The 2019 Election: What happened?

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November 22, 2019
9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

In this workshop, Dr. Coletto will explore what happened during the 2019 Canadian General Election. The workshop will be divided into three sessions. The first session will explore what happened in the pre-election period, setting the context for the election including examining the impact of the SNC-Lavalin controversy, the image and impressions of the main party leaders, and the evolution of public opinion during this period.

The second session will examine the campaign itself – the themes and issues of the campaign, the leaders' debates, and the impact of the photos of Mr. Trudeau in brown and blackface that were released on September 18, one week into the campaign. The final session will look at the result and what initial data can tell us about how voters decided and what factors were most important. We will also explore what will come next.

Outline

Session 1: **The Pre-Campaign Period**
- Setting the context for the election
- The issues, the leaders, and what the polls were telling us about public opinion.
- What impact did the SNC-Lavalin controversy have on the election?

Session 2: **The Election Campaign**
- What happened during the campaign?
- Exploring the impact of the brown/blackface photos of Mr. Trudeau on the campaign
- The leaders debates: Did they matter?
- In class discussion: Was the campaign about something or was it about nothing?

Session 3: **The Result and Implications**
- Why did people vote the way they did?
- The 2019 election in comparative perspective – was the 2019 unique or similar to past elections in Canada?
- What is next for Canadian politics?
- Regionalism in Canada – The return of the Bloc and the rise of Wexit

Required Readings

Wildeman, Jeremy. "Justin Trudeau's political setback: A surprise to the world, but not to Canada." *The Conversation*
   Link: http://theconversation.com/justin-trudeaus-political-setback-a-surprise-to-the-world-but-not-to-canada-125422

Brady, Henry E., Richard Johnston, and John Sides. "The study of political campaigns." *Capturing campaign effects* (2006): 1-26.
   Link: https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/8281/14f872454a4349d0427023179504286d4dae.pdf

Brean, Joseph. "How the 2019 Federal Election Became a Vote for Nothing" National Post,
Link: https://nationalpost.com/feature/federal-election-2019-liberals-conservatives-ndp-green-ppc-bq

Heroux-Legault, Maxime. "How the Liberals paved the way for the Bloc's return." *The Conversation*.
   Link: https://theconversation.com/how-the-liberals-paved-the-way-for-the-blocs-return-125632

Marland, Alex. "The strategic management of political photos in the Canadian election." *The Conversation*
   Link: https://theconversation.com/the-strategic-management-of-political-photos-in-the-canadian-election-123965

Gatehouse, Jonathan. "Is the 2019 election Canada's nastiest ever? Not by a long shot." *The Conversation*
   Link: https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/nasty-2019-campaign-fact-check-1.5324538

Belkhodja, Chedly. "What place does populism have in the current election campaign?" *The Conversation*
   Link: https://theconversation.com/what-place-does-populism-have-in-the-current-election-campaign-123414

Frum, David. "This election brought out Canada's worst." *The Atlantic*
   Link: https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/10/election-brought-out-canadas-worst-tendencies/600511/

Anderson, Bruce & David Coletto. "Regional races and turnout will decide an election with 2-points separating Liberals and Conservatives"
   Link: https://abacusdata.ca/final-abacus-2019-canada-election-poll/