Elissa Berwick

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science, McGill University

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Academic Appointments

McGill University   *Montréal, QC*
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science   *2020-Present*

Brown University   *Providence, RI*
Postdoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs   *2019-2020*

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology   *Cambridge, MA*
PhD, Political Science   *2012-2019*
- Fields: Comparative Politics and Quantitative Methods
- Thesis: "Substate Nationalism in the Age of the Nation-state"

Oxford University   *Oxford, UK*
MPhil, Politics   *2010-2012*
- Thesis: "Strategic Choice in Anti-Imperial Nationalist Movements: Ireland, India and Egypt 1904-1914"

Yale University   *New Haven, CT*
Bachelor of Science   *2005-2009*
- Double Major in Political Science and Physics

Publications

Berwick, Elissa. 2024. "Beyond Secession: Substate Nationalism and Support for Redistribution in Spain." *Comparative Politics* 56 (3).

Berwick, Elissa, and Devin Caughey. 2024. "Dynamic Multidimensional Scaling with Aggregate Data: An Ordinal Group-level IRT Approach." *Political Analysis*, Revise and Resubmit.

Berwick, Elissa, and Fotini Christia. 2018. "State Capacity Redux: Integrating Classical and Experimental Contributions to an Enduring Debate." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21 (1): 71–91. `https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-072215-012907`.

Research

Partition and Political Violence in Ireland 1920-1921
Working paper   *2022–Present*
- Analysis of the effect of partition on political violence in Ireland based on a quasi-natural experiment
- Uses an original dataset of political violence incidents during the Irish War of Independence.

Independence referendums and national identity
Project   *2022–Present*
- Examines how referendum participation shaped the intensity and expression of territorial identity
- Compares repercussions of independence referendums conducted in Quebec (1980 and 1995) and Scotland (2014)

Software

cjoint: AMCE Estimator for Conjoint Experiments   *R package version 2.1.1*
Soubhik Barari, Elissa Berwick, Jens Hainmueller, Daniel Hopkins, Sean Liu, Anton Strezhnev, Teppei Yamamoto   *2015–2023*
- Allows researchers to estimate the causal effects of attributes in conjoint survey experiments by implementing the Average Marginal Component-specific Effects (AMCE) estimator
- https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=cjoint

modgirt: Multidimensional ordinal dynamic IRT *R package*

Elissa Berwick, Devin Caughey *2022–2023*

- Implements multidimensional, ordinal dynamic group-level IRT model
- In development on GitHub

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Fonds de recherche du Québec– Société et culture *CAD 57,061*

Soutien à la recherche pour la relève professorale *2022–2025*

McGill University *CAD 7,000*

Internal Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grant *2022–2023*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology *USD 1,000*

Political Methodology Research Grant *2019*

Harvard Center for European Studies *USD 36,472*

Dissertation Completion Fellowship *2018–2019*

Harvard Center for European Studies *USD 30,500*

Krupp Research Fellowship *2016–2017*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology *USD 3,500*

Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant *2015, 2016*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ithiel de Sola Pool Award *2013*

PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association

- Montreal, 2022
- Zoom, 2020
- Boston, 2018
- San Francisco, 2017
- Philadelphia, 2016

Midwest Political Science Association

- Chicago, 2018
- Chicago, 2015

Society for Political Methodology

- St. Louis, 2022
- Provo, 2018

Visions in Methodology

- Claremont Graduate University, 2021

Invited Talks

- Université de Montréal, 2022
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2022
- IPERG, University of Barcelona, 2021
- WZB Berlin Social Science Center, 2021
- University of British Columbia, 2018

TEACHING

Primary instructor

POLI312: Intermediate Quantitative Political Science *McGill University*

Undergraduate methods course *2021–Present*

- Continues regression based introduction to data driven quantitative political analysis

POLI431: Nations and States *McGill University*

Undergraduate lecture course *2021–Present*

- Students develop familiarity with the most important theorists of nationalism and their critics, both classic and contemporary

POLI618: Introduction to Quantitative Analysis

McGill University

GRADUATE METHODS COURSE

2020–Present

- Students learn the basic tools of quantitative empirical research in political science, working with software including R, RMarkdown, and GitHub

POLI666: Causal Inference for Political Science

McGill University

GRADUATE METHODS COURSE

2021–Present

- Empirical strategies for applied research questions focsing on statistical methods used for causal inference

INTL1040: Nationalism and the Nation State

Brown University

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR

2020

- Reading-intensive seminar for advanced undergraduates aimed at honing students' analytical and writing skills.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAINING

Advisor

McGill University

MA

2022–Present

- Natalie Delmonte

Thesis Committee

McGill University

PHD

2021–Present

- Lucas Jerusalimiec

Thesis Examiner

McGill University

MA

2021–2023

- Andréa Febres-Gagné
- Louis-Olivier Roy
- Katherine McCoy
- Shaden Hetu-Frankel

Comparative politics comprehensive exam

McGill University

ORAL EXAM COMMITTEE

2021–2022

- Marjolaine Lamontagne
- Scott Patterson

Website Workshop

McGill University

WORKSHOP LEADER

2024

- Workshop on how to make an academic website using GitHub Pages and Quarto

Political Methodology Lab

MIT

WORKSHOP LEADER

2015–2019

- Workshops cover Latex tools such as Beamer and Knitr, useful R packages including dplyr and ggplot, and an overview of the unix file system and how to access remote computational resources

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Quantitative Methods III

MIT

GRADUATE METHODS COURSE

2014

- Class on model-based inference covering generalized linear models for various data types and their extensions, such as discrete choice models and multilevel models, from both frequentist and Bayesian perspectives

Political Science Scope and Methods

MIT

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR

2015

- Introduces undergraduates to the principles of empirical and theoretical analysis in political science

American Public Policy for Washington Interns

MIT

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR

2017–2018

- Provided undergraduates with the background to select and complete an internship of their choosing in Washington DC
- Assisted undergraduates with formulating and completing research projects on the US policymaking process, with special attention to policy in science and technology.

SERVICE

Internships, transfers, and exchanges advisor

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

2023–Present

Curriculum committee
FACULTY OF ARTS   *2023–Present*

Methods field coordinator
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *2022–2023*

Summer math and R camp coordinator
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP   *2022*

Diamond-Brown Chair search committee
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *2021–2022*

Journal reviewer
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, JOURNAL OF POLITICS, COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES, EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL RESEARCH   *2019–Present*

Grant reviewer
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, DUTCH RESEARCH COUNCIL   *2021–Present*

AFFILIATIONS

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP   *2020–Present*

HARVARD CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES   *2018–2019*

MIT POLITICAL METHODOLOGY LAB   *2016–2019*

SKILLS

COMPUTER
- R, Advanced
- Quarto, Advanced
- RMarkdown, Advanced
- LaTeX, Advanced
- Python, Intermediate
- Mathematica, Intermediate
- C++, Basic
- Stata, Basic
- SPSS, Basic

LANGUAGES
- English, Native
- Spanish, Advanced
- French, Intermediate

REFERENCES

Kathleen Thelen
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *kthelen@mit.edu*

Devin Caughey
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *caughey@mit.edu*

Fotini Christia
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *cfotini@mit.edu*

Roger Petersen
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *rpeters@mit.edu*

Teppei Yamamoto
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE   *teppei@mit.edu*