Mathieu Lavigne

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Appointments	**Dartmouth College** SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow Supervisor: Brendan Nyhan

Education

McGill University
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2018-2023.
Supervisor: Éric Bélanger   Committee: Aaron Erlich, Richard Nadeau
Thesis: *Resilient? Perceptions, Spread, and Impacts of Misinformation in the New Political Information Environment*
Fields: Canadian politics, Comparative politics (both passed with distinction)

Université de Montréal
M.Sc. in Political Science, 2017-2018.
Thesis: *Micro-ciblage et polarisation partisane lors de l'élection canadienne de 2015* [Microtargeting and Partisan Polarization during the 2015 Canadian Election]
Supervisor: Frédérick Bastien

B.Sc. in Political Science - Honours, 2013-2016.

Peer-reviewed articles

Lavigne, Mathieu, Éric Bélanger, Richard Nadeau, Jean-François Daoust, and Erick Lachapelle. 2022. Hide and Seek: The Connection Between False Beliefs and Perceptions of Government Transparency. *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review.*

Lavigne, Mathieu. 2021. Strengthening Ties: The Influence of Microtargeting on Partisan Attitudes and the Vote. *Party Politics.*

Chapters

Lavigne, Mathieu. 2022. Microtargeting. *Elgar Encyclopedia of Technology and Politics.* Edward Elgar Publishing.

Working papers

[1] L'inconfort ou l'indifférence ? Comprendre l'appui aux mesures visant à contrer la mésinformation au Québec. R&R.
[2] The Case for Issue-Based Affective Polarization: Examining COVID-19 and Climate Change Affects (with Éric Bélanger).
[3] Understanding the Demand Side: Who Tolerates the Spread of Misinformation?
[4] Microtargeting. In Alex Marland, Elizabeth Dubois, and Thierry Giasson (ed.). *Political Marketing in a Canadian Election*.s
[5] Une Barrière Linguistique? How Language Influences the Spread of U.S.-Based COVID-19 Misinformation (with Aengus Bridgman).
[6] Fake, Frequent, Harmful: Unpacking and Explaining the Citizen View of Misinformation.

Working papers	[7] Reach, Perceived Accuracy, and Engagement With Real and Fake Stories During the 2021 Canadian Federal Election (with Aengus Bridgman). [8] The Contagion of Electoral Disinformation Campaigns: American Style Vote Conspiracies in the 2021 Canadian Federal Election (with Aengus Bridgman and Holly Ann Garnett).

Research reports	[1] **Lavigne, Mathieu**, et al. 2023. Analyse du rôle de la mésinformation lors de l'élection provinciale québécoise de 2022 [Analyzing the Role of Misinformation During the 2022 Quebec Provincial Election]. Media Ecosystem Observatory.

- Cited by Élections Québec to justify recommendations of changes to the electoral law in Pour une nouvelle vision de la Loi électorale.

[2] Bridgman, Aengus, **Mathieu Lavigne**, et al. 2022. Mis- and Disinformation during the 2021 Canadian Federal Election: A Report of the Canadian Election Misinformation Project. Media Ecosystem Observatory.

- Presented to the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (February 2022).
- Cited by Freedom House in their 2023 evaluation of internet freedom in Canada.
- Cited by Elections Canada when launching their ElectoFacts website.
- Cited in the Report on the assessment of the 2021 Critical Election Incident Public Protocol.
- Cited in Saskatchewan's Chief Electoral Officer's Recommendations for Legislative Reform Report.
- Discussed by Canada's House of Common's Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

[3] Ruiz Soler, Javier, **Mathieu Lavigne**, Colette Brin, and Aengus Bridgman. 2021. Disinformation Risk Assessment: The Online News Market in Canada. Global Disinformation Index. (Also available in French).

[4] Lefebvre, Solange et al. 2020. Peur de quoi ? L'extrémisme violent au Québec et le paysage médiatique. [Afraid of What? Violent Extremism in Quebec and the Media Landscape] Final Report. Joint initiative of the Quebec Ministry of Immigration and FRQSC. (I contributed to this report as a research assistant).

Forthcoming report	Brin, Colette, Sébastien Charlton, Erika Bisaillon, Pascaline David et **Mathieu**. **Lavigne** 2023. Analyse de la désinformation dans la couverture journalistique de la campagne électorale au Québec (2022). Centre d'études sur les médias.

Invited articles	Academics as citizens: On the value of public engagement for young career researchers. *McGill Faculty of Arts newsletter.* April 13, 2023.

Awards and Scholarships	2024	McGill Arts Insights Dissertation Award (best dissertation in Humanities/Social Sciences)
	2023	Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media ($5,000)
	2023	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship ($90,000)
	2022	SSHRC Talent Award (nominated)
	2021	ICPSR Scholarship for Political Science Research
	2020	Charles R. Bronfman and Alex K. Paterson Awards ($5,000)
	2020	Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research (Canadian Heritage) ($10,000)
	2020	SSHRC Talent Award (nominated)
	2019	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship ($105,000)
	2019	Jenson-Pétry Award, best master's thesis in French in Canada (nominated)
	2019	Brigitte-Schroeder Award, best master's thesis in political science, UdeM
	2019	Prestage-Cook Travel Award, SPSA (300 $)
	2018	FRQSC Ph.D. Scholarship ($80,000)
	2018	Graduate Excellence Fellowship ($13,000)
	2018	CSDC Entrance Fellowship ($5,000)
	2018	Mallory Graduate Award ($3,000)
	2017	SSHRC Master's Graduate Scholarship ($17,500)
	2016	Jocelyne Dion Award, highest-ranking student of B.Sc. in political science, UdeM
	2010	Honorary Medal of the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec

Grants	2023	La désinformation et les changements climatiques au Québec et au Canada: Acteurs, discours, adhésion et solution [Disinformation and climate change in Quebec and Canada: Actors, discourses, adherence, and solutions] (PI : Marie-Eve Carignan), FRQSC ($150,000)
	2022	Quebec Election Misinformation Project ($45,000)

Research positions

Project director, Media Ecosystem Observatory
Director of the *Quebec Election Misinformation Project*, 2022-23.
I obtained the funding, put the project in place, led a team of 7 researchers during the election, wrote the report, and organized a public event to launch it.
The project aimed to monitor social media for electoral misinformation and, using surveys, document its spread and impact among the general public.

Survey lead, Media Ecosystem Observatory
Lead survey analyst for the *Canadian Election Misinformation Project*, 2021.
Design the survey questionnaires on Qualtrics, analyze the data, participate in media interviews, co-author research memos and reports.

Research assistant, Université de Montréal
The process of radicalization leading to violence, 2018-2019 (with Frédérick Bastien).
Examine perceptions about radicalization and how they are associated with media consumption behaviors.
Main tasks: Help design the survey, analyze the data, write the preliminary report.

Teaching

Lecturer, McGill University
POLI 320: Issues in Canadian Democracy, Winter 2023.
(Built from the ground up, 76 students)

Guest speaker, Dartmouth College
PBPL 23/GOVT 30: Political Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories, Feb. 5, 2024.
Lecturer: Hwayong Shin.

Guest speaker, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
COM6036: Political Communication and Analysis of Media Messages [Communication politique et analyse des messages médiatisés], April 6, 2023.
Graduate seminar, Prof: Mireille Lalancette.

Teaching assistant, McGill University
POLI 618: Quantitative Analysis (graduate level), Fall 2019.
Computing and math summer camp, Summer 2019.

Grader, McGill University
POLI 426: Political Parties and Electoral Behavior in Quebec, Fall 2021.

Teaching assistant, Université de Montréal
CEP 1000: Political Communication, Fall 2017.

Supervision

[1] I directed a team of 7 graduate and undergraduate students during the Quebec Election Misinformation Project.
[2] I supervised a research internship (MA level) and an undergraduate student as part of the *Portail québécois sur l'opinion publique* project (see below).

Invited speaker

Keynote speaker
From Fragmented Data to Comprehensive Insights: A Framework for Evaluating the Use and Real-World Effects of Political Microtargeting. ERC workshop on data-driven political targeting. April 17-18, 2024. Wageningen University, Netherlands.

Round table
The State and Future of Democracy. Bilingual symposium organized by McGill's Institute for the Study of Canada, the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, and C-Dem. March 25, 2024.

CIVIX: Democracy Bootcamp. March 16, 2023.

Organized public events

2022 Quebec Election: Information and Politics after COVID and Trump
In collaboration with the Centre for Media, Technology, and Democracy, the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, the Centre d'études sur les médias, and the UNESCO-PREV Chair. March 15, 2023.

Conference presentations

Canadian Political Science Association
2023. Une Barrière Linguistique? How Language Influences the Spread of U.S.-Based COVID-19 Misinformation.
2022. The Relative Importance of Truth: Issue Positions and the Acceptability of Misinformation.
2022. Reach, Perceived Accuracy, and Engagement with Real and Fake Stories During the 2021 Canadian Federal Election (with Aengus Bridgman).
2021. What Is the Government Hiding? Transparency, Trust, and False Beliefs.
2021. Geographies of Misinformation: Evaluating Subnational Differences in Resilience to Online Misinformation.
2018. Microtargeting and Polarization: Do Data-Driven Communications Impact Political Attitudes?

American Political Science Association
2022. The Importance of Truth: Issue Positions, Ideology, and the Perceived Acceptability of Spreading Misinformation.
2021. Hide and Seek: How False Beliefs Shape Perceptions of Government Transparency.

CSDC – C-Dem Forum on Democratic Citizenship
2023. The Case for Issue-Based Affective Polarization.

International Election Integrity Project Workshop
2022. The Contagion of Electoral Disinformation Campaigns: American Style Vote Conspiracies in the 2021 Canadian Federal Election (with Aengus Bridgman).

Southern Political Science Association
2020. Romantic Politics: Lemmatization and Political Sentiment Analysis in Romance Languages (with Aaron Erlich and Aengus Bridgman).

Société québécoise de science politique
2019. [News Outlets and Citizens' Concerns About Violent Radicalization] (with Frédérick Bastien).

Data-Driven Elections: Implications and Challenges for Democratic Societies' Workshop (Victoria, BC)
2019. The Influence of Microtargeting on Partisan Attitudes and the Vote. Poster presentation.

Media

More than 30 media appearances (radio, television, or written) on topics related to misinformation and social media with all major Canadian news outlets (including CBC, CTV, Radio-Canada, TVA, Journal de Montréal, CityNews, Global News, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, The Canadian Press, 98.5FM, QUB Radio, CJAD 800). Examples:

Radio

[1] Il y a un très petit nombre d'acteurs responsables d'une grande partie de la désinformation, dit le directeur du Projet sur la désinformation électorale. Mario Dumont, *QUB Radio*. March 16, 2023.

[2] La désinformation sur les réseaux sociaux : entrevue avec Mathieu Lavigne. Le Québec maintenant (Patrick Lagacé), *98.5 FM*. October 28, 2022.

[3] Les conséquences et origines de la désinformation en ligne. Y'a pas deux matins pareils (Nicolas Haddad), *Radio-Canada*. July 4, 2022.

[4] La mésinformation en temps d'élection. Dans la mosaïque (Isabelle Ménard), Radio-Canada. May 4, 2022.

[5] The Canadian Election Misinformation Project. 14 interviews in the morning shows of CBC's regional channels across Canada. *CBC*. September 2, 2021.

Television

[1] How climate misinfo harms — and how you can fight back. CBC News: The National, *CBC*. March 13, 2023.

[2] Researchers explore misinformation during Quebec election campaign. *Global News*. October 3, 2022.

[3] 2021 Canadian federal election, CTV Morning Live, *CTV*. September 21, 2021.

Written media

[1] Près du tiers des Québécois exposés à de la mésinformation lors des dernières élections. *Le Devoir*. March 16, 2023.

[2] Elections Alberta recommends legislative changes to tackle misinformation, disinformation. *CBC*. December 7, 2022.

[3] Près du tiers des partisans du PCQ doutent des derniers résultats électoraux. *Le Devoir*. October 27, 2022.

[4] Une élection tranquille au chapitre de la désinformation. *Radio-Canada*. October 8, 2022.

[5] Booed in Beauceville: False Facebook post highlights Quebec election online misinformation. *CBC*. September 28, 2022.

[6] 'Out of control': Quebec politicians facing repeated intimidation on campaign trail. *The Canadian Press*. September 14, 2022. Published by CBC, CTV, The Globe and Mail, Global News, CityNews, The Toronto Star, and other regional outlets.

Professional service	**Journal Reviewer** Political Behavior, Electoral Studies, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties, Political Research Quarterly, PLOS One, Behaviour & Information Technology. **Committees** Graduate Student Representative, Search committee to hire the Diamond Brown Chair in Democratic Studies, McGill University, 2022-23. **Data** Put in place and populate the *Portail québécois sur l'opinion publique* to increase accessibility to data about Canadian and Quebec politics (with Claire Durand, Éric Bélanger, and Valérie-Anne Mahéo), 2021-2023. **Discussant** Canadian Political Science Association (2022, 2023)
Relevant professional experience	**Intern/Market Analyst, Quebec's Ministry of Transportation** **Market Analysis and Claims Unit, 2014-17** • Conduct research and data analysis to assess and promote competition in public contracts and help prevent/detect collusion. • Inform and make recommendations to senior officials through research reports and ministerial notes.
Additional training	Data Science and Text Analysis, ICPSR Summer Program, 2021 Causal Inference, ICPSR Summer Program, 2021. Conjoit experiments, Montreal Methods Workshop, 2021 (Kirk Bansak). Collecting and Analyzing Social Media Data, Montreal Methods Workshop, 2021 (Alexandra Siegel). Panel data analysis, McGill University, 2021. Conjoint experiments, McGill University, 2021. MLE for Count Models. McGill University, 2018. Time series' general-to-specific modeling strategy. McGill University, 2018. Computing and Math Summer Camp. McGill University, 2018.
Skills	**Languages:** French, English, Spanish **Technical skills:** R, Jupyter, LaTeX, GitHub, Qualtrics, SPSS