

David Dubé, PhD Candidate in Political Science — McGill University

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

McGill University, Montréal, QC

PhD candidate, Political Science

Since Fall 2022

- ◇ Dissertation: *Crypto at the Gates: Bargaining, Legitimacy, and Financial Authority in the Digital Age*
- ◇ Committee: Juliet Johnson (Supervisor), Maria Popova, Tania Islas Weinstein
- ◇ Field exams in Comparative Politics & International Relations
- ◇ Coursework GPA: 3.95/4.0

University of Quebec at Montreal, Montréal, QC

Master of Arts (honors distinction), Political Science

Obtained: January 2022

- ◇ Supervisors: Jacques Lévesque & Christian Deblock
- ◇ Thesis: *The Construction of Russia's Foreign Policy Revanchism: Understanding the Annexation of Crimea*
- ◇ GPA: 4.18/4.3

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Obtained: May 2019

- ◇ Exchange semester at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow)
- ◇ Political Science and Law Students' Association Executive

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary research examines the political economy of digital finance, focusing on cryptocurrency communities, financial authority, and state-market relations in Europe and North America. I study how crypto and blockchain actors navigate and bargain with regulatory institutions, and how these interactions reshape governance and legitimacy in financial systems, engaging broader questions of post-communist development and the transformation of digital markets.

I also research information politics and strategic communication, including Russian and Chinese foreign disinformation and narrative strategy, incorporating computational approaches to analyze political narratives and influence operations at scale.

Methodologically, I use a mixed-methods approach: qualitative work drawing on interviews, field-work, and archival analysis, and quantitative work using machine learning, NLP, and text-as-data methods, with an emphasis on causal inference through experimental and observational designs.

MAIN POSITIONS

Senior Data Analyst, Global Affairs Canada - Affaires mondiales Canada, Rapid Response Mechanism
March 2025 – April 2026

- ◇ Member of the Rapid Response Mechanism Data Science and Russia geographic teams, addressing the growing volume and complexity of foreign information manipulation targeting Canada across multiple languages and platforms.
- ◇ Built data-driven detection and classification workflows to identify coordinated inauthentic activity and emerging narrative threats, translating findings into analytical products used to inform government decision-making.

Research Team Leader, Canadian Network on Information and Security

Since Fall 2022

- ◇ Faced with the difficulty of tracking Russian and Chinese disinformation narratives at scale across languages and platforms, led a team applying large language models and AI-driven text-as-data methods to identify and monitor these campaigns systematically (SSHRC and MINDS programs funded).

- ◊ Directed a team of research assistants, standardizing coding and analysis practices to produce reliable, replicable findings for government and academic partners.
- ◊ Dir. Jean-Christophe Boucher PhD - University of Calgary.

Course lecturer, Research and Teaching Assistant

Since Fall 2019

- ◊ **Course lecturer:** Politics in East Central Europe (Fall 2024).
- ◊ **Teaching Assistant:** *McGill University*: Fall 2022 - Now ; *University of Quebec at Montreal*: Fall 2019 - Winter 2022.
- ◊ **Research Assistant** (McGill University):
 - *Prof. Juliet Johnson*: PhD research supervisor; BEAR Network.
 - *Prof. Aaron Erlich*: Centre for the Study of Democracy and Citizenship
 - *Prof. Taylor Owens*: Media Ecosystem Observatory, Max Bell School of Public Policy.

Junior Attaché, General Delegation of Quebec in New York

Fall 2021

- ◊ Supported Quebec's economic diplomacy in New York during a critical phase of the Champlain Hudson Power Express agreement between Hydro-Québec and New York State/City, requiring the Delegation to navigate a dense and shifting network of business and political stakeholders.
- ◊ Evaluated economic and political developments affecting Quebec-New York relations and briefed the Délégué général directly on findings to support engagement strategy.
- ◊ Conducted research on prospective partners, counterparts, and political gatekeepers ahead of meetings, identifying key relationships and interests to strengthen the Delegation's negotiating position.

Coordinator, Raoul Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies June 2020- June 2021

- ◊ Center for US Studies: coordinated SSHRC-funded research, events, and planning on US-Canada relations, including communication between the research centre and external partners during the 2020 U.S. presidential election.
- ◊ Collaborated with Radio-Canada/CBC and other media partners to produce public-facing analysis informing the Canadian and Quebec public on the election.

Teaching Intern, CEGEP of Lanaudière in Joliette

Fall 2018 – Winter 2019

- ◊ Teach seminar courses in Political Science

PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

1. (Revise and Resubmit at British Journal of Political Science) "Russia's Narrative Dominance Beyond the West: Constructing an Alternative Information Order", co-authored with Jean Christophe Boucher (U Calgary) and Israa Farouk (U Calgary),
2. (Under Review at Reviews of International Political Economy) "Crypto at the Gates: Why Crypto Entrepreneurs Seek Regulatory Integration".
3. (Under review at Journal of Experimental Political Science) "The Sources and Limits of European Influence on Public Opinion in EU Candidate Countries", co-authored with Aaron Erlich (McGill University),
4. (Forthcoming) "Taiwan-China Relations Coverage in Canadian Media", co-authored with Katie Zheng (Wake Forest University) and Jean Christophe Boucher (U Calgary), *International Journal*
5. (2024) "Baby You Can Drive My Car? L'impact de la présidence Trump sur l'industrie automobile canado-américaine" in Gagnon, F., Cloutier-Roy C (dir.) , *L'Amérique d'abord, le Canada ensuite. Les relations canado-américaines de Donald Trump à Joe Biden*, Presses de l'Université de Montréal.

WORKING PAPERS

1. "Short Videos, Long Wars: Chinese Foreign Information Operations in the United States on TikTok", co-authored with Jean Christophe Boucher (UCalgary).

CONFERENCES
AND PRESENTATIONS

1. American Political Science Association (APSA) Conference, 2023 (Los Angeles), 2024 (Philadelphia), 2025 (Vancouver).
2. International Studies Association (ISA) Conference, 2024 (San Francisco), 2025 (Chicago).
3. European International Studies Association (EISA) Conference, 2026 (Lisbon).
4. Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, 2023 (Chicago).
5. Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Conference, 2022 (Boston).
6. Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, 26th Biennial Conference, Washington D.C., 2021 (reported 2024).
7. Quebec Network of Postsoviet Studies (Réseau Québécois d'Études Postsoviétiques) Research Day and Quebec Political Science Society Student Colloquium, University of Montreal, 2021-2022.
8. Carleton University Political Science Graduate Conference, Ottawa, 2022.

GRANTS AND
FELLOWSHIPS

1. Canadian Graduate Scholarship for Doctoral Programs. (\$40,000 CAD/year) . Awarded from May 2023 until May 2026.
2. Social Science and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship . (\$40,000 CAD/year) . Awarded from May 2023 until May 2027
3. Doctoral Excellence Research Grant, McGill University Department of Political Science. (\$22,000 CAD/year) . Awarded from Fall 2022 until May 2027.
4. Graduate Mobility Award, McGill University. (\$ 6,000 CAD). Awarded for Fall 2026 dissertation fieldwork.
5. Jean Monet Centre Montreal Fieldwork Scholarship. University of Montreal/McGill University. (\$ 2,850 EUR). Awarded for Fall 2026 dissertation fieldwork.
6. Institute for Qualitative and Mixed-Method Research (Syracuse University) Workshop Grant (\$ 3,000 USD value). Awarded in June 2025.
7. Centre for International Peace and Security Studies Research Training and Traveling Grant (\$ 500 CAD). Awarded for 2024-2025 methods training initiatives.
8. Marc Bourgie Internship Grant (\$10,000 CAD). Awarded June 2020.
9. Excellence Scholarship, Faculty of Management, University of Quebec in Montreal (\$1,100 CAD) . Awarded January & March 2022.
10. J.A. DeSève Scholarship (*Bourse J.A. DeSève*) (\$4,000 CAD). Awarded June 2021.
11. Institutional Success Support Scholarship (*Bourse institutionnelle de soutien à la réussite*) (\$4,000 CAD). Awarded December 2020 and 2021.
12. Desjardins Caisse d'Autray Graduate Scholarship (*Bourse Desjardins de la Caisse d'Autray pour les cycles supérieurs*) (\$1,000 CAD). Awarded June 2018
13. UQAM Mobility Award (\$3,000 CAD). Awarded January 2018.

HONOURS AND
AWARDS

1. McGill University Arts Faculty Graduate Student Teaching Award. Awarded in March 2025.
2. Honors distinction for Master's dissertation. Granted January 2022.

TEACHING	1. POLI 618: Quantitative Analysis, McGill University, Fall 2026 (Teaching Assistant) 2. POLI 331: Politics of East Central Europe, McGill University, Fall 2024 (Lecturer) 3. POLI 329: Russian and Soviet Politics, McGill University, Winter 2023-2025 (Teaching Assistant) 4. POLI 346: US Foreign Policy, McGill University, Fall 2022 (Teaching Assistant) 5. Geopolitical Issues of Russia and Ukraine, University of Sherbrooke (Third Age University), Fall 2022 (Lecturer)
METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS	Coding and publishing: ◇ Advanced: R, Python, LaTeX, Quarto, Excel. ◇ Intermediate: Git, SQL, Power BI. Methods training & experience: ◇ Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, Summer 2025. ◇ Quantitative methods & causal inference: POLI 666 (Causal Inference for Political Science, Prof. Elisa Berwick) and POLI 618 (Quantitative Analysis, Prof. Aaron Erlich), McGill University, Fall 2023/Winter 2025. ◇ Qualitative methods: POLI 660 (Fieldwork: Challenges and Strategies, Prof. Tania Islas Weinstein), McGill University, Fall 2023. ◇ Quarto workshop on website creation and publishing, Prof. Elisa Berwick, McGill University, Winter 2024. ◇ Machine learning for text analysis workshop, Network for Strategic Analysis, Instructors: Prof. Jean-Christophe Boucher & Jenny Kim, University of Calgary/UQAM, Summer 2023.
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	◇ Member: <i>Laboratory on Democracy, Transparency, Information Provision and Participation</i> (dir. Aaron Erlich) - Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship - McGill University. ◇ Member: <i>Centre for International Peace and Security Studies</i>, McGill University. ◇ Emerging Scholar: <i>Network for Strategic Analysis</i>, University of Québec at Montreal - Queens University. ◇ Associate Fellow: <i>Raoul Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies</i> - Center for US Studies, University of Quebec at Montreal.
LANGUAGE SKILLS	French, English (native fluency); Russian (elementary proficiency); Spanish (reading elementary proficiency).