

Department of Political Science
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Kelly Blidook Ph.D. Curriculum Vitae

Employment

2012-Current: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

2007-2012: Assistant Professor (MUN).

Research Interests: Political and legislative behaviour, political representation, public opinion, political institutions, mass media.

Education

2003 – 2008: McGill University, Montréal, QC

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science

Major fields: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics

Minor field: Empirical Methods

2000 – 2003: Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC

Master of Arts, Political Science

1999 – 2000: Langara College, Vancouver, BC

Journalism Certificate

1993 – 1998: Trinity Western University, Langley, BC

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Awards/Grants

SSHRC Explore Grant, 2019-2020. (\$6,900)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Development Grant. Co-Investigator with Jack Lucas (PI) and team, 2019-2022. (\$102,854)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant. Co-Investigator with Royce Koop (PI), 2016-2020. (\$148,513)

SSHRC Insight Development Grant. Co-Investigator with Royce Koop (PI) and Heather Bastedo, 2013-2015. (\$73,588)

SSHRC Vice-President's Research Grant. 2013-14. (\$6,996)

SSHRC Standard Research Grant, 2011-12. Primary Investigator. (\$24,605)

SSHRC Vice-President's Research Grant. 2011-12. (\$6,000)

SSHRC, Research Development Initiative. Co-Investigator with Matthew Kerby (PI), 2010-2012. (\$40,000)

James Mallory Research Grant. Awarded by Canadian Study of Parliament Group. 2009-10. (\$8,000)

Short-listed for John McMenemy Prize 2010 (with co-authors).

Awarded by the Canadian Political Science Association to author of best article in Canadian Journal of Political Science in 2009.

Short-listed for John McMenemy Prize. 2009.

Memorial University New Faculty Research Grant. 2008-2010.
(\$10,000)

Publications and papers

Peer-Reviewed Books:

Representation in Action: Canadian MPs in the Constituencies. With Royce Koop and Heather Bastedo. (2018). UBC Press.

Constituency Influence in Parliament: Countering the Centre. (2012). UBC Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“Observing Representation: Participant Observation with Elected Officials.” (2019). With Royce Koop. *SAGE Research Methods Cases – Politics and International Relations*.

“Party Policy Positions in Newfoundland and Labrador: Expert Survey Results in the Buildup to the 2011 Provincial Election.” With Matthew Kerby. (2014) *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 44 (4): 400-414.

“It’s Not You, It’s Me: Determinants of Voluntary Legislative Turnover in Canada.” With Matthew Kerby. (2011) *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 36 (4): 621–643.

“Constituency influence on ‘constituency members’: The adaptability of roles to electoral realities in the Canadian case.” With Matthew Kerby. (2011) *Journal of Legislative Studies*, 17 (3): 327 - 339.

- Reprinted as: “Constituency influence on ‘constituency members’: The adaptability of roles to electoral realities in the Canadian case.” Chapter in Shane Martin and Olivier Rozenberg (ed.s) *The Roles and Functions of Parliamentary Questions*. (2012). Routledge.

“Exploring the role of ‘legislators’ in Canada: Do Members of Parliament influence policy?” (2010) *Journal of Legislative Studies*, 16 (1): 32-56.

“Choice and Content: Media Ownership and Democratic ideals in Canada”. (2009) *Canadian Political Science Review*, 3 (2): 52-69.

- Reprinted as: “Elección y contenido: propiedad de los medios e ideales democráticos en Canadá”. Chapter in Manuel Alejandro Guerrero (ed.) *Medios de comunicación y democracia: perspectivas desde México y Canadá*. (2010) Mexico City: UNESCO/Universidad Iberoamericana/Canadian Embassy.

“Constituency Influence in Parliament”. Co-authored with Stuart Soroka and Erin Penner. (2009) *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 42 (3). 563-591. (Short-listed for Canadian Political Science Association’s John McMenemy Prize 2010.)

“Media, Public Opinion and Healthcare in Canada: How the media affect ‘the way things are’”. (2008) *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 41 (2): 355-374. (Short-listed for Canadian Political Science Association’s John McMenemy Prize 2009.)

“Legislative Priorities and Public Opinion: Representation of Partisan Agendas in the House of Commons”. Co-authored with Erin Penner and Stuart Soroka. (2006) *Journal of European Public Policy*, 13 (7): 1006-1020.

– Reprinted as chapter in Baumgartner, Frank R., Christoffer Green-Pedersen, and Bryan D. Jones, eds. 2007. *Comparative Studies of Policy Agendas*. New York: Routledge.

Textbooks:

Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 8th ed. (2016). Nelson. With Rand Dyck and Christopher Cochrane.

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters:

“Leveling the Field for Potential Party Leaders.” Chapter in *The Democracy Cookbook: Recipes to Renew Governance in Newfoundland and Labrador*. Alex Marland and Lisa Moore, eds. ISER Books (2017).

“Democratic Responsiveness in the House of Commons.” Chapter in *Canadian Democracy in the 21st Century*. Elisabeth Gidengil and Heather Bastedo, eds. UBC Press (2014).

“The Effects of Constantly Campaigning upon the Canadian Parliament.” With Matthew Byrne. Chapter in *Change and Continuity in Canadian Political Parties and Elections*. Amanda Bittner and Royce Koop, eds. UBC Press (2013).

Other Peer-Reviewed Publications:

“Symbol vs. Substance: Theatre, Political Career Paths, and Parliamentary Behaviour in Canada.” (2011) *Canadian Study of Parliament Group*. (Approximately 60 pages, this study was the result of the James Mallory Research Grant.)

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications:

‘Roundtable on Parliamentary Reform’ (2016) *Canadian Parliamentary Review* 39 (1): 4-13.

“The changing use of Standing Order 31 statements.” (2013) *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 36 (4): 25-29.

“Lost in Translation or Just Lost: Canadian’s Priorities and the House of Commons”. (2013) Report by *Samara Canada (multiple authors)*. Research roles: Data analysis and co-author.

“The Role of Private Members’ Business: Exploring the reasons why MPs participate” (2010) *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, 4 (1): 73-90.

Book Reviews:

Perspectives on Politics, 2012. 10 (4): 1022-1024.

Double-review of: *Party Discipline and Parliamentary Politics*.

Christopher J. Kam. 2009. *And Parliaments and Coalitions: The Role of Legislative Institutions in Multiparty Governance*. Lanny W. Martin and Georg Vanberg. 2011.

Conference papers (last 7 years):

“Representation in Single-Member Constituencies.” With Royce Koop. Paper presented at the 2019 meeting of the Canadian Political Science Associations, June 4-6, University of British Columbia.

“The ‘Constituency Member’ in Practice: Two case studies from Australia and New Zealand.” With Royce Koop. Paper presented at the 2018 meeting of the Canadian Political Science Associations, May 29-June 1, University of Saskatchewan.

“Explaining Representational Styles among Canadian Members of Parliament.” With Royce Koop and Heather Bastedo. Paper presented at the 2015 meeting of the Canadian Political Science Associations, June 2-4, University of Ottawa.

“30 years of Private Members’ Business: Short-term solutions to fundamental problems.” Paper presented at the Canadian Study of Parliament Group’s Conference on Parliamentary Reform. Ottawa, ON, May 22, 2015.

“Representation in Action: Observing Canadian MPs at Home and in Ottawa (Megan Leslie).” With Royce Koop and Heather Bastedo. Paper presented at the British Columbia Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Burnaby, BC, May 7-8, 2015.

“Representation in Action: Observing Canadian MPs in the Constituencies (Megan Leslie).” With Royce Koop and Heather Bastedo. Paper presented at the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. John’s, NL, October 3-5, 2014.

“Representation in Action: Observing Canadian MPs in the Constituencies (Leon Benoit).” With Royce Koop and Heather Bastedo. Paper presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. Catherines, ON, May 27-29, 2014.

Kelly Blidook

“Creeping Parties: The rise and fall of MP power 1990-2010.” Paper presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, June 3-6, 2013.

“Accounting for the NDP’s Orange Wave in Quebec: Mass Media, Leadership Debates, and Campaign Polls in Canadian Elections.” With John Samms. Paper presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, June 3-6, 2013.

“The Changing Commons: The individual-collective balance of MPs in committees.” Paper presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Edmonton, AB, June 12-15, 2012.

Invited talks and workshops:

“Strengthening the Right to Know Without Hindering Decision-Making Processes.” Panelist at event hosted at Memorial University, September 24, 2018.

“Roundtable: Publishing in different forms.” Panelist at 2018 meeting of the Canadian Political Science Associations, May 29-June 1, University of Saskatchewan.

“Contributions in Politics: Not just about the numbers” – Guest speaker at Employee Service Recognition Dinner, Memorial University, May 13, 2015.

“Beyond Frank Who: Roundtable on Newfoundland and Labrador politics in Comparative Context.” Roundtable on NL Politics, Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. John’s, NL, October 3-5, 2014.

“Democratic responsiveness in the House of Commons.” Paper presented at *Canadian Democracy in the 21st Century* workshop. Sponsored by *Samara Canada*. Toronto, ON, November 2, 2012.

“Symbol vs. Substance: Theatre, Political Career Paths and Parliamentary Behaviour in Canada”. Paper presented as keynote speaker and panelist at the Canadian Study of Parliament Group’s Spring Conference: *The Media and Parliament*. Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, March 23, 2012.

“The effects of ‘Constantly Campaigning’ upon Canadian Parliament.” With Matthew Byrne. Parties and Elections in Canada: Workshop at Memorial University, St. John’s, NL, Oct 22-23, 2010.

“Figuring out what’s broke: Assessing the effects of ownership on political news content.” Paper presented as invited speaker at International Conference: *The Role of the Media in Democracy: Experiences from Mexico and Canada*. Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Feb. 16-7, 2009.

Research**In progress:**

“Representation in Parliamentary Democracies” – With Royce Koop (PI), this project includes observation of MPs in four parliamentary democracies (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.K.). Study focuses upon MPs’ development and maintenance of various connections within their constituencies. Building on previous research, we hope to gain insights into the different natures and components of representative behavior. We expect to submit a book manuscript and other publications within coming years. *Funded with SSHRC Insight Grant.*

“Party Creep: The power dynamic between MPs and Parties in Canada” (Under contract – single authored manuscript, UBC Press). Project includes using quantitative and qualitative data on Parliamentary various parliamentary venues as well as media in order to better understand how institutional structures lead to fluctuations in individual and party power in parliament over time. *Funded with SSHRC Standard Research Grant and SSHRC VP Research Grant.*

Previous:

“Canadian Democracy Index.” Multi-collaborator and project headed by Samara. This project will developed an index to measure the health of Canadian democracy through research in three focus areas: political leadership, public affairs journalism, and the participation of citizens in public life.

“Party policy positions in Newfoundland and Labrador.” With Matthew Kerby. Project includes conducting elite surveys to establish precise estimates on a variety of common policy positions for each of the competitive political parties in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The purpose is to explain the positions and actions of these parties. *Funded with Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Research Development Initiative.*

“Legislative Activity and Political Career Paths”. The project undertakes a systematic examination of how different parliamentary activities may affect the positions that MPs hold within Parliament. *Funded with James R. Mallory Research Grant – Canadian Study of Parliament Group.*

Other academic contributions**Article peer reviews:**

American Journal of Political Science (2009, 2014)

Canadian Journal of Communication (2011)

Canadian Journal of Political Science (2008, 2010, 2011, 2012,

2013, 2014, 2015, 2017)
Canadian Political Science Review (2017)
Journal of Canadian Studies (2016)
Journal of Legislative Studies (2011, 2012, 2015, 2016)
Journal of Politics (2012, 2013)
Legislative Studies Quarterly (2013, 2015)
Parliamentary Affairs (2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)
Political Research Quarterly (2009, 2011, 2012)

Manuscript peer reviews:

Academic Manuscript, University of British Columbia Press (2013)
 Academic Manuscript, University of Toronto Press (2012)
 Review of report for Canadian Study of Parliament Group (2013, 2016)

Research:

Country Expert and Coder, Varieties of Democracy (Annual coding project). *Project aims to produce better Indicators of Democracy by using expert-coded data for each country (www.v-dem.net).*

Conferences:

Session Discussant: “Judicial and Quasi-judicial Politics”. Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. John’s NL, Oct. 12-14, 2018.

Session Discussant: “Candidates and Representatives”. Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Regina, SK, May 29-June 1, 2018.

Organizer and session chair: “Canadian Members in their Constituency”. Canadian Study of Parliament Group Seminar. Ottawa, ON, Mar. 16, 2018.

Session chair and planning committee member: “Running out the Clock: Strategic Use of Parliamentary Time.” Canadian Study of Parliament Group Seminar. Ottawa, ON, Jan. 20, 2017.

Session Discussant and Chair: “Parliament and Legislation”. Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Ottawa, ON, June 2-4, 2015.

Session Discussant: “Understanding Vote Choice”. Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, June 4-6, 2013.

Session Chair: “Executive Power in Canada”. Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, June 4-6, 2013.

Session Chair and Discussant: “Representing and Targeting Constituencies”. Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Edmonton, AB, June 12-15, 2012

Session Chair: “Public Opinion and Foreign Policy”. Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, June 4-6, 2008.

Media

Op-eds:

“Political Parties need clear rules for interim leaders”, *The Telegram* (St. John’s), June 17, 2017.

“If they kill the Reform Act ... Kill the Senate” *National Post*, May 14, 2015.

“Pass the bill already”, *National Post*, February 25, 2015.

“More seats needed in the House, not fewer”, *The Telegram* (St. John’s), January 17, 2015.

“Chong’s bill strives for balance”, *Ottawa Citizen*, December 9, 2013.

Appearances and Interviews (past year only):

Interview for website, Radio-Canada (translated to French), May 21, 2019. “Gouvernement minoritaire ou majoritaire : dépouillement judiciaire décisif à T.-N.-L”.

Interview for radio, VOXM, May 21, 2019, regarding results of election and scenarios for government in NL.

Live interview for radio, CBC NL, May 17, 2019, regarding NL election results and possible governing scenarios.

Interview for website (video and text), CBC NL, May 16, 2019 regarding spoiling ballots and not voting during elections.

Live interview for television, CBC NL, April 29, 2019, regarding possible conflict with government grant and benefits given to government members (Also used on CBC World Report & website).

Interviewed for web article, CBC NL, April 28, 2019. “Independents often face a tough road to get elected. Unless, you’re Eddie Joyce.”

Live interview for television, CBC NL, April 18, 2019, regarding provincial election call and reasons for a snap election.

Interviewed for article, Canadian Press, April 15, 2019.

“Newfoundland Liberals battle to stay in power despite province’s ‘difficult time’” (Toronto Star).

Live interview for radio, CBC NL, March 14, 2019. Regarding NL NDP leadership & decisions about candidates/constituencies.

Live interview for radio, VOXM, March 6, 2019. Regarding former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and SNC Lavalin.

Live interview for radio, VOXM, February 26, 2019. Regarding former federal Attorney General and SNC Lavalin.

Live interview for radio, VOXM, February 12, 2019. Regarding resignation of NL NDP leader.

Live interviews for radio, VOXM, December 13, 2018, regarding new Alliance NL party, and new political poll release.

Interviewed for article, CBC NL, November 24, 2018. "A Foote in the door at The Rooms, and a portrait of patronage on its walls".

Live interview for radio, VOXM, October 29, 2018, regarding harassment reports and hiring of Liberal staffer at public institution.

Live interview for television, NTV, August 31, 2018, regarding harassment report and upcoming by-election & NAFTA negotiations.

Live interview for radio, VOXM, August 31, 2018, regarding harassment report and upcoming by-election.

Interviewed for TV, NTV, June 4, 2018. Regarding hold up on committee for democratic reform in NL.

Live interview for radio, VOXM, May 2, 2018, regarding harassment allegations against NL Cabinet Ministers and call for Premier to resign.

Live interview for radio, CBC NL, April 27, 2018, regarding harassment allegations against NL Cabinet Minister.

Interviewed for article, CP (Globe and Mail), April 26, 2018. "Newfoundland politician Eddie Joyce steps aside amid harassment allegations."

Live interview for TV, NTV, April 25, 2018, regarding claims of harassment within NL government.

Interviewed for article, CBC News (website), March 24, 2018. "Cronyism or merit? Footing the bill for new lieutenant-governor."

Guest on *Crosstalk*, CBC (NL) call-in show, March 21, 2018. Theme was naming of new Lieutenant Governor.

Interviewed for radio, CBC NL, February 20, 2018. Regarding apparent division between Premier and Health Minister.

**Student
Supervision
and Research
Training**

Graduate:

M.A. Supervisor: Brandon Leblanc, M.A. Thesis student, Department of Political Science. *Ongoing*.

M.A. Supervisor: Haley Kenny, M.A. Thesis student, Department of Political Science. *Ongoing*.

M.A. Supervisor: Jonathan Seaward, M.A. Research Essay student, Department of Political Science. *Completed 2013*.

M.A. Supervisor: Matthew Byrne, M.A. Thesis student,

Department of Political Science. *Completed 2011. (Continued to PhD at University of British Columbia).*

M.A. Supervisor: Jeffery Nichols, M.A. Research Essay student, Department of Political Science. *Completed 2009. (Continued to MPA at University of Victoria and Law School at University of Alberta).*

Undergraduate:

B.A. Honours Supervisor: Jonathan Seaward, Department of Political Science. *Completed 2009.*

Teaching Experience

Courses taught, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 2007-2019:

- Empirical Methods in Political Science (M.A. seminar - 6010)
- Canadian Politics (M.A. seminar – 6700)
- Canadian Government and Politics (2800)
- Comparative Political Representation (4330)
- Media and Politics in Canada (3860)
- Empirical Methods in Political Science (current 3010)
- Quantitative Methods in Political Science (formerly 3011)
- Qualitative Interview Techniques in Political Science (formerly 3010)
- Introduction to Political Science (1000)

Service positions

Canadian Study of Parliament Group

2014 – : Board member

Samara Canada

2013 – : Academic advisor

Canadian Political Science Association

2013 – 2015: Board member

University (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

2015 – : Vice-chair, Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research, Memorial University of Newfoundland. (Member of committee since Sept. 2010)

Faculty of Arts (MUN)

2018: Headship Review Committee (Political Science).

2013 – 2014: Search Committee for Jarislawsky Chair.

2009 – 2011: Headship Search Committee (Political Science).

Department of Political Science (MUN)

2011 – 2013, 2018 – : Search Committee (Committee Chair).

2015 – 2016, 2017 – : Research Ethics Committee.

2012 – 2014, 2017-2018: Promotions and Tenure Committee.
2015 – 2017: Acting Head (multiple brief periods).
2016 – 2017: Graduate Co-ordinator and Committee Chair.
2015 – 2017: Undergraduate Co-ordinator and Committee Chair.
2010 – 2014: Graduate Committee.
2008 – 2009: Communications Committee.
2007 – 2011: Undergraduate Committee.