

Dr Joshua H. Townsley

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Professional Appointments

- 2020–present **LSE Fellow in Quantitative Methodology**, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics.
- 2019–present **Research Fellow**, School of Politics & IR, University of Nottingham.
- 2019–20 **Deputy Head of Insight and Data**, Liberal Democrats.
- 2018–19 **Research Associate**, Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield.
- 2018–19 **Teaching Fellow**, Warwick Q-Step Centre, University of Warwick.
- 2016–17 **Quantitative Analyst**, Education Policy Institute.
- 2015–18 **Assistant Lecturer/PhD Candidate**, School of Politics & IR, University of Kent.

Research Interests

- Substantive Social and political science, political behaviour and attitudes, electoral campaigns, voting.
- Methods Quantitative, surveys, experiments.

Education

- 2015–19 **Ph.D Comparative Politics**, University of Kent,
Thesis: *Do party campaigns matter anymore? Experimental & survey evidence from Britain*
Examiners: Professor Ed Fieldhouse & Dr Erik Larsen
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

- Under contract David Cutts, Andrew Russell, and **Joshua Townsley**. From Despair to Where? The Electoral and Political Strategy of the UK Liberal Democrats. *Manchester University Press*.

Journal Articles

- In press **Joshua Townsley**. 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* [\[link\]](#) [\[summary\]](#).
- 2020 Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte and **Joshua Townsley**. Political engagement and turnout among same-sex couples in Western Europe. *Research & Politics* 7(4) [\[link\]](#).
- 2020 Caitlin Milazzo, Siim Trumm, and **Joshua Townsley**. Crowdsourcing campaigns: A new dataset for studying British parties' electoral communications. *Political Studies Review* [\[link\]](#) [\[summary\]](#) [\[website\]](#).
- 2020 Siim Trumm, Caitlin Milazzo, and **Joshua Townsley**. The 2016 referendum: Explaining support for Brexit among would-be MPs. *Political Studies* 69(4): 819-836 [\[link\]](#) [\[summary\]](#).
- 2020 **Joshua Townsley** and Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte. Can parties recruit postal voters? Experimental evidence from Britain. *Electoral Studies* 64(1) [\[link\]](#) [\[summary\]](#).

- 2020 **Joshua Townsley**. Drowned out by the noise? The downstream mobilisation effects of party campaigning between local and general elections. *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 7(3): 188-198 [\[link\]](#).
- 2020 Caitlin Milazzo and **Joshua Townsley**. Conceived in Harlesden: Candidate-centred campaigning in British general elections. *Parliamentary Affairs* 73(1): 127-146 [\[link\]](#) [\[summary\]](#).
- 2017 Siim Trumm, Laura Sudulich, and **Joshua Townsley**. Information effect on voter turnout: How campaign spending mobilises voters. *Acta Politica* 52(4): 461-478 [\[link\]](#) [\[summary\]](#).

Working Papers

- R&R How do voters want to be contacted and are parties listening? Evidence from the 2016 Welsh Assembly election (with David Cutts).
- R&R The "personal touch": Campaign personalisation in Britain (with Siim Trumm and Caitlin Milazzo).
- Under review Mobilising supporters when the stakes are high: A large-scale experiment on mass email lobbying (with Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte, Florian Foos, and Denise Baron).
- Under review Who votes by post? Understanding the practical and psychological drivers of early voting (with Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte, Siim Trumm, and Caitlin Milazzo).
- Under review Explaining the sexuality gap in attitudes and policy preferences: The case of health over wealth in response to the Covid-19 pandemic (with Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte and James Dennison).
- In progress Changing political identities and campaign activism: Experimental evidence (with Katharina Lawall, Stuart Turnbull-Dugarte, and Florian Foos).
- 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

- 2020–21 Applied Regression Analysis (postgraduate module), *London School of Economics* [\[link\]](#).
- 2020–21 Intermediate Quantitative Analysis (postgraduate module), *London School of Economics* [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Intermediate Social Analytics II: Survey analysis & reporting (undergraduate module), *University of Warwick* [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Intermediate Social Analytics I: Survey design & data (undergraduate module), *University of Warwick* [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Introduction to Social Analytics I (undergraduate module), *University of Warwick* [\[link\]](#).
- 2018–19 Dissertation supervisor (undergraduate module), *University of Warwick*.
- 2018 ABC of Regression (postgraduate day course), *University of Sheffield*.

- 2016–18 An Introduction to Quantitative Social Research (undergraduate summer school), *University of Kent* [\[link\]](#).
- 2016–17 Political Research & Analysis (undergraduate module), *University of Kent* [\[link\]](#).
- 2016 Fact, Evidence, Knowledge & Power (undergraduate module) *University of Kent* [\[link\]](#).

Research Assistance & Internships

- 2017–20 **Research Assistant**, [Democratic Dashboard](#), *London School of Economics*.
- 2014–18 **Research Assistant**, [Election Leaflet Project](#), *University of Nottingham*.
- 2013 **Stagiaire**, *European Parliament*.
- 2012 **Constituency Caseworker**, *Julian Huppert MP (Cambridge), House of Commons*.

Professional Service

Reviewer *Electoral Studies; European Journal of Political Research*

Conference Papers

- 2020 EPSA (2 papers)
- 2019 EPOP (1 paper)
- 2018 EPOP (1 paper)
- 2017 EPOP (3 papers)

Methods Training

- 2017 **European Field Experiments Summer School**, *Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)*.
- 2016 **Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods**, *University of Oxford*.
- 2016 **Quantitative Methodology for Political Science**, *University of Kent*.
- 2014 **Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis**, *University of Essex*.

Impact Projects & Engagement

- 2019– **Co-Creator**, [OpenElections](#): An online platform that harnesses citizen science to track and analyse election communications from political candidates, and increase the transparency of British elections (based at the University of Nottingham).
- 2017–20 **Research Assistant**, [Democratic Dashboard](#): An online voting information centre designed to increase political engagement by making an array of election information more accessible and better tailored geographically for voters. Covered by the [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [Express](#), [ITV](#), and [ShoutOut UK](#).
- 2016– **Various**, Q-Step: I have been involved with various Q-Step outreach work since 2016, including creating open access teaching materials at the [Sheffield Methods Institute](#), organising public talks, organising the [University of Kent's Q-Step summer school](#), and contributing to the [University of Kent's Q-Step podcast](#).

Other Publications

- 2020 Brexit flashback: The rise from electoral fringes to centre stage. *UK in a Changing Europe* (blog) [\[link\]](#).
- 2020 OpenElections: Introducing the largest collection of British election communications in existence. *LSE British Politics & Policy* (blog) [\[link\]](#).
- 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) [\[link\]](#).

Software

- Statistical R/R Studio, Stata, SPSS.
- Survey Qualtrics.
- Other LaTeX, NationBuilder, Microsoft Office, Google Docs.

References

Prof David Cutts,
Professor in Political Science,
University of Birmingham,
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Dr Caitlin Milazzo,
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.