

Aengus Bridgman

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Academic Position

Assistant Professor (Research), Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University (2023 -)

Education

PhD, Political Science at McGill University, Fall 2024

- Thesis: *Studies in digital politics: activism, mobilization, and misinformation*
- Committee: Dietlind Stolle (Supervisor), Aaron Erlich, Taylor Owen

Master of Arts, Political Science at University of Ottawa, April 2013

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Political Science at University of Manitoba, April 2010

Research Interests

Canadian Politics: Political behaviour, information ecosystems, political communication, digital activism, misinformation, social media, Canadian-American relations

Methods: Computational social science, causal inference, survey design and analysis, field and natural experiments, survey experiments, text-as-data, machine learning, network analysis

Relevant work experience

- Director, Media Ecosystem Observatory (2022 -)
- Research Scientist, Centre for Social Media and Politics, New York University (2022 - 2023)
- Senior Policy Analyst, Privy Council Office (2022-2023)
- Digital Lead, Media Ecosystem Observatory (2019 - 2021)
- Consultant, Deloitte (2014 - 2016)
- Researcher, Centre on Public Management and Policy (2012 - 2013)

Refereed Articles

8. Jack Lucas, Michael McGregor, and **Aengus Bridgman**. 2023. "Spatial voting in non-partisan cities: A case study", *Electoral Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2023.102599>.
7. **Aengus Bridgman**, Rosalie Nadeau, and Dietlind Stolle. 2022. "A distinct society: Understanding social distrust in Quebec", *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423921000780>.
6. **Aengus Bridgman**, Eric Merkley, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, and Derek Ruths. 2022. "All in this together? Preeregistered report on evaluations of deservingness of government aid during the COVID-19 pandemic", *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2021.10> [Replication materials]
5. **Aengus Bridgman**, Eric Merkley, Oleg Zhilin, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, and Derek Ruths. 2021. "Infodemic pathways: Evaluating the role that traditional and social media

play in cross-national information transfer”, *Frontiers in Political Science*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2021.648646>. [Replication materials] [Errata]

4. **Aengus Bridgman**. 2020. “A nonpartisan legislative chamber: The influence of the Canadian Senate”, *Party Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068820911345>. [Replication materials]
3. **Aengus Bridgman**, Costin Ciobanu, Aaron Erlich, Danielle Bohonos, and Christopher Ross. 2020. “Unveiling: The Electoral Consequences of an Exogenous Mid-Campaign Court Ruling”, *Journal of Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1086/711177>. [Replication materials]
2. **Aengus Bridgman**, Eric Merkeley, 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 HKS Misinformation Review*, <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-028>. [Replication materials]
1. Eric Merkeley, **Aengus Bridgman**, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, Derek Ruths, Lisa Teichmann, 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/Revue canadienne de science politique*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423920000311>

Book Chapters

- **Aengus Bridgman**, and Dietlind Stolle. 2022 “Mobilization and Political Participation”, Maria Grasso and Marco Giugni. *Oxford Handbook of Political Participation*.

Non-refereed Publications

- **Aengus Bridgman**, Alexei Abrahams, Jennie Phillips, Elizabeth Dubois, Stephanie Carvin, Marcus Kolga, Mika Desblancs-Patel, and Jean-Romain Roy. 2024. “Russian Funding of US and Canadian Political Influencers”. Canadian Digital Media Research Network. [Report]
- **Aengus Bridgman**, David Hobson, Chris Ross, Blake Lee-Whiting, Sara Parker, Chloe Kemeni, Julian Lam, Fenwick McKelvey, Elizabeth Dubois, Scott DeJong, Robert Marinov, Colleen McCool, Hélène Huang, Jeremy Clark, and Junyan Zhu. 2024. “August 3 Bot Activity on X Related to Rally in Kirkland Lake”. Canadian Digital Media Research Network. [Report]
- **Aengus Bridgman**, Alexei Abrahams, Thomas Bergeron, Esli Chan, Mika Desblancs-Patel, Danielle Bohonos, Ashley Vu, Jennie Phillips, Zeynep Pehlivan, Saewon Park, Chris Ross, Ben Steel, Junyan Zhu. 2024. “British Columbia Election Information Ecosystem Project: Baseline Report”. Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]
- Chris Russill, **Aengus Bridgman**, Helen A. Hayes, Michael Khoo, Ghadah Alrasheed, Hannah Tollefson, Chris Ross, and Leigh Peterson. 2024. “Flame Wars: Misinformation and Wildfire in Canada’s Climate Conversation”. Re.Climate. [Report]
- Sara Parker, Christopher Ross, Zeynep Pehlivan, and **Aengus Bridgman**. 2024. “Old News, New Reality: A Year of Meta’s News Ban in Canada”. Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]
- **Aengus Bridgman**, Blake Lee-Whiting, Thomas Bergeron, Thomas Galipeau, Alexei Abrahams, Saewon Park, Sara Parker, Taylor Owen, and Peter Loewen. “Indistinct Information Habitats: Information and Attitudes in the 2023 Alberta Election”, Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]
- Sara Parker, Saewon Park, Zeynep Pehlivan, Alexei Abrahams, Mika Desblancs, Taylor Owen, Jennie Phillips, and **Aengus Bridgman**. 2024. “When Journalism is Turned Off: The

Information Ecosystem in Local News Deserts in Canada”. Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]

- **Aengus Bridgman**, Alexei Abrahams, Thomas Bergeron, Thomas Galipeau, Blake Lee-Whiting, Haaya Naushan, Saewon Park, Sara Parker, Zeynep Pehlivan, Jennie Phillips, Benjamin Steel, Peter Loewen, Taylor Owen. 2023. “The Canadian Information Ecosystem”, Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]
- Mathieu Lavigne, Maxime Blanchard, Anne Imouza, **Aengus Bridgman**, Chloé Staller, Kaligirwa Namahoro, Ella Noel, Catherine Perron, Phaedra de Saint-Rome, and Taylor Owen. 2023. “Analyse du rôle de la mésinformation lors de l’élection provinciale québécoise de 2022”, Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]
- **Aengus Bridgman**, Mathieu Lavigne, Melissa Baker, Thomas Bergeron, Danielle Bohonos, Anthony Burton, Katherine McCoy, Mackenzie Hart, Mathieu Lavault, Rupin Liddar, Pangying Peng, Chris Ross, Jaclyn Victor, Taylor Owen, Peter Loewen. 2022. “Mis- and Disinformation during the 2021 Canadian Federal Election”. Media Ecosystem Observatory. [Report]
- Lisa Teichmann, Sean Nossek, **Aengus Bridgman**, Peter John Loewen, Taylor Owen, and Derek Ruths. 2020. “Public Health Communication and Engagement on Social Media during the COVID-19 Pandemic”, *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. [Preprint]
- Taylor Owen, Peter Loewen, Derek Ruths, **Aengus Bridgman**, Haji Mohammed Saleem, Eric Merkley, and Oleg Zhilin. 2020. “Understanding vaccine hesitancy in Canada: attitudes, beliefs, and the information ecosystem” and available at: <https://mediaecosystemobservatory.com/Vaccine-hesitancy>.
- John McAndrews, **Aengus Bridgman**, Peter Loewen, Daniel Rubenson, Laura Stephenson, and Allison Harell. 2020. “Evaluation of the 2019 Federal Leaders’ Debates”, commissioned by the Canadian Leaders’ Debates Commission” and available at: <https://www.debates-debats.ca/en/report/evaluation-2019-federal-leaders-debates>.
- Taylor Owen, Peter Loewen, Derek Ruths, **Aengus Bridgman**, Robert Gorwa, Stephanie MacLellan, Eric Merkley, and Oleg Zhilin. 2019-2020. [Digital Democracy Project](#) seven research memos and one [final report](#). *The Partisan Playground, Political Advertising on Facebook, Fact-Checking, Blackface and the Media, Talking past each other on immigration, Polarization and its Discontents, The Climate Change Conundrum, Media, Knowledge and Misinformation, and Lessons in Resilience: Canada’s Digital Media Ecosystem and the 2019 Election*.

Working Papers

- **Aengus Bridgman**, Alexei Abrahams, Saewon Park, Sara Parker, and Zeynep Pehlivan. *Diffuse platforms, common actors: A multi-platform method of mapping the (Canadian) information ecosystem*
- **Bridgman, Aengus**, *Who composes the conversation? An evaluation of the distinctiveness of digital activists*. Presented at Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference 2021.
- **Bridgman, Aengus**, *r/WallStreetBets, GameStop, and mobilization of expressive political participation*. Presented at Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference 2021.
- **Aengus Bridgman** and Lavigne, Mathieu. *Reach, perceived accuracy, and engagement with real and fake stories during the 2021 Canadian federal election*. Presented at Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference 2021.
- Lavigne, Mathieu and **Aengus Bridgman**, *Geographies of misinformation: Evaluating subnational differences in resilience to online misinformation*. Presented at Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference 2021.

- Ciobanu, Costin, **Aengus Bridgman**, *Globalisation, crisis, and voting behaviour: The electoral impact of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund*. Presented at Southern Political Science Association 2019, European Consortium For Political Research 2020, and American Political Science Association 2021, and EPSA 2022.
- **Bridgman, Aengus**, *Hyperdiversity and dual motivations of political participation: Evidence from the Canadian case on the impact of neighbourhood change*. Presented at Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference 2019

Invited Talks

- Foreign Interference in Canada and the EU, Toronto Metropolitan University (2025)
- Building resilience to disinformation and propaganda, Keynote, Balsillie School of International Affairs (2025)
- “The British Columbia Election Information Ecosystem”, Elections British Columbia Visitor’s Program (2024)
- “When journalism is turned off: Evaluating the consequences of the meta news ban in Canada”, Center for Communication and Civic Renewal at UW-Madison (2024)
- “Changing Canadian media”, UK Royal Television Society’s London Convention (2024)
- Countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference – Lessons from the 2024 European Elections, EU-Canada Policy Dialogues (2024)
- “Disinformation Challenging Democracy”, Institute on Governance (2023)
- “Can vaccination efforts be derailed by fear and fallacy?”, McGill Alumni webcast (2021)
- “Misinformation and attitude formation among the Canadian Public”, COPSS-NISS COVID-19 Data Science webinar series (2021)
- “Disinformation in 2020: Actors, Threats, and Solutions”, Tel Aviv University (2020)
- “Digital public engagement and political participation”, University of Manitoba (2020)
- “Misinformation, COVID-19, and social media: Research design from start to finish”, Dawson College (2020)
- “Data Science, Elections, Politics, and Media”, CSCDS Data Science Community Expo (2020)
- “So you think you can track an election”, Misinfocon (2019)
- “Evaluating legislative influence in bicameral systems: Canadian Senate reform and lobbyist behaviour”, Canada Research Chair in Electoral Democracy at University of Montreal (2019)
- “Losing elections for standing for your values? The electoral consequences of a court ruling on the niqab ban in Canada”, Canada Research Chair in Electoral Democracy at University of Montreal (2018)

Teaching

- Instructor, Combating Mis and Disinformation: A Global Policy Challenge (2025)
- Instructor, Political Participation in Comparative Perspective, McGill University (2022)
- Instructor, Collecte des données en ligne avec API, UQAM (2022)
- Instructor, Bootcamp, Introduction to replicable research using version control (2018 and 2019)
- Instructor, CSDC Winter School, Introduction to LaTeX and Zotero (2018)
- Teaching Assistant, Techniques of Empirical Research (Graduate Course) (2017 and 2018)
- Teaching Assistant for undergraduate courses at University of Ottawa and McGill University: Introduction to Politics, Introduction to Canadian Politics, Introduction to Political Thought, Introduction to Modern Thought, Political Legal Theory, Qualitative Research

Methods, Budgetary Policy and Public Finance, Local Government, and Politics of the Developed World.

- Teaching Assistant, Population Data Visualization workshop (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, R Bootcamp (2017)

Service

- Comité de travail sur la démocratie et l'intelligence artificielle, Quebec Government (2025)
- Referee for *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Behaviour*, *French Politics*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Digital War*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*
- Referee for Council of Canadian Academies *Vulnerable Connections: Expert Panel on Public Safety in the Digital Age*
- Co-organizer, McGill Comparative Politics Reading Group (2021)
- Participant, Election Canada foresight workshop: The Future of Electoral Administration in Canada (2018)
- Participant, IRPP Roundtable - Renewal of the Canadian Senate: Where to From Here (2018)
- Organizing Committee, Building an inclusive discipline: Learning, Practising and Teaching Political Science (2018)
- President, McGill Graduate Association of Political Science Students (2017-19)

Grant Awards

- Rosenberg Foundation (\$50,000) - awarded to the Media Ecosystem Observatory for a study on Online hostility in Canada
- Canadian Heritage Digital Citizen Initiative (\$4,000,000) - awarded to the Media Ecosystem Observatory for the delivery of the Canadian Digital Media Research Network - in negotiation
- Canadian Heritage Digital Citizen Initiative (\$5,500,000) - awarded to the Media Ecosystem Observatory for the delivery of the Canadian Digital Media Research Network
- Elections British Columbia (\$100,000) - awarded to the Media Ecosystem Observatory for delivery of the British Columbia Elections Study
- Canadian Heritage (\$100,000) - for a study of youth exposure to harmful content in Canada
- Élections Québec (\$45,000) - awarded to the Media Ecosystem Observatory for delivery of the Projet sur la désinformation électorale au Québec
- Canadian Heritage (\$50,000) - for the Disinformed Podcast
- Global Affairs Canada (\$100,000) - awarded to the Media Ecosystem Observatory for delivery of the Canadian Election Misinformation Project

Research Awards

- SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (2023, declined)
- Political Methodology Award ICPSR (Summer 2019)
- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Graduate Scholarship (May 2018-21)
- Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods scholarship (Summer 2018)
- The Graduate Mobility Award (2018, 2019, 2021)
- Graduate Excellence Fellowship (Sep 2016-18)
- Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship Fellowship (Sep 2016-2020)
- Mallory Fellowship (Sep 2016)
- Faculty of Arts Masters Scholarship (Sep 2010-11)
- Murray S. Donnelly Award (Sep 2008-09)

Technical Skills

Python, R, SQL, \LaTeX , Git, Selenium, Qualtrics, JavaScript, Microsoft Office suite

Language

English: native, French: advanced.

Additional Training

- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences, ICPSR (Summer 2019)
- Network Analysis: Advanced Topics Inferential Network Analysis, ICPSR (Summer 2019)
- Stan for the people, Charles Margossian (Winter 2019)
- Experimental and Causal Inference Designs, Dr. Michael Bechtel (Winter 2019)
- Methods for Computational Social Science: Modeling Textual Data (Summer 2018)
- Collaborative local government, CEU Summer University (Summer 2018)
- The development and influence of political identities, Dr. Leonie Huddy (Spring 2018)
- NLTK Toolkit in Python, Dr. Christopher Cochrane (Spring 2018)
- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, CQRM (Summer 2018)
- Methods Winter School, CSDC (Winter 2017, 2018, 2019)

Media appearances

I have been interviewed over 200 times by news media on specific research projects as well as on misinformation, social media, and political participation in Canada more generally. Some of this work has been picked by international media. I am regularly contacted by French- and English-language media to comment on emerging events related to misinformation, social media, and political participation. I occasionally write opinion pieces directly relevant to my areas of expertise. A more detailed list of media appearance is available on my [website](#), but French-language appearances include Radio-Canada (web and Téléjournal), TVA, La Presse, NVL Noovo, Le Devoir, La Droit, L'actualité, and Le Journal de Montréal