

# ERIC MERKLEY

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University of British Columbia  
Department of Political Science  
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## EDUCATION

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- PhD** University of British Columbia, Political Science 2019 (expected)  
Major: American Politics; Minor: Comparative Politics  
Dissertation: “When Experts Talk, Who Listens?  
Essays on Expert Influence on Public Opinion”  
Committee: Paul Quirk (chair), Richard Johnston, Fred Cutler  
GPA: 4.33 (A+)
- MA** McGill University, Political Science and Social Statistics 2013  
Major Field: Comparative Politics  
Thesis: “Issue Ownership, Institutions, and Political Accountability  
in Canada and the United States”  
Advisor: Eric Belanger
- BA** Wilfrid Laurier University, Political Science and History 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Refereed Journal Publications*

**Merkley, Eric**, Fred Cutler, Paul J. Quirk, and Benjamin Nyblade. “Having their Say: Authority, Voice, and Satisfaction with Democracy.” *Journal of Politics* (Forthcoming, 2019).

**Merkley, Eric**, and Dominik A. Stecula. 2018. “Party Elites or Manufactured Doubt? The Informational Context of Climate Change Polarization.” *Science Communication* 40(2): 258-274.

### *Revise and Resubmit*

“Learning from Divided Parties? Legislator Dissent as a Cue for Opinion Formation.” *Parliamentary Affairs*.

“Partisan Media Bias and Differential Responsiveness to Economic Conditions: New Evidence.” *American Politics Research*.

“Framing Climate Change: Economic, Ideology, and Uncertainty in American News Media Content,” with Dominik Stecula. *Frontiers in Communication*.

### ***Papers under Review***

“‘Back to the Future’: Democratic Responsiveness and the Anticipation of Future Public Opinion,” with Andrew Owen. Submitted to the *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

“The Four Horsemen of Polarization: An Examination of Climate Change Communication Flows,” with Dominik Stecula. Submitted to *International Journal of Press/Politics*.

### ***Working Papers***

“Party Cues in the News: Explaining the Dynamics of Climate Change Skepticism,” with Dominik Stecula.

“If a Tree Falls in the Forest...? Conflict, Balance, and the Mass Media’s (Lack of) Coverage of Expert Agreement.”

“Anti-elitism, Anti-intellectualism, and Motivated Resistance to Expert Consensus.”

“Whose News? The Media and the Distribution of Economic Gains and Losses,” with Timothy Hicks, Alan Jacobs, Scott Matthews.

“Can Mini-Publics Correct Misinformation? The Effects of Source Cues, Populist Attitudes, and Trust in Experts,” with Spencer McKay.

“A Canadian ‘Perceptual Screen’? Partisan Bias in Information Processing.”

### ***Selected Conference Papers***

“If a Tree Falls in the Forest...? Balance, Context, and the Mass Media’s (Lack of) Coverage of Expert Agreement,” at the *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, Regina, SK, 2018.

“Can Mini-Publics Correct Misinformation? The Effects of Source Cues, Populist Attitudes, and Trust in Experts,” with Spencer McKay, at the *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, Regina, SK, 2018.

“Latent Opinion, Issue Attention, and Policymaking,” with Andrew Owen, at the *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, Toronto, ON, 2017.

“Party Elites, Organized Skeptics, and the Media: Understanding How Americans Polarized on Climate Change,” with Dominik Stecula, at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

“Whose News? The Media and the Distribution of Gains and Losses,” with Timothy Hicks, Alan Jacobs, and J. Scott Matthews, at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

“Party Elites, Organized Skeptics, and the Media: Understanding How Americans Polarized on Climate Change,” with Dominik Stecula, at the *Annual Meeting of the Pacific North West Political Science Association*, Portland, OR, 2016.

“United they Stand, Divided they Fall? An Experimental Examination of the Political Cost of Legislator Dissent,” at the *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association*, Calgary, AB, 2016.

“Jenny McCarthy or Jim Inhofe? Understanding the Media's Role in Supporting Pseudo-Scientific Public Attitudes,” with Dominik Stecula, at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, San Francisco, CA (2015).

“Issue Ownership and Media Accountability: Testing the Salient Goal and Clientele Hypotheses,” at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, 2013.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Instructor** May-June 2018  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada  
Course: Introduction to Scientific Political Analysis (POLI 110)

**Teaching Assistant** 2015-present  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada  
Courses: Quantitative Methods (POLI 380, 2x), Introduction to Canadian Politics (POLI 101), Political Institutions of the United States (POLI 333), Canadian Federalism (POLI 303)

**Teaching Assistant** 2011-2013  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada  
Courses: Introduction to Comparative Politics (POLI 211, 2x), Canadian Public Policy (POLI 321, 2x).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Lab Coordinator** 2015-Present  
UBC Political Opinion Laboratory, Vancouver, Canada  
Supervisor: Paul J. Quirk

**Research Assistant** 2013-2015  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada  
Supervisors: Alan Jacobs, Fred Cutler, Richard Johnston

**Research Assistant** 2011-2013  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada  
Supervisor: Eric Belanger

**Research Associate** 2011-2013  
Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Winnipeg, Canada

**Research Assistant** 2010-2011  
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada  
Supervisors: Christopher Alcantara, Andrea Perrella

#### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

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**Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis** 2018  
University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom  
Course: Quantitative Text Analysis  
Instructor: Nicole Baerg

**Simon Fraser University**, Vancouver, Canada 2015  
Course: Introduction to Time Series Analysis  
Instructor: Mark Pickup

**European Consortium for Political Science Research Summer School** 2013  
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Course: Game Theory  
Instructor: David Hugh-Jones

#### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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Dissertation Research Award 2018

Faculty of Arts Graduate Award 2017

Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship 2015

UBC Four Year Fellowship 2013

Sandra Rotman Prize for Excellence in Public Policy Innovation 2013

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

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“Overcoming Political Bias.” Presentation delivered at *TEDxECUAD*, Emily Carr University, March 2017.

“Coming to Grips with Political Bias.” Presentation delivered to the BC Humanist Association, September 2017.

“What about Canada? Canadian Media and Politics: Theory and Applications.” Presentation delivered to POLI 333B, University of British Columbia, June 2017.

“Anatomy of a Dumpster Fire: The 2016 American Election and Beyond,” Presentation delivered to UBC Continuing Studies, November 2016.

“The Dynamics of Polarization. How the Media and Party Elites Facilitated the Growth of Climate Skepticism,” with Dominik Stecula. Presentation delivered at the Launch of the UBC Journal of Politics, April 2016.

#### **SELECTED NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

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“An Inconvenient Truth about ‘An Inconvenient Truth’,” with Dominik Stecula, *The Conversation*. Reprinted in *Newsweek*, *RealClearScience*, *Salon.com*, *Newsweek*, and the *National Post*, August 2017.

“Here’s How Canadian News Media Created a ‘Trump of the North’,” *The Washington Post: Monkey Cage*, December 2016.

“You can Blame CNN (and the News Media) If Childhood Vaccinations Go Down,” with Dominik Stecula, *The Washington Post: Monkey Cage*, September 2015.

#### **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

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Breakfast Television (Vancouver), CBC News Network, Global News BC, Roundhouse Radio (Vancouver), CBC Radio, News 1130 (Vancouver), CKNW Radio (Victoria). Fairchild TV (Vancouver).

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Canadian Political Science Association; American Political Science Association.

#### **SKILLS**

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Stata; R; Lexicoder; Quanteda

#### **REFERENCES**

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Available upon request.