



CÉCD CSDC

CENTRE POUR L'ÉTUDE
DE LA CITOYENNETÉ DÉMOCRATIQUE
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

FALL NEWSLETTER 2014

ELISABETH GIDENGIL RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM LAVAL UNIVERSITY

By François Pétry



On June 15, 2014, Elisabeth Gidengil (center) received an honorary doctorate from Université Laval in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of political science. (Photo: Marc Robitaille)

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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.

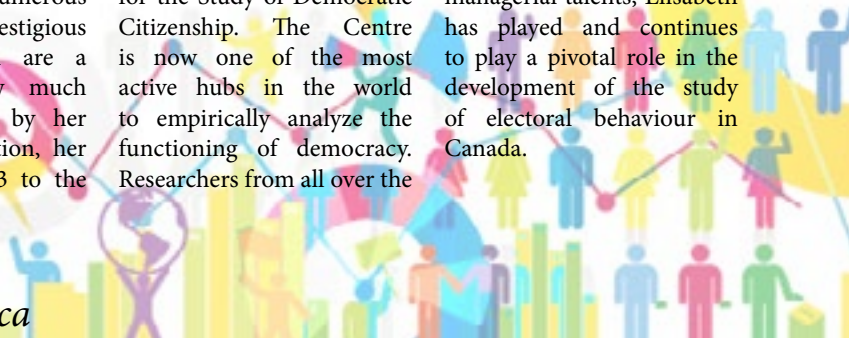
Elisabeth is also an outstanding teacher. During a symposium that took place at Laval University before the awards ceremony, many colleagues who had completed their doctorate under her supervision came to testify about her talents as a professor and the attention with which she supervised their research.

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.



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR DIRECTORS



Dear members of the Centre and dear reader,

LETTER FROM BERLIN

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 year 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

Last spring, it was with the greatest enthusiasm that I accepted to take on the role of director of the Centre during the twelve month absence of Dietlind Stolle. She will be able to dedicate herself fully to her research projects for the duration of her sabbatical. I must admit that when I made my decision, I did not fully appreciate all that the directorship entailed. It is a very demanding job, but incredibly rewarding.

Together, we form a group of dynamic students and researchers. The showcase of our achievements that we have assembled for our midterm review by the FRQSC is a testament to just that. In the course of the first three years of our funding period, we have distinguished ourselves through our knowledge mobilization and equally, through the amount of grants and funding our members have applied for and received. We have every reason to be pleased with our path up until now.

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 year's 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 crossing paths with each of you at our activities.

François Gélinau, Interim Director, 2014-2015

behavior and democratic citizenship. The idea is that our research might contribute to taking down a little piece of a wall. While we do work on making our research ever more relevant to Quebec, Canada and abroad, our Centre has achieved a lot already. When I attend the midterm visit for our Centre in November, I will be very proud to present our Centre to our granting agency and external reviewers. The numbers we had to put together for this purpose show it all: Since 2011, Centre members have won over \$5.4 million in external research funding. We have published 28 books, over 150 refereed journal articles and more than 120 book chapters in this period. Our publications and presentations have won several awards in the last three years, including the American Political Science Association's Seymour Martin Lipset prize in Canadian Politics and the Canadian Political Science Association's Donald Smiley and Comparative Politics book prizes, as well as the McMenemy prize for the best article in the Canadian Journal of Political Science. Our students are also

among the prize recipients, including the CPSA's Jill Vickers prize for the best paper in gender and politics. Not only that, we have had a wonderful last year with outstanding international scholar visits, a common workshop on Quebec politics, excellent training seminars for graduate students and lots of fun while curling against our Swedish colleagues. Let's keep up this creativity and productivity in the years to come, so more rocks can tumble.

Greetings from Berlin,
Dietlind Stolle



GOODBYE CAPTAIN AWESOME

by Patrick Fournier

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, skateboarding, 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.



The Centre welcomes Stuart Soroka as an associate member

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.



The Poltext team from left to right : Dominic Duval, Évelyne Brie, Lisa Birch, Julie Martel, François Pétry, Olivier Pelletier. (Félix Parent, also a member, is not shown in this photo.)

The Harper Polimeter has compiled 140 promises found in the platform of the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) as presented during the 2011 federal election and is tracking the progress toward their fulfilment. Promises are rated as "kept", "kept in part or in the works", "broken", or "not yet rated."

To date, the conservative government has kept 95, or 68 per cent of its promises so far, with another 18 (13 per cent) "kept in part or in the works." Another 19, or 14 per

cent, haven't been rated and eight (six per cent) were broken.

The high rate of fulfillment of promises by the Harper government is, in part, explained by the centralization of power within the Prime Minister's Office, which facilitates the drafting and subsequent fulfillment of achievable promises. Another factor contributing to the high rate of fulfillment is the nature of the promises. Conservative Party promises are rarely based on bold, risky ideas; they are often very specific and achievable within a short time frame. These trends are not unique to the Conservative Party of Canada, as they can also be observed in other countries, especially those where single parties hold a parliamentary majority. Handing out promises comprised of small, tangible benefits can help democratic accountability and transparency. Election promises and their fulfilment are an important source of political information for citizens. The paradox is that citizens believe that politicians are not capable of keeping their promises, despite the fairly high rates of promise fulfillment. Recent surveys show that this stereotyped view of politicians' incapacity to keep their promises correlates strongly with a lack of political interest and low levels of political information at the individual level. Getting the word out through tools like the Harper Polimeter, that most election promises are actually fulfilled could generate more interest and involvement in the political process.

François Pétry is the director of the political science department at Université Laval and the founder and first coordinator of the Harper Polimeter

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/polimetre.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS ELISABETH GIDENGIL

On June 15th, 2014, the CSDC's founding director, Elisabeth Gidengil, received an honorary doctorate from Université Laval in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of political science.



CONGRATULATIONS DIETLIND STOLLE

Dietlind Stolle and co-author Michelle Micheletti were awarded the 2014 Canadian Political Science Association prize in comparative politics for their book *Political Consumerism: Global Responsibility in Action* (Cambridge, 2013).

CONGRATULATIONS FRÉDÉRIK BASTIEN

Frédéric Bastien's book *Tout le monde en regarde: La politique, le journalisme et l'infodivertissement à la télévision québécoise* (Presses de l'Université Laval, 2013) was nominated for the 2014 Canadian Political Science Association Francophone prize.



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.

Application deadline: December 15, 2014.

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

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 Soroka 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."

2013 - 2014 GRANTS



Here, the vote compass as seen on one of the tablets used for Valérie Anne Mahéo's field experiment.

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS:

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

Valérie-Anne Mahéo (PhD candidate, McGill)

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

Eric Guntermann (PhD candidate, UdeM)

METHODS TRAINING GRANTS:

Dominic Duval (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 Naurin (University of Gothenburg)

Mapping and Explaining Anti-Roma Prejudice in the EU 28
Laurie Beaudonnet (UdeM), Allison Harell (UQAM), and Roxana Barbulescu (University of Sheffield)

How Much of Electoral Politics is Local? Making the Most of a Natural Experiment
Marc-André Bodet (Laval University), and François Gélineau (Laval University)

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

GUESTS AT THE CSDC

VISITING DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Francesco Visconti
PhD candidate, University of Siena (Università di Siena)

September 2014 – January 2015

Research interests: agenda-setting power of Italian public opinion and media, and rhetorical and effective political responsiveness

Martin Vinæs Larsen

PhD candidate, University of Copenhagen (Københavns Universitet)

September - January 2015

Research interests: electoral accountability, economic interdependence and economic voting

Rania Karchoud

PhD candidate, Institut de Presse et des Sciences de l'Information de Tunis, visiting from September 2014 – February 2015.

Research interests: Communication strategy, political communication, partisan communication, and media relations.



VISITING SCHOLARS

Visiting scholars stay at the CSDC for at least a week, and visit several of our member universities. This year we welcome:

Kosuke Imai

Professor Department of Politics,
Princeton University – October 27th-30th, 2015

Research interests: the development of statistical methods and their applications to social science research.

Jesper Strömbäck

Professor in Media and Communication,
Mid Sweden University (Mittuniversitetet) February 16th - 27th, 2015

Research interests: political news coverage, political campaigning and marketing, the mediatization of politics, and comparative political communication research.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

We would like to thank all student representatives for their engagement!

Please contact your student representatives with any concerns or ideas regarding the Centre:

Graduate Student Representative:

Alexandre Blanchet (UdeM)

alexandre.blanchet@gmail.com

Vice Graduate Student Representative:

Charles Tessier (Laval)

charles.tessier.1@ulaval.ca

Other Student Representatives:

Philippe Duguay (UQAM)

duguay.philippe@courrier.uqam.ca

Kerry Tannahill (Concordia)

kerryannahill@gmail.com

Chris Chhim (McGill)

chris.chhim@mail.mcgill.ca

Holly Garnett (McGill)

holly.garnett@mail.mcgill.ca

CSDC SPEAKER SERIES 2014 - 2015

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

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

**This talk is co-sponsored with the EU Centre of Excellence*

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 CIVIC '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 CUES 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

Last year's Speaker series was a great success (see page 9 for a look at some of last year's presentations). This year, the Centre will host a wide range of local and international scholars prominent in various subfields. For everyone who would like to participate but cannot, we created a web conference room through Adobe connect. You can access the room via: <https://connect.mcgill.ca/r7fmip91a3e/>.

MEDIATIZATION OF POLITICS: RESHAPING

POLITICS AND TRANSFORMING DEMOCRACIES

Jesper Strömbäck, Mid Sweden University

Wednesday February 18th, 2015, 4:00

Pavilion Lionel Groulx, Université de Montréal

Visiting Scholar February 16th to 25th 2015

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

Zeynep Somer-Topcu, Vanderbilt University

Friday February 20th, 2015, Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

POLITICIZING THE APOLITICAL: THE ROLE OF PARTISANSHIP IN EVERYDAY CHOICES

Cindy Kam, 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&M University

Friday April 10th, 2015, Room 406, Thomson House 1:30

HOW TO GET OUT 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

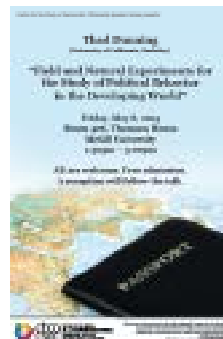
Room 406, Thomson House, 1:30

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 Québec 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 (duguay.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@concordia.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 Montréal on November 14th and 15th, 2014.

For more details see: <http://www.soundvisionaction.cc/>.

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 : Frédéric Bastien, Geneviève Chacon, Pénélope Daignault, Yannick Dufresne, Patrick Fournier, Thierry Giasson, Elisabeth Gidengil and Dietlind Stolle. This workshop will be an opportunity to develop a closer relationship between the CSDC and NCCR Democracy as well as explore possibilities for future collaborations in terms of research and student training.

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

PAST EVENTS:
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 - 2014



Miriam Fahmy (INM) moderates the Roundtable on the Fair Elections Act. (Photo: Maria Surilas)

“ THE EMOTIONAL ACT OF
VOTING - MEMORY EMOTIONS AND ELECTORAL
BEHAVIOUR ”

On October 25th, 2013, Michael Bruter and Sarah Harrison (London 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 Seidle (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/jsPVANKNO-U>

LES QUÉBÉCOIS AUX URNES: LES PARTIS, LES
MÉDIAS, ET LES CITOYENS EN CAMPAGNE

On February 27th, the CSDC organized a roundtable on the 2014 Quebec election. Patrick Fournier (UdeM) moderated the roundtable while Frédéric Bastien (UdeM), Éric Bélanger (McGill), Claire Durand (UdeM) and Jean-François Godbout (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 Québec 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 contending parties. Under François Gélinau'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.

ANNUAL CSDC GRADUATE STUDENT
CONFERENCE 2014



Still from this year's Graduate Student Conference. (Photo: Alexandre Blanchet)

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 Danckert (University of Copenhagen-København Universitet) 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.” Professor Loewen spoke from his expertise as an assistant editor at the Canadian Journal of Political Science. The \$500 prize for best paper was awarded to Bolette Danckert, for her paper “Ethnic Diversity and Immigration Attitudes: How Education Moderates the Neighborhood Effect.”

“ 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.

For all inquiries related to our centre, please contact: csdc-cecd@mcgill.ca



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



In this photo, the participants of the web scraping workshops

The CSDC organized a four-day workshop on Web Scraping on June 3-6, 2014, conducted by Radhika Saksena (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.

VINCENT LEMIEUX: GREAT BUILDER OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IN QUEBEC AND CANADA

by François Pétry

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 themselves 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 Prize, which honors the best doctoral thesis in political science in Canada every two years.

Vincent Lemieux has contributed enormously 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* that was awarded a certificate from 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 libéral du Québec* is a seminal reference for all researchers interested to study the political system of Québec.

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

On July 18th, 2014, Vincent Lemieux passed away at the age of 81. Vincent Lemieux was born in Lévis, on July 13th 1933. He received his PhD from the University of Paris and was a professor at the political science department at Laval University from 1960 to 2000. He was widely known for expanding the discipline of political science and was the recipient of numerous prizes and distinctions throughout his illustrious career. His friends and colleagues, André Blais, and François Pétry, contribute their own memories of Professor Lemieux below.



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.

François Pétry is a professor and the director of the political science department at Université Laval as well as a member of the CSDC.

VINCENT LEMIEUX: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

by André Blais

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 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 phenomenon 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 while 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.

André Blais is a professor in the political science department at Université de Montréal and a member of the CSDC as well as the director of the Canada research chair in electoral studies.

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 Quebec, 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 is its biggest city. Second, almost any new political formation to emerge on the Flemish political scene had its start in Antwerp. The Flemish nationalists, 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 Stefaan 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



As part of his project, Chris conducted interviews with Flemish politicians.

Q + A: CHRIS CHHIM

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE GRANT RECIPIENT

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.

How has being at a Belgian university helped you become more familiar with your research question?

One of the valuable things that being affiliated with a Belgian university allowed me to do was audit an undergraduate course on Belgian politics. As you can imagine, this is not something that you can do in Canada! While I had been learning as much as I could about the Belgian political system before coming to carry out fieldwork, sitting in on an entire class designed to help Belgian students make sense of their own institutions allowed me to confirm my own understanding. Furthermore, attending lectures once a week in Dutch certainly helped my language skills!

Were you able to meet with other political scientists working on similar projects from other universities?

The community of people studying sub-state nationalism is relatively small in Canada, so being based at Antwerp provided me with a springboard to reach out to a number of Europe-based scholars working on topics similar to mine. For example, I was able to attend a graduate student conference around the theme of "Identity, Nations, and Nationalism in a Changing Context" at the University of Edinburgh. As with any specialized conference, it was great to have the opportunity to discuss my research with other like-minded people!

In addition to focusing on Flanders, being based in Antwerp allowed me to expand my research horizons a little bit. In May, I was able to make a trip the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth in order to track down political party manifestos for my research. While I was only there for three days to scour the archives (and enjoy the quaint Welsh seaside), I think getting a small taste of another area with a distinct regional identity definitely set the wheels in motion for another comparative research project later on down the road.

What are your future projects now that you are finished with your exchange?

Now that I am back from my exchange, my first priority is, of course, my dissertation. I still have to sift through all of the interview data that I collected and perhaps return to Belgium to conduct some follow-up interviews to further explore some leads or ideas that came out of this round of interviews.

However, in addition to writing about regionalist political parties and substate nationalism, I am interested in linking language, identity, and politics. I am working on a paper with my advisor, Éric Bélanger, on citizen attitudes toward Scottish languages and their perceived importance to Scottish identity.

Chris Chhim is a PhD candidate in political science at McGill University and a member of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship. He received an international exchange grant from the CSDC to participate in an international exchange at the Universiteit Antwerpen during the 2013-2014 academic year. Chris also received a specialization grant from the Flemish Ministry of education.

GREETINGS FROM COPENHAGEN

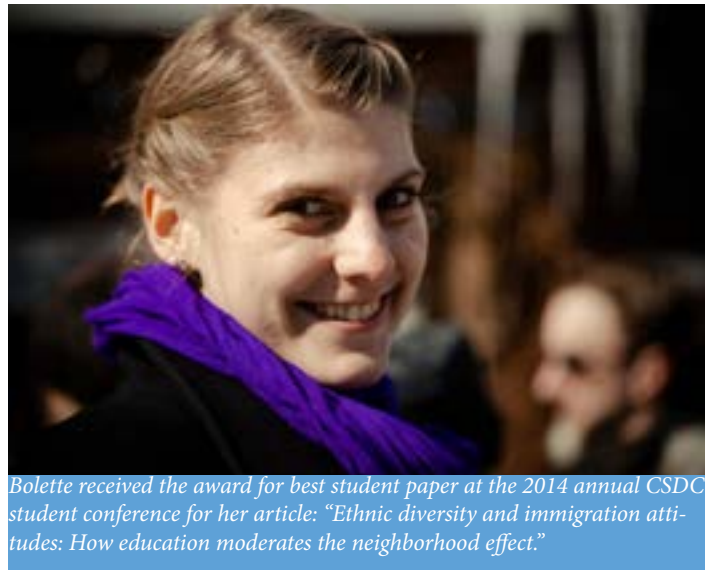
by Bolette Danckert

From the end of February to 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 whether the personality trait Openness to Experience moderates the impact of interethnic encounters. The project is a joint project between myself, my Danish co-authors, and Dietlind Stolle. It was nice to be in Montreal to be able to discuss various aspects as the project developed. We presented some preliminary findings at a pizza lunch and here, I was again happy to encounter enthusiasm and receive constructive comments.

Aside from researching in the CSDC offices on McTavish Street, I took part in the Friday lunches and talks arranged by the Center. I was impressed not only by the line-up of great scholars throughout the semester, but also by the lively discussions that followed each presentation. In addition, I was happy to take part in the "Swedish Invasion," some of the methodological seminars arranged by the Center



Bolette received the award for best student paper at the 2014 annual CSDC student conference for her article: "Ethnic diversity and immigration attitudes: How education moderates the neighborhood effect."

as well as some of the Wednesday talks at the University of Montreal.

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.

Bolette Danckert was a visiting PhD student at the CSDC between January and May 2014. She is currently completing her PhD at the University of Copenhagen. Her research focuses on the effects of ethnic diversity on interethnic attitudes and political opinions.

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 (and possesses a great deal of courage, considering the windiness of the city). 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 Öhberg, 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 comprends 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 Center'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 CSDC 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.



At Mont Tremblant, enjoying Canadian winter

It is with lots of gratitude that I look back at our time in Montreal, and I am absolutely sure that we will return someday again. The research environment surrounding the Center is generous and relaxed for scholars working on representation, communication and political behavior. Both Patrik and I presented our work several times at McGill University, Université de Montréal and Université Laval, every time in rooms filled with colleagues and smart students skilled on subjects close to ours. Moreover, the speaker series that Dietlind initiated during my stay at the Center brought the absolute best scholars in the field to Montreal.

My role at these visits at the Center consisted of talking about my and their research over a coffee, as well as tagging along for great "after speech" dinners at nice Montreal restaurants, which is one of the "challenges" of my two years in Montreal that I miss the most

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.

ELECTORAL INTEGRITY: A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA

by Pippa Norris

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

study of elections and voting behavior in Western nations has largely focused upon explaining the social psychology of party choice and turnout, while taking the legitimacy of the process largely for granted. What the study of electoral integrity highlights is that citizens are making choices within broader political and institutional environments. Moreover, the project highlights that understanding these contexts in more depth is essential to many contemporary concerns, whether the classification of ‘hybrid’ regimes, the logic of voter choice in situations of constrained competition, electors’ perceptions of the trustworthiness and

and practitioners. This includes the Montreal IPSA workshop in July 2014 in conjunction with MEDW, CSDC and the IPSA World Congress.

The project has also generated several publications, including *Strengthening Electoral Integrity* (Eds. Norris, Frank, and Martinez I Coma, Oxford University Press, 2014), *Why Electoral Integrity Matters* (Norris, Cambridge University Press 2014) and *Contentious Elections* (Eds. Norris, Frank and Martinez I Coma Routledge 2015). Further initiatives this year focus on new research in comparative political finance and evaluation of the most effective policy interventions.



Above: the participants of the pre-IPSA workshop: Citizens, Parties, and Electoral Concepts. The CSDC and the Electoral Integrity Project (among others) co-sponsored this event.

Australia. Elsewhere around the world the problems of poor quality elections have been far more serious, whether claims of fraud ‘on an industrial scale’ in Afghanistan, inconclusive results triggering a military coup in Thailand, and problems of insecurity in Nigeria.

The global expansion in the use of elections, yet persistent shortcomings, has catalyzed a burgeoning new research agenda among scholars and practitioners. Some of the work has the capacity to challenge long-held shibboleths. Following the use of survey techniques, since the mid-1950s the traditional

legitimacy of the electoral process, and what can be done to strengthen the quality of elections.

The Electoral Integrity Project seeks to address all these issues and many more. Since 2012, a team of researchers for the project at the University of Sydney and Harvard University has developed new publically-available datasets, including the expert survey of Perception of Electoral Integrity, and public opinion data with a battery of items included in the 6th wave World Values Survey. A series of international workshops have strengthened networks of scholars

There are also visiting opportunities for fellows and interns, and the project has developed partnerships with many international agencies, including International IDEA, IFES, OAS, UNDP and OSCE.

For more details visit: www.electoralintegrityproject.com

Pippa Norris is the McGuire lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University Arc Laureate Fellow and Professor of government and International relations at the University of Sydney. Norris is also the Director of the Electoral Integrity Project.

DO VOTING AID APPLICATIONS INFORM AND MOBILIZE CITIZENS?

RESULTS FROM A FIELD EXPERIMENT DURING THE 2014 QUEBEC ELECTION

by Valérie-Anne Mahéo

VOTING AID APPLICATIONS

Voting Aid Applications have become increasingly popular in the past years, 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



Here, Maria Surilas explains the functioning of the tablet.

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 public. Past studies have in fact been unable to accurately assess the potential effects of VAAs, 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, and randomly assigned them to use either the Voting Aid App or a website featuring a movie quiz, as the control condition. Furthermore, I evaluated the effects of the App at different points in time, in the short-term as well as in the medium-term (after the election). In doing so, the experiment allows us to effectively evaluate whether using the Vote Compass helps citizens in times of elections.

THE RESULTS

The results of this study show that there are no general effects of the Vote Compass on any of the political attitudes or behaviors, would it be in

short or medium-term. However, if we look at the differential effect of the app for less or more educated citizens, we see that the Vote Compass tends to stimulate information-seeking behavior and voting intentions (and to a certain extent political interest as well) only among the less educated citizens. While this study is exploratory and based on a small sample, it highlights that VAAs might not benefit all citizens equally. The next step of this project will be to examine whether the Voting Aid Application informed citizens on their vote choice.



For more information contact:
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This research project received the financial support of the Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, Making Electoral Democracy Work and McGill’s Dean of Arts Development Fund. I want to thank the team of the Vote Compass and the Directeur général des élections du Québec for their collaboration, and also the research assistants who worked on this project with me: Maria Surilas, Geneviève Plante and Benjamin Latour.

LESSONS FROM THE SCOTLAND AND QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUMS

By Éric Bélanger and Chris Chhim

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

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 Lloyd's 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.



As the results roll in, YES supporters rally outside of the Scottish Parliament 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



Pro-union and pro-independence supporters clash outside an Edinburgh polling station.

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.



YES posters in Edinburgh.

Éric Bélanger is an Associate Professor of Political Science at McGill University. Chris Chhim is a PhD student in Political Science at McGill University. For more information contact: eric.belanger3@mcgill.ca and chris.chhim@mail.mcgill.ca
Photos by Chris Chhim

CSDC SEED GRANT RECIPIENTS: GENDER CUES, ANXIETY AND POLITICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING

Interview with Allison Harell and Tania Gosselin

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 involved two 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 what we call “supply” and “demand” side cues about women’s underrepresentation 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?

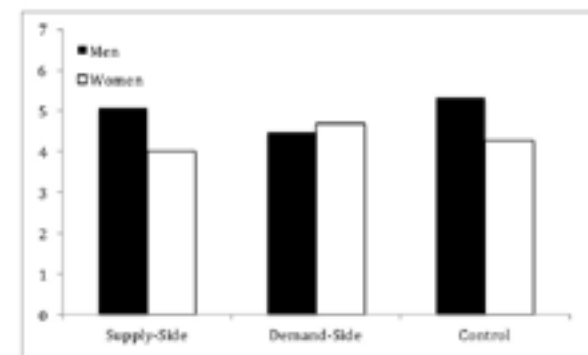
Lab experiments are a great way to control the stimulus that is of most interest to researchers, because in principle participants are asked to take the exact same computer assisted questionnaire, with the exception of the one (or more) items that we are interested in testing. In our studies, lab experiments were ideal for manipulating both news content, in our first study, and the message about women’s underrepresentation that preceded a knowledge test, in our second study.

Labs also provide researchers with access to more intrusive measures that are simply not possible in other settings, such as physiological measures. As this project develops, we will be incorporating physiological testing equipment into our study that is being purchased for the new Public Opinion and Political Communication Laboratory (LACPOP) at UQAM, funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

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

Figure 1: Gender and Condition Effects on Traditional Political Knowledge



Note: Figure presents predicted level of traditional knowledge based on ANOVA results presented in Table 2.

is lowest when they are cued that their underrepresentation 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 underrepresentation 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 cueing 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 a specialist 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, Melanee 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-cecd.ca/>



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COALITION VOTING AND MINORITY GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA

by Jean-François Godbout

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.

REGIONS AND RATIONAL CHOICES
To a lesser extent, voting coalitions in Canada have also formed based on regional conflict (i.e. Quebec) and electoral incentives.

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 (51%) 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 minority governments 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 BQ 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.

HOW WE DID IT?

This study is based on all (roll call) votes held in the House of Commons during the three most recent minority Parliaments: the 38th, 39th, and 40th of

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.

FOR 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.

“THE FORMATION OF VOTING COALITIONS IS BEST EXPLAINED BY THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATIONS OF PARTIES”

LEARN MORE

Godbout, Jean-François and Bjørn Høyland. 2011. “Coalition Voting and Minority Governments in Canada.” *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* 49(4): 457-485. http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1450654

NEW ON THE SHELF



CANADIAN DEMOCRACY FROM THE GROUND UP: PERCEPTIONS AND PERFORMANCE.

Elisabeth Gidengil and Heather Bastedo, eds.
Vancouver: UBC Press, 2014.

http://www.ubcpres.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299174599



THE POLITICS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: PARTIES, REBELS AND REPRESENTATION

Sven-Oliver Proksch and Jonathan B. Slapin
Cambridge University Press, 2014

www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/comparative-politics-politics-parliamentary-debate-parties-rebels-and-representation



LES SURVEILLANTS DE L'ÉTAT DÉMOCRATIQUE

Jean Crête, dir.
Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 2014

<https://www.pulaval.com/produit/les-surveillants-de-l-etat-democratique>



POLITICAL COMMUNICATION IN CANADA

Alex Marland, Thierry Giasson and Tamara A. Small
Vancouver: UBC Press, 2014.

http://www.ubcpres.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299174510

This book is part the first Canadian series dedicated to publishing political communication research called "Communication Strategy and Politics." Thierry Giasson and Alex Marland co-edit the series; it welcomes single-authored as well as edited contributions showcasing innovative research in political communication. Learn more here: http://www.ubcpres.ca/books/series_communicationstrategyandpolitics.html



HEALTH CARE POLICY AND OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Richard Nadeau, Éric Bélanger, François Pétry, Stuart Soroka, and Antonia Maioni
New York: Routledge, 2015.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138021082/>

BOOK PRIZE



POLITICAL CONSUMERISM: GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ACTION

Dietlind Stolle and Michele Micheletti's book Political Consumerism: Global Responsibility in Action, Cambridge (2013) received the 2014 Canadian Political Science Association prize in comparative politics.

<http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/comparative-politics/political-consumerism-global-responsibility-action>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

The following is a selective list of recent publications from CSDC members. Members' names are **bolded**.

- Darin Barney** (2013). "Publics without politics: surplus publicity as depoliticization", in Kirsten Kozolanka (eds.) *Publicity and the Canadian State: Critical Communications Approaches*. University of Toronto Press.
- Roxana Barbulescu and **Laurie Beaudonnet** (2014). "Protecting Us, Protecting Europe? Public Concern about Immigration and Declining Support for European Integration in Italy", *Perspectives on European Politics and Society* 15(2) : 215-237. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15705854.2014.885765#.VCGG9ytdVho>
- Laurie Beaudonnet**, **André Blais**, **Damien Bol** and Martial Foucault (2014). "The Impact Of Election Outcomes On Satisfaction With Democracy Under A Two-Round System", *French politics* 12(1). <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/fp/journal/v12/n1/full/fp20142a.html>
- Éric Bélanger** and Laura B. Stephenson (2014). "The Comparative Study of Canadian Voting Behaviour". In Luc Turgeon, Martin Papillon, Jennifer Wallner and Stephen White (eds.) *Comparing Canada: Methods and Perspectives on Canadian Politics*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. http://www.ubcpres.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299174512
- Éric Bélanger** and Eva Falk Pedersen (2014). "The 2012 Provincial Election in Quebec", *Revue canadienne de science politique* 8 (1) : 141-149. <http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/cpsr/article/view/609>
- Éric Bélanger**, **Richard Nadeau**, Mathieu Turgeon, Michael S. Lewis-Beck and Martial Foucault (2014). "Patrimony and French Presidential Vote Choice: Evidence from the 2012 Election", *French Politics* 12 (1) : 59-68. <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/fp/journal/v12/n1/full/fp20143a.html>
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- Antoine Bilodeau** and Luc Turgeon (2014) "L'immigration: Une menace à la culture québécoise? Portrait et analyses des perceptions régionales", *Revue canadienne de science politique* 47 (02): 281-305. <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9315114&fileId=S0008423914000444>
- André Blais** (2014) "Why is Turnout so Low in Switzerland? Comparing the Attitudes of Swiss and German Citizens Towards Electoral Democracy", *Swiss Political Science Review*. Publiée en ligne : <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/spsr.12116/full>
- Oliver Christ, Katharina Schmid, Simon Lollot, Hermann Swart, **Dietlind Stolle**, Nicole Tausch, Ananthi Al Ramiah, Ulrich Wagner, Steven Vertovec and Miles Hewstone (2014). "Contextual effects of intergroup contact on prejudice against Outgroups", *PNAS* 111(11) : 3996-4000. <http://www.pnas.org/content/111/11/3996>
- Pénélope Daignault**, Stuart Soroka and **Thierry Giasson** (2013). "The perception of political advertising during an election campaign: A preliminary study of cognitive and emotional effects", *Canadian Journal of Communication* 38 : 167-186. <http://awww.cjc-online.ca/index.php/journal/article/view/2566>
- Patrick Fournier**, Fred Cutler, Stuart Soroka, **Dietlind Stolle** and **Éric Bélanger** (2013). "Riding the Orange Wave: Leadership, Values, Issues, and the 2011 Canadian Election", *Revue canadienne de science politique* 46 (4) : 863-897. <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9162272&fileId=S0008423913000875>
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- Andrea Lawlor and **Éric Bélanger** (2013). "The Blue Electorate in Quebec and Support for the ADQ and the CPC", in James Farney and David Rayside (eds.) *Conservatism in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
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With contributions from the following Centre members (past and present): Pénélope Daignault, Thierry Giasson, Elisabeth Gidengil, Andrea Lawlor, Adam Mahon, Denver McNeney and Stuart Soroka.
- Richard Nadeau**, **Éric Bélanger** and Thomas Didier (2013). "The Chávez Vote and the National Economy in Venezuela", *Electoral Studies* 32 (3) : 482-488. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261379413000565>
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CENTRE POUR L'ÉTUDE
DE LA CITOYENNETÉ DÉMOCRATIQUE
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

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 Gélinau 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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