Olivier Bergeron-Boutin

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Education	**PhD in Political Science**, University of California, Berkeley 2025-current

- Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study (awarded only to Berkeley's top admitted doctoral students)

M.A. in Political Science, McGill University 2019-2023

- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship ($17,500)
- Thesis: "Measuring Social Sorting and Its Association With Affective Polarization" (supervised by Prof. Dietlind Stolle)

B.A. in Political Science, McGill University 2016-2018

- First Class Honours
- Thesis: "Protectionism as Vehicle for Anti-Foreigner Sentiment" (supervised by Prof. Krzysztof Pelc)

Professional experience

Research Associate, Stanford University September 2024-August 2025

- Work with Prof. Neil Malhotra on reanalysis of 2020 Facebook-Instagram Election Study
- Use specification curve analyses to reexamine the published evidence
- Other projects on the public's trust in universities and the political attitudes of technology entrepreneurs

Research Associate, Dartmouth College August 2022-August 2024

- Contributor to Bright Line Watch
  - Designed, performed data analysis for, and contributed to writing the October 2022, November 2022 , July 2023, March 2024, and July 2024 reports
  - Project on social media posts about election integrity by U.S. state legislators. Status: report made public in November 2024.
  - Project on (non-) concessions by losing candidates for Congress. Status: report made public in November 2024.
- Work with Brendan Nyhan
  - Lead data analyst on project in partnership with Meta (2020 Facebook-Instagram Election Study). Status: Finalizing data anlysis and writing manuscript.
  - Intervention against misinformation in video format (in collaboration with National Conference on Citizenship). Status: writing manuscript (submission by end of 2024). Title: "Feedback Eliminates the Perverse Effects of Interventions Against Misinformation"
  - Project on algorithmic ranking and engagement with low-quality sources on social media. Status: analyzing data. Tentative manuscript title: "The effects of incorporating partisan audience diversity in algorithmic rankings: evidence from an interactive social media feed"

- White paper on voter confidence in elections. Status: published on MIT Election Lab website; submitted for journal publication and book chapter.

Research Assistant, McGill University
- For Profs. Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil   2019-April 2024
  - Elaboration of a research agenda on democratic attitudes in advanced democracies
  - Design and implementation of multiple surveys in Canada and the United States
  - Design and implementation of a conjoint experiment
- For Prof. Krzysztof Pelc   2017-August 2021
  - Coding of a cumulative dataset of CCES respondents
  - Construction of the first dataset geolocalizing demands for protectionism in the United States (article published in *Comparative Political Studies*)
  - Coding of historical international treaties

Instructor
- POLI210 – *Political Science Research Methods* (McGill University)   F2021
  - Undergraduate course on research methods in political science
  - Covers the potential outcomes framework, experiments, sampling, linear regression, predictive modeling.
  - I also introduce the students to programming in R.
- *The Political World* (Cegep d'Alma)   W2022
  - "Cegep" is the intermediary step between high school and university in Québec
  - I taught 4 groups of intro to politics/political science

Teaching Assistant (McGill University)
- POLI666 – *Causal Inference for Political Science*, grad course   W2021
  - Prepared and led weekly labs applying causal inference techniques in R using replication materials of political science articles and simulation approaches
  - Topics covered include: regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, difference-in-differences, and directed acyclic graphs.
- POLI618 – *Quantitative Analysis*, grad course   F2020
- POLI311 – *Introduction to Quantitative Political Science*   W2020

Presenter, CSDC Methods Winter School (McGill)   February 2021
- Prepared and led a 2-hour workshop on conjoint experiments
- Topics covered: statistical properties, estimation, implementation in Qualtrics, and analysis in R

Peer-reviewed publications	• "Expert Bias and Democratic Erosion: Assessing Expert Perceptiosn of Contemporary American Democracy." 2024. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 57(2): 184-193. With John Carey, Gretchen Helmke, and Eli Rau.
	• "The Partisan Nature of Support for Democratic Backsliding: A Comparative Perspective." 2022. *European Journal of Political Research* 61(2): 901-929. With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.
	• "COVID-19, Existential Anxiety, and Democracy in Canada: Observational and Experimental Evidence." 2022. *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 342-372. With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.

Other publications	• Replicating Backfire Effects in Anti-Corruption Messaging: A Comment on Cheeseman and Peiffer (2022). 2023. Institute for Replication report. With Costin Ciobanu, Guila Cohen, and Aaron Erlich.
	• Communicating With Voters to Build Trust in the U.S. Election System: Best Practices and New Areas for Research. 2023. Mapping Election Administration and Election Science initiative, MIT Election Data + Science Lab. (with Brendan Nyhan, Katherine Clayton, Thad Kousser, and Lauren Prather)
	• "Willful Blindness: Franco-American Relations and the Escalation of the Vietnam War." *McGill International Review* (Fall 2018).

Working papers	• "Does Social Media Increase Polarization? A Reassessment of the 2020 Facebook-Instagram Election Study" With Neil Malhotra, Ruochen Yi, and many others.
	• "Does COVID-19 Trump Support for Democratic Norms? Evidence from the United States" With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.
	• "Affective Polarization and the Willingness to Accept Executive Aggrandizement: Evidence From 17 European Countries." With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.
	• "Do Citizens Know What They Don't Know? A Study on Self-Assessments of Political Knowledge." With Philippe Chasse.

Academic activities	**Participant**, Toronto-Montreal Political Behavior Workshop September 2024 • Article: "Feedback Eliminates the Perverse Effects of Interventions Against Misinformation." With Brendan Nyhan.
	Participant, APSA Annual Meeting September 2022 • Article: "Do Citizens Know What They Don't Know? A Study of Self-Assessments of Political Knowlege." With Philippe Chasse.
	Participant, meeting of the Society for Political Methodology July 2022 • Article: "Measuring Social Sorting and Its Association With Affective Polarization."
	Participant, workshop on affective polarization (Paris) May 2022 • Article: "Affective Polarization and Its Consequences for Democracy." With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.
	Participant, Toronto Political Behavior Workshop November 2019 • Article: "How Strong is the Commitment to Democracy and When Does it Falter? A Conjoint Experiment on Democratic Backsliding in the US and Canada." With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.

Participant, Quebec Undergraduate Security Conference February 2018
- Organized by professors from McGill and Université de Montréal
- Article: "American Hegemony, Institutions, and the Accommodation of Rising Powers"
- Article selected as winner of $200 award

Staff Writer, McGill Journal of Political Studies W2018
- Biweekly articles on Canadian politics

Service	Referee for *European Journal of Political Research* (3x), *Political Behavior*, *British Journal of Political Science*

Awards **Joseph-Armand Bombardier Graduate Scholarship** ($17,500) 2020-2021
- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Research Grant ($2,500) W2022
- From the Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (McGill)
- Project: *Do Citizens Know What They Don't Know? A Study of Self-Assessments of Political Knowlege*

Methods Training Grant ($2,500) S2020
- From the Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (McGill)
- Used to attend ICPSR (Time Series Analysis and Rational Choice Theory)

Best research prize W2018
- POLI311 – *Introduction to Quantitative Political Science*

Research interests Public opinion and political behavior
Political economy
Causal inference

Skills **Technical:** R, Python, Stata, LaTeX
Languages: French (native language), English (perfectly bilingual)