

DR. JOSHUA H. TOWNSLEY

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POSITIONS

University of Nottingham Research Fellow	2019–
Liberal Democrats Deputy Head of Insight and Data	2019–
University of Sheffield Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sheffield Methods Institute	2018–19
University of Warwick Teaching Fellow in Politics and Quantitative Methods	2018–19
London School of Economics and Political Science Research Assistant for the Democratic Dashboard	2017–19
University of Kent Assistant Lecturer	2015–18

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Election Campaigns, Voting, Political Behaviour, Quantitative Methods, Experiments.

EDUCATION

University of Kent Ph.D. Comparative Politics “ <i>Do Traditional Party Campaigns Matter Anymore? Experimental and Survey Evidence from Britain</i> ” (Awarded: May ‘19; Examiners: Professor Edward Fieldhouse and Dr. Erik Larsen)	2019
University of Nottingham M.Res. Politics	2015
University of Bath B.Sc. Politics with Economics	2014

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 5 **Townsley, Joshua** & Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte. (Forthcoming). [Can parties recruit postal voters? Experimental evidence from Britain.](#) *Electoral Studies*.
- 4 **Townsley, Joshua**. (Forthcoming). [Drowned out by the noise? The downstream mobilisation effects of party campaigning between local and general elections.](#) *Journal of Experimental Political Science*.
- 3 **Townsley, Joshua**. (Forthcoming). [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*.
- 2 Milazzo, Caitlin & **Joshua Townsley**. (Forthcoming). [Conceived in Harlesden: Candidate-centred campaigning in British general elections.](#) *Parliamentary Affairs*.

- 1 Trumm, Siim, Laura Sudulich, & **Joshua Townsley**. (2017). [Information effect on voter turnout: How campaign spending mobilises voters](#). *Acta Politica*, 52(4): 461–478.

Working papers

- 2 [Vote like your rights depend on it: Homosexuality and electoral participation in Western Europe](#). With Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte. Under review at *American Political Science Review*.
- 1 [What the voters want: Analysing voters' preferences for campaign contact](#). With David Cutts.

Projects in progress

- 6 [Mobilising supporters with emails: a field experiment with the People's Vote campaign](#). With Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte and Florian Foos.
- 5 [GOTV canvassing and intra-household partisanship: experimental evidence](#). With Florian Foos.
- 4 [When do we participate and why? Experimental research into values and politics](#). With Todd Hartman & James Weinberg.
- 3 [Campaign experiments: a meta-analysis](#). With Florian Foos.
- 2 [Hidden connections: The gender gap in personalised campaigning](#). With Caitlin Milazzo.
- 1 [Providing election information: The case of the Democratic Dashboard](#). With Patrick Dunleavy.

Other publications

- [Why has the populist radical right outperformed the populist radical left in Europe?](#) (2019). *Open Democracy* (blog).
- [European elections 2019: what will happen in the East Midlands?](#) (2019). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [European elections 2019: what will happen in the West Midlands?](#) (2019). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [European elections 2019: what will happen in the East of England region?](#) (2019). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [Local elections 2019: the directly elected mayoral contests](#). (2019). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [The UK's 2019 European Parliament elections are happening after all. Here's how they will work](#). (2019). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [How not to recruit postal voters in the UK](#). (2019). *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog).
- ['Conceived in Harlesden': When do candidates emphasise their local connections in UK general elections?](#) (2019). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [Do party leaflets and canvass visits increase voter turnout?](#) (2018). *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog).
- [Campaign spending and voter turnout: does a candidate's local prominence influence the effect of their spending?](#) (2018). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).
- [England's local elections 2018: bridging the information gap with the Democratic Dashboard](#). (2018). *Democratic Audit UK* (blog).

- [General Election 2017: Voting Toolkit](#). (2017). *Use Your Voice* (public resource).
- [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
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Alongside designing new courses, I also have experience of setting and marking 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
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RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AND OTHER POSITIONS

University of Nottingham

Research Assistant for Dr. C. Milazzo (Election Leaflet Project)	2014–18
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Education Policy Institute

Quantitative Analyst	2016–17
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European Parliament

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Julian Huppert MP

Constituency Caseworker	2012
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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 defections and election strategy – from 1:24:00)	2019
<i>WikiTribune</i> (‘ Why aren’t we all voting online? ’)	2018
<i>Shout Out UK</i> (‘ Democratic Dashboard: The Missing Piece British Politics Needs ’)	2018
<i>Kent Q-Step</i> (podcast contributor: ‘ How To Win Arguments With Numbers ’)	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

Between 2017 and 2019, I was responsible for managing and promoting the voter information site [Democratic Dashboard](#). The site provides election results, candidate information, and a polling station finder, and has been used by 1.9 million voters. The site has featured on the [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [Express](#), and [ITV](#).

Q-Step

I have been involved with outreach work on behalf of Q-Step since 2016. This has included creating teaching materials at the [SMI](#), contributing to Q-Step podcasts, and organising a student placement scheme, undergraduate [summer schools](#), and student work experience programmes.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

ESRC Advanced Training Network Bursary (£900)	2016
University of Kent 50 th Anniversary PhD Scholarship (£42,000)	2015–18
British Academy/Essex Summer School Scholarship (£1,050)	2014

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

R, Stata, SPSS, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office.