

ERIC MERKLEY

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Department of Political Science
University of Toronto
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EMPLOYMENT

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Political Science University of Toronto Supervisor: Peter John Loewen	July 2020-present
Lead Survey Analyst Media Ecosystem Observatory	April 2020-present
Postdoctoral Fellow Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy University of Toronto	July 2019-present
Lead Survey Analyst Digital Democracy Project	July 2019-May 2020

EDUCATION

PhD University of British Columbia, Political Science Dissertation: "When Experts Talk, Does Anyone Listen? Essays on the Limits of Expert Influence on Public Opinion" Committee: Paul Quirk (chair), Richard Johnston, Fred Cutler External Examiner: John Bullock (Northwestern) GPA: 4.33 (A+)	2019
MA McGill University, Political Science and Social Statistics Advisor: Éric Bélanger	2013
BA Wilfrid Laurier University, Political Science and History	2011

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Research: Public opinion; Political and science communication; Media and politics; American and Canadian politics; Experiments; Survey research; Text-as-data; Time series analysis

Teaching: Public opinion and political behaviour; Media and politics; American government; Canadian government; Research methods

Refereed Journal Articles

1. Bridgman, Aengus, Eric Merkley, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, and Derek Ruths. Conditionally Accepted. "Preregistered Report on Evaluations of Deservingness of Government Aid during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Experimental Political Science*.
2. Merkley, Eric, and Dominik A. Stecula. 2020. "Party Cues in the News: Democratic Elites, Republican Backlash, and the Dynamics of Climate Skepticism." *British Journal of Political Science*. Online Access. DOI: 10.1017/S0007123420000113
3. Merkley, Eric, Aengus Bridgman, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, Derek Ruths, and Oleg Zhilin. 2020. "A Rare Moment of Cross-Partisan Consensus: Elite and Public Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 53(2): 311-8.
4. Merkley, Eric. 2020. "Are Experts (News)Worthy? Balance, Conflict, and Mass Media Coverage of Expert Consensus." *Political Communication* 37(4): 530-49.

Winner: Paul A. Sabatier Award for best paper on science, technology, and environmental politics presented at the 2019 meeting of the American Political Science Association.
5. Merkley, Eric. 2020. "Anti-intellectualism, Populism, and Motivated Resistance to Expert Consensus." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84(1): 24-48.
6. Bridgman, Aengus, Eric Merkley, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, Derek Ruths, Lisa Teichmann, and Oleg Zhilin. 2020. "The Causes and Consequences of COVID-19 Misperceptions: Understanding the Role of News and Social Media." *The Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review*. DOI: 10.37016/mr-2020-028
7. Merkley, Eric, and Andrew Owen. 2020. "Back to the Future: Democratic Responsiveness and the Estimation of Future Public Opinion." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 32(2): 203-22.
8. Merkley, Eric. 2020. "Learning from Divided Parties? Legislator Dissent as a Cue for Opinion Formation." *Parliamentary Affairs* 73(2): 342-62.
9. Merkley, Eric, Fred Cutler, Paul J. Quirk, and Benjamin Nyblade. 2019. "Having their Say: Authority, Voice, and Satisfaction with Democracy." *Journal of Politics* 81(3): 848-61.
10. Merkley, Eric. 2019. "Partisan Bias in Economic News Content: New Evidence." *American Politics Research* 47(6): 1303-23.

11. Stecula, Dominik A., and Eric Merkley. 2019. "Framing Climate Change: Economics, Ideology, and Uncertainty in American News Media Content from 1988 to 2014." *Frontiers in Communication*. DOI: 10.3389/fcomm.2019.00006.
12. Merkley, Eric, and Dominik A. Stecula. 2018. "Party Elites or Manufactured Doubt? The Informational Context of Climate Change Polarization." *Science Communication* 40(2): 258-74.

Revise and Resubmit

"A Matter of Trust: Anti-intellectualism and Public Reaction to the COVID-19 Pandemic," with Peter John Loewen. *Nature Human Behaviour*.

"Whose News? The Media and the Distribution of Economic Gains and Losses," with Timothy Hicks, Alan Jacobs, and Scott Matthews. *American Political Science Review*.

"Ideological and Partisan Bias in the Canadian Public: Evidence from Three Studies." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Under Review

"Sociodemographic Disparities in Knowledge, Practices, and Ability to Comply with COVID-19 Public Health Measures in Canada," with Gabrielle Brankston, David N. Fisman, Ashleigh R. Tuite, Zvonimir Poljak, Peter John Loewen, and Amy Greer.

"Social Distancing as a Public Goods Dilemma: High Economic Cost Reduces Voluntary Compliance," with Peter John Loewen.

"Does Talking to the Other Side Reduce Inter-Party Hostility? Exploring the Effects of Offline and Online Heterogeneous Political Discussion on Affective Polarization," with Eran Amsalem and Peter John Loewen.

"Protest under Uncertainty: Evidence from a Survey Experiment," with Miriam Matejova.

Works in Progress

Book Manuscript: "Polarization eh? The Causes and Consequences of Partisan Animus in Canada."

"Polarization Eh? Ideological Divergence and Partisan Sorting in the Canadian Mass Public."

Conference Papers

American Political Science Association: 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

APSA Political Communication Pre-Conference: 2019

Canadian Political Science Association: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*

Western Political Science Association: 2019

Pacific Northwest Political Science Association: 2016

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

Paul A. Sabatier Best Conference Paper Award – APSA STEP Section	2020
C-Dem’s Canadian Election Study Researcher Award – Faculty/Researcher Stream	2020
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$90,000; Rank: 1/93)	2020
CAGS Distinguished Dissertation Award – Department Nominee	2020
Dissertation Research Award	2018
Faculty of Arts Graduate Award	2017
Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (\$105,000)	2015
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship – University Nominee (\$150,000)	2015
UBC Four Year Fellowship (\$72,000)	2013
Sandra Rotman Prize for Excellence in Public Policy Innovation	2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor	2018-2019
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada Courses: Government and Politics of the United States of America (POLI 320A, 2019); Introduction to Scientific Political Analysis (POLI 110, 2018)	
Teaching Assistant	2015-2019
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada Courses: Quantitative Methods (POLI 380, 4x), 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)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

“When Experts Talk, Does Anyone Listen? The Limits of Expert Influence on Public Opinion.” Presentation delivered to the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, April 2019.

“Party Cues in the News: Elite Opinion Leadership and American Attitudes towards Climate Change,” with Dominik Stecula, at the Michigan Symposium Series on Media & Politics, Environmental Advocacy in Polarized World, Ann Arbor, MI, March 2019.

“Turning of the Tide: The 2018 American Midterm Elections and Beyond.” Presentation delivered to UBC Continuing Studies, November and December 2018.

“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

“Lessons in Resilience: Canada’s Digital Media Ecosystem and the 2019 Election.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Report*, May 2020 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Stephanie MacLellan, Oleg Zhilin).

“On the Issue of Trust, One Size Does Not Fit All.” Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy Essays, April 2020.

“Many Americans Deeply Distrust Experts. So Will They Ignore Warnings about the Coronavirus?” *Washington Post: The Monkey Cage*, March 2020.

“The Partisan Playground.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #7*, October 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“Political Advertising on Facebook.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #6*, October 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“Fact-Checking, Blackface, and the Media.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #5*, October 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“Talking Past Each Other on Immigration.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #4*, September 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“Polarization and its Discontents.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #3*, September 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“The Climate Change Conundrum.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #2*, August 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“Media, Knowledge, and Misinformation.” *Digital Democracy Project Research Memo #1*, August 2019 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Robert Gorwa, Meghan Keenan, Stephanie MacLellan, Andrew Potter, Beata Skazinetsky, Oleg Zhilin).

“The American Mainstream News Media May Be More Biased Than We Think.” *London School of Economics’ USAPP – American Politics and Policy Blog*, February 2019.

“Are There Any Benefits to Divided Parliamentary Parties?” *Democratic Audit*, February 2019.

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

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

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

MEDIA APPEARANCES

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: *Science Advances*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *PNAS*; *Journal of Politics*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Electoral Studies*; *Science Communication*; *Canadian Journal of Political Science*; *Social Science Quarterly*; *SAGE Open*

Guest Associate Editor: *Frontiers in Political Science*. Special volume on “Political Misinformation in the Digital Age during a Pandemic: Partisanship, Propaganda, and Democratic Decision-making.” Forthcoming, 2021 (with Andrea De Angelis, Dominik Stecula, and Christina Farhart).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Political Science Association; American Political Science Association