

# Bjarn Eck

[bjarn.eck@ulb.be](mailto:bjarn.eck@ulb.be) [bjarneck.eu](https://bjarneck.eu) [bjarneck.bsky.social](https://bjarneck.bsky.social)

Université libre de Bruxelles  
Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique (CEVIPOL)  
44, Avenue Jeanne, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

## Education

---

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2022–present | <b>Ph.D. Political Science</b><br>Université libre de Bruxelles <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dissertation: <i>Every Rose Has Its Thorn? The Interplay Between the Electoral Cycle and Affective Polarization</i></li><li>• Supervisor: Jean-Benoit Pilet</li><li>• Expected defence: Fall 2026</li></ul> |
| Fall 2024    | <b>Visiting researcher</b><br>Université de Montréal <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host: Ruth Dassonneville</li></ul>   |
| 2022         | <b>M.A. Political Science (distinction)</b><br>University of Cologne  |
| 2022         | <b>M.Sc. (research) European Studies (cum laude)</b><br>University of Maastricht  |
| 2020         | <b>B.A. Philosophy</b><br>University of Groningen   |
| 2020         | <b>B.A. International Relations and International Organization</b><br>University of Groningen   |

## Research

---

Research interests: Political Behaviour, Elections, European Politics

### Articles

- Eck, B. & Paulis, E. (forthcoming). Defending the Status Quo or Seeking Change? Electoral Outcomes, Affective Polarisation, and Support for Referendums. *British Journal of Political Science*.
- Eck, B. & Michel, E. (2024). Towards a Polarised Electorate? How Polarisation Affects Turnout Decisions in the Belgian Context of Compulsory Voting. *Politics of the Low Countries*, 6(3), 117–143. <https://doi.org/10.5553/PLC/.000079>.
- Eck, B. & Schreurs, S. (2024). Unequal perspectives? Income inequality as a benchmark for support for European integration. *European Union Politics*, 25(2), 245–268. [doi.org/10.1177/14651165231226054](https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165231226054).

## Book chapters

Eck, B. & Vanagt, J. (forthcoming). The Low Countries (Belgium & the Netherlands): Balancing National Diversity with Supranational Integration. In T. D. Lancaster (Ed.), *Comparative European Politics*. Routledge.

## Datasets

Eck, B., Michel, E., Lefevere, J., Pilet, J.-B., Celis, K., Claes, E., Rihoux, B., Van Haute, E., Walgrave, S., Close, C., Baudewyns, P., Van Ingelgom, V., Severs, E., Kern, A., Wauters, B., & Dodeigne, J. (2025). NotLikeUs Panel Survey Dataset Belgian 2024 Elections [Dataset]. *Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive – SODHA*. <https://doi.org/10.34934/DVN/KYWPSO>.

## Work in Progress

---

### Under review

*The Impact of Party-Voter Congruence on Affective Polarization: Evidence from Belgium.*  
with Elie Michel and Emilie van Haute.

*Breaking the Stalemate: Europeans' Preferences to Expand, Cut, or Sustain Support to Ukraine.*  
with Elie Michel.

### Working papers (ordered by progress)

*Election Salience Revisited: How Campaigns and Results (Do Not) Boost Affective Polarization.*  
with Elie Michel.

*Happiness, Anger, and Satisfaction with Democracy: Unravelling the Emotional Drivers of the Winner-Loser Gap.*

*Ideological, Affective, and EU Polarisation: Mobilising Voters in European Parliament Elections.*

*Affective Polarization and Support for Political Violence.*  
with Damien Bol and Diane Bolet.

*Knowledge of Compulsory Voting Rules and Turnout.*  
with Ruth Dassonneville.

## Conferences and Workshops

---

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2024, 2025

Annual Political Science Workshops of the Low Countries, 2023–2025

Direct Democracy Workshop Zürich, 2024

European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, 2023

European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions, 2025

European Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2025

Summer School on Democratic Decline and Resilience, 2024

Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress, 2025

Symposium on Affective Polarization, 2023

UACES Graduate Conference, 2022

## Grants

---

FNRS Aspirant 4 year PhD-grant, 2023, ~ €140,000

FNRS research stay grant, 2024, ~ €4,000

## Professional Services

---

### Reviewer

*Acta Politica, British Journal of Political Science, European Journal of Political Research, Party Politics, Research & Politics, West European Politics*

## Teaching

---

Fall 2023            Research Topics in Political Science, Université libre de Bruxelles  
(MA level)

Fall 2022            The Development of European Identities, Maastricht University  
(BA level)

## (Academic) Work Experience

---

Fall 2022            **Teaching Assistant, Maastricht University**  
Bachelor of European Studies

2021–2022          **Research Assistant, Maastricht University**  
PI: Anna Herranz Surralles

2021                **Research Intern, Statistics Netherlands (CBS)**  
Supervisor: Dr. Hans Schmeets

2019                **Journalist Intern, NRC Handelsblad**  
Amsterdam, interior affairs department

## Skills

---

Languages          Dutch (native), English (fluent), German (advanced), Spanish (intermediate),  
French (basic)

Software            R, Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics

*Last updated: 23 April 2025*