Bjarn Eck

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Université libre de Bruxelles
Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique (Cevipol)
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Academic Positions

2026–2027 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Université libre de Bruxelles
Continuing research under the FNRS Aspirant Fellowship awarded in 2023

2025–present **Research Affiliate**
University of Antwerp (host: Stefaan Walgrave)

2022–2026 **PhD Researcher**
Université libre de Bruxelles
Initially appointed on the NotLikeUs project (2022–2023)
Awarded FNRS Aspirant PhD Fellowship (2023–2027)

Fall 2024 **Visiting Researcher**
Université de Montréal (host: Ruth Dassonneville)

Education

2026 **PhD Political Science**
Université libre de Bruxelles
Dissertation: *Every Rose Has Its Thorn? The Interplay Between Elections, Affective Polarization, and Political Behaviour*
Supervisor: Jean-Benoit Pilet
Examiners: Ruth Dassonneville, Filip Kostelka, Toni Rodon

2022 **MA Political Science (grade 1.0)**
University of Cologne

2022 **MSc (research) European Studies (cum laude)**
University of Maastricht

2020 **BA International Relations**
BA Philosophy
University of Groningen

Research

Research interests: Political Behaviour, Elections, Democratic Attitudes, European Politics

Articles

Vanagt, J., Jacobs, L., **Eck, B.**, & Pilet, J.-B. (forthcoming). Reversing Radical-Right Normalization: Evidence from a Natural Quasi-Experiment. *Journal of European Public Policy*.

Eck, B. (2026). Continued Pressure on the Consociational Model: Electoral Fragmentation and Far-Right Dynamics in the 2024 Belgian and 2025 Dutch Elections. *Journal of Common Market Studies*.

Feitosa, F., **Eck, B.**, & Pilet, J.-B. (2026). PRRP Identity and Sense of Understanding for Citizens Who Engage in Political Violence. *European Journal of Political Research*.

Eck, B. & Michel, E. (2026). Election Salience Revisited: How Elections (Do Not) Boost Affective Polarization. *Electoral Studies*.

Feitosa, F., **Eck, B.**, Pilet, J.-B., & Bélanger, É. (2026). Does (dis)liking the governing parties correlate with democratic (dis)satisfaction? *International Political Science Review*.

Eck, B., Michel, E., & Van Haute, E. (2025). The Impact of Party-Voter Congruence on Affective Polarization: Evidence from Belgium. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*.

Eck, B. & Michel, E. (2025). Breaking the Stalemate: Europeans' Preferences to Expand, Cut, or Sustain Support to Ukraine. *Journal of European Public Policy*.

Eck, B. & Paulis, E. (2025). Defending the Status Quo or Seeking Change? Electoral Outcomes, Affective Polarisation, and Support for Referendums. *British Journal of Political Science*.

Eck, B. & Michel, E. (2024). Towards a Polarised Electorate? How Polarisation Affects Turnout Decisions in the Belgian Context of Compulsory Voting. *Politics of the Low Countries*.

Eck, B. & Schreurs, S. (2024). Unequal perspectives? Income inequality as a benchmark for support for European integration. *European Union Politics*.

Book chapters

Eck, B. & Vanagt, J. (forthcoming). The Low Countries (Belgium & the Netherlands): Balancing National Diversity with Supranational Integration. In T. D. Lancaster (Ed.), Comparative European Politics. *Routledge.*

Datasets

Eck, B., Michel, E., Lefevere, J., Pilet, J.-B., Celis, K., Claes, E., Rihoux, B., Van Haute, E., Walgrave, S., Close, C., Baudewyns, P., Van Ingelgom, V., Severs, E., Kern, A., Wauters, B., & Dodeigne, J. (2025). NotLikeUs Panel Survey Dataset Belgian 2024 Elections [Dataset]. *Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive – SODHA*.

Work in Progress

Under review

Soft Nudges, Hard Reality: Government Turnout Measures Don't Offset the Impact of Ending Compulsory Voting. **R&R**
with Ruth Dassonneville and Bram Wauters.

Curbing Citizen Support for Violence Against Politicians.
with Damien Bol and Diane Bolet.

Working papers (ordered by progress)

Happiness, Anger, and Satisfaction with Democracy: Unravelling the Emotional Drivers of the Winner-Loser Gap.

Ideological, Affective, and EU Polarisation: Mobilising Voters in European Parliament Elections.

The Causal Effect of Knowledge of Compulsory Voting Rules on Turnout: Experimental Evidence from Belgium.
with Ruth Dassonneville.

Teaching

Fall 2023	**Research Topics in Political Science**, Université libre de Bruxelles (MA level, English) $\sim$ 30 students Weekly lectures, combination of introduction to research design with application to the substantive part of the course (citizen polarization in democracies)
Fall 2022	**The Development of European Identities**, Maastricht University (BA level, English) Two groups of $\sim$ 15 students each Two weekly seminars (for each group), substantive course on European history and integration
Fall 2022	**Mentor group**, Maastricht University (BA level, English) $\sim$ 15 first-year students Bi-weekly meetings to discuss questions and challenges about university

Conferences and Workshops

Conferences

APSA, 2024, 2025

ECPR, 2023, 2024

EPSA, 2025

EPSS, 2026

Workshops

Annual Political Science Workshops of the Low Countries, 2023, 2024, 2025

CIVICA EUI Workshop: Tackling Polarization among Young Europeans, 2026

Direct Democracy Workshop Zürich, 2024

ECPR Joint Sessions, 2025

Future of Electoral Democracy Workshop, 2024

Summer School on Democratic Decline and Resilience, 2024

SPSA Annual Congress, 2025

State of the Federation, 2022, 2026

Symposium on Affective Polarization, 2023

UACES Graduate Conference, 2022

Grants

FNRS Aspirant PhD Fellowship, 2023–2027, ∼ €140,000

FNRS research stay grant, 2024, ∼ €4,000

ULB research stay grant, 2024 ∼ €3,000

FNRS travel grant, 2025, ∼ €1,500

ULB faculty conference grant, 2025, €350

FNRS travel grant, 2026, ∼ €1,400

Service

Reviewer

Acta Politica; British Journal of Political Science; European Journal of Political Research; Government & Opposition; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties; Party Politics; Political Behavior; Politics; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Quality & Quantity; Research & Politics; Sexuality Research and Social Policy; Swiss Political Science Review; The Journal of Politics; West European Politics

Departmental service

Organizer PhD- and postdoc research seminar, 2025–present

Co-organizer political behaviour seminar, 2026–present

Outreach

Media coverage

L'extrême droite favorite aux Pays-Bas, mais personne "ne veut collaborer avec Geert Wilders après les élections", in *L'Avenir* (29-10-2025)

'Alles wat in de plaats komt, is maar surrogaat': waarom de afschaffing van de opkomstplicht kiezers weg houdt, in *De Morgen* (14-10-2025)

L'extrême droite fait tomber le gouvernement, nouvelles élections en vue aux Pays-Bas, in *L'Echo* (3-6-2025)

Wilders veut des contrôles aux frontières, quel impact pour la Belgique?, in *L'Echo* (31-5-2025)

Lost in the Maze of Ballot Papers? – The 2024 Belgian Federal Election, in *MCC Votes & Seats Podcast* (1-7-2024)

Jeune ou non, diplômé ou pas, urbain ou rural : voici l'électeur type des partis francophones (infographies), in *Le Soir* (4-4-2024)

Co-authored media notes on the 2024 Belgian elections on:

- Affective polarization, covered by 7sur7, BRF, De Morgen, Grenzecho, L'Echo, Le Vif, Telesambre
- Undecided voters, covered by De Morgen, L'Avenir, Le Soir, Nieuwsblad, RTBF, The Brussels Times, VRT
- Vote switching, covered by 7sur7, De Standaard, De Tijd, GVA, Le Soir, Le Vif, RTBF, VRT

Blog posts

The centre holds in the Netherlands, in *Inroads: The Canadian Journal of Public Opinion* (December 2025)

Military support to Ukraine is more fundamental than enlargement, in *ECPR The Loop* (August 2025)

Belgium's 2024 Elections: A Shift to the Right, Though Less Extreme Than Expected, in *Who Governs* (June 2024)

The Unequal Effects of Income Inequalities on Public Support for the European Union, in *The Hague Research Institute* (April 2024)

(Academic) Work Experience

Spring 2024	**Country coder, EU&I VAA Project** 2024 European Elections
Fall 2022	**Teaching Assistant, Maastricht University** Bachelor of European Studies
2021–2022	**Research Assistant, Maastricht University** PI: Prof. Anna Herranz Surralles
Spring 2021	**Research Intern, Statistics Netherlands** Supervisor: Dr. Hans Schmeets
Spring 2019	**Journalist Intern, NRC Handelsblad** Amsterdam, interior affairs department

Skills

Languages	Dutch (native), English (fluent), German (advanced), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)
Software	LaTeX, Qualtrics, R, Stata

References

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KU Leuven
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Emilie van Haute
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