

JOSHUA H. TOWNSLEY

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POSITIONS HELD

University of Sheffield

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sheffield Methods Institute 2018–

University of Warwick

Teaching Fellow in Politics and Quantitative Methods 2018–

London School of Economics

Research Assistant, [Democratic Dashboard](#) 2017–

University of Kent

Assistant Lecturer 2015–18

RESEARCH INTERESTS

British Politics, Political Behaviour, Elections and Campaigns, Quantitative Methods, Experiments.

EDUCATION

University of Kent

Ph.D. Comparative Politics (viva scheduled for Feb 2019) 2015–

University of Nottingham

M.Res. Politics 2014–2015

University of Bath

B.Sc. Politics with Economics 2010–2014

PUBLICATIONS (www.joshuatownsley.co.uk/publications)

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 3 [Is it worth door-knocking? Evidence from a UK-based GOTV field experiment on the effect of leaflets and canvass visits on voter turnout.](#) *Political Science Research and Methods* (forthcoming) doi:10.1017/psrm.2018.39. [Attention score in the top 5% of all research outputs tracked by *Altmetric*].
- 2 [Conceived in Harlesden: Candidate-centred campaigning in British general elections](#), with C. Milazzo. *Parliamentary Affairs* (forthcoming) doi:10.1093/pa/gsy040. [Attention score in the top 25% of all research outputs tracked by *Altmetric*].
- 1 [Information effect on voter turnout: How campaign spending mobilises voters](#), with S. Trumm & L. Sudulich. (2017) *Acta Politica*, 52(4): 461–478. doi:10.1057/s41269-016-0027-8. [Attention score in the top 5% of all research outputs tracked by *Altmetric*].

Revise and resubmit

- 2 [Drowned out by the noise? The downstream mobilisation effects of party campaigning between local and general elections.](#) *Resubmit at the Journal of Experimental Political Science*.

- 1 [Can parties increase their vote share by recruiting postal voters? Evidence from a postal voter recruitment experiment in the UK](#), with S. Turnbull-Dugarte. *Resubmit at Electoral Studies*.

In progress/Under review

- 5 [Gay and \(politically\) active: Homosexuality and its effect on electoral turnout in Europe](#), with S. Turnbull-Dugarte.
- 4 [Tailoring the contact: Voters' preferences for different campaign activities](#), with D. Cutts.
- 3 [When do values predict political behaviour? A survey experiment](#), with T. Hartman & J. Weinberg.
- 2 [Personal messaging in local election communications](#), with C. Milazzo.
- 1 [Providing local election information: The case of the Democratic Dashboard](#), with P. Dunleavy.

Other publications

- 5 ['Conceived in Harlesden': When do candidates emphasise their local connections in UK general elections?](#) (2019) *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- 4 [Do party leaflets and canvass visits increase voter turnout?](#) (2018) *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog).
- 3 [Campaign spending and voter turnout: does a candidate's local prominence influence the effect of their spending?](#) (2018) *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- 2 [England's local elections 2018: bridging the information gap with the Democratic Dashboard.](#) (2018) *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- 1 [The Economic Benefits of Joining, Establishing, or Growing a Multi Academy Trust.](#) (2017) *Education Policy Institute* (report).

TEACHING

University of Warwick

Intermediate Social Analytics II , 2 nd Year UG – Module Convenor and Lecturer	2018–
Intermediate Social Analytics I , 2 nd Year UG – Module Convenor and Lecturer	2018–
Introduction to Social Analytics I , 1 st Year UG – Seminar Leader	2018–
Undergraduate Dissertation, 3 rd Year UG, 2 students – Dissertation Supervisor	2018–

University of Sheffield

ABC of Regression, PG training course – Co-Convenor and Joint Lecturer	2018
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University of Kent

Q-Step Summer School , 1 st Year UG – Co-Organiser and Seminar Leader	2016–2018
Political Research and Analysis , 2 nd Year UG – Seminar Leader	2016–2017
Fact, Evidence, Knowledge and Power , 2 nd Year UG – Seminar Leader	2016

I have experience of designing new courses (e.g. [Intermediate Social Analytics I & II](#), University of Warwick), setting assessments, creating interactive teaching materials, and managing teaching assistants. In addition, I have served as a Co-Course Director, played an active role in Student Staff Liaison Committees, and organised a student placement scheme with a political party.

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Nottingham Research Assistant for Dr C. Milazzo/ Election Leaflet Project	2014–18
Education Policy Institute Quantitative Analyst	2016–17
European Parliament Stagiaire	2013
Julian Huppert MP Constituency Caseworker	2012

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“[Can parties increase their vote share by recruiting postal voters? Experimental evidence from the UK](#)”, with S. Turnbull-Dugarte. Prepared for 2018 Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Annual Conference, Royal Holloway, UK.

“[Candidate-centred campaigning in the 2015 general election](#)”, with C. Milazzo. Prepared for the 2017 Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Annual Conference, Nottingham, UK.

“[Leaflet messaging in the 2017 and 2015 general elections](#)”, with C. Milazzo and J. Hammond. Prepared for the 2017 Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Annual Conference, Nottingham, UK.

“‘Knock-Knock’: The role of personal contact between local parties and voters during election campaigns in Britain”. Prepared for the 2017 Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Annual Conference, Nottingham, UK.

ENGAGEMENT AND MEDIA

Student Placements

I have organised a placement scheme for Q-Step undergraduate students at the University of Warwick to undertake at the Liberal Democrats’ HQ.

Democratic Dashboard

Since January 2017, I have been responsible for managing and promoting the LSE voter information site [Democratic Dashboard](#). The site provides results and information covering every local and national election since 2015. I have integrated a polling station finder, local candidate information, and election results. The site has been used by 700,000 people since 2017, and featured on the [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [Express](#), and [ITV](#).

Sheffield Methods Institute

As a Research Associate at the [SMI](#), I have created a series of materials for teaching quantitative research methods, including tutorial videos, ‘how to’ guides, and software user guides.

Q-Step

I have been involved with outreach work on behalf of Q-Step for 4 years. Alongside contributing to the organisation and teaching of the annual [Summer School](#), I was a regular contributor to Kent Q-Step’s “[How To Win Arguments With Numbers](#)” Q-Step podcast, and organised a public [panel event](#).

Media

- [Why aren't we all voting online?](#) *WikiTribune* (published interview).
- [Democratic Dashboard: The Missing Piece British Politics Needs](#), *Shout Out UK* (published interview).
- [General Election 2017: Use Your Voice Voting Toolkit](#). (public resource).

I have also secured media coverage for the LSE's Democratic Dashboard site on the [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [Express](#), [ITV](#), and in various regional news outlets.

SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Kent 50th Anniversary PhD Scholarship (UK Research Council rate of £14,000 pa)
ESRC Advanced Training Network Bursary (worth £900)
British Academy/Essex Summer School Scholarship (worth £1,050)

AFFILIATIONS

Political Studies Association (PSA)
Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP)

FORMAL METHODS TRAINING

European Field Experiments Summer School, ICPSR	2017
University of Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods	2016
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis	2014

SOFTWARE

Stata, SPSS, R (basic), Qualtrics, Microsoft Office.