



Social Sciences



MapleMeth 2026

Political Methodology Conference

Preliminary Program

McMaster University (Toronto Campus), [180 Bloor Street West](#)
UC3/A Classroom (2nd Floor)

Tuesday, May 5

7:00 - 9:00 pm **Networking Dinner**

[Piano Piano, 88 Harbord Street](#)

Wednesday, May 6

8:30-9:00 am **Continental breakfast**

9:00-9:15 am **Welcoming remarks**

9:15-9:40 am

From RAGs to Riches? An Efficient Pipeline for Exploratory Text Analysis

Matthias Roesti (University of St. Gallen & Brown University)

9:40-10:05 am

Detecting and Bounding Interference Contamination in Causal Estimators: A Doubly Robust Framework with Partial Identification

Joao Alipio-Correa (University of Pittsburgh)

10:05-10:30 am

Harmonizing Ordered Scales: A Bayesian Approach to Pooling Survey Responses with Different Category Counts

Koo Fum Kim (University of Toronto) and Michael Donnelly (University of Toronto)

10:30-10:55 am

Do IMCs and Time Measure Inattention? Testing Established Measures Against Physiological Markers of Inattentive Responding

William Poirier (Western University) and Amanda Friesen (Western University)

10:55-11:10 am **Tea/coffee break**

11:10-11:35 am

The Utility of Voting Advice Application Data for Election Forecasting

Timothy Gravelle (Vox Pop Labs & Wilfrid Laurier University), Clifton van der Linden (McMaster University & Vox Pop Labs), and Philippe Mongrain (Vox Pop Labs)

11:35 am-12:00 pm

Simulating Gun Control Attitudes After the 2025 Bondi Beach Shooting Using Persona-Conditioned LLMs

Rohan Alexander (University of Toronto) and Annie Collins (University of Toronto)

12:00-12:25 pm

Comparing Frontier AI Models and Traditional Statistical Approaches for Vote Prediction and Synthetic Data Generation

Laurence-Olivier M. Foisy (Université Laval) and Yannick Dufresne (Université Laval)

12:25-1:25 pm **Lunch and poster session**

Thresholds of Resistance: Repression and the Moral Economy of Violence

Hayl Al-Salehi (Western University) and Blair Welsh (Western University)

Punished but Not Defeated: Economic Shocks and Incumbent Survival in Brazil

Laura Chelidonopoulos (University of Pittsburgh)

Policy Topics and Party Agendas in the Australian Parliamentary Debates (1996-2025)

Inessa De Angelis (University of Toronto), Lindsay Katz (University of Toronto), and Rohan Alexander (University of Toronto)

Strategic Alignment and Social Media Behavior of U.S. Politicians

Da Gong (SUNY Geneseo), Andong Yan (University of Hong Kong), Cantay Caliskan (University of Rochester), and Ezgi Siir Kibris (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Crisis Convergence: Comparing the levels of policy convergence between sub-units across federal systems

Liddell Hastings (Western University)

Quantifying Censorship on Chinese Social Media: Post-Level Models and Network Analysis

Zhefeng He (McMaster University)

Faith Over Equality? Religious Orientations and Attitudes towards Women's Rights in Tanzania

Francisca Owusu (McMaster University)

Where Do Hate Groups Take Hold? Evidence from the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Canada

Mark Williamson (McGill University) and Danielle Bohonos (University of Toronto)

From Protest to Populism: Are Young Canadians Shifting to the Right?

Bradley Wood-MacLean (University of Toronto) and Semra Sevi (University of Toronto)

1:25-1:50 pm

It Must Be Very Hard To Publish Null Results

Ryan Briggs (University of Guelph), Vincent Arel-Bundock (Université de Montréal), and Jonathan Mellon (British Election Study)

1:50-2:15 pm

AI pair coding in the social sciences classroom: GitHub Copilot in RStudio

Michelle Dion (McMaster University), Faizan Saleem (McMaster University), and Francisca Owusu (McMaster University)

2:15-2:40 pm

Mindfulness over Matter: Improving Thoughtful Information Consumption in an Era of Misinformation

Melissa Baker (University of Texas at El Paso) and Elaine Denny (University of California, Merced)

2:40-3:05 pm

Mind the Gap: Strategies for Measurement of Place and Place Identity in Canada

Katharine McCoy (Western University)

3:05-3:20 pm **Tea/coffee break**

3:20-3:45 pm

Finding Common Ground: Placing Politicians and Citizens on the Same Ideological Scale

Sebastián Vallejo Vera (Western University) and William Poirier (Western University)

3:45-4:10 pm

Misperceiving Party Positions: Consequences for Spatial Voting and Democratic Satisfaction

Christopher Alcantara (Western University), Laura Stephenson (Western University), and Dave Armstrong (Western University)

4:10-4:35 pm

Validating an Expert Survey Measure of the Ideological Bias of News Media Sources

Carter McPherson (Simon Fraser University), Mark Pickup (Simon Fraser University), Lorena Barberia (University of São Paulo), and Giulia Louise de Melo (University of São Paulo)

Notes:

- To access the McMaster Toronto location, enter the front doors at [180 Bloor Street West](#), and descend the initial short flight of stairs. The door to the McMaster space is on the left.
- Talks will take place in the UC3/A Classroom. After entering the McMaster space, turn right at the front desk and go up the stairs to the second floor.
- All talk sessions are 25 minutes, inclusive of Q&A. Talk presenters should plan to speak for no longer than 15 minutes (shorter if appropriate) in order to preserve time for an active discussion to follow.
- Poster presenters are asked to print their posters as normal. We will provide the means for poster presenters to display their posters (e.g., an easel).
- At the outset of the poster session, all posters will be assigned a dedicated discussant from among the conference attendees. All attendees are strongly encouraged to circulate to all posters during lunch.