



## Absent Mandate Revisited

**Dr. Harold Clarke**

Ashbel Smith Professor, University of Texas at Dallas

November 16, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

### Summary (Abstract)

This one-day workshop focuses on voting and elections in contemporary Canada. It long has been recognized that Canadians' feelings about political parties and party leaders and their judgments about party performance on important issues can change rapidly. As a result, party fortunes can vary markedly from one election to the next. In government today, gone tomorrow is a frequent occurrence, as voters use their ballots express discontent with incumbents and the practice of Canadian democracy more generally.

This workshop uses survey data gathered in several national election studies to investigate factors that drive voting behavior and shape election outcomes. Studies of voting and elections in the 2016 American presidential election and the 2017 British general election are presented to compare Canada with other major democracies.

### Outline

1. Introduction to the Course
2. Making Political Choices - Theories of Voting Behaviour
3. Canada - Flexible Partisanship
4. Voting in the 2011 Federal Election
5. Voting in the 2015 Federal Election
6. Like Father, Like Son - From 1968 to 2015

### Lunch

7. Comparative Perspectives - Trumped! The 2016 US Presidential Election
8. Comparative Perspectives - Youthquake! The 2017 British General Election
9. Brexit - Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union
10. Valence Politics and Absent Mandates - Canada and Elsewhere
11. Discussion

### Required Readings\*

Harold D. Clarke et al. 2016. "It's Spring Again! Voting in the 2015 Federal Election." In Jon H. Pammett and Christopher Dornan, eds., *The Canadian Federal Election of 2015*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, ch. 13, pp. 328-357.

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF21D3>

Harold D. Clarke et al. 2017. "Like Father, Like Son: Justin Trudeau and Valence Voting in Canada's 2015 Federal Election." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50: 701-707. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FA0>

Harold D. Clarke et al. 2012. "Winners and Losers: Voters in the 2011 Federal Election." In Jon H. Pammett and Christopher Dornan, eds., *The Canadian Federal Election of 2011*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, ch. 11, pp. 273-304.

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FA1>



# WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

●●● DELIBERATING A PUBLIC AGENDA ●●●  
●●● FOR FEDERAL ELECTION 2019 ●●●



Harold D. Clarke, Jane Jenson, Lawrence LeDuc and Jon H. Pammett. 2018. "Partisanship." *Absent Mandate: Strategy and Choice in Canadian Elections*. ch. 2. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FB3>  
Marianne C. Stewart, Harold D. Clarke and Walter Borges. 2018. "Hillary's Hypothesis: Attitudes Towards Women and Voting in the 2016 Presidential Election." <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2FB4>

## **Additional Resources**

Harold D. Clarke, Allan Kornberg and Thomas J. Scotto. 2009. *Making Political Choices: Canada and the United States*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  
Harold D. Clarke, Thomas J. Scotto and Allan Kornberg. 2011. "Valence Politics and Economic Crisis: Electoral Choice in Canada, 2008." *Electoral Studies* 30: 438-449.  
Harold D. Clarke, Matthew Goodwin and Paul Whiteley. 2017. *Brexit - Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

\*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at [wssr@concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@concordia.ca)

Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSR)  
1455 de Maisonneuve W. – H1225.30  
Montreal, Qc H3G 1M8  
Telephone: 514-848-2424 x7854, x5473

