



Voters and Candidates: The representations and experiences of women in Canadian elections

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October 5, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

Elections provide Canadians with an opportunity to choose their governments based on the leaders, candidates and policy programs presented to them by political parties. Ideally, it is through their choices that citizens' interests and identities are represented. However, concern has increasingly been raised about how unrepresentative our political institutions are even after decades of attention to the under-representation of women in political life. In her workshop, Dr. Everitt will draw upon her research findings to take participants through the experiences of Canadian women in election campaigns and discuss how the many barriers to women's political participation affect female representation in politics.

In discussing this she will take into account psychological factors affecting political engagement such as diverse public opinions of men and women, voter orientations toward male versus female candidates and leaders, institutional factors including the role that parties play as gatekeepers and the impact of our single member plurality electoral system, as well as social factors such as the impact of gendered mediated political coverage.

Outline

What is the democratic deficit?

- History of women's electoral success
 - Numeric versus substantive representation

Factors contributing to election outcomes

- Supply side factors
 - Political interest
 - Situational/structural barriers
 - Social factors (media)
- Institutional factors
 - Decisions of political parties
 - Electoral systems

Possibilities for Change

- Advocacy
- Electoral reform
- Incentives





Required Readings*

CBC. (2015) "50% population, 25% representation: Why the parliamentary gender gap?"

<http://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/women-politics/>

Everitt, J. (Forthcoming 2018) "". In M. Kanji and K. Tannahill (Eds.) *Exploring the State of Democracy*. Montreal: McGill Queen's University Press. **SOURCE WILL BE ADDED TO RESERVES SOON.**

Everitt, J. (2016) "Where are the Women in Canadian Political Parties". In A. Gagnon and B. Tanguay (Eds.) *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th edition, (pp.296-315) Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

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

Everitt, J. (Nov 17. 2005) "Uncovering the Coverage: Gender Biases in Canadian Political Reporting". *Breakfast on the Hill Seminar Series*. Sponsored by Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

https://web.archive.org/web/20100217055204/http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/handouts/gender_portrayal/uncovering_coverage.cfm

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEFE2F>

Everitt, J., & Gidengil, E. (2013) "Chapter 2: Public Attitudes Towards Women's Political Representation". In T. Small and R. Lexier, *Mind the Gaps: Canadian Perspectives on Gender and Politics* (34-47) Black Point NS: Fernwood Publishing.

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEFAF9>

Gidengil, E., Everitt, J., Blais, A., Fournier, P., & Nevitte, N. (2013) "Chapter 3: Explaining the Modern Gender Gap". In T. Small and R. Lexier, *Mind the Gaps: Canadian Perspectives on Gender and Politics* (48-63) Black Point NS: Fernwood Publishing.

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEFAF9>

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca

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