

# Christian Houle

Michigan State University  
Department of Political Science  
East Lansing, Michigan

Tel.: 517-353-7970  
Email: [houlech1@msu.edu](mailto:houlech1@msu.edu)  
<http://houlec.com>

## Employment

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, 2019-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, 2013-2019.

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, Université Laval, 2002.

## Academic Publications

Bodea, Cristina, **Christian Houle** and Hyunwoo Kim. Forthcoming. "Do Financial Crises Increase Income Inequality?" *World Development*.

Bodea, Cristina and **Christian Houle**. Forthcoming. "Grievances and Civil Wars: The State of the Literature." In Makdisi, Samir, and Raimundo Soto, eds. Oxford University Press.

Bodea, Cristina and **Christian Houle**. Forthcoming. "The Long-Term Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Political Instability and Democracy" In Stacey E. Pollard and Larry A. Kuznar, eds. *A World Emerging from Pandemic: Implications for Intelligence and National Security*. National Intelligence University's Ann Caracristi Institute for Intelligence Research.

Bodea, Cristina and **Christian Houle**. 2021. "Ethnic Inequality and Coup D'etat" In Thompson, William, ed. *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Military in Politics*. Oxford University Press.

**Houle, Christian** and Mark Kayser. 2019. "The Two-Step Model of Clustered Democratization." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 63(10): 2421-2437.

**Houle, Christian**. 2019. "Religion, Language, Race and Ethnic Voting." *Electoral Studies*. 61: 1020-1052.

**Houle, Christian**, and Michael K. Miller. 2019. "Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes: Evidence from Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa." *Comparative Political Studies*. 52(11): 1610-1647.

**Houle, Christian**, Paul Kenny, and Chunho Park. 2019. "The Structure of Ethnic Inequality and Ethnic Voting." *Journal of Politics*. 81(1): 187-200.

**Houle, Christian**. 2019. "Social Mobility and Political Instability." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 63(1): 85-111.

Higashijima, Masaaki, and **Christian Houle**. 2018. "Ethnic Inequality and Ethnic Identification in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Political Behavior*. 40(4): 909-932.

**Houle, Christian**. 2018. "Does Economic Inequality Breed Political Inequality?" *Democratization*. 25(8): 1500-1518.

**Houle, Christian**. 2018. "Does Ethnic Voting Harm Democracy?" *Democratization*. 25(5): 824-842.

**Houle, Christian**. 2018. "A Two-Step Theory and Test of the Oil Curse: The Conditional Effect of Oil on Democratization." *Democratization*. 25(3): 404-421.

**Houle, Christian**, and Paul Kenny. 2018. "The Political and Economic Consequences of Populist Rule in Latin America." *Government and Opposition*. 53(2): 256-287.

**Houle, Christian**. 2018. "Does Inequality Harm Economic Development and Democracy? Accounting for Missing Values, Non-Comparable Observations and Endogeneity." In Lancaster, Carol, and Nicolas van de Walle, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Politics of Development*. Oxford University Press.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houle, Christian.** 2015. “Ethnic Inequality and the Dismantling of Democracy: A Global Analysis.” *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.

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

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

## Other Publications

Bodea, Cristina and **Christian Houle**. 2020. “The Longer-Term Coronavirus Fallout Could Erode Democracy. Here’s How that Could Play Out.” *Monkey Cage, Washington Post*. August.

## Under Review

“The Legacies of Colonial Partition on Ethnic Politics in Contemporary Africa” (with Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz) [Under Review]

“The Origins of Inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Paul Kenny and Nicolas Bichay) [Under Review]

“Inequality Between Identity Groups and Social Unrest” (with Sergey Gavrilets, Damian Ruck and Alexander Bentley) [Under Review]

## Working Papers & Work in Progress

*Economic Tribes: Making Sense of Identity Politics* (with Paul Kenny) [Book Project]

*Social Mobility and Democracy* (with Michael K. Miller) [Book Project]

“Horizontal Inequality and Oil – Is There a Contingent Effect?” (with Cristina Bodea)

“The Diffusion of Populism” (with Shahryar Minhas and Nicolas Bichay)

“Social Mobility and Populist Voting” (with Michael K. Miller)

## External Grants

National Science Foundation, CBET, Grant #1801785, 2018-2021, \$302,035. (Co-PI with Annick Anctil)

## Internal Grants, Fellowships & Awards

Best Paper Award, APSA Comparative Democratization Section, 2014.

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

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

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

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

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

International Field Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, Spring 2010. (declined)

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

Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC), Doctoral Scholarship, Political Science, Government of Québec, 2006-2010.

W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy PEPR Fellowship, 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 Québec, 2005 (Ranked 1st in Québec). (declined)

FQRSC, Master Scholarship, Government of Québec, 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 Experience

Michigan State University

- Democracy, Dictatorship, and Regime Transition (Graduate), Spring 2015, Spring 2017 and Spring 2019.
- Proseminar in Formal Theory (Graduate), Spring 2016 and Spring 2018.
- Democratic Regimes (Undergraduate), Fall 2016 and Spring 2019.
- Seminar in Political Science (Undergraduate), Spring 2014, Fall 2014 and Spring 2017.
- Politics in the Third World (Undergraduate), Fall 2013, Fall 2014 and Fall 2015.

Trinity College, Dublin

- Democratization (Graduate), Spring 2011 and Spring 2013.
- Topics in Comparative Politics (Graduate), Spring 2013.
- Democracy and Development (Undergraduate), Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012 and Fall 2012.
- African Politics (Undergraduate), Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013.

## Advising

### Graduate Advising

- Hyunwoo Kim, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2015-2020, Dissertation defended in 2020.
- Kangwook Han, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2015-2020, Dissertation defended in 2020.
- Thomas Bentley, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2015-2020, Dissertation defended in 2020.
- Fang-Yu Chen, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2015-2020, Dissertation defended in 2020.
- Nathaniel Smith, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2018-2020, Dissertation defended in 2020.
- Chunho Park, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2013-2017, Dissertation defended in 2017.
- Sung Min Han, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2013-2016, Dissertation defended in 2016.
- Masaaki Higashijima, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2013-2015, Dissertation defended in 2015.
- Nicolas Bichay, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, Chair, 2016-
- Max Welch, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, Chair, 2018-
- Ethan Santangelo, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, Chair, 2018-
- Marcella Babcock, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, Co-Chair, 2018-
- Stephen Anderson, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2018-
- Alex Mardon, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2016-
- Tara Iseneker, Ph.D Dissertation Committee, 2016-
- 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

- Advisor Committee member, 2018-2019.
- University Committee for Faculty Affairs, Fall 2018.
- Mentor for the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP), 2018.
- Methods Committee, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017.
- Comparative Politics Committee, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019.
- Undergraduate Assessment Committee, 2014-2015.

- Graduate Admission Committee, 2013-2014, 2016-2017.

Service to Trinity College, Dublin

- Internal Examiner
  - Catherine Riordan, Ph.D. student, 2012.
- Responsible for 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

- Editorial Board, *Democratization*, 2019-
- Editorial Board, *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 2016-
- 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 Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Canadian Journal of Political Science*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *Comparative Politics*; *Democratization*; *Economics & Politics*; *International Interactions*; *International Organization*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *Journal of Economic Growth*; *Journal of Economic Inequality*; *Journal of International Development*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Political Behavior*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Studies*; *Public Choice*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; *World Development*; *World Politics*.
- Book Reviewer
  - Oxford University Press.
- External Grant Reviewer
  - National Science Foundation.

## Selected Conference Presentations

“The Diffusion of Populism.” With Shahryar Minhas and Nicolas Bichay. Presented at the American Political Science Association, Boston, 2020.

“Social Mobility and Democracy.” With Michael Miller. Presented at the American Political Science Association, Boston, 2020.

“Does the Structure of Ethnicity Shape Ethnic Voting? Religion, Language, Race and Ethnic Voting.” Presented at the American Political Science Association, Boston, 2018.

“Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes.” With Michael Miller. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2018.

“Does the Structure of Ethnicity Shape Ethnic Voting? Religion, Language, Race and Ethnic Voting.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2018.

“Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes.” With Michael Miller. Presented at the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, 2017.

“Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes.” With Michael Miller. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2017.

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

“Social Mobility and Democratic Attitudes.” With Michael Miller. Presented at the Pre-SPSA Mini Conference ‘The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes,’ 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  
Professor of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585)275-4291  
gretchen.helmke@rochester.edu

Mark Kayser  
Professor of Applied Methods and Comparative Politics  
Hertie School of Governance  
49 (0)30 (259)219-326  
kayser@hertie-school.org

Randall Stone  
Professor of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585)273-4761  
randall.stone@rochester.edu

G. Bingham Powell, Jr.  
Marie C. Wilson and Joseph C. Wilson Professor of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585)275-0621  
gb.powell@rochester.edu