

# 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.** 2024. L'inconfort ou l'indifférence ? Comprendre l'opposition aux mesures visant à contrer la mésinformation au Québec. *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique*. In Press.

**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.** 2024. Polarisation affective : Comprendre nos différences pour apaiser nos différends. Dans *L'état du Québec 2025. Sommes-nous une société émotive ?*. Sous la direction de Josselyn Guillarmou et Sandra Larochelle. L'Institut du Nouveau Monde et Somme toute/Le Devoir.

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

## Under review

[1] Fake, Frequent, Harmful: Unpacking and Explaining the Citizen View of Misinformation.

[2] Understanding the Demand Side: Who Tolerates the Spread of Misinformation?

Working papers	<p>[1] The Origin, Prevalence, and Consequences of Issue-Based Affective Polarization: Examining COVID-19 and Climate Change Affects (with Éric Bélanger).</p> <p>[2] Correction Mismatch: How Inattention and Selective Exposure Limit the Effects of Voter Fraud Debunking (with John Carey, Brian Fogarty, Brendan Nyhan, and Jason Reifler).</p> <p>[3] Misinformation, Polarization, and Trust in Elections: Longitudinal Evidence from Canada (with Holly Ann Garnett et Aengus Bridgman).</p> <p>[4] Une Barrière Linguistique? How Language Influences the Spread of U.S.-Based COVID-19 Misinformation (with Aengus Bridgman).</p> <p>[5] Microtargeting. In Alex Marland, Elizabeth Dubois, and Thierry Giasson (ed.). <i>Political Marketing in a Canadian Election</i>. UBC Press.</p> <p>[6] Reach, Perceived Accuracy, and Engagement With Real and Fake Stories During the 2021 Canadian Federal Election (with Aengus Bridgman).</p>
Research reports	<p>[1] <b>Lavigne, Mathieu</b>, 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cited by Élections Québec to justify recommendations of changes to the electoral law in Pour une nouvelle vision de la Loi électorale.</li> </ul> <p>[2] Bridgman, Aengus, <b>Mathieu Lavigne</b>, et al. 2022. Mis- and Disinformation during the 2021 Canadian Federal Election: A Report of the Canadian Election Misinformation Project. Media Ecosystem Observatory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed at the Foreign Interference Commission</li> <li>• Presented to the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (February 2022).</li> <li>• Cited by Freedom House in their 2023 evaluation of internet freedom in Canada.</li> <li>• Cited by Elections Canada when launching their ElectroFacts website.</li> <li>• Cited in the Report on the assessment of the 2021 Critical Election Incident Public Protocol.</li> <li>• Cited in Saskatchewan’s Chief Electoral Officer’s Recommendations for Legislative Reform Report.</li> <li>• Discussed by Canada’s House of Commons’s Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.</li> </ul> <p>[3] Ruiz Soler, Javier, <b>Mathieu Lavigne</b>, Colette Brin, and Aengus Bridgman. 2021. Disinformation Risk Assessment: The Online News Market in Canada. Global Disinformation Index. (Also available in French).</p> <p>[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).</p>
Invited articles	<p>Academics as citizens: On the value of public engagement for young career researchers. <i>McGill Faculty of Arts newsletter</i>. April 13, 2023.</p>

Awards and Scholarships	2024	K.B. Jenckes Prize (most outstanding graduate receiving a Ph.D. in the Humanities and social sciences at McGill)
	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)
	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	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship (\$105,000)
	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	2024-29	Chaire de recherche du Québec sur la démocratie, le vivre ensemble et les valeurs communes au Québec (PI : Mireille Lalancette and Éric Bélanger) (1,9M\$)
	2023-25	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)
	2022-23	Projet sur la désinformation électoral au Québec [Quebec Election Misinformation Project] (PI : Taylor Owen) (\$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	<p><b>Lecturer, McGill University</b>  POLI 320: Issues in Canadian Democracy, Winter 2023.  (Built from the ground up, 76 students)</p> <p><b>Guest speaker, Dartmouth College</b>  PBPL 23/GOVT 30: Political Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories, Feb. 5, 2024.  Lecturer: Hwayong Shin.</p> <p><b>Guest speaker, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières</b>  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><b>Teaching assistant, McGill University</b>  POLI 618: Quantitative Analysis (graduate level), Fall 2019.  Computing and math summer camp, Summer 2019.</p> <p><b>Grader, McGill University</b>  POLI 426: Political Parties and Electoral Behavior in Quebec, Fall 2021.</p> <p><b>Teaching assistant, Université de Montréal</b>  CEP 1000: Political Communication, Fall 2017.</p>
	Supervision
	<p>[1] I directed a team of 7 graduate and undergraduate students during the Quebec Election Misinformation Project.</p> <p>[2] I supervised a research internship (MA level) and an undergraduate student as part of the <i>Portail québécois sur l'opinion publique</i> project.</p>
	Invited speaker
	<p><b>Keynote speaker</b>  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.</p> <p><b>Round table</b>  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.</p> <p>CIVIX: Democracy Bootcamp. March 16, 2023.</p>
Organized public events	<p><b>2022 Quebec Election: Information and Politics after COVID and Trump</b>  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.</p>

## Conference presentations

### **Canadian Political Science Association**

2024. (Mis)information Flows and Public Beliefs about Voter Fraud in the 2020 and 2022 U.S. Elections (with John Carey, Brian Fogarty, Brendan Nyhan, and Jason Reifler).
2024. Misinformation, Polarization, and Trust in Elections: Longitudinal Evidence from Canada (with Holly Ann Garnett and Aengus Bridgman).
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.

### **Toronto-Montreal Political Behaviour Workshop**

2024. Correction Mismatch: How Inattention and Selective Exposure Limit the Effects of Voter Fraud Debunking. Poster presentation. (with John Carey, Brian Fogarty, Brendan Nyhan et Jason Reifler).

### **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 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.

## Media

Around 40 media appearances (radio, television, or written) on topics related to misinformation, polarization, and social media with all major Canadian news outlets (including CBC, CTV, Radio-Canada, La Presse, Le Devoir, TVA, Le Journal de Montréal, CityNews, Global News, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, The Canadian Press, 98.5FM, QUB Radio, CJAD 800). Below is a selected list:

### Written media

- [1] Qu'est-ce qu'on attend pour se parler ?. *La Presse*. November 11, 2024.
- [2] Près du tiers des Québécois exposés à de la désinformation lors des dernières élections. *Le Devoir*. March 16, 2023.
- [3] Elections Alberta recommends legislative changes to tackle misinformation, disinformation. *CBC*. December 7, 2022.
- [4] Près du tiers des partisans du PCQ doutent des derniers résultats électoraux. *Le Devoir*. October 27, 2022.
- [5] Une élection tranquille au chapitre de la désinformation. *Radio-Canada*. October 8, 2022.
- [6] Booed in Beauceville: False Facebook post highlights Quebec election online misinformation. *CBC*. September 28, 2022.
- [7] '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.

### Radio

- [1] Polarisation affective (Michel Gailloux), *Radio VM*. November 12, 2024.
- [2] 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.
- [3] La désinformation sur les réseaux sociaux : entrevue avec Mathieu Lavigne. Le Québec maintenant (Patrick Lagacé), *98.5 FM*. October 28, 2022.
- [4] Les conséquences et origines de la désinformation en ligne. Y'a pas deux matins pareils (Nicolas Haddad), *Radio-Canada*. July 4, 2022.
- [5] La désinformation en temps d'élection. Dans la mosaïque (Isabelle Ménard), *Radio-Canada*. May 4, 2022.
- [6] 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.

Professional service	<p><b>Journal Reviewer</b>  Political Behavior, Electoral Studies, Journal of Information Technology &amp; Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties, Political Research Quarterly, PLOS One, Behaviour &amp; Information Technology, Media and Communication.</p> <p><b>Committees</b>  Graduate Student Representative, Search committee to hire the Diamond Brown Chair in Democratic Studies, McGill University, 2022-23.</p> <p><b>Data</b>  Put in place and populate the <i>Portail québécois sur l'opinion publique</i> to increase accessibility to data about Canadian and Quebec politics (with Claire Durand, Éric Bélanger, and Valérie-Anne Mahéo), 2021-2023.</p> <p><b>Discussant</b>  Canadian Political Science Association (2022-2024)</p>
Relevant professional experience	<p><b>Intern/Market Analyst, Quebec's Ministry of Transportation</b>  <b>Market Analysis and Claims Unit, 2014-17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research and data analysis to assess and promote competition in public contracts and help prevent/detect collusion.</li> <li>• Inform and make recommendations to senior officials through research reports and ministerial notes.</li> </ul>
Additional training	<p>Data Science and Text Analysis, ICPSR Summer Program, 2021  Causal Inference, ICPSR Summer Program, 2021.  Conjoint 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.</p>
Skills	<p><b>Languages:</b> French, English, Spanish  <b>Technical skills:</b> R, Jupyter, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, GitHub, Qualtrics, SPSS</p>