

Title of the Study: Assessing Populism in Canada

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To help you make an informed decision regarding your participation, this letter will explain what this study is about, the possible risks and benefits, and your rights as a research participant. If you do not understand something in the letter, please ask one of the investigators for clarification prior to consenting to the study. Please print/save a copy of this letter for your records.



What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a research study on ways to improve our understanding the ideological foundations of public policy in Canadian provincial politics. The purpose of this study is to understand the ideological, economical, and social determinants of political parties policy positions. In addition, we wish to measure the degrees to which provincial parties engage in populist rhetoric. The findings of this study will be disseminated through a series of journal articles. The dataset we will have gathered will be made available as well. This research will improve our understanding of Canadian political parties rhetoric and how it affects their policy choice and their ideology.

I. Your responsibilities as a participant

What does participation involve?

Participation in this study will involve a survey administered through Qualtrics.

Answering the survey takes on average between 12 to 15 minutes. The questions will explore the policy positions, social leaning, economic leaning, populist leaning, and usage of populist rhetoric by Canadian provincial political parties, among other things.

You were approached for this survey because of your expertise on Canadian politics



and or Canadian political parties. Please note that you will also be asked demographic information such as age, gender, citizenship etc.

Who may participate in the study?

Experts (PhDs) in Canadian politics and Canadian political parties.

II. Your rights as a participant

Is participation in the study voluntary?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decline to answer any questions you prefer not to answer by leaving your response blank. You may decide to end your participation at any time by simply closing your browser. Please note however, that once you submit your responses, it will not be possible to remove your data from the study, as the survey is anonymous and the researchers will have no way of knowing which responses belong to you.

Will I receive anything for participating in this study?

No, there is no remuneration for participating in this study.



What are the possible benefits of the study?

Participants in the study will gain no direct benefit from their involvement. However, their responses may lead to changes in policies throughout various organizations from which they may personally benefit from in the future. The results of this study will also produce additional societal benefits, including the development of a better understanding of polarization in Canadian politics that will enhance the capabilities of governmental and non-governmental organizations to design better strategies to help safeguard Canadian democracy.

What are the risks associated with this study?

If a question, or the discussion, makes you uncomfortable, you can choose not to answer. See above for more details on voluntary participation. Please note that whenever information is transmitted over the internet, privacy cannot be guaranteed. There is always a risk that your responses may be intercepted by a third party (e.g., government agencies, hackers). University of Waterloo researchers will not collect or use internet protocol (IP) addresses or other information that could link your participation to your computer or electronic device without first informing you.



Will my identity be known? Will my information be kept confidential?

This survey is anonymous in that you will not be asked for your name or other identifying information (e.g., e-mail address etc.). The collected data will be stored for a minimum of 7 years on a password-protected hard-drive and in a locked office at the University of Waterloo. The anonymous data-set will also be shared through the Harvard dataverse, an online repository.

III. Questions, comments or concerns

Has the study received ethics clearance?

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE# 42772). If you have questions for the Committee contact the Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca.

Who should I contact if I have questions regarding my participation in the study?



If you have any questions regarding this study or would like additional information to help you decide whether to participate, please contact Dr. Jean-François Bélanger at 1-514-566-5049, or by email at jean-francois.belanger@uwaterloo.ca



CONSENT FORM

By providing your consent, you are not waiving your legal rights or releasing the investigator(s) or involved institution(s) from their legal and professional responsibilities.

Title of the Study: Engaging Populism in Canada.

I have read the information presented in the information letter about a study conducted by Dr. Bessma Momani, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo, and Dr. Jean-François Bélanger, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo. I have had the opportunity to ask questions related to the study and have received satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details. I am aware the data collected through the survey will be made available through online repository, and will be used in academic articles, books, and newspaper op-eds. Please click on the answer that applies below.

- Yes
- No



This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (ORE# 42722). If you have questions for the Committee, contact the Office of Research Ethic, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca.

For all other questions contact Dr. Jean-François Bélanger at jean-francois.belanger@uwaterloo.ca.

I agree of my own free will to participate in this study.

In the place of a signature, you acknowledge your consent by clicking on the consent button.

