

Mathieu Lavigne

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Education

McGill University

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2018-2023 (expected).

GPA: 3.93/4.00

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.

GPA: 4.23/4.30

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

Jury: André Blais, Richard Nadeau

Grade: Exceptional

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

GPA: 4.10/4.30

Employment

Project director, Media Ecosystem Observatory

Director of the Quebec Election Misinformation Project, 2022-23.

I obtained the funding, put the project in place, and led a team of 7 researchers.

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 shaped by the media.

Main tasks: Help design the survey, analyze the data, write the preliminary report.

Peer-reviewed Publications

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*.

Book chapters

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

Working Papers	[1]	The Case for Issue-Based Affective Polarization: Examining COVID-19 and Climate Change Affects (with Éric Bélanger).
	[2]	Understanding the Demand Side: Who is Ready to Tolerate the Spread of Misinformation?
	[3]	Une Barrière Linguistique? How Language Influences the Spread of U.S.-Based COVID-19 Misinformation (with Aengus Bridgman).
	[4]	Fake, Frequent, Harmful: Unpacking and Explaining the Citizen View of Misinformation.
	[5]	L'inconfort ou l'indifférence ? Comprendre l'appui aux mesures visant à contrer la désinformation au Québec.
	[6]	Reach, Perceived Accuracy, and Engagement With Real and Fake Stories During the 2021 Canadian Federal Election (with Aengus Bridgman).
	[7]	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 désinformation lors de l'élection provinciale québécoise de 2022 [Analyzing the Role of Misinformation During the 2022 Quebec Provincial Election]. Media Ecosystem Observatory.
	[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.
	[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).
Awards and Scholarships	2023	Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media (\$5000)
	2023	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$90,000)
	2022-23	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)
	2019-22	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
	2018-19	FRQSC Ph.D. Scholarship (\$80,000)
	2018	Graduate Excellence Fellowship (\$13,000)
	2018	CSDC Entrance Fellowship (\$5,000)
	2018	Mallory Graduate Award (\$3,000)
	2017-18	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	2022	Quebec Election Misinformation Project (\$45,000)
Teaching		<p>Lecturer, McGill University POLI 320: Issues in Canadian Democracy, Winter 2023. (Built from the ground up, 77 students)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Teaching assistant, McGill University POLI 618: Quantitative Analysis (graduate level), Fall 2019. Computing and math summer camp, Summer 2019.</p> <p>Grader, McGill University POLI 426: Political Parties and Electoral Behavior in Quebec, Fall 2021.</p> <p>Teaching assistant, Université de Montréal CEP 1000: Political Communication, Fall 2017.</p>
Conference Presentations		<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CSDC – C-Dem Forum on Democratic Citizenship 2023. The Case for Issue-Based Affective Polarization.</p> <p>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).</p>

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 Frédéric 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.

Invited speaker

CIVIX: Democracy Bootcamp. March 16, 2023.

Public
contribution

- [1] Organization of a roundtable about the 2022 Quebec provincial election
- [2] Consulted by Elections Quebec to help develop their strategy to fight mis- and disinformation during the 2022 Quebec Election.
- [3] More than 30 media appearances (radio, television, or written) on topics related to misinformation and social media with major Canadian news outlets (including CBC, CTV, Radio-Canada, TVA, Journal de Montréal, CityNews, Global News, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, The Canadian Press, 98.5FM, QUB Radio, CJAD 800).

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) for the CSDC dataverse project (see below).

Professional
Service

Journal Reviewer

Political Behavior, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, PLOS One, Behaviour and Information Technology.

Committees

Graduate Student Representative, Search committee to hire the Diamond Brown Chair in Democratic Studies, McGill University, 2022-23.

Data

Help put in place and populate the CSDC dataverse to increase accessibility to data about Canadian and Quebec politics (with Claire Durand, Éric Bélanger, and Valérie-Anne Mahéo), 2021-2022.

Relevant Professional Experience	<p>Intern/Market Analyst, Quebec’s Ministry of Transportation Market Analysis and Claims Unit, 2014-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Data Science and Text Analysis, ICPSR Summer Program, 2021</p> <p>Causal Inference, ICPSR Summer Program, 2021.</p> <p>Conjoint experiments, Montreal Methods Workshop, 2021 (Kirk Bansak).</p> <p>Collecting and Analyzing Social Media Data, Montreal Methods Workshop, 2021 (Alexandra Siegel).</p> <p>Panel data analysis, McGill University, 2021.</p> <p>Conjoint experiments, McGill University, 2021.</p> <p>MLE for Count Models. McGill University, 2018.</p> <p>Time series’ general-to-specific modeling strategy. McGill University, 2018.</p> <p>Computing and Math Summer Camp. McGill University, 2018.</p>
Skills	<p>Languages: French, English, Spanish</p> <p>Technical skills: R, L^AT_EX, GitHub, SPSS, Qualtrics</p>