# Olivier Bergeron-Boutin

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## Education

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

- Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study
- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada)

**M.A. in Political Science**, McGill University 2019–2023

- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship
- 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

## Peer-reviewed publications

- "Political Unfriending on Facebook: Evidence from over 180 Million Users." Forthcoming. *The Journal of Politics*. With Neil Malhotra, Jaime Settle, Magdalena Wojcieszak, et al.
- "How Does a Pandemic Affect Support for Democratic Norms? The Case of COVID-19." Forthcoming. *Journal of Election, Public Opinion and Parties*. With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.
- "Untrustworthy Sources on Facebook and Instagram in 2020: Concentrated Exposure but No Attitudinal Effects." 2026. *Science Advances* 12(31). With Brendan Nyhan, Jaime Settle, Emily Thorson, Magdalena Wojcieszak, et al.
- "Expert Bias and Democratic Erosion: Assessing Expert Perceptions 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(4): 901–929. With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.
- "COVID-19 and Support for Executive Aggrandizement." 2022. *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 342–372. With Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil.

## Other publications

- "Misinformation." 2026. In D. Stockemer, S. Sawyer, and A. Gagnon (eds.), *IPSA Companion to Political Science*, 1–4. Springer. With Mathieu Lavigne.
- "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." 2025. *Journal of Election Administration, Research and Practice* 3: 57–62. With Katherine Clayton, Thad Kousser, Brendan Nyhan, and Lauren Prather.

**Working papers**

- "Does Social Media Increase Polarization? A Reassessment of the 2020 Facebook-Instagram Election Study." With Neil Malhotra, Ruochen Yi, and many others.
- "Feedback Eliminates the Perverse Effects of Interventions Against Misinformation." With Brendan Nyhan.
- "The Evolution of Elite Political Preferences: Longitudinal Evidence from the Technology Industry." With Christian Caballero, Pia Deshpande, Greg Ferenstein, Amir Goldberg, John Konicki, and Neil Malhotra.
- "Promoting Sources With Diverse Partisan Audiences Enhances News Feed Quality Without Reducing Engagement." With Saumya Bhadani, Jack Andolina, Alessandro Flammini, Filippo Menczer, Brendan Nyhan, and Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia.
- "Do Citizens Know What They Don't Know? A Study of Americans' Self-Assessment of Political Knowledge." With Philippe Chassé.

**Work in progress**

- "The Political Consequences of the Carceral State: Evidence from Drunk-Driving Arrests in Ohio."

**Professional experience**

**Research Associate**, Stanford University 2024–2025

- Research with Prof. Neil Malhotra on the 2020 Facebook-Instagram Election Study, public trust in universities, and the political attitudes of technology entrepreneurs

**Research Associate**, Dartmouth College 2022–2024

- Contributor to Bright Line Watch: survey design, data analysis, and report writing
- Research with Prof. Brendan Nyhan on social media, misinformation, and voter confidence in elections

**Research Assistant**, McGill University

- For Profs. Dietlind Stolle and Elisabeth Gidengil: surveys and experiments on democratic attitudes 2019–2024
- For Prof. Krzysztof Pelc: original datasets on demands for protectionism in the U.S. 2017–2021

**Conference presentations**

- Toronto Political Behavior Workshop 2026
- Toronto Political Behavior Workshop 2025
- Toronto-Montreal Political Behavior Workshop 2024
- APSA Annual Meeting 2022
- Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology 2022
- Workshop on affective polarization, Sciences Po (Paris) 2022
- Toronto Political Behavior Workshop 2019

## Teaching

**Instructor**

- POLI210 – *Political Science Research Methods*, McGill University F2021
- *The Political World*, Cégep d'Alma W2022

**Teaching Assistant**, McGill University

- POLI666 – *Causal Inference for Political Science* (grad) W2021
- POLI618 – *Quantitative Analysis* (grad) F2020
- POLI311 – *Introduction to Quantitative Political Science* W2020

**Workshop Instructor**, CSDC Methods Winter School, McGill University 2021

- Two-hour workshop on the design and analysis of conjoint experiments

## Awards and grants

**SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship** ($40,000/year for three years) 2026–2028

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

**Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship** 2020–2021

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada ($17,500)

**Most Accessible Professor Award**, voted by McGill undergraduate students 2022

- For POLI210 – *Political Science Research Methods*

**Research Grant** ($2,500), Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship 2022

**Methods Training Grant** ($2,500), CSDC, McGill University 2020

## Service

Referee for *British Journal of Political Science*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *European Journal of Political Research* (4x), *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Political Behavior*, and *Politics, Groups, and Identities*

## Research interests

Public opinion and political behavior
Political economy
Causal inference

## Skills

**Technical:** R, Python, Stata, LaTeX
**Languages:** French, English

## Other work

- Concessions and Non-Concessions in the 2020 and 2022 Elections for Congress. Bright Line Watch, November 2024.
- The Big Lie Among State Legislators. Bright Line Watch, November 2024.