

MATTHEW POLACKO

Department of Political Science | University of Toronto
matt.polacko@utoronto.ca | Toronto, ON, Canada, M5S 3G3 | mattpolacko.com

Academic Appointments

2023 (Sept)–Present	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>Politics of Income Inequality: Polarisation, Representation, and the Decline of Social Democracy</i>
2016	Master of Science, Public Policy and Management (Upper Merit) King’s College London – London, UK
2006	Master of Arts, History (Distinction) McMaster University – Hamilton, ON, Canada
2005	Bachelor of Arts, History and Political Science (Honours) Wilfrid Laurier University – Waterloo, ON, Canada

Publications

Peer Reviewed

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 & 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.
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 Emil J. Gumbel Prize)

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.
Under Review	
2024	Polacko, M. "Economic Inequality and Far Right Voting."
2024	Harell, A., S. Soroka, M. Polacko & W. Kymlicka. "Communicating Commitment to the Nation? A Simulated Social Media Experiment." https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/SVUK7 .
2024	Polacko, M. "Canada's Increasing Class-Based Voting Disparities Amidst Declining Economic Policy Saliency."
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> . UBC Press. (Forthcoming).
Report	
2023	Polacko, M. " <u>Youth and Satisfaction with Democracy.</u> " <i>Elections Canada</i> .
Works in Progress	
	Polacko, M. "Partisan Bias of Non-Voters in Canada and the Consequences for Representative Democracy." CPSA 2024.
	Polacko, M. , S. Kiss & P. Graefe. "Revisiting Sectoral Voting in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Election Studies." APSA 2024.
	Polacko, M. , & MJ. Donnelly. "Economic Voting in a Multiparty System: Evidence from Canada."
Non-Peer Reviewed	
2019	Polacko, M. " <u>Canada's Failed Corporate Tax Cutting Binge.</u> " <i>Monitor</i> . 26(4): 20–21.
2016	Polacko, M. " <u>Napoleonic Elizabeth: Defender of the Realm.</u> " <i>Strife</i> . 6(1): 1–11.
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 Blog	
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> .

Scholarships and Awards

2023–2026	FRQSC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD\$65,000)
2023–2025	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD\$115,000)
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)

Conference Participation

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.

Grants

2020–2024	Canadian Political Science Association Travel Grants x3 (CAD\$1,500)
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)

Teaching

	Course Instructor
2023–Present	University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs – Toronto, ON, Canada Comparative Public Policy (Masters 2 nd year)
	Teaching Assistant
2020	Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, UK Introduction to Politics (undergrad 1 st year)
2018–2019	International Political Economy (undergrad 2 nd year)
	McMaster University – Hamilton, ON, Canada
2005–2006	Canadian History (undergrad 2 nd year)

Service to the Discipline

2018–2021	Editorial Assistant Electoral Studies – Egham, UK
2018 (April–Sept)	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; Comparative Political Studies; Democratization; Electoral Studies; Italian Political Science Review; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties; Journal of Politics; Labour/Le Travail; Party Politics; PLOS One; Political Behavior; Political Studies Review; Socio-Economic Review; Social Science Research</i>

Additional Training

2023 (August 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 Experience

2019–2021	Research Assistant Wilfrid Laurier University – Waterloo, ON, Canada
2020–2021	Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, UK
2019 (Sept–Dec)	University of Liverpool – Liverpool, UK
2019 (Sept–Dec)	Progressive Economics Fellowship Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Ottawa, ON, Canada
2008–2017	Senior Editor PR Newswire – London, UK
2006–2008	News Centre Associate Canada Newswire – Toronto, ON, Canada

Other Skills

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

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)

References

Allison Harell
Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM)
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
+1 (514) 987 3000 ext. 5676
harell.allison@uqam.ca

Michael Lewis-Beck
Professor Emeritus
Department of Political Science
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa, Unites States of America
+1 (319) 335 2350
michael-lewis-beck@uiowa.edu

Oliver Heath
Professor
Department of Politics and International Relations
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, United Kingdom
+44 (0)1784 276407
oliver.heath@rhul.ac.uk