

# Christian Houle

Michigan State University  
Department of Political Science  
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## Employment

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, 2013-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Trinity College, Dublin, 2010-2013.

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Rochester, 2011.

*Sub-Fields:* Comparative Politics, Methodology, International Relations and Formal Theory.

*Dissertation:* "Inequality, Economic Development and Democracy"

- Winner of the 2010-11 Outstanding Dissertation in Social Sciences Award, University of Rochester.
- Committee: Gretchen Helmke (co-chair), Randall Stone (co-chair), Mark Kayser, and G. Bingham Powell, Jr.

M.A. Political Science, University of Rochester, 2008.

M.A. Economics, Queen's University, 2004.

B.A. Triple major in Economics, Political Science and Sociology, Universite Laval, 2002.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Social Mobility and Political Instability," Accepted. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

"A Two-Step Theory and Test of the Oil Curse: The Conditional Effect of Oil on Democratization," Accepted. *Democratization*.

"The Political and Economic Consequences of Populist Rule in Latin America," with Paul Kenny. Forthcoming. *Government and Opposition*.

"Ethnic Inequality and Coups in Sub-Saharan Africa," with Cristina Bodea. 2017. *Journal of Peace Research*. 54(3): 382-396.

"Do Civil Wars, Coups and Riots Have the Same Structural Determinants?" with Cristina Bodea and Ibrahim Elbadawi. 2017. *International Interactions*. 43(3): 537-561.

"Inequality, Ethnic Diversity and Redistribution," 2017. *Journal of Economic Inequality*. 15(1): 1-23.

“Diffusion or Confusion? Clustered Shocks and the Conditional Diffusion of Democracy,” with Mark Kayser and Jun Xiang. 2016. *International Organization*. 70(4): 687-726.

“Why Class Inequality Breeds Coups but Not Civil Wars,” 2016. *Journal of Peace Research* 53(5): 680-695.

“Inequality, Economic Development and Democratization,” 2016. *Studies in Comparative International Development*. 51(4):503-529.

- Winner of the Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for best paper in comparative politics, MPSA.

“Ethnic Inequality and the Dismantling of Democracy: A Global Analysis,” 2015. *World Politics* 67(3): 469-505.

- Winner of the Best Paper Award, Comparative Democratization Section, APSA.

- Winner of the Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for best paper in comparative politics, MPSA.

“Inequality and Democracy: Why Inequality Harms Consolidation but Does Not Affect Democratization,” 2009. *World Politics*. 61(4): 589-622.

## Editor-Reviewed Publications

“Does Inequality Harm Economic Development and Democracy? Accounting for Missing Values, Non-Comparable Observations and Endogeneity,” Forthcoming. In Lancaster, Carol, and Nicolas van de Walle, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Politics of Development*. Oxford University Press.

“Inequality, Democratization and Democratic Consolidation,” 2013. *APSA-Comparative Democratization Newsletter*. 11(3): 21-24.

## Under Review

“Does Ethnic Inequality Promote Ethnic Voting?” (with Paul Kenny and Chunho Park) [Revise & Resubmit at the *Journal of Politics*]

“Ethnic Inequality and Ethnic Identification in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Masaaki Higashijima) [Revise & Resubmit at *Political Behavior*]

“Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes: Evidence from Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Michael Miller) [Under Review]

“Does Ethnic Voting Reduce the Quality of Democracy?” [Under Review]

“Does Inequality Reduce Social Mobility? An Empirical Evaluation of the Great Gatsby Curve” [Under Review]

## Working Papers & Work in Progress

“Inequality and the Survival of Democracy”

“Reinforcing Cleavages and Civil War”

“Do Economic Crises Fuel Income Inequality?” (with Cristina Bodea and Hyunwoo Kim)

“Does the Prospect of Upward Mobility Reduce Redistribution?”

“Democratic Breakdown in the Post-Cold War Era: The Rise of Incumbent Takeovers” (with Erica Frantz)

## Fellowships, Grants & Awards

Best Paper Award, APSA Comparative Democratization Section, 2014.

Arts & Social Sciences Benefactions Fund Grant, Trinity College, Dublin, 2012.

Kellogg/Notre Dame Award, best paper in comparative politics presented at the MPSA, 2012.

Arts & Social Sciences Benefactions Fund Grant, Trinity College, Dublin, 2011.

Outstanding Dissertation in Social Sciences Award, University of Rochester, 2011.

Kellogg/Notre Dame Award, best paper in comparative politics presented at the MPSA, 2011.

International Field Research Grant, University of Rochester, Winter 2010.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Doctoral Scholarship, Government of Canada, 2006-2010.

Fonds Quebecois de la Recherche sur la Societe et la Culture (FQRSC), Doctoral Scholarship, Political Science, Government of Quebec, 2006-2010.

W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy PEPR Grant, University of Rochester, 2008.

Charles E. Lanni Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2005.

University of Rochester Department of Political Science Full Fellowship, 2005-2010.

FQRSC, Doctoral Scholarship, Economics, Government of Quebec, 2005 (Ranked 1st in Quebec). (decline)

FQRSC, Master Scholarship, Government of Quebec, 2003.

Senator Frank Carrel Scholarship, Queen’s University, 2002-2003.

Queen’s University Department of Economics Full Fellowship, 2002-2003.

Microeconomic Prize, University of Montreal, 2002 (Highest G.P.A. in microeconomics).

## Teaching & Research Experience

### Instructor

- Democratic Regimes (Undergraduate), Michigan State University, Fall 2016.
- Formal Theory (Graduate), Michigan State University, Spring 2016.
- Democracy, Dictatorship, and Regime Transition (Graduate), Michigan State University, Spring 2015 and Spring 2017.
- Politics in the Third World (Undergraduate), Michigan State University, Fall 2013, Fall 2014 and Fall 2015.
- Seminar in Political Science (Undergraduate), Michigan State University, Spring 2014, Fall 2014 and Spring 2017.
- Topics in Comparative Politics (Graduate), Trinity College, Dublin, Spring 2013.
- Democratization (Graduate), Trinity College, Dublin, Spring 2011 and Spring 2013.
- Democracy and Development (Undergraduate), Trinity College, Dublin, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012 and Fall 2012.
- African Politics (Undergraduate), Trinity College, Dublin, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013.

### Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Comparative Politics, U of Rochester, 2006 & 2008 (Undergraduate).
- Democratic Regimes, U of Rochester, 2008 (Undergraduate).
- Probability and Inference, U of Rochester, 2007 (Graduate).
- Development Economics, Queen's U, 2003 (Undergraduate).
- Introduction to Microeconomics, Queen's U, 2002 (Undergraduate).
- Economics of Latin America, U of Montreal, Spring 2002 (Undergraduate).

### Research Assistant

- Professors Gretchen Helmke, Bonnie Meguid, Alexandre Debs, and Mark Kayser, U of Rochester, 2005-10.
- Professor Juliet Johnson, McGill U, 2003.

## Advising

### Graduate Advising

- Masaaki Higashijima, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2013-2015, Dissertation defended in 2015.
- Sung Min Han, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2013-2016, Dissertation defended in 2016.
- Chunho Park, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2013-
- Nicolas Bichay, Ph.D Guidance Committee, Chair, 2016-
- Alex Mardon, Ph.D Guidance Committee, Chair, 2016-
- Tara Iseneker, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2016-
- Jaerin Kim, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2016-
- Marcella Babcock, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2016-
- Kangwook Han, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2015-
- Hyunwoo Kim, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2015-
- Kevin Greene, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2015-

- Thomas Bentley, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2015-
- Lora DiBlasi, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2015-
- Elizabeth Lane, Ph.D Guidance Committee, 2014-
- Andres Hinrichsen, Ph.D student, Co-Advisor (with Kenneth Bennoit), 2012-2013.
- Donata-Katha Brunelli, Ph.D. student, Primary Advisor, 2012-2013.
- George Colley, MA student 2012, Primary Advisor.
- Colin Gleeson, MA student 2012, Primary Advisor.
- James Johnson, MA student 2012, Primary Advisor.
- Emily Glen, MA student 2011, Primary Advisor.
- Marzia Baldassari, MA student 2011, Primary Advisor.
- Joana Racine, MA student 2011, Primary Advisor.

#### Undergraduate Advising

- Roxanne Bamford, Undergraduate student 2013, Primary Advisor.
- Anna Fhiannachta, Undergraduate student 2013, Primary Advisor.
- Shane Caffrey, Undergraduate student 2012, Primary Advisor.
- Roisin Stallard, Undergraduate student 2011, Primary Advisor.
- David Anthony Flynn, Undergraduate student 2011, Primary Advisor.

## Service

#### Service to Michigan State University

- Methods Committee, 2014-2015, 2015-2016.
- Comparative Politics Committee, 2014-2015, 2015-2016.
- Undergraduate Assessment Committee, 2014-2015.
- Graduate Admission Committee Member, 2013-2014.

#### Service to Trinity College, Dublin

- Internal Examiner
  - Catherine Riordan, Ph.D. student, 2012.
- Responsible of the admission of mature students, 2010-11 and 2011-12.
- Representative to the Institute for International Integration Studies, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

#### Service to the Discipline

- Committee Member (Chair), Comparative Democratization Section, Best Paper Prize, American Political Science Association, 2014.
- Committee Member, Comparative Democratization Section, Best Paper Prize, American Political Science Association, 2011.
- Journal Reviewer
  - American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; British Journal of Political Science; Canadian Journal of Political Science; Comparative Political Studies; Comparative Politics; Democratization; International Interactions; International Studies Quarterly; Journal of International Development; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Politics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Political Research Quarterly; Political Studies; Public Choice; Quarterly Journal of Political Science; World Development; World Politics.

## Selected Conference Presentations

“Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes.” With Michael Miller. Presented at the Pre-SPSA Mini Conference ‘The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes,’ New Orleans, 2017.

“Social Mobility and Political Instability.” Presented at the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, 2017.

“Oil, Authoritarian Breakdown and Democratization.” Presented at the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, 2016.

“Ethnic Inequality and the Dismantling of Democracy: A Global Analysis.” Presented at the workshop on ‘Inequality, Culture, and Governance,’ University of Girona, Spain, 2016.

“Ethnic Inequality and Coups in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2016.

“Does Ethnic Inequality Promote Ethnic Voting?” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2016.

“Ethnic Inequality and Coups in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Presented at the Southern Political Science Association, Puerto Rico, 2016.

“A Two-Step Theory and Test of Democratic Waves: Clustered Shocks and the Conditional Diffusion of Democracy.” With Mark Kayser and Jun Xiang. Presented at the Pre-SPSA Mini Conference ‘The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes,’ Puerto Rico, 2016.

“More Inequality Does Lead to More Redistribution.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2015.

“Why Inequality Breeds Coups but Not Civil Wars.” Presented at a Pre-APSA Mini Conference, George Washington University, 2014.

“Populism and the Rule of Law.” With Paul Kenny. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2014.

“Why Inequality Breeds Coups but Not Civil Wars.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2014.

“Diffusion or Confusion? How International Economic and Political Shocks Induce Democratization around the World.” With Mark Kayser and Jun Xiang. Presented at the American Political Science Association, Chicago, 2013.

“Ethnic Inequality and the Dismantling of Democracy.” Presented at the American Political Science Association, Chicago, 2013.

“Diffusion or Confusion? How International Economic and Political Shocks Induce Democratization around the World.” With Mark Kayser and Jun Xiang. Presented at the European Political Science Association, Berlin, 2012.

“Diffusion or Confusion? How International Economic and Political Shocks Induce Democratization around the World.” With Mark Kayser and Jun Xiang. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2012.

“Consolidating Democracy in Plural Societies.” Presented at the European Political Science Association, Dublin, 2011.

“Consolidating Democracy in Plural Societies.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2011.

“Inequality, Economic Development and Democratization.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2010.

“Inequality and Democracy: Why Inequality Harms Consolidation but Does Not Affect Democratization.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2009.

“Inequality and Democracy: Why Inequality Harms Consolidation but Does Not Affect Democratization.” Presented at the International Studies Association, New York City, 2009.

“Inequality, Economic Development and Democratization.” Presented at the International Political Economy Society, College Station, TX, 2009.

“Diffusion or Confusion? How International Economic and Political Shocks Induce Democratization around the World.” With Mark Kayser and Jun Xiang. Presented at the International Political Economy Society, College Station, TX, 2009.

“Inequality and Democracy.” Presented at the American Political Science Association, Boston, 2008.

“Inequality and Democracy.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2008.

## Foreign Languages

French (native)

## References

Gretchen Helmke  
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University of Rochester  
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