Samuel A. T. Johnston

Research Interests: Comparative Politics; Party Politics; European Union; Election Campaigns; Voting Behaviour; Mixed-methods Designs; Elite Interviews; Quantitative Text Analysis; Experimental Designs.

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

09/2023 – present. **ERC Postdoctoral Fellow in Politics**

School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin.

01/2025 – 07/2025. **Visiting Fellow**

European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science.

09/2022 – 08/2023. **Teaching Fellow in European Comparative Politics**

School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin.

EDUCATION

09/2018 – 08/2022. **PhD.** *Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin.*

Title: 'Choose Your Target Wisely: How the EU Shapes Nationalism in Contemporary Europe'.

Supervisor: Dr. Emanuel Coman

09/2017 - 08/2018. **MSc: International Politics.** *Trinity College Dublin.*

Grade: Distinction.

09/2013 - 08/2017. **BA (Honours): Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, and Sociology.** *Trinity College Dublin.*

Grade: First.

Major: Political Science.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Johnston, Samuel A. T. (2025). 'Reduced Urgency, Fewer Options? How the EU Influences Kin-State Politics in Contemporary Europe'*, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies,* 51:19, 5175-5193.

Johnston, Samuel A. T. (2024). 'Fixing the Boundary of a Nation: How the European Union Influences Nationalism in Contemporary Europe', *Comparative European Politics*, 22:4, 538-555.

Johnston, Samuel A. T., and Harrington, Sinéad C. M. (2024). 'Campaigning in the Dark: Theorising Campaign Strategies from the 2022 Seanad By-Election', *Irish Political Studies*, 39:1, 1-23.

Johnston, Samuel A. T. (2023). 'Choose Your Target Wisely: Explaining Nationalism's Variation in Contemporary Europe', *West European Politics*, 46:1, 196-218.

Johnston, Samuel A. T. and Sprong, Stefanie (2023). 'Seeking an Adversary: The Radical Right and the Saliency of Pro-Immigration Positions in Green Party Speeches', *Party Politics*, 29:2, 347-358.

Johnston, Samuel A. T. (2020). 'The 2019 European Parliament Elections in Ireland', *Irish Political Studies*, 35:1, 18-28.

Book Chapters

Johnston, Samuel A. T. (2021). 'Appendices' in Michael Gallagher, Michael Marsh, and Theresa Reidy (eds.) *How Ireland Voted 2020: The End of an Era*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 341-360.

Under Review

Johnston, Samuel A. T.. 'A Little Less Byzantine? Experiential Approaches to Teaching the EU', *Journal of Political Science Education*, Revise & Resubmit.

Johnston, Samuel A. T., Lacey, Joseph, Dollbaum, Jan Fabian, and Puleo, Leonardo. 'Do Citizens Believe they have Electoral Duties? Public Attitudes to Opinion Formation and Informed Voting', *European Journal of Political Research.*

Lacey, Joseph, Johnston, Samuel A. T., Puleo, Leonardo, and Dollbaum, Jan Fabian. 'Do Citizens Care More About Deliberative Values than Electoral Democracy? An Analysis of Public Attitudes to Democratic Norm Violations in Four Countries', *European Political Science Review.*

Lindqvist, Jesper and Johnston, Samuel A. T. 'Core Issues and Parties for the Transnational Cleavage', *Journal of Common Market Studies.*

Puleo, Leonardo, Dollbaum, Jan Fabian, Lacey, Joseph, and Johnston, Samuel A. T. 'The Political Costs of Exclusionary Rhetoric: Comparing Citizens' Responses to Deliberative and Electoral Democracy Norm Transgressions', *Political Behavior.*

Stebach, Elia, Puleo, Leonardo, Lacey, Joseph, Johnston, Samuel A. T., and Dollbaum, Jan Fabian. 'Choosing the Candidate You Like Less: Democratic Commitment and Vote Choice

when faced with Democratic Transgression', *Electoral Studies.*

Working Papers

Dollbaum, Jan Fabian, Puleo, Leonardo, Johnston, Samuel A. T., and Lacey, Joseph. 'Citizens as Editors: How Much They Value Reporting on Policy vs Reporting on Democratic Norm Violations'.

Puleo, Leonardo, Dollbaum, Jan Fabian, Johnston, Samuel A. T., and Lacey, Joseph. 'Does Illiberalism in Europe Really Belong to the Extremes? Exploring Illiberal Attitudes Beyond the Far Left and Far Right'.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2023 **Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship**
Ireland's most prestigious and competitive postdoctoral fellowship, which lasts for two years and comes with a salary of around €40,000 per annum and research expenses. Declined to take up a three-year ERC postdoctoral position.

2021 **TCD Dermot McAleese Teaching Award nomination.**

2019 **Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship**
Ireland's most prestigious and competitive postgraduate research award.
Stipend of around €52,200 as well as tuition fees and research expenses.

2018 **TCD Ussher Award**
Stipend of €13,000 per annum and tuition fees given to a small number of PhD students in each faculty.

2017 **TCD Patrick Keatinge Prize**
Awarded annually to the Political Science student graduating with the highest grade.

2015 **TCD Foundation Scholarship**
Awarded to those who achieved the top grade in the highly competitive scholarship examination. The scholarship included tuition fees, free college accommodation, and a stipend of €250 for five years.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

09/2022 – 08/2023. **Teaching Fellow,** *University College Dublin.*

- Introduction to EU Politics, Undergraduate, Second Year. This was a large lecture-based module of 160 students, which also required me to guide three teaching assistants.
- Politics of European Governance, Masters. This was a seminar-based module of 21 students.
- Engaging Brussels, Masters. This was an innovative module in which nine students learned about the EU through developing a project and public event to improve stakeholder engagement with the EU. This module required me to organise a field trip to EU institutions and support students in developing their project.
- Understanding Political Parties, Masters. This was a small seminar-based module of four students.

- Supervised one master's thesis on party competition; second reader for two other theses.

01/2022 – 08/2022. **Lecturer,** *Trinity College Dublin.*

- Irish Politics B, Undergraduate, Third Year. This module of 60 students covered both Irish policy-making and Northern Irish politics. I was responsible for the delivery of both the lectures and tutorials.

09/2017 – 08/2022. **Teaching Assistant**, *Trinity College Dublin.*

- History of Political Thought (Course leaders: Dr. Gavin Morrison; Dr. Peter Stone).
- Irish Politics (Course leaders: Prof. Michael Gallagher; Dr. Lisa Keenan).

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

11/09/2026. **European Consortium for Political Research**, *Krakow.*
Chair: 'Immigration, Populism, and the Radical Right' panel.

10/09/2026. **European Consortium for Political Research**, *Krakow.*
Paper: 'How to Be a 'Good Voter': Examining How Voters View Each Other's Duties and Performance During Elections in Four Countries'.

18/06/2026. **European Political Science Society,** *Belfast.*
Paper: 'Do Election Campaigns Lower the Bar? Citizens' Attitudes towards Democratic Standards and Elite Behaviour in Four Countries'.

18/10/2024. **Political Studies Association of Ireland,** *Dublin.*
Paper: 'Satisfaction with Citizens in Democratic Elections?'.

18/10/2024. **Political Studies Association of Ireland,** *Dublin.*
Chair: 'Contemporary Politics in the Republic of Ireland' panel.

15/08/2024. **European Consortium for Political Research**, *Dublin.*
Paper: 'Satisfaction with Citizens in Democratic Elections?'.

22/10/2023. **Political Studies Association of Ireland,** *Belfast.*
Paper: 'A Little Less Byzantine? Encouraging Practical Engagement with the EU Among Students'.

21/10/2023. **Political Studies Association of Ireland,** *Belfast.*
Paper: 'Globalisation as a Cleavage or Cause? Examining the Existence of an Integration-Demarcation Cleavage in Europe'.

20/10/2023. **Political Studies Association of Ireland,** *Belfast.*
Chair: 'Innovations in Computational Political Communication' panel.

23/06/2023. **European Political Science Association,** *Glasgow.*
Paper: 'Globalisation as a Cleavage or Cause? Examining the Existence of an Integration-Demarcation Cleavage in Europe'.

19/10/2022. **SPIRe Seminar Series**, *UCD, Dublin.*
Paper: 'Knowing Me, Knowing You: Election Campaigns Under Extreme Uncertainty'.

15/10/2022. **Political Studies Association of Ireland**, *Waterford.*
Paper: 'Knowing Me, Knowing You: Election Campaigns Under Extreme Uncertainty'.

27-8/06/2022. **The Comparative Politics of Europe,** *EUI, Florence.*
Paper: 'One Last Job: Explaining Irredentism's Saliency in Contemporary Europe'.

24/06/2022. **European Political Science Association**, *Prague.*
Paper: 'Defining 'Our People': How the European Union Influences

Nationalism in Contemporary Europe'.

25/06/2022. **European Political Science Association,** *Prague.*
Discussant: 'Economic Voting' panel.

09/10/2021. **Political Studies Association of Ireland**, *Dublin.*
Paper: 'Defining 'Our People': How the European Union Influences Nationalism in Contemporary Europe'.

24/06/2021. **European Political Science Association**, *Online.*
Paper: 'Choose Your Target Wisely: Explaining Nationalism's Variation in Contemporary Europe'.

10/10/2020. **Political Studies Association of Ireland**, *Online.*
Paper: 'Seeking an Adversary: The Radical Right and the Saliency of Pro-Immigration Positions in Green Party Speeches'.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

09/2023 – 05/2024 **Co-chair of SPIRe's Comparative Politics Seminar**

09/2022 – 08/2023 **SPIRe Plagiarism Committee Member**

09/2019 - 09/2021 **PhD Representative**

09/2018 - 08/2019 **MSc Representative**

09/2017 - 08/2018 **Secretary to the Scholars, Trinity Foundation Scholars' Committee**

SKILLS

Languages English (native); Dutch (learning through NT2 op maat)

Computing Knowledge R; STATA; SPSS; Qualtrics; Nvivo; Excel.

REFERENCES

Dr. Emanuel Coman,
Associate Professor,
Trinity College Dublin.
Email: comane@tcd.ie

Dr. Joseph Lacey,
Associate Professor,
University College Dublin.
Email: joseph.lacey1@ucd.ie

Prof. Jos Dornschneider-Elkink,
Former Head of School,
University College Dublin.
Email: jos.elkink@ucd.ie