

# JOSHUA H. TOWNSLEY

[joshua.townsley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:joshua.townsley@warwick.ac.uk) · [joshuatownsley.co.uk](http://joshuatownsley.co.uk) · [ORCID](#) · [@joshuatownsley](#) · [Google Scholar](#)

## POSITIONS

---

<b>University of Sheffield</b> Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sheffield Methods Institute	2018–
<b>University of Warwick</b> Teaching Fellow in Politics and Quantitative Methods	2018–
<b>London School of Economics and Political Science</b> Research Assistant ( <a href="#">Democratic Dashboard</a> )	2017–19
<b>University of Kent</b> Assistant Lecturer	2015–18

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Political Behaviour, Elections and Campaigns, Political Participation, Party Politics, Quantitative Methods, Experiments.

## EDUCATION

---

<b>University of Kent</b> Ph.D. Comparative Politics (viva passed on 25/02/2019 subject to corrections)	2015–19
<b>University of Nottingham</b> M.Res. Politics	2014–15
<b>University of Bath</b> B.Sc. Politics with Economics	2010–14

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 5 [Can parties recruit postal voters? Experimental evidence from Britain.](#) *Electoral Studies* (forthcoming) doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2019.02.013. With S. Turnbull-Dugarte.
- 4 [Drowned out by the noise? The downstream mobilisation effects of party campaigning between local and general elections.](#) *Journal of Experimental Political Science* (forthcoming).
- 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* (2018) doi:10.1017/psrm.2018.39.
- 2 [Conceived in Harlesden: Candidate-centred campaigning in British general elections.](#) *Parliamentary Affairs* (2018) doi:10.1093/pa/gsy040. With C. Milazzo.
- 1 [Information effect on voter turnout: How campaign spending mobilises voters.](#) *Acta Politica* (2017), 52(4): 461–478. doi:10.1057/s41269-016-0027-8. With S. Trumm & L. Sudulich.

### In progress/ Under review

- 7 Why are the Radical Right better at capitalising on ‘populism’ than the Radical Left? With J. Downes and V. Bruno. (Submitted to *Government & Opposition*).

- 6 Gay and (politically) active: Homosexuality and its effect on electoral turnout in Europe. With S. Turnbull-Dugarte. (Preparing to submit to the *British Journal of Political Science*).
- 5 Tailoring the contact: Voters' preferences for different campaign activities. With D. Cutts. (Currently drafting).
- 4 When do we participate and why? Experimental research into values and politics. With T. Hartman & J. Weinberg. (Currently drafting).
- 3 Campaign experiments: a meta-analysis. With F. Foos. (Currently collecting data).
- 2 Personal messaging in campaign communications. With C. Milazzo. (In development).
- 1 Providing election information: The case of the Democratic Dashboard. With P. Dunleavy. (In development).

### Other publications

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

## TEACHING

---

### Modules Written and Convened

Intermediate Social Analytics II (Stata), University of Warwick (undergrad)	2018–19
Intermediate Social Analytics I (Stata), University of Warwick (undergrad)	2018–19
ABC of Regression (Stata), University of Sheffield (co-convenor, postgrad day course)	2018

### Teaching Assistance

Introduction to Social Analytics I (Stata), University of Warwick (undergrad)	2018–19
Q-Step Summer School (SPSS), University of Kent (undergrad)	2016–18
Political Research and Analysis (SPSS), University of Kent (undergrad)	2016–17
Fact, Evidence, Knowledge and Power, University of Kent (undergrad)	2016

### Supervision Experience

Undergraduate Dissertation, University of Warwick, 2 students	2018–19
---	---------

Alongside designing new courses, I also have experience of setting assessments, creating interactive teaching materials, and managing teaching assistants.

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

---

### University of Warwick

Co-Course Director, Politics and Sociology	2018–19
Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC), Politics and Sociology	2018–19
Student Work Placement Organiser (with Liberal Democrats HQ)	2018–19

### University of Kent

Co-Organiser, Q-Step Undergraduate Summer School	2016–18
--	---------

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AND NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

### University of Nottingham

Research Assistant for Dr. C. Milazzo ( <a href="#">Election Leaflet Project</a> )	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 the 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 COMMENTARY

---

### Media

<i>BBC</i> local radio (discussing <a href="#">defections and election strategy</a> – from 1:24:00)	2019
<i>WikiTribune</i> (‘ <a href="#">Why aren’t we all voting online?</a> ’)	2018
<i>Shout Out UK</i> (‘ <a href="#">Democratic Dashboard: The Missing Piece British Politics Needs</a> ’)	2018
<i>Kent Q-Step</i> (podcast contributor: ‘ <a href="#">How To Win Arguments With Numbers</a> ’)	2017

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.

### Student Placements

I have organised a placement scheme for 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](#).

### **Teaching Materials**

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](#)" podcast, and organised a public [panel event](#).

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

---

University of Kent 50<sup>th</sup> 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)

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS**

---

### **Affiliations**

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

### **Reviews**

*Electoral Studies*

## **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 (learning), Qualtrics, Microsoft Office.