

# ERIC MERKLEY

Phone: (647) 828-0178  
eric.merkley@utoronto.ca  
www.ericmerkley.com

Department of Political Science  
University of Toronto  
3018-100 St. George Street  
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3

## EMPLOYMENT

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<b>Assistant Professor</b> Department of Political Science University of Toronto	July 2021-present
<b>SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow</b> Department of Political Science University of Toronto	July 2020-June 2021
<b>Lead Survey Analyst</b> Media Ecosystem Observatory	April 2020-June 2021
<b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b> Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy University of Toronto	July 2019-June 2021
<b>Lead Survey Analyst</b> Digital Democracy Project	July 2019-May 2020

## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD</b> 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)	2019
<b>MA</b> McGill University, Political Science and Social Statistics Advisor: Éric Bélanger	2013
<b>BA</b> Wilfrid Laurier University, Political Science and History	2011

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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**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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Refereed Journal Articles*

1. Amsalem, Eran, Eric Merkley, and Peter John Loewen. Forthcoming. “Does Talking to the Other Side Reduce Inter-Party Hostility? Evidence from Three Studies.” *Political Communication*.
2. Rivard, Alex B., and Eric Merkley. 2021. “What Moves Opinion? Examining the Correlates and Dynamics of Mass Support for Supply Management.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. DOI: 10.1017/S0008423921000366.
3. Merkley, Eric. 2021. “Ideological and Partisan Bias in the Canadian Public.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 54(2): 267-91. DOI: 10.1017/S0008423921000147.
4. Merkley, Eric, and Peter John Loewen. 2021. “Anti-intellectualism and the Mass Public’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Nature Human Behaviour* 5: 706–15. DOI: 10.1038/s41562-021-01112-w.
5. Jacobs, Alan, J. Scott Matthews, Timothy Hicks, and Eric Merkley. 2021. “Whose News? Class-Biased Economic Reporting in the United States.” *American Political Science Review*. Online Access. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055421000137.
6. Bridgman, Aengus, Eric Merkley, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, and Derek Ruths. 2021. “All in this Together? Preregistered Report on Evaluations of Deservingness of Government Aid during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. Online Access. DOI: 10.1017/XPS.2021.10.
7. Bridgman, Aengus, Eric Merkley, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, Derek Ruths, and Oleg Zhilin. 2021. “Infodemic Pathways: Evaluating the Role that Traditional and Social Media Play in Cross-National Information Transfer.” *Frontiers in Political Science* 3. DOI: 10.3389/fpos.2021.648646
8. Brankston, Gabrielle, Eric Merkley, David N. Fisman, Ashleigh R. Tuite, Zvonimir Poljak, Peter John Loewen, and Amy Greer. 2021. “Sociodemographic Disparities in Knowledge, Practices, and Ability to Comply with COVID-19 Public Health Measures in Canada.” *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. Online Access. DOI: 10.17269/s41997-021-00501-y
9. 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

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Merkley, Eric. 2020. "Anti-intellectualism, Populism, and Motivated Resistance to Expert Consensus." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84(1): 24-48.
13. 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
14. 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.
15. Merkley, Eric. 2020. "Learning from Divided Parties? Legislator Dissent as a Cue for Opinion Formation." *Parliamentary Affairs* 73(2): 342-62.
16. 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.
17. Merkley, Eric. 2019. "Partisan Bias in Economic News Content: New Evidence." *American Politics Research* 47(6): 1303-23.
18. 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.
19. 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.

### ***Book Reviews***

20. Merkley, Eric. Forthcoming. "Lost on Division: Party Unity in the Canadian Parliament by Jean-François Godbout." *Perspectives on Politics*.

### ***Revise and Resubmit***

“Protest under Uncertainty: Evidence from a Survey Experiment,” with Miriam Matejova. *Environmental Communication*.

“Mitigating COVID-19 vaccine-specific Hesitancy in Canada,” with Peter John Loewen. *Journal of the American Medical Association: Open*.

“Can In-Person Voting Safety Precautions Mitigate the Threat of COVID-19 to Voter Turnout?” with Thomas Bergeron, Peter John Loewen, Angelo Elias, and Miriam Lapp. *Electoral Studies*.

### ***Under Review***

“The Ephemeral Effects of Fact-checks on COVID-19 Misperceptions: Evidence from the United States, Great Britain, and Canada,” with John Carey, Andrew Guess, Peter John Loewen, Brendan Nyhan, Joseph Phillips, and Jason Reifler.

“Do Politicians and Citizens Agree on How to Combat COVID-19? Evidence from Three Studies,” with John McAndrews, Jack Lucas, Daniel Rubenson, and Peter John Loewen.

“Quantifying Contact Patterns in Response to COVID-19 Public Health Measures in Canada,” with Gabrielle Brankston, David N. Fisman, Ashleigh R. Tuite, Zvonimir Poljak, Peter John Loewen, and Amy Greer.

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

### ***Works in Progress***

“The Dynamics and Correlates of Vaccine-specific Hesitancy in Canada,” with Peter John Loewen.

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

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

### ***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, 2021

Western Political Science Association: 2019

Pacific Northwest Political Science Association: 2016

## **HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS**

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PCH-SSHRC Initiative for Digital Citizen Research Award (\$10,000)	2020
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**

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<b>Instructor</b> 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)	2018-2019
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> 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)	2015-2019

**Teaching Assistant**

2011-2013

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Courses: Introduction to Comparative Politics (POLI 211, 2x),

Canadian Public Policy (POLI 321, 2x)

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**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

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**PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

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“Anti-intellectualism in Canadian Life.” Presentation delivered to the Spring 2021 Association of Research Libraries Meeting, April 2021.

“Understanding Political Polarization.” Presentation delivered to the Institute for Liberal Studies, November 2020.

“Experts in the News: The Challenges of Communicating Consensus in the Mass Media.” Presentation delivered to POL 380 Media & Politics at Colorado State University, November 2020.

“Experts and the Public.” Presentation delivered to COMM 7260 Science and Risk Communication at the University of Utah, September 2020.

“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. Presentation delivered to 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 to *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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“Science and Health Misinformation in the Digital Age: How Does It Spread? Who is vulnerable? How Do We Fight It?” Public Policy Forum, July 2021 (with Peter John Loewen).

“Anti-intellectualism and the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Nature Portfolio, Behavioural and Social Sciences. Behind the Paper.

“Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada: Attitudes, Beliefs, and the Information Ecosystem.” *Media Ecosystem Observatory Research Report*, December 2020 (with Taylor Owen, Peter John Loewen, Derek Ruths, Aengus Bridgman, Haji Mohammad Saleem, and Oleg Zhilin).

“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**

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

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Reviewer:** Science Advances; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Nature: Scientific Reports; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC); Journal of Politics; British Journal of Political Science; Perspectives on Politics; Public Opinion Quarterly; Political Communication; Journal of Experimental Political Science; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Political Research Quarterly; Electoral Studies; Science Communication; Canadian Journal of Political Science; Social Science Quarterly; SAGE Open; Italian Political Science Review; PLOS One; Sociological Perspectives; Contemporary Politics; Journal of Law and Courts; Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS); Journalism

**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

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Canadian Political Science Association; American Political Science Association