

# MATTHEW POLACKO

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## Academic Appointments

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

## Education

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

## Publications

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### Peer Reviewed

2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , 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> . OnlineFirst.
2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , 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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , 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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , & A. Harell. “ <u>Racial discrimination at the polls? The Canadian case of Jagmeet Singh.</u> ” <i>Politics, Groups &amp; Identities</i> . 12(4): 876–895.
2023	Kiss, S., <b>M. Polacko</b> & 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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Turning off the base: Social democracy’s neoliberal turn, income inequality and turnout.</u> ” <i>Politics &amp; Policy</i> . 51(4): 538–568.
2022	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , 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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>The Politics of Income Inequality: Redistribution, Turnout and Responsiveness.</u> ” <i>Statistics, Politics &amp; Policy</i> . 13(2): 201–218.
2022	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Inequality, policy polarization and the income gap in turnout.</u> ” <i>Party Politics</i> . 28(4): 739–754.
2022	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <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	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , O. Heath, M. Lewis-Beck & R. Dassonneville. “ <u>Policy Polarization, Income Inequality and Turnout.</u> ” <i>Political Studies</i> . 69(2): 455–477.

2021	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Causes and Consequences of Income Inequality – An Overview.</u> ” <i>Statistics, Politics &amp; Policy</i> . 12(2): 341–357. * Winner of Emil J. Gumbel Prize for best annual article in <i>SPP</i> .
2020	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Party Positions, Income Inequality, and Voter Turnout in Canada, 1984–2015.</u> ” <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> . 64(9): 1324–1347.
<b>Revise &amp; Resubmit</b>	
2026	Harell, A., S. Soroka, <b>M. Polacko</b> & W. Kymlicka. “Communicating Commitment to the Nation? A Simulated Social Media Experiment.” <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> . Pre-registration: <a href="https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/SVUK7">https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/SVUK7</a> .
2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “Partisan Bias of Non-Voters in Canada and the Consequences for Representative Democracy.” <i>Representation</i> .
<b>Under Review</b>	
2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “Anti-Immigration Pro-Redistribution Attitudes and Voter Turnout in North America.”
2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , & M. Javdani. “The Housing-Based Cleavage: Property and Political Behaviour in Canada.”
2026	Wood-MacLean, B., S. Asadolahi, <b>M. Polacko</b> , MJ. Donnelly, & MA. Rancourt. “The Evolution of Immigration Rhetoric in Party Manifestos in Canada and the United States.”
<b>Book Contract</b>	
	<b>Polacko, M.</b> <i>Class Dismissed: Class Politics and Inequality in Canada</i> . Vancouver: UBC Press.
<b>Book Chapter</b>	
2025	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , 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.
<b>Non-Peer Reviewed</b>	
2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “Does economic insecurity undermine Canada’s pro-immigration consensus? <i>Institute for Research on Public Policy</i> . (Forthcoming).
2026	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “ <u>The Changing Class Basis of Canadian and Social Democratic Futures.</u> ” <i>Perspectives Journal</i> . 5: 48–68.
2023	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy.</u> ” <i>Elections Canada</i> .
2019	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Canada’s Failed Corporate Tax Cutting Binge.</u> ” <i>Monitor</i> . 26(4): 20–21.
2016	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>The Case for Keeping and Reforming Inheritance Tax.</u> ” <i>Spectrum</i> . 6: 12–13.
2015	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Cameron’s Corporate Tax Cuts Are Not Working for Britain.</u> ” <i>Spectrum</i> . 5: 1–6.
<b>Working Papers</b>	
	Di Pasquale, G. & <b>M. Polacko</b> . “Inequality and Attitudes Towards Immigration.”
	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “The Egalitarian Paradox in Canada: Inequality Attitudes, Elite Bias, and the Vote.”
	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , & MJ. Donnelly. “Economic Voting and Partisanship in North America.”
	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “Economic Inequality and Far Right Voting.”
	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , S. Kiss & P. Graefe. “Class Concordance, Inequality and Vote Choice in Canada.”
<b>Academic Blogs</b>	
2025 (Dec)	<b>Polacko, M.</b> , P. Graefe & S. Kiss. “ <u>What Canada’s public sector voting divide could mean for future elections.</u> ” <i>The Conversation</i> .
2025 (Aug)	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Canada’s class divide at the ballot box is growing.</u> ” <i>The Conversation</i> .
2023 (Oct)	Kiss, S., <b>M. Polacko</b> & 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)	<b>Polacko, M.</b> “ <u>Has economic moderation contributed to the decline of social democratic</u>

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

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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

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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 Jackson 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 (May)

ECPR Summer School Grant – Budapest, Hungary (€415)

2018 (Dec)

Politics and Inequality Workshop Grant – Warsaw, Poland (£425)

## Conferences and Talks

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2026 (Sept) (*registered*)

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Krakow, Poland.

2026 (Sept) (*registered*)

Prairie Political Science Association (PPSA). Banff, Canada.

2026 (June) (*registered*)

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)

4<sup>th</sup> 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

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

## Research Assistantships

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	<b>Research Assistant</b>
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
	<b>Progressive Economics Fellowship</b>
2019	Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Ottawa, ON, Canada

## Additional Training

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

## Professional Memberships

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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

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2018–2021	<b>Editorial Assistant</b> Electoral Studies – Egham, UK
2018	<b>Conference Co-Organizer</b> Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) – Royal Holloway, Egham, UK
2018–Present	<b>Reviewer</b> <i>American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; British Journal of Political Science; Canadian Journal of Political Science; 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

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<b>Languages</b>	English (native speaker); French (intermediate – A2 diploma)
<b>Methods Training</b>	Linear and Logistic Regression; Multilevel Models; Panel; TSCS; Web Scraping
<b>Software</b>	Office; R; SPSS; STATA

## References

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