio-Economic Review</i> .
Under Review	Di Pasquale, G., M. Polacko & E. Lofstedt. “When Inequality Amplifies Insecurity: 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. “The Egalitarian Paradox in Canada: Inequality Attitudes, Elite Bias, and the Vote.” 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. <i>Class Dismissed: Class Politics and Inequality in North America</i> . 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.), <i>Working-Class Politics and Representation in Canada</i> , (185–211). Vancouver: UBC Press.
Non-Peer Reviewed	
2026	Polacko, M. , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “Does economic insecurity undermine Canada’s pro-immigration consensus?” <i>Institute for Research on Public Policy</i> . (In Press).
2026	Polacko, M. , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “ <u>The Changing Class Basis of Canadian and Social Democratic Futures.</u> ” <i>Perspectives Journal</i> . 5: 48–68.
2023	Polacko, M. “ <u>Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy.</u> ” <i>Elections Canada</i> .
2019	Polacko, M. “ <u>Canada’s Failed Corporate Tax Cutting Binge.</u> ” <i>Monitor</i> . 26(4): 20–21.
2016	Polacko, M. “ <u>The Case for Keeping and Reforming Inheritance Tax.</u> ” <i>Spectrum</i> . 6: 12–13.
2015	Polacko, M. “ <u>Cameron’s Corporate Tax Cuts Are Not Working for Britain.</u> ” <i>Spectrum</i> . 5: 1–6.
Academic Blogs	
2026 (July)	Polacko, M. “ <u>Why rising inequality drives anti-immigrant voting in America.</u> ” <i>The Loop</i> .
2025 (Dec)	Polacko, M. , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “ <u>What Canada’s public sector voting divide could mean for future elections.</u> ” <i>The Conversation</i> .
2025 (Aug)	Polacko, M. “ <u>Canada’s class divide at the ballot box is growing.</u> ” <i>The Conversation</i> .
2023 (Oct)	Kiss, S., M. Polacko & P. Graefe. “ <u>Educated voters in Canada tend to vote for left-leaning parties while richer voters go right.</u> ” <i>The Conversation</i> .
2021 (Oct)	Polacko, M. “ <u>Has economic moderation contributed to the decline of social democratic parties?</u> ” <i>LSE EUROPP – European Politics and Policy</i> .
2021 (May)	Polacko, M. “ <u>Can policy choice reduce the income gap in voting?</u> ” <i>The Loop</i> .

2015 (Nov)	Polacko, M. “ <u>The Spending Review: Short-termism, Ideology and Economic Illiteracy.</u> ” <i>King's Think Tank</i> .
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Scholarships and Awards

2025–2027	VPR Postdoctoral Excellence Award (CAD\$60,000) – University of Calgary
2025	EPSR Early Careers Prize (£500) – Biennial award for <i>European Political Science Review</i>
2023–2025	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD\$115,000)
2023–2025	FRQSC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD\$10,500 <i>↔</i> \$90,000 <i>declined</i>)
2021	Emil J. Gumbel Prize (€500) – Best article in <i>Statistics, Politics & Policy</i>
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) (<i>invited</i>)	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) (<i>invited</i>)	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) (<i>invited</i>)	Political Behaviour Research Group (PBRG). London, Canada.
2023 (Jan)	Southern Political Science Association (SPSA). St. Petersburg, USA.
2022 (Nov) (<i>invited</i>)	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) (<i>invited</i>)	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)	4 th Annual University of Manchester Conference. Online.
2020 (Jan)	PhD Winter School in Political Economy. Dublin, Ireland.
2019 (Dec) (<i>invited</i>)	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) (<i>invited</i>)	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
2023–Present	University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs – Toronto, ON, Canada Comparative Public Policy (Masters 2 nd year)
	Teaching Assistant
2020–2021	Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, UK Introduction to Politics (undergrad 1 st year)
2018–2019	International Political Economy (undergrad 2 nd year)

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

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

Professional Memberships

2023–Present	Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)
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

2026–Present	Speaker Series Organizer Canadian Municipal Barometer – monthly online
2018–2021	Editorial Assistant Electoral Studies – Egham, UK
2018	Conference Co-Organizer Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) – Royal Holloway, Egham, UK
2018–Present	Reviewer <i>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</i>

Other Skills

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

References

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