

Bjarn Eck

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Université libre de Bruxelles

Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique (CEVIPOL)

44, Avenue Jeanne, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Education

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

Research

Research interests: Political Behaviour, Elections, European Politics

Articles

Eck, B., Michel, E., & Van Haute, E. (2025). The Impact of Party-Voter Congruence on Affective Polarization: Evidence from Belgium. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2025.2598210>.

Eck, B. & Michel, E. (2025). Breaking the Stalemate: Europeans' Preferences to Expand, Cut, or Sustain Support to Ukraine. *Journal of European Public Policy*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2025.2509755>.

Eck, B. & Paulis, E. (2025). Defending the Status Quo or Seeking Change? Electoral Outcomes,

Affective Polarisation, and Support for Referendums. *British Journal of Political Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123425000365>.

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.

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

Election Salience Revisited: How Elections (Do Not) Boost Affective Polarization.
with Elie Michel.

Re-Ostracizing the Radical Right? Quasi-Experimental Evidence from an Election Panel.
with Jochem Vanagt, Laura Jacobs, and Jean-Benoit Pilet.

Soft Nudges, Hard Reality: Government Turnout Measures Don't Offset the Impact of Ending Compulsory Voting.
with Ruth Dassonneville and Bram Wauters.

Working papers (ordered by progress)

Curbing Citizen Support for Violence Against Politicians.
with Damien Bol and Diane Bolet.

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.

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
ULB research stay grant, 2024 ~ €3,000
FNRS travel grant, 2025, ~ €1,500
ULB faculty conference grant, 2025, €350

Professional Services

Reviewer

Acta Politica; British Journal of Political Science; European Journal of Political Research; Party Politics; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Research & Politics; Swiss Political Science Review; 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^AT_EX, Qualtrics