

Dr Joshua H. Townsley

Academic Appointments

- 2019– Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Politics & IR, University of Nottingham.
- 2018–19 Research Associate, Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield.
- 2018–19 Teaching Fellow, Warwick Q-Step Centre, University of Warwick.
- 2015–18 Assistant Lecturer/PhD Candidate, School of Politics & IR, University of Kent.

Research Interests

- Substantive Political behaviour, public opinion, electoral campaigns and voters.
- Methods Quantitative methods, field experiments, survey experiments.

Education

- 2015–19 **Ph.D Comparative Politics**, University of Kent,
Thesis: "Do party campaigns matter anymore? Experimental & survey evidence from Britain"
Examiners: Dr Erik Larsen & Professor Ed Fieldhouse (University of Manchester).
Supervisors: Dr Ben Seyd & Dr Laura Sudulich.
- 2014–15 **M.Res. Politics**, University of Nottingham.
- 2010–14 **B.Sc. Politics with Economics**, University of Bath.

Publications

Books

- B1. Cutts, David, Andrew Russell, and **Joshua Townsley**. *The Rise, Fall and Electoral Resurgence of the Liberal Democrats*. Manchester University Press (under contract).

Articles

- A7. **Townsley, Joshua** (forthcoming). Is it worth door-knocking? Evidence from a UK-based Get Out The Vote field experiment on the effect of leaflets and canvass visits on voter turnout. *Political Science Research and Methods* [link].
- A6. Trumm, Siim, Caitlin Milazzo, and **Joshua Townsley** (forthcoming). The 2016 referendum: Explaining support for Brexit among would-be MPs. *Political Studies* [link].
- A5. **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* [link].
- A4. Milazzo, Caitlin, Siim Trumm, and **Joshua Townsley** (forthcoming). Crowdsourcing campaigns: A new dataset for studying British parties' electoral communications. *Political Studies Review* [link].
- A3. **Townsley, Joshua** and Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte (2020). Can parties recruit postal voters? Experimental evidence from Britain. *Electoral Studies* 64(1) [link].
- A2. Milazzo, Caitlin and **Joshua Townsley** (2020). Conceived in Harlesden: Candidate-centred campaigning in British general elections. *Parliamentary Affairs* 73(1): 127-146 [link].
- A1. Trumm, Siim, Laura Sudulich, and **Joshua Townsley** (2017). Information effect on voter turnout: How campaign spending mobilises voters. *Acta Politica* 52(4): 461-478 [link].

Working Papers

- Under R&R How do voters want to be contacted and does it matter? Evidence from a recent UK election (with David Cutts).
- Under R&R Sexuality, political engagement, and turnout in Western Europe (with Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte).
- Under review Mobilising supporters when the stakes are high: A large-scale experiment on mass email lobbying (with Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte, Denise Baron, and Florian Foos). *Accepted for presentation at EPSA 2020.*
- Under review The 'personal touch': Campaign personalisation in Britain (with Siim Trumm and Caitlin Milazzo).
- In progress Who votes by post? Reducing costs and expressive partisanship (with Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte).
- In progress Changing political identities and campaign activism: Experimental evidence (with Katharina Lawall, Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte, and Florian Foos). *Accepted for presentation at EPSA 2020.*
- In progress When do we participate and why? An experimental test of Construal Level Theory and political participation (with James Weinberg and Todd Hartman).
- In progress Hidden connections: The gender gap in personalised campaigning (with Caitlin Milazzo).

Grants & Awards

- 2020 Co-Investigator, "Using Citizen Science to Promote Transparency in UK Election Campaigns", UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) Citizen Science Exploration Grant (20,000 GBP). [\[link\]](#).
- 2017 European Field Experiments Summer School Scholarship, ICPSR (1,500 GBP).
- 2016 Advanced Training Network Bursary, ESRC (900 GBP).
- 2015–18 50th Anniversary PhD Scholarship, University of Kent (42,000 GBP).
- 2014 Essex Summer School Scholarship, British Academy (1,050 GBP).

Teaching

- 2018–19 Intermediate Social Analytics II: Survey analysis & reporting (second year undergraduate module) *University of Warwick* (Module Convenor) [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Intermediate Social Analytics I: Survey design & data (second year undergraduate module) *University of Warwick* (Module Convenor) [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Introduction to Social Analytics I (first year undergraduate module) *University of Warwick* (Teaching Assistant) [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Dissertation supervisor (final year undergraduate module), *University of Warwick*
- 2018 ABC of Regression (postgraduate day course), *University of Sheffield* (Co-Convenor).
- 2016–18 An Introduction to Quantitative Social Research (Q-Step undergraduate summer school) *University of Kent* (Teaching Assistant & Co-Convenor) [\[link\]](#).
- 2016–17 Political Research & Analysis (second year undergraduate module) *University of Kent* (Teaching Assistant) [\[link\]](#).
- 2016 Fact, Evidence, Knowledge & Power (second year undergraduate module) *University of Kent* (Teaching Assistant) [\[link\]](#).

Service

- 2018–19 Co-course director, Politics and Sociology, *University of Warwick*.
- 2018–19 Student-Staff Liaison Committee, *University of Warwick*.
- 2018–19 Work placement organiser (with Liberal Democrats HQ), *University of Warwick*.

2016–18 Co-organiser, Q-Step undergraduate summer school, *University of Kent*.

Professional Experience

2019–20 **Deputy Head of Insight and Data**, *Liberal Democrats*.

2017–20 **Research Assistant**, *Democratic Dashboard*, *London School of Economics*.

2014–18 **Research Assistant**, *Election Leaflet Project*, *University of Nottingham*.

2016–17 **Quantitative Analyst**, *Education Policy Institute*.

2013 **Stagiaire**, *European Parliament*.

2012 **Constituency Caseworker**, *Julian Huppert MP (Cambridge)*, *House of Commons*.

Professional Service

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

Reviewer *Electoral Studies*

Conference Papers

EPSA 2020 (2 papers)

EPOP 2019 (1 paper), 2018 (1 paper), 2017 (3 papers)

Methods Training

2017 **European Field Experiments Summer School**, *ICPSR*.

2016 **Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods**, *University of Oxford*.

2014 **Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis**, *University of Essex*.

Media & Engagement

Impact Projects I have helped develop two major impact projects designed to improve political information and transparency – the LSE’s voting information website [Democratic Dashboard](#) (2017-20) and the University of Nottingham’s citizen science project [OpenElections](#) (2019-).

Media I have secured media coverage for impact projects (e.g. in the [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [Express](#), [ITV](#), and regional news), and for my own research (e.g. [BBC](#), [WikiTribune](#), [ShoutOut UK](#), and [Q-Step](#)).

Q-Step I have also been involved with Q-Step outreach work since 2016, e.g. creating open access teaching materials at the [Sheffield Methods Institute](#) and organising the [University of Kent’s Q-Step summer school](#).

Other Publications

2020 Explaining support for Brexit among would-be MPs in the 2017 general election *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

2019 Why has the populist radical right outperformed the populist radical left in Europe? *Open Democracy* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

2019 European elections 2019: What will happen in the East Midlands? *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

2019 European elections 2019: What will happen in the East of England? *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

2019 Local elections 2019: The directly-elected mayoral contests *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

2019 The UK’s 2019 European Parliament elections are happening after all. Here’s how they will work *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

2019 How not to recruit postal voters in the UK *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog) [\[link\]](#).

- 2019 Conceived in Harlesden: When do candidates emphasise their local connections in UK general elections? *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).
- 2018 Do party leaflets and canvass visits increase voter turnout? *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog) [\[link\]](#).
- 2018 Campaign spending and voter turnout: Does a candidate's local prominence influence the effect of their spending? *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).
- 2018 England's local elections 2018: Bridging the information gap with the Democratic Dashboard *Democratic Audit* (blog) [\[link\]](#).
- 2017 General election 2017: Voting toolkit. *Use Your Voice* (public resource) [\[link\]](#).
- 2017 The Economic benefit of joining, establishing, or growing a Multi Academy Trust *Education Policy Institute* (report) [\[link\]](#).

Skills

Software R, Stata, SPSS, LaTeX, Qualtrics, NationBuilder, Microsoft Office, Google Docs.

References

Prof David Cutts,
Professor in Political Science,
University of Birmingham,
d.cutts@bham.ac.uk.

Dr Caitlin Milazzo,
Associate Professor in Politics,
University of Nottingham,
caitlin.milazzo@nottingham.ac.uk.

Dr Florian Foos,
Assistant Professor in Political Behaviour,
London School of Economics,
f.foos@lse.ac.uk.

Dr Ben Seyd,
Senior Lecturer in British Politics,
University of Kent,
b.j.seyd@kent.ac.uk.