

Mujahed Islam, PhD

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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Appointments

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Government

Sept. 2025–

University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science

2024–2025

Research Fellow, PEARL, the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

2017–2025

Education

University of Toronto

Ph.D. in Political Science

2017–2024

Fields: Comparative Politics; Comparative Public Policy

Dissertation: “How the Ethical Positions of Voters and Politicians Matter in a Democracy”

Committee: Professors Peter Loewen (supervisor), Christopher Cochrane, André Blais
(Université de Montréal), Michael Donnelly and Timothy Ryan (UNC, Chapel Hill)

Hertie School, The University of Governance in Berlin, Germany

Master of Public Policy (MPP)

2014–2016

Subfield: Policy Analysis (Quantitative Methods)

University of Dhaka

M.S.S. in Political Science (*Top 2%*)

2011–2012

B.S.S. (Hons.) in Political Science (*Top 2%*)

2007–2011

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Islam, Md Mujahedul, and Peter John Loewen. “Ethical Distance and Electoral Accountability: Voters Punish Politicians Whose Ethical Views Diverge from Societal Consensus.” *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* (2026).

Treger, Clareta, Thomas Galipeau, Thomas Bergeron, Sarah Lachance, Natasha Goel, Md Mujahedul Islam, Blake Lee-Whiting, Beatrice Magistro, and Peter John Loewen. “Party or Policy? The Role of Policy Partisanship in Voter Decision-Making.” *Political Behavior* (2026).

Donnelly, Michael J., Md Mujahedul Islam, and Justin Savoie. “The Public Face of Interest Group Lobbying on Immigration: Who Responds To and Who Ignores What They Say.” *Journal of European Social Policy* 30, no. 5 (2020): 543–556.

Allen Stevens, Benjamin, Md Mujahedul Islam, Roosmarijn de Geus, Jonah Goldberg, John R. McAndrews, Alex Mierke-Zatwarnicki, Peter John Loewen, and Daniel Rubenson. “Local Candidate Effects in Canadian Elections.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 52, no. 1 (2019): 83–96.

Revise & Resubmit

Md Mujahedul Islam, Daniel Rubenson, Roosmarijn de Geus, Benjamin Allen Stevens and Peter Loewen. “Ideological Heterogeneity and Voter Turnout,” R&R, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Goel, Natasha, Thomas Bergeron, Blake Lee-Whiting, Thomas Galipeau, Danielle Bohonos, Md Mujahedul Islam, Sarah Lachance, Sonja Savolainen, Clareta Treger, and Eric Merkley. “Artificial Influence: Comparing the Effects of AI and Human Source Cues in Revising False Beliefs.” R&R, *PNAS Nexus*.

Under Review

Islam, Md Mujahedul, and Muhib Rahman. “Ties That Bind: Social Trust, Civic Engagement, and Democratic Attitudes in Advanced Democracies.” *Under Review*.

Book Projects

“*How the Ethical Positions of Voters and Politicians Matter in a Democracy*.” Book manuscript based on my dissertation; proposal to be submitted to leading university presses in Fall 2026.

“*Applied Statistics: Learning by Heart, Mind, and Soul*” (with Christopher Cochrane). An introductory statistics text that treats statistics as a way of thinking about politics; in progress.

Working Papers

- “Ethical Distance and Democratic Attitudes in Advanced Democracies.”
- “Gender, Ideology, and Perceived Ethical Distance: Evidence from Canada and the United States.”
- “Moral and Deliberative Leadership in Electoral Choice.”
- “The Moral Authority of Representation: How Moral and Policy Justifications Shape Democratic Accountability.”
- “Distance-Based Conjoint Experiments: Estimating Causal Effects from Empirical Benchmarks.”
- “Does Presenting Attributes in a Fixed Versus a Randomized Order Affect the Relative Effect of Each Attribute?”
- “Does Democratic Representation Work Better in Smaller Populations?” (with Peter Loewen, Jonah Goldberg, and John R. McAndrews).
- “Collaborative Programming Architecture with Applications to the Fairness of Electoral District Boundaries and the Quality of Legislative Debate” (with Christopher Cochrane and Michael Cowan).

Original Datasets

Ethical Values and Democratic Attitudes among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants	2025
Ethical Values in News Media and Democratic Attitudes	2024
Ethical vs. Policy Disagreement and Candidate Evaluation	2023
Ethical Distance and Electoral Accountability , Harvard Dataverse	2020–2021

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Competitive Grants, Fellowships & Awards

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship: \$140,000 CAD	2025–2027
SSHRC Explore Grant (Co-PI, with Asadullah & Muhib Rahman): \$6,000 CAD	2023–2025
Institute for Humane Studies, Book Manuscript Completion Grant: \$5,000 USD	2026
Institute for Humane Studies, Conference Grant: \$800 USD	2026
Society for Political Methodology Annual Meetings, Travel Award: \$2,000 USD	2020, 2024
MENA & Asian Political Methodology Meeting, Fully-Funded Participation	2024

Institutional & Departmental Funding (University of Toronto)

Policy, Elections, and Representation Lab (PEARL) Fellowship: \$111,500 CAD	2017–2024
Graduate Program & Conference Awards: \$20,343 CAD	2020–2024
Doctoral Completion Award: \$11,000 CAD	2022–2023
Teaching Buy-out Completion Award: \$9,700 CAD	2021–2022
Political Science Department Grant, ICPSR Summer Program: \$8,552 CAD	2020–2022

Hertie School

Hertie School MPP Program Fellowship: €22,125	2014–2016
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Invited Talks

Harvard University, Department of Government	2024
Lakehead University, Department of Political Science	2024
New York University Abu Dhabi, Political Science	2024, 2023
University of California, Riverside – School of Public Policy	2023
Wake Forest University, Department of Politics and International Affairs	2023
University of British Columbia, Department of Political Science	2022

Conference Presentations

[*Presented by co-author

†Accepted; cancelled (COVID-19)]

Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) – MSU; Emory; UCR	2026, 2025, 2024
MENA & Asian Political Methodology Conference – NYU Abu Dhabi	2024
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) – Chicago	2026 (scheduled), 2021–2024
American Political Science Association (APSA)	2026, 2020–2024
Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA)	2025*, 2021*, 2020†
European Political Science Association (EPSA)	2021
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)	2020
International Workshop on Immigration and the Welfare State – Univ. of Lausanne	2021*
Public Issues and Public Reason Conference – Carleton University	2017
Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) – Brazil; Germany	2015, 2014

Teaching Experience

[All quantitative methods courses taught in R and Stata.]

Course Instructor

Undergraduate Quantitative Methods (University of Toronto) [Eight Appointments]

Research Methods for Political Science I & II (4.2–4.4/5.0)	Summer 2025
Research Methods for Political Science [full-year required] (4.3–4.7/5.0)	Summers 2019–2022
Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning II (4.0–4.4/5.0)	Summers 2021–2022

Teaching Assistant

Graduate Quantitative Methods

Statistics for Political Scientists [Ph.D., University of Toronto]	Falls 2018, 2021
Statistics and Data Analysis I [ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan]	Summer 2021
Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis [MPP, University of Toronto]	Fall 2024
Statistics I [required, MPP, Hertie School]	Fall 2016
Statistics II: Time-Series and Panel Data [MPP elective, Hertie School]	Winter 2017

Teaching Assistant

Substantive Courses (University of Toronto)

Current Topics in Politics	Summer 2024
Public Opinion and Voting	Winter 2023
Politics and Government in South Asia	Fall 2022
Public Policy Making	Fall 2018, Winter 2020
Politics in a Global World	Winter 2019
Democracy, Dictatorship, War & Peace	Fall 2017, Winter 2018

Public-Facing Writing

[“Does a Moral Gap Explain Democracy’s Crisis?”](#) *Journal of Democracy* (online exclusive), March 2026.

[“The Other Half of Democracy: Governing and Opposing in Bangladesh’s Democratic Transition,”](#) *South Asian Voices*, February 2026.

[“Bangladesh’s 2026 Election Is a Litmus Test for Global Democratic Revival,”](#) *The Diplomat*, February 2026.

[“Bangladesh’s BIGD Poll Risks Becoming a ‘Literary Digest’ Moment,”](#) *The Diplomat*, August 2025.

Research Experience

<i>Research Assistant to Peter Loewen</i> – University of Toronto	Sept. 2017–Aug. 2024
<i>Research Assistant to Randy Besco</i> – University of Toronto	Jan.–Aug. 2020
<i>Research Associate to Mark Kayser</i> – Hertie School, Berlin	Dec. 2014–July 2017
<i>Research Intern</i> – United Nations Secretariat, USA	June–Aug. 2015
<i>Research Assistant</i> – BIGD, BRAC University, Bangladesh	May–Aug. 2014
<i>Research Officer</i> – Centre for Governance Studies, Bangladesh	Jan. 2013–Apr. 2014
<i>Research Intern</i> – Democracy International, Bangladesh	Jan.–July 2012

Methodological Training

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods [University of Michigan]	2020–2022
Difference-in-Differences Designs; Bayesian Analysis; Multilevel & Mixed Models; Structural Equation Modeling; Data Visualization	
Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods [University of Oxford]	2022
Hierarchical Models; Analysis of Social Media Data	
Leuven–Montréal Winter School on Elections [Université de Montréal]	2018
Graduate Methods Coursework [University of Toronto]	2017–2024
Computer-Assisted Textual Analysis; Statistics for Political Scientists; Quantitative Methods & Data Analysis; Social Network Analysis; Ethics & Data Science	
Graduate Methods Coursework [Hertie School, Berlin]	2014–2016
Applied Logistic Regression; Event History & Longitudinal Analysis; Behavioral & Experimental Policy Analysis; Collaborative Social Science Data Analysis	

Service and Leadership Experience

<i>Comparative Politics Field Representative</i> – Dept. of Political Science, U of T	2020–2023
<i>Co-founder & Convenor</i> – Quantitative Methods Cluster, Dept. of Political Science, U of T	2020–2023
<i>Co-organizer</i> – Political Behavior Group, University of Toronto	2020–2025
<i>Graduate Student Representative</i> – Faculty Search Committee, U of T	2021
<i>Mentor</i> – UTSC SDG Data Challenge , Dept. of Computer & Mathematical Sciences, U of T	2025
<i>Conference Service & Co-host</i> – Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting	2020
<i>Book Reviewer</i> – An R Companion to Political Analysis , SAGE Publishing	2021
<i>Editor</i> – Comparative Politics & Methods Sections, U of T Journal of Political Science	2018–2019

Skills

Statistical Software: R; Stata; Python
Survey & Experimental Design: Qualtrics
Version Control: Git/GitHub
Typesetting: L^AT_EX & R Markdown
Languages: English (fluent); Bangla (native); Arabic (basic); German (basic)

Pedagogical Training

University of Toronto
Workshops for Course Instructors and Sessional Lecturers 2019–2022
Inclusive & Accessible Pedagogy; Indigenous Pedagogies & Decolonization;
Mental Health for Students & Instructors; Pedagogies of Care & Kindness;
TA Management; Policy Adjustments for New Teaching Situations

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association 2018–present
Midwest Political Science Association 2019–present
Canadian Political Science Association 2021–present
Society for Political Methodology 2020–present
International Public Policy Association 2020–present

Citizenship

Canadian, Bangladeshi

*** Last Updated: July 2026 ***