During the commencement ceremony of the Social Sciences Faculty on the 15th of June of this year, an honorary doctorate was awarded to Elisabeth Gidengil, a great force of Canadian political science. Elisabeth is a researcher of great quality who has an impressive international reputation. She has collaborated on large-scale projects such as the Canadian Election Study (1993 to 2008) and the Making Electoral Democracy Work project (since 2009). Elisabeth’s research has been published in highly renowned political science journals. She has also obtained many research grants, received numerous prizes and prestigious distinctions, which are a testament to how much she is appreciated by her colleagues. In addition, her nomination in 2013 to the Royal Society of Canada should also be mentioned. Elisabeth is also an outstanding teacher. During a symposium that took place at Laval University before the awards ceremony, many colleagues who had completed their doctorate under her supervision came to testify about her talents as a professor and the attention with which she supervised their research.

Elisabeth is also an exceptional manager. She directed the Department of Political Science at McGill University with great dexterity. However, her greatest and most impressive administrative achievement is the creation of the Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship. The Centre is now one of the most active hubs in the world to empirically analyze the functioning of democracy. Researchers from all over the globe want to see what we do and want to take advantage of our expertise.

As André Blais mentioned in his support letter “the Center would have never been created without Elisabeth Gidengil’s tremendous efforts. Elisabeth has dedicated an innumerable number of hours to assembling a high-quality team and to preparing the grant application. She succeeded in part because of her incredible talent and her immeasurable energy, but also because the researchers that she brought together had such faith in her.”

Through her research, her highly appreciated teaching and her managerial talents, Elisabeth has played and continues to play a pivotal role in the development of the study of electoral behaviour in Canada.
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I grew up. The day of the 9th of November
special one, taken from the grey side of the
As I currently spend my sabbatical year at
years ago. In Germany today festivities are
contribute to taking down a little
The idea is that our research might
behavior and democratic citizenship.
The upcoming 2014-2015 academic year promises to be as colourful as the years preceding it. Once again, we have succeeded in assembling an array of talks, methodological seminars, and visits by international scholars, that will continue the Centre’s reputation as a leader in the field of democratic citizenship; in Canada, in Québec and, internationally. The contents of this years’ edition of the newsletter will allow you to experience a complete picture of our endeavours. I am very proud of what you all have accomplished and I am very happy to be taking the reins for the academic year to come. I wish you all good luck and I am looking forward to discussing paths with each of you at our activities.
François Gelémue, Interim Director, 2014-2015

THE HARPER POLIMETER
by François Pétry

The Harper Polimeter is an online tool that is part of the Poltext project developed by Université Laval. The Polimeter tracks campaign promises made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the 2011 federal election, and whether these promises have been fulfilled. It is updated on a regular basis by the Poltext research team at Université Laval. Team members are politically independent. Below is a summary and analysis of their findings to date.

Projects:
The Poltext team from left to right: Dominique Doré, Évelyne Brie, Lisa Birch, Julie Martel, François Pétry, Michel Pelletier, Élisabeth Parent. Also part of the team but not shown in this photo: François Pétry, Olivier Pelletier. (Félix Parent, also a member, is not shown in this photo.)

The project is funded by a grant from the Fonds de recherche du Québec société et culture. For an up-to-date tally of all the promises, please consult the Harper Polimeter page at www.poltext.org/en/polimeter.

As of the summer of 2014, Stuart is the Michael W. Traugott Collegiate professor of communication studies and Political Science and Faculty Associate in the Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. He was previously a full member of the Centre as professor and a William Dawson Scholar at McGill University.

It is with a mixture of pride and sadness that we saw our colleague Stuart Soroka leave Montreal this summer to take a position at the University of Michigan. We are not surprised that one of the best universities in the world would recognize his talent, work ethic and research contributions to various topics (notably political communication, mass media, news coverage, content analysis, political representation, public opinion, policy responsiveness, redistribution, diversity, immigration, trust, legislative activity, public budgets, healthcare, welfare and voting behaviour). But we will miss a hyperactive, innovative, productive, fast-talking, guitar-playing, dog-walking, laugh-out-loud funny, and really nice guy. We will all have to accept the idea of spending less time with a great colleague, an inspiring teacher, a wonderful person, and a very dear friend.

So long Captain Awesome, Kim, Sara and Ellie! We wish you a lot of happiness.

GOODBYE CAPTAIN AWESOME
by Patrick Fournier

GREETINGS FROM BERLIN

Dear members of the Centre and dear reader,

I keep a rock at home. It is a special one, taken from the grey side of the Berlin wall, which was torn down about 25 years ago. In Germany today festivities are under way to celebrate this world event. As I currently spend my sabbatical year at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin, I am ever more reminded of all the constraints, hatred and fear the wall symbolized when I grew up. The day of the 9th of November is vividly in my memory and mixed with the multitude of feelings I had at the time: joy, disbelief, hope, fear, and some concern about all the consequences of these changes that were to be expected. During my stay here, I already went to see the remaining parts of the wall with my 8 years old daughter and it was difficult to explain to her why it was built, and why people accepted it. Many activities are planned in Berlin to remember that day. For example, one part of the former wall will be lit up with balloons to symbolize the visual dimension and brutality of the wall. There will be a party at the Brandenburg gate.

In my view, world events such as the fall of the wall are some of the triggers and motivations for our interest in political
NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Centre welcomes Laurie Beaudonnet as a new full member. She is an assistant professor at the University of Montreal, and was previously a postdoctoral fellow at the CSDC. Laurie’s research interests are related to public opinion, comparative politics, party strategies, European integration, welfare regimes and quantitative methods.

The Centre welcomes Stuart Macdonald as an associate member. As of the summer of 2014 Stuart is the Michael W. Traugott Collegiate Professor of communication studies and Political Science and Faculty Associate in the Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. He was previously a full member of the Centre as professor and William Dawson Scholar at McGill University. His research focuses on political communication, the sources and/or structure of public preferences for policy, and the relationship between public policy, public opinion, and mass media.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE GRANTS

Chris Chhim (PhD candidate, McGill) and Holly Garnett (PhD candidate, McGill) received the CSDC international exchange grant to pursue their doctoral dissertation research at universities abroad. Chris stayed for ten months at the University of Antwerp in Belgium (see his interview on page 12) and Holly Garnett is currently staying at the university of Sydney in Australia to collaborate on the Electoral Integrity Project and pursue her research on the effects of election administration on voter participation with professor Pippa Norris.

More information on how to apply for the exchange grant can be found at: http://csdc-cecd.ca/resources/csdc-student-funding/

CSDC BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Bolette Danckert (PhD student at Copenhagen University) and a visiting student at the CSDC) won the $500 award at the 2014 annual CSDC student conference for her paper, “Ethnic diversity and immigration attitudes: How education moderates the neighborhood effect.”

For more information on applying to our research funding, please visit our website: http://csdc-cecd.ca/resources/csdc-research-funding/

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS:

Do Voting Aid Applications Matter? A Mobilization Field Experiment on Disadvantaged Citizens

Valérie-Anné Mahéo (PhD candidate, McGill)

It’s the Economy, Stupid! Or is it just the Elite? Explaining the Success of Regional Nationalism in Spain

Eric Guntermann (PhD candidate, UdeM)

METHODS TRAINING GRANTS:

Dominic Dural (Laval University), Eric Guntermann (UdeM), Charles Tessier (Laval University), Holly Garnett (McGill University), and Jean-François Daoust (UdeM) received a CSDC methods training grant to attend the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research summer program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. Holly Garnett (McGill) and Geneviève Chacon (Laval University) received a training grant to attend the European Consortium for Political Science winter and summer schools respectively.

SEED GRANTS:

Inward or Outward: How Pregnancy Shapes Political Orientations

Dietlind Stolle (McGill) and Elin Naurun (University of Gothenburg)

Mapping and Explaining Anti-Roma Prejudice in the EU 28

Anne Mahéo’s field experiment.

Here, the vote compass as seen on one of the tablets used for Valerie Anné Mahéo’s field experiment.

CSDC SEED GRANT APPLICATIONS

Twice a year the Centre opens a call for applications for seed grants among its full members, postdoctoral fellows, and collaborators.

The seed grants, up to $7,500, are awarded on a competitive basis and are intended to foster both the design of new research initiatives and development of projects that seek larger funding from other sources. The projects must lead to cross-disciplinary work or foster new collaborations with existing members.


For more information on seed grants and other funding, visit: http://csdc-cecd.ca/resources/csdc-research-funding/
UPCOMING EVENTS

CSDC SPEAKER SERIES 2014 - 2015

ARE ALL GOVERNING PARTIES THE SAME? EXPLAINING VARIATION IN PARTIES’ ISSUE RESPONSIVENESS IN EUROPE.

Jac Ja Spoon, University of North Texas, Friday September 19th 2014, 2:45-4:15

This talk is co-sponsored with the Centre of Excellence on Risk, Attitudes to Constitutional Change and the Independence Referendum in Scotland.

Ailsa Henderson, University of Edinburgh, October 24th, 2014 - Room 406, Thomson House, 1:30

SURVEY METHODS FOR SENSITIVE QUESTIONS

Kosuke Imai, Princeton University, Thursday October 30th, 2014 - Room 406, Thomson House, 1:30

THE SCOTTISH NEVERENDUM? EXPLAINING THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM RESULT

Chris Carman, University of Glasgow, Friday October 31st, 2014, 2:45 - Ballroom, Thomson House, 2:45

This talk is sponsored by the McGill Political Science Department, the EU Centre of Excellence and the CSDC.

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY: MEASUREMENT AND CAUSES OF THE CGC DUTY TO VOTE

Carol Galais, Université de Montréal, Friday November 21st, 2014 - Room 406, Thomson House, 1:30

Robert Luskin, The University of Texas at Austin, Friday December 12th, 2014 - Room 406, Thomson House, 1:30 (Title of talk TBD)

WHITEWASHING HOW OBAMA USED IMPLICIT RACIAL DUES AS A DEFENSE AGAINST POLITICAL RUMORS

Vincent Hutchings, University of Michigan, Friday December 19th, 2014 - Ballroom, Thomson House, 1:30

DETERMINANTS OF WELFARE STATE SUPPORT IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES: PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE FROM A NEW EXPERIMENTAL PANEL, SURVEY IN BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS

Rob Ford, University of Manchester, Friday, January 16 2015, Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

MEDIAZATION OF POLITICS: RESETTING POLITICS AND TRANSFORMING DEMOCRACIES

Jesper Strömblad, Mid Sweden University, Wednesday February 18th, 2015, 4:00 - Pavilion Lionel Grouoli, Université de Montréal

Voting Student Seminar February 16th to 25th 2015

VOTE PERCEPTIONS OF PARTY POSITIONS IN EUROPE: HOW DO PARTIES INFLUENCE PERCEPTIONS?

Zeynep Soyer-Topcu, Vanderbilt University, Friday February 20th, 2015, Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

POLITICIZING THE APOLITICAL: THE ROLE OF PARTISANSHIP IN EVERYDAY CHOICES

Cindy Kem, Vanderbilt University, Thursday March 26th, 2015 - Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

SPATIAL MEETS SPATIAL: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF PARTY PLACEMENT IN ECONOMIC VOTING

Guy D. Whitten, Texas A&H University, Friday April 10th, 2015, Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

HOW TO GET THE VOTE OF YOUR SUPPORTERS WHILE PUTTING OFF YOUR OPPONENTS: A PARTISAN MOBILISATION EXPERIMENT IN THE 2014 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Peter John, University of College London, Thursday April 23rd 2015 (Location and time TBD)

KNOWING ‘WHAT GOES WITH WHAT’: REINTERPRETING THE EVIDENCE ON ATTITUDE STABILITY, POLICY VOTING, AND MULTI-ITEM ISSUE SCALES

Gabriel Lenz, University of California, Berkeley, Friday May 1 2015, Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

FIELD AND NATURAL EXPERIMENTS FOR THE STUDY OF POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Thad Dunning, University of California, Berkeley, Friday May 8th 2015 - Room 406, Thomson House, 1:30

DEMOCRACY FOR REALISTS

Larry M. Bartels, Vanderbilt University, Friday May 15th, 2015 - Ballroom, Thomson House 1:30

ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

The 6th CSDC annual graduate student conference will take place in Quebec City on March 20th and 21st, 2015. Students from all universities are welcome to attend, and there is no registration fee. The conference is a great opportunity to get feedback from your peers on your research projects.

2015 ECPR GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 2015 ECPR general conference will be held at the Université de Montréal between August 26th and August 29th, 2015 marking the first time ECPR general conference will take place outside Europe. The CSDC will be one of the sponsors of this event. This is a golden opportunity for members of the Centre and especially student members to enhance the visibility of their research as well as of the Centre by participating in the conference. There is currently a call for section proposals; sections consist of three to eight panels on a specific topic. Proposals must be submitted before November 17th, 2014.

For more information, contact André Blais (andre.blais@umontreal.ca).

WORKSHOP ON DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

As in past years, the CSDC will again be present at the Société québécoise de science politique’s annual meeting. The Centre workshop, co-organized by Allison Harell and Philippe Duguay (UQAM), will bring together Centre scholars and students to highlight the most current research being conducted by our membership around the theme of democratic citizenship. The workshop will take place between May 20-22, 2015 at Concordia University.

For more information, contact Allison Harell (harell.allison@uqam.ca) or Philippe Duguay (duquay.philippe@courrier.uqam.ca).

CO - SPONSORED EVENTS

SERIES OF TALKS ON DIVERSITY

The CSDC is co-sponsoring a series of talks on diversity during the 2014-2015 academic year. The talks focus on diversity and democratic citizenship research and will be held at Concordia University. For more details contact: antoine.bilodeau@cordir.ca

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM: SOUND, VISION, ACTION

The Centre is co-sponsoring the International Colloquium: Sound, Vision, Action, convened by Jonathan Sterne and Nicholas Mirzoeff and hosted by Media@McGill at McCord Museum in Montreal on November 14th and 15th, 2014.

For more details see: http://www.soundvisionaction.ca.

SPEAKER SERIES:

LES DÉFIS DU PLURALISME

The CSDC is co-sponsoring a series of talks on political philosophy and the issue of pluralism in different liberal societies. This speaker series is a student initiative organized by Saaz Taher and Daniela Heimpel (Université de Montréal) and the talks will be hosted at the University of Montreal during the fall and winter semesters 2014-2015. For more info contact staher@hotmail.fr and daniela.heimpel@gmx.de.

CSDC IN ZURICH!

We are happy to announce the first co-organized event between the CSDC and our partner organization The National Center of Competence in Research Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century at the University of Zurich. The event will be composed of a two day workshop around the theme of “Political Communication in Mediated Democracies” which will take place from November 19th to November 20th. Eight members (including two students) of the CSDC will take part : Frédérick Bastien, Geneviève Chacon, Pénélope Daigle, Yannick Dufresne, Patrick Fournier, Thierry Giasson, Elisabeth Gideon and Dietlind Stolle. This workshop will be an opportunity to develop a closer relationship between the CSDC and NCDC Democracy as well as explore possibilities for future collaborations in terms of research and student training.

For more information, contact f.bastien@umontreal.ca.

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PAST EVENTS
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 - 2014

**THE EMOTIONAL ACT OF VOTING - MEMORY EMOTIONS AND ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR**

On October 25th, 2013, Michael Bruter and Sarah Harrison (Ludwig School of Economics) gave a talk for the CSDC Speaker Series on the Inside the Mind a Voter project, a large scale comparative project involving 20 countries and a variety of methods such as panel study surveys, experiments, election diaries, in depth and on the spot interviews, and direct observations. They focused on the emotions involved when citizens vote and the feelings that citizens associate with the act of voting. The two scholars explored citizens’ electoral memory – that is, what citizens remember from past elections, what elections they remember, and how this memory affects their future electoral participation and vote choice. Finally, they introduced the concept of electoral ergonomics and the impact of electoral arrangements on citizens’ vote.

**CHANGING MINDS ABOUT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: RESULTS FROM TWO RANDOMIZED FIELD EXPERIMENTS** BY DONALD GREEN

On January 10th, 2014 Donald Green (Columbia University) gave a talk for the CSDC Speaker Series on two randomized field experiments examining opinion change towards decisions on gay rights in the wake of persuasive communication and prominent news events. The results suggest that discussion at the doorstep changed the way in which subjects received and interpreted the news.

**ROUNDTABLE ON THE FAIR ELECTIONS ACT**

The CSDC hosted a roundtable on the Fair Elections Act, co-sponsored by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) on February 21, 2014. The roundtable was moderated by Miriam Fahmy (Institut du Nouveau Monde). Discussants were Éric Bélanger (McGill), André Blais (UdeM), Youri Cormier (Apathy is Boring), Miriam Lapp (Elections Canada), Stephen Maher (Postmedia News) and Leslie Searle (IRPP). The discussion focused on the impact of the Fair Elections Act for equality in voter participation, youth engagement, and on the role of the Chief Electoral Officer. The podcast is available at: http://youtu.be/ejPjAIKNO-U

**LES QUÉBÉCOIS AUX URNES: LES PARTIS, LES MÉDIAS, ET LES CITOYENS EN CAMPAIGNE**

On February 27th, the CSDC organized a roundtable on the 2014 Quebec election. Patrick Fourtinier (UdeM) moderated the roundtable while Frédéric Bastien (UdeM), Éric Bélanger (McGill), Claire Durand (UdeM) and Jean-François Goldbout (UdeM) acted as discussants. The roundtable discussion centered on factors that influence the voting behaviour of Quebecers including the historical evolution of election results, the role of the media campaign, and election polls.

**QUEBEC VOTE COMPASS**

In collaboration with SRC-CBC, the Centre co-sponsored the Quebec Vote Compass. This civic literacy tool is designed to get people talking about the election and provides them with an easy way of learning where each party stands on many different issues. The online tool also enables visitors to compare how their own positions on campaign issues compare with those of each of the entertaining parties. Under François Gélineau's (Laval) direction, Centre members and students developed the issue attitude statements and coded party positions based on their platforms and press releases. The Vote Compass was a huge success, drawing about one million visitors to its site.

**LESS THAN MEETS THE EYE? THE EFFECTS OF CASUALTY NEWS ON DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR AMERICA’S WARS** BY SCOTT ALTHAUS

On April 11th, 2014 Scott Althaus (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign) gave a talk for the CSDC Speaker Series on how casualty information affects popular support for military conflicts. The analysis confirmed that local casualty rates have larger negative effects on war support than national casualty rates. However, this analysis also suggested that the effects of identifiable victims are temporary rather than durable, that they decay rapidly, and that these effects influence citizens who avoid news exposure to a greater degree than citizens who pay close attention to news outlets.

**LOSS OF VOTES IN THE 2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

On May 25th, 2011, Patrick Magee (UdeM) gave a talk for the CSDC Speaker Series on the impact of electoral arrangements on citizens’ vote. The study focused on the impact of the Fair Elections Act for equality in voter participation, youth engagement, and on the role of the Chief Electoral Officer. The discussion highlighted the importance of electoral reform and the need for a more participatory and inclusive electoral system.

**PAST EVENTS**

**highlights of 2013-2014**

The CSDC hosted its annual graduate student conference, March 21-22, 2014 in Quebec City, which was a great success. We would like to thank Frédéric Bastien (UdeM) and student representatives Alexandre Blanchet (UdeM) and Charles Tessier (Laval University) for organizing the event. The conference received 30 proposals. Eighteen papers were presented, including three that were collaborations. Two CSDC international exchange PhD students, Bolette Danschert (University of Copenhagen) and Louise Donkor (University of Liverpool) presented at the conference as well. Peter Loewen (University of Toronto) presented a keynote speech entitled, “The Editor’s Perspective: On the Other Side of the Publication Process.”

**ANNUAL CSDC GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE 2014**

On October 25th, 2013, Michael Bruter and Sarah Harrison (Ludwig School of Economics) gave a talk for the CSDC Speaker Series on the Inside the Mind a Voter project, a large scale comparative project involving 20 countries and a variety of methods such as panel study surveys, experiments, election diaries, in depth and on the spot interviews, and direct observations. They focused on the emotions involved when citizens vote and the feelings that citizens associate with the act of voting. The two scholars explored citizens’ electoral memory – that is, what citizens remember from past elections, what elections they remember, and how this memory affects their future electoral participation and vote choice. Finally, they introduced the concept of electoral ergonomics and the impact of electoral arrangements on citizens’ vote.

**JOINT WORKSHOP ON ELECTION STUDIES AND PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH**

The Centre organized a three-day workshop on election studies and public opinion research together with the University of Gothenburg's Society Opinion and Media Institute, the Laboratory of Opinion Research, the Multidisciplinary Opinion & Democracy Research Group and the Swedish National Election Studies team on March 24-26, 2014. The workshop wrestled with questions about the design of election studies, and crisis responses and communication. We are delighted that we could welcome our Swedish colleagues in Montreal. It was a fruitful and fun experience.

**WORKSHOP ON WEB SCRAPING**

The CSDC organized a four-day workshop on Web Scraping on June 3-6, 2014, conducted by Radhika Sakemna (Princeton University). The workshop introduced basic tools and techniques for automatic content extraction, parsing and other data-handling tasks that are commonly encountered in data-intensive research projects. The workshop covered topics such as Python regular expressions, the web-scraping library “BeautifulSoup”, interacting with open data APIs and touched upon PDF content extraction.

**EMILY FALK VISITS THE CENTRE**

Prof. Emily Falk visited the CSDC as a visiting scholar. She spent a week at different campuses of the Centre and talked about neural predictors of behavioral change. Dr. Falk is an Assistant Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication. Dr. Falk employs a variety of methods in the performance of her research, with a focus on functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). She has worked to develop a program of research in what she calls “Communication Neuroscience” to link neural activity (in response to persuasive messages) to behaviours at the individual, group and population levels.

For all inquiries related to our centre, please contact: csdc-cecd@mcgill.ca
Vincent Lemieux was the last “founding father” of the Department of Political Science at Laval University where he held the title of professor emeritus since 2000. We share the grief felt by his family and relatives, because in a way, we also consider ourselves a little bit like his orphans. Vincent Lemieux loved teaching students, and they liked his teaching. He continued to teach in the department without pay after his retirement. He trained a record number of doctoral students, many of whom have since become university professors, thus making his mark, more than any other, on the Quebec and Canadian political science scene. Through his teaching, he actively contributed to the education of generations of decision makers who have helped develop Quebec society at the social, political, media, and governmental levels. In 1995 he obtained the Award of Excellence in Teaching from the Faculty of Social Sciences. In 1997, the Canadian Political Science Association established the Vincent Lemieux Price, which honors the best doctoral thesis in political science in Canada every two years.

Vincent Lemieux has contributed significantly to our department, our faculty, and our University through his work in the university community and through his reach outside the university community. He was head of the Department of Political Science from 1967 to 1970. More recently, he has been closely associated with the creation of the Master of Public Affairs (MAP) and the Centre for the Analysis of Public Policy (CAPP), two crown-jewels that are the pride of the Department of Political Science and of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Outside the university, he has been actively involved with the Canadian Political Science Association, of which he was president in 1991-92. He participated in the work of royal commissions Laurendeau-Dunton, Macdonald and Lortie, and acted as a consultant to many organizations of civil society. Also note that Vincent Lemieux has often worked with the media, Le Devoir in particular.

True to the structural approach, he thought that in order to understand political institutions, it is necessary to study the relationships linking the actors inside those institutions first, before studying the objective characteristics or the subjective beliefs and attitudes of these actors. The influence of the structural approach is evident in the work on political patronage he published early in his career, especially Parenté et politique, a seminal reference for the Canadian Federation of Social Sciences. We find the structural approach implicit in his books on social networks and on public policy analysis. His book Le parti libre du Québec is a seminal reference for all researchers interested to study the political system of Quebec.

Another characteristic of the scientific work of Vincent Lemieux was to link theoretical principles as much as possible with empirical reality in order to enhance the practical significance of his findings. He often concluded his scientific work with recommendations addressed sometimes to policy experts, but also to engaged citizens interested to increase their level of political knowledge. The scientific work of Vincent Lemieux was animated by the desire to explain complex phenomena in nontechnical language so as to enlighten the widest possible audience on the major challenges to democracy today. This is an undeniably attractive feature of this work.

For his accomplishments, he has received, among other awards, the Parizeau medal in 1978, an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa in 1995, the Léon-Gérin Prize in 1998. He had been elevated to the rank of officer of the National Order of Quebec in 2003, and appointed member of the Order of Canada in 2005. The legacy of Vincent Lemieux is impressive. It is our turn to build on that legacy by expanding it.

Vincent Lemieux passed away on the 18th of July of this year at 81 years old. Lemieux left us with an impressive body of work: over 20 books and 200 articles and chapters, as well as numerous popular texts. However, what is even more impressive is that he directed 29 doctoral dissertations and 58 masters’ theses. A fabulous legacy?

Vincent Lemieux was interested in many topics: elections and parties, patronage, public policy analysis and networks. He was a true empiricist but his empirical analysis was always embedded in his unique theoretical perspective that was inspired by structuralism and that he elaborated and polished through the years.

Educated in France and strongly influenced by Levi-Strauss’ structural anthropology, he, as a professor and mentor, left us with the message that the most interesting scientific developments are happening right here in North America. He presented American research while adding a European and structuralist touch. He was also very much drawn to the behaviouralist movement without denying his anthropological roots. Seduced neither by the public choice movement nor by the rational choice school, he would always highlight the central role taken by values and social relations.

His mission was to create, in Quebec, a rigorous and modern field of political science that would contribute to societal progress and to greater knowledge. He was first and foremost a scientist, but he desired to build a political science that was useful to society. To this end, he contributed to numerous inquiry commissions and he appeared frequently in the media in order to clearly and interpret the elections.

He has been a pioneer of electoral sociology in Quebec. Elections were a natural topic for him. The arrival of surveys aroused his empirical curiosity and allowed him to pursue his interest in the ordinary citizen whom he kept in high respect and who was the ultimate target of his scientific mission. After a while, he partly abandoned this field and concentrated himself on the study of public policy judging that his contribution would be greater in that new field.

Thus, we can say: mission accomplished! Quebec political science is modern and dynamic. The Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship is the living proof! Its focus on the concrete analysis of citizens’ behaviour and attitudes is in direct line with Lemieux’s concern. He believed that the mission of social science is to understand social phenomena and to improve the collective well-being. The quantitative direction he took came naturally even though he was not trained in that field.

On a personal note, Vincent Lemieux has been a profound source of inspiration for me even though that inspiration was not necessarily an intellectual one. I have always been sceptical of his theoretical and conceptual approach, and, as my students often remind me, I am rarely convinced.

The inspiration was rather to associate myself with a man that has a sense of his mission. It’s that sense of purpose that gave him the discipline to write each morning in his office. He was a man of a great generosity and simplicity despite the fact he was also shy and discrete.

When I found out about his death, the first image that came to my mind was the summer I spent in Quebec City when I was a Ph.D student at York. Nearly each week we would play tennis and have a beer at his place where we would discuss the future of research in social sciences, the issues surrounding the demonstration of a causal relationship and the merits and limits of the anthropological approach. These were subtle moments where the master would listen rather than speak all the while reiterating his faith in rigorous and objective social sciences.

Vincent Lemieux: Great Builder of Political Science in Quebec and Canada
by François Pétry

François Pétry is a professor and the director of the political science department at Université Laval as well as a member of the CSDC.
Can you please summarize your research question? Why did you choose to go to Belgium on an education exchange?

Simply put, I work on regionalist political parties and I focus on Québec, Flanders, and Scotland. I am interested in how these political parties frame their demands for regional empowerment. Are these parties advocating for independence using arguments of economic efficiency or cultural protection? In a sense, I want to see how parties ‘sell’ their message to voters and whether or not the framing of this message changes over time for some parties.

I decided to go on exchange to Belgium because Flanders is one of the case studies in my dissertation. Comprising roughly the northern half of Belgium, Flanders is a Dutch-speaking region (and also a “community”, but that’s a complicated story!) that has been home to a regionalist political party since the 1960s. In its early days, the People’s Union expressed a number of grievances related to cultural and linguistic protections. However, its successor party since the early 2000s, the New Flemish Alliance, has mostly put forth economic arguments to support their demands for more decentralized powers for Flanders. It is precisely this change in framing, while taking into account the context of Belgian institutional reforms that I want to examine in more detail.

In addition, I chose to be based in Antwerp partially because of the interesting place that it occupies in Belgian political life. First, it is often seen as the unofficial capital of Flanders (even though Brussels is the official capital of the Flemish Community) and its biggest city. Second, almost any new political formation to emerge on the Flemish political scene had its start in Antwerp. The Flemish nationalists, the Greens, and far-right can trace their beginnings back to the city of Antwerp.

You were a member of the Media, Movement and Politics (M2P) research group. How did you come to be involved in the group and what was your experience as a full time member?

While at the University of Antwerp, I was working with Stefania Walgrave, who I had met while he was visiting the CSDC a few years ago. He was interested in my research and invited me to spend time at his M2P research group. Since then, we had kept in contact, so when the chance came to apply for an international exchange grant from the CSDC, I knew exactly where I wanted to go.

Going to Antwerp and being a full-time member of the research group was at times different from what I was used to in a Canadian context. For example, the PhD students are all seen as staff members and have the status of faculty personnel. The group was highly professionalized and worked a pretty strict 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule. However, some things were also familiar. I took part in the staff meetings that happened every two weeks. These meetings were a place where staff members would present dissertation chapters or articles to be discussed in an open, supportive, and constructive environment. But, it was not all work while being with M2P! I had my fair share of ping pong matches with other staff members and even went along to the research centre’s annual retreat in the Ardennes.

One of the reasons why I wanted to be affiliated with M2P was because of their specialization in the link between media and politics. Going into my exchange, I didn’t know so much about this field of research. However, talking with my colleagues about their research questions, the data they collect, and the techniques they used definitely opened my eyes to new possibilities. While I am still considering whether I can use elements of media analysis in my own dissertation and (future research), being exposed to this field of research has helped me grow as a researcher. In this way, my time abroad was a good way to explore new things and find out what I liked, didn’t like, or remained skeptical about.

How was the Belgian research environment different from what you were used to in Canada?

Part of my fieldwork involved conducting interviews with various politicians in Flanders. One thing that was surprising was how accessible many politicians were. For example, it was not uncommon for me to find parliamentarians’ home addresses and phone numbers on their personal websites! Even though my fieldwork happened to coincide with the run-up to the May 2014 elections, I was amazed at how quickly some MPs (and their assistants) got back to my requests for interviews. Indeed, many were too busy to talk to me, but others were able to pencil me into their agendas right away.

Another surprising thing about carrying out political research in Belgium was the eagerness of politicians to participate. My colleagues at M2P recently carried out a survey of parliamentarians in the Flemish Parliament and obtained a response rate of over 95%! This is something that would be unheard of in a Canadian context.

Of course, it helps enormously that Belgium is a compact country (about 10.5 million inhabitants, with Flanders occupying about 6.5 million of that total) with a different political culture, so it’s a bit unfair to compare Belgium to Canada. However, after having my own share of problems getting interviews with Canadian MPs, this openness and responsiveness was refreshing.
Greetings from Copenhagen

by Bolette Danckert

From the end of February to the beginning of June, I visited the Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship as a visiting PhD student. As a PhD fellow at the University of Copenhagen, the purpose of my stay was to engage in the academic environment at the Center in order to learn and be inspired by new inputs.

Very generally, my PhD project concerns how living among and engaging with ethnic minorities affects individuals’ political opinions about immigration. More specifically, across a number of studies, I look into whether the effect of interethnic encounters is moderated by various individual and contextual factors. At McGill, I focused particularly on two projects. In the first project (together with two Danish co-authors), I look at whether the effect of neighborhood exposure is moderated by individuals’ level of political sophistication. We argue that politically sophisticated individuals are less responsive to cues about ethnic diversity in the neighborhood, as political sophistication is related to attitude stability and because political sophistication increases individuals’ ability to rely on other sources of information (e.g. news programs). Using Danish panel data we find support for these expectations. I presented a draft of this paper at the Center’s Graduate Conference that took place in Quebec City in March. I was very happy to receive constructive feedback, and also I felt very honored to receive the prize for the best paper of the conference.

The other project that I worked on concerned the effects of ethnic diversity on interethnic attitudes: How education moderates the neighborhood effect. “Students who live in a heavily diverse neighborhood are more likely to hold negative attitudes toward ethnic diversity” (Dietlind and Bolette, 2012). At the Center I was presented some preliminary findings at a pizza lunch and discussion. We are building various aspects as the project developed. We discussed the effect of education on interethnic attitudes: How education moderates the neighborhood effect.

In addition to working, I did take time to experience other aspects of “Montrealian” and Canadian life. Coming from Denmark where mountains are completely non-existent and snow is usually limited and wet, I was excited to arrive in the midst of the coldest winter in several years. Within the first months of my stay, I got to go ice-skating, sledding and skiing, and - thanks to the “Swedish Invasion” conference - also curling. As the temperatures rose, sugar shack season started, beach volley, BBQ and hiking season kicked in, and the hockey excitement in the bars on rue Saint Denis reached ear-deafening levels.

Altogether, my stay was not only constructive and helpful for my research, but also very enjoyable and fun, and I felt very fortunate to take part in an engaged and friendly research environment. Thanks to all of you, whom I met during my stay, and many greetings from Copenhagen.

Looking back on two years in Montreal

by Elin Naurin

During the course of my two-year stay at the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship at McGill University in Montreal, my favorite city policy was one where Montrealers could apply to the city for help planting trees in their yards. A city that helps its people plant trees and lets its trees grow higher than the houses is a civilized city with respect for the greater values in life. I love these Montreal trees. I also love the way the city is obsessed with language and culture. It is fortunate to be able to do both: dwell on your own origin and experience everyone else’s multicultural background.

My husband Patrik Obberg, our two children and I arrived in Montreal in June 2012 from Gothenburg, Sweden. After a couple of months the children, at the time 9 and 6 years old, began attending a bilingual school. To get through the morning sessions they learned, “Je ne comprend pas” and “Est-ce que je peux aller au toilette?” and for the afternoon sessions, “I don’t understand” and “May I please go to the bathroom?” After six months of missed snack times, failed homework assignments and misunderstood school excursions, our eldest came home one day declaring that everyone in school had learned to speak Swedish: “They must have, because I understood everything today!”

Moving abroad as an academic is a piece of cake compared to the challenges we force our children to go through. As an adult, you want to move, you know the language, you look forward to your tasks and you have colleagues, who know you are coming. Our children definitely did not want to move, they did not know who was waiting and they did not speak the languages. Now two years later, after heart-breaking good byes, Montreal is our second hometown, the French language is our children’s pride and their English is almost as relaxed as their Swedish.

The Centre’s focus on representation and public opinion, in combination with André Blais’ Canada Research Chair in Electoral Studies at the University of Montreal was a perfect fit for my and Patrik’s research. Patrik studies political elites and he had a post-doc stipend from the Swedish Research Foundation to work on gender and career ambition at André’s chair. My work at the CSDEC at McGill concerned the policy effects of elections and voters’ and politicians’ perceptions of democratic mandates. Conducting fulltime research and having excellent scholars surrounding me, made it possible to finish several manuscripts as well as start up several new ones.

Elin Naurin was a visiting professor at the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship at McGill between July 2012 and June 2014. She is currently an assistant professor of political science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Elin Naurin’s stay at the Centre was supported by COFAS Marie Curie Actions within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union.
In recent decades, the issue of electoral integrity has moved from marginal to mainstream for many places around the globe. In long-established democracies, the events in Florida during the 2000 presidential election demonstrated that even minor technical issues have the capacity to polarize the electorate, mobilize an army of lawyers, and ultimately generate a flood of new laws on voter identification and voter suppression in American states. Events in the US have crossed borders, as shown by the “Fair Votes Act” in Canada, allegations of flaws in the May 2014 British local elections, and lost ballot boxes in Afghanistan, inconclusive results in many countries, such as Australia, Canada, Sweden, Israel and at different levels of politics, such as municipal, regional or national elections. While there exist a variety of voting aid applications, they are often non-partisan web tools that aim at informing citizens and electors of election results, and citizens, we still don’t know if these initiatives have the capacity to polarize the electorate, mobilize an army of lawyers, and ultimately generate a flood of new laws on voter identification and voter suppression in American states. Events in the US have crossed borders, as shown by the “Fair Votes Act” in Canada, allegations of flaws in the May 2014 British local elections, and lost ballot boxes in Afghanistan, inconclusive results in many countries, such as Australia, Canada, Sweden, Israel and at different levels of politics, such as municipal, regional or national elections. While there exist a variety of voting aid applications, they are often non-partisan web tools that aim at informing citizens and electors of election results, and that the public. Past studies have in fact been unable to accurately assess the potential effects of VAA, due to causal inference problems.

The EXPERIMENT

This article is based on a unique experimental evaluation of a VAA in the context of an election. During the electoral campaign of the 2014 Quebec election, I implemented a randomized field experiment to test whether a VAA, called the Vote Compass, could stimulate the political knowledge, interest, information behavior and turnout of the individuals who use it. I recruited 400 citizens on the street and in various locations of a low-income neighborhood, and offered them the opportunity to complete a survey and visit various information websites on an electronic tablet. This study’s unique innovation is that it reached a larger proportion of individuals who tend to be non-voters and non-users of this app. Among the less educated citizens. While we see that the Vote Compass tends to stimulate information-seeking behavior and turnout of the individuals who use it. The common operating principle of Voting Aid Applications (VAA) is to compare the positions of parties with the position of the citizen on a variety of policy issues, and at the end, to calculate and illustrate the general proximity of the citizen to the political parties. While they seem to attract an increasing amount of interest and attention from the media, governments and citizens, we still don’t know if these apps effectively inform and mobilize the electorate decision-making. The common operating principle of Voting Aid Applications (VAA) is to compare the positions of parties with the position of the citizen on a variety of policy issues, and at the end, to calculate and illustrate the general proximity of the citizen to the political parties. While they seem to attract an increasing amount of interest and attention from the media, governments and citizens, we still don’t know if these apps effectively inform and mobilize the electorate decision-making.

Facilitating electoral decision-making. The common operating principle of Voting Aid Applications (VAA) is to compare the positions of parties with the position of the citizen on a variety of policy issues, and at the end, to calculate and illustrate the general proximity of the citizen to the political parties. While they seem to attract an increasing amount of interest and attention from the media, governments and citizens, we still don’t know if these apps effectively inform and mobilize the electorate decision-making. The common operating principle of Voting Aid Applications (VAA) is to compare the positions of parties with the position of the citizen on a variety of policy issues, and at the end, to calculate and illustrate the general proximity of the citizen to the political parties. While they seem to attract an increasing amount of interest and attention from the media, governments and citizens, we still don’t know if these apps effectively inform and mobilize the electorate decision-making.
A little more than a week ago, Scots went to the polls in a historic referendum over whether or not to remain part of the United Kingdom. Those of us on this side of the ocean are no strangers to referendums and had our eyes on Scotland. Now, with the flags and campaign signs put away, we can reflect on some ways in which the Scottish experience repeated the events of the 1980 and 1995 Quebec referendums. With the benefit of hindsight, we can examine what the Scots could have anticipated from taking a closer look at Quebec.

In the lead-up to the Scottish vote, strategists on both sides likely consulted precedents and Quebec certainly provides a prominent example. Indeed, much was learned from the Quebec experience. For instance, many of the arguments heard over the past weeks echo those from the 1980 and, especially, the 1995 referendum campaigns. The Scottish and UK governments signed a pre-campaign agreement regarding not only question wording, but also the threshold for victory. These differences were most likely inspired from the political and legal fall-out from the 1995 referendum.

Nonetheless, the Scottish NO side should have realized that campaigns do matter, and having the right leader for your side matters even more. In 1995 Quebec, the YES side experienced a surge of nearly ten points during the campaign, in part due to Lucien Bouchard’s arrival to the scene. In Scotland, the NO side should have seen that an increase in YES support was not unthinkable, especially given Alex Salmond’s popularity and general satisfaction with his government in the Scottish Parliament. Conversely, a look at past Quebec campaigns should have shown the YES side in Scotland that the power of economic arguments should not be underestimated. In both 1980 and 1995 Quebec, we saw leaks similar to those made by Lloyds and RBS regarding the future of the financial services industry in an independent Scotland.

Also, commentators should have seen that opinion polls overestimate YES support. In 1995, at least two-thirds (if not three-quarters) of undecided Quebec voters supported the NO camp. Yet many of the opinion polls reported during the campaign in Scotland either excluded undecided voters or proportionally divided them between both sides. This is an error, since during a major event such as a referendum vote, it is more likely that undecided voters will remain cautious and vote NO. Furthermore, confronted with a more enthusiastic and vocal YES campaign, many felt that pro-union campaigning was frowned upon. Closer attention to this “silent majority” by pollsters and pundits could have saved Westminster politicians from making hasty promises for more devolution in the final days of the campaign.

Finally, the old adage of “never say never” rings truer than ever when comparing the two regions. To those who think that the book is closed on the issue of Scottish independence, we point out that many felt the same way after the first Quebec referendum, but disappointment over constitutional reforms led to another referendum fifteen years later. Although Salmond has said that there would only be “one opportunity” to vote on the independence issue, Westminster could fail to deliver on its promises of devolution for Scotland, potentially causing the referendum juggernaut to rear its head again.

In the end, we can draw three large conclusions about independence referendums from looking at the Quebec and Scottish cases. The first is that arguing for the status quo is difficult. Both cases show that there was a significant number of citizens unhappy with the current arrangements. Second, devolution short of independence is often a winning option. While there are indeed limits to how far one can and should decentralize, Quebec and Scotland are two cases where more devolved powers was the most preferable option, yet oddly not on the ballot. Finally, it was clear in both cases that no one was going to be entirely satisfied with the result. In such tight referenda with so much emotional energy invested into campaigning, roughly half of the population will be disappointed with the result. The drama of an independence referendum can mar political landscapes and it seems that the road to constitutional renewal following a NO vote might be more grueling than the opposite.
What are your main research questions?
Our research project looks at how gendered cues affect political information processing and political engagement more generally. This has led to related pilot experiments. In the first, we look at how news is consumed by men and women. Our interest was to know whether news that focused on a gendered policy domain (domestic violence) would incite more information retention among women compared to a more neutrally framed series of news stories. In the second study, we explore the ways in which we call “supply” and “demand” side cues about women’s under-representation in politics does to political information retention and interest in politics. Supply side arguments focus on women’s lack of interest in politics while demand side arguments reflect structural inequalities in political parties.

You rely on lab experiments to explore the effects of gender on information processing. What are the main advantages of using lab experiments such as yours for your study?
Lab experiments are a great way to control the stimulus that is of most interest to researchers, because in principle participants are asked to take the exact same computer assisted questionnaire, with the exception of the one (or more) items that we are interested in testing. In our studies, lab experiments were ideal for manipulating both news content, in our studies, lab experiments were ideal for exploring the ways in which what we call “supply” and “demand” side cues about women’s under-representation in politics does to political information retention and interest in politics. Supply side arguments focus on women’s lack of interest in politics while demand side arguments reflect structural inequalities in political parties.

Could you highlight your main research findings?
While our studies were exploratory in nature, we have preliminary findings that suggest that gendered cues can affect how men and women respond to politics. In particular, preliminary evidence suggests that women’s political knowledge is lowest when they are cued that their under-representation is the result of their own lack of interest in politics, or when they are given no cue at all. By contrast, there is no comparable effect when women are cued that their under-representation is the result of demand-side, institutional discrimination. This may be because the discrimination cue disrupts dominant narratives about women and politics. It is worth noting that this demand-side cue also elicited the strongest reported emotional response from participants who are women. We found less evidence, however, that simply cuing a gendered policy domain would improve women’s retention of political news facts.

What initially inspired your collaboration?
This collaboration emerged from conversations that my colleague Tania Gosselin, and I have had about looking at information processing from a gendered perspective. Gosselin is skilled in political communication, while my own background is more in gender and politics and public opinion, so our interests came together around these research questions, with the help of the CSDC seed funding initiative. During the grant writing, one of my MA students took a real interest in the project as well. Alexandre Duval was conducting experiments for his own MA research at the time, and became involved in this project through his work at LACPOP.

Do you have other plans to extend your project?
The seed funding was only a first step in our project. We are currently applying for a large SSHRC research grant with another colleague, Melanie Thomas, who is currently an assistant professor at the University of Calgary, and former CSDC PhD student.

For more information on our seed grants, please consult our website: http://csdc-ccsd.ca/

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Interview with Allison Harel and Tania Gosselin

HEADLINES

COALITION BUILDING IN CANADA
There have been 13 minority governments in Canadian history. When it occurs, the government’s survival has hinged on ad hoc support from opposition party members.

IDEOLOGICAL PROXIMITY
The #1 reason why Canadian parties entered voting coalition in recent Canadian minority parliaments is ideological closeness. Parties that think alike tend to vote alike.

WHAT’S THE STORY?

Minority governments typically result from elections in which no party wins a majority of available seats. In practice, it means governing parties depend on votes from at least some members of other parties to reach majority status (31%) and pass legislation. Securing majorities is critical because in many cases the bills that governments propose are acts of “confidence.” Losing confidence votes means not only does proposed legislation not become law, but also that a new election must be held.

This article focuses on the recent minority governments at the federal level in Canada to explore why opposition parties sometimes support governing parties yet other times consistently oppose them. Based on analyses of voting patterns in the House of Commons, three common hypotheses are evaluated.

The first is ideological proximity. This is the idea that opposition parties are most likely to support governing parties that share similar policy orientations. The second is regional proximity, which predicts opposition support hinges on regional considerations. The third is electoral gains. This is the idea that opposition parties base support for minority governments on shifting calculations about how they would most likely perform in future elections.

Results indicate that, in the Canadian context at least, all three explanations have some validity. For instance, when the Liberals formed minority government (2004-2006) almost all coalitions included the most ideologically similar party to them (NDP). Yet, the NDP rarely engaged in a coalition with the governing Conservatives in subsequent minority contexts. Similarly, there is also evidence that the BC consistently voted with the government based on the regional aspects of legislation that pertained to Quebec. Finally, there is evidence that internal party finances partly explain why Liberals engaged in voting coalitions with the governing Conservatives.

Generally speaking, the best explanation for why Canadian opposition parties support minority government appears to be ideology. All else equal, this study shows that we should expect opposition parties to support governing parties that share similar policy outlooks and to systematically reject coalitions with parties that clearly share a different ideological perspective.

LEARN MORE

Canadian history. The 38th Parliament was governed with a minority cabinet by the Liberal party (PM Martin), while the 39th and 40th were governed by minority Conservative cabinets led by PM Harper. For the ideological proximity hypothesis voting patterns are compared with historical left-right party placement measures. The electoral gains hypothesis is evaluated based on trends in monthly public opinion polls for each party over the course of the minority parliament.

F OR PUBLIC DEBATE
Minority government at the federal level has occurred 13 different times since confederation in 1867. So it cannot be considered an extremely rare occurrence in Canada. In fact, over the last decade minority government has been the norm not the exception. This study is one of the few attempts to empirically test popular theories about why these minorities sometimes survive (and thrive) while others do not.


With contributions from the following Centre members (past and present): Pénélope Daing- nault, Thierry Giasson, Élisabeth Gidengil, An- drea Lawlor, Adam Mahon, Denver McNeney and Stuart Soroka.


The Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC) brings together a group of scholars from five Québec universities, who work on research related to democratic citizenship. The purpose of the Centre is to develop inter-disciplinary and multiple methodological perspectives in the study of challenges that democracies face in a rapidly changing world.

The Centre was established in 2008 under the leadership of Elisabeth Gidengil. In June, 2013 Dietlind Stolle became the new Director of the Centre. François Gélineau is the Associate Director of the CSDC. The Centre is currently comprised of 23 faculty members, nearly 70 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and 14 Canadian and international Associate members.

The Centre’s main goals are to promote scientific research on fundamental questions relating to democratic citizenship, to contribute to policy debates on strengthening democracy both in Canada and abroad, to take a leadership role in the development of large-scale cross-national research projects, and to provide an enriched training environment for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

The center’s research provides in-depth analysis of a wide range of relevant questions focusing on three axes: Citizens and democratic representation, civic engagement, and diversity and democratic citizenship.

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