

VALÉRIE KINDARJI

PROFILE:



Ph. D. (c), M. Sc

Montréal

Political Scientist + Project Manager



I am a **political scientist** at the *University of Toronto*, where I am finalizing my doctoral dissertation on the impacts of disinformation on democracies in Europe and North America.

I am also a **program manager** at the *University of British Columbia* where I manage an interdisciplinary research cluster on AI trustworthiness. I am a frequent media commentator for newspaper, TV, and radio.

CONTACT:

valerie.kindarji@utoronto.ca
+1 (514) 583-9673
valeriekindarji.com

LANGUAGES:

English C2

French C2

Arabic B1

Russian A2

Italian A1

KEY SKILLS:

Teaching

Project Management

Qualitative Research

CURRENT:

PROGRAM MANAGER

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

JULY 2025 – PRESENT

Program coordinator for the Digital Transparency Research Excellence Cluster (DTC) at the *University of British Columbia*. I manage research projects, goals, budget, administration, risk, social media, events, and research staff.



VISITING RESEARCHER

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

SEPTEMBER 2025 – PRESENT

Visiting researcher at the University of Montreal's *Centre for International Studies (CÉRIUM)*. Recipient of the Dissertation Writing Grant.



PH. D. CANDIDATE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SEPTEMBER 2017 – PRESENT

Specialist in International Relations and Comparative Politics. Qualitative research methods, including interviews, process tracing, and archival research. Training in data science tools including R and Python. Regional expertise in North America, Scandinavia, and the Baltics. Estimated completion 2026.

Expertise in mis/dis/malinformation, democracy, digital democracy, digital literacy, comparative politics. Other areas of interest include: international relations and security, foreign policy.

EDUCATION:

MASTER OF SCIENCE (M. SC.)

UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL

2015–2017

M. Sc. Political Science, specialization International Security.
Supervisor: Dr. Marie-Joëlle Zahar.

Thesis: *Sitting On Our Hands: Comparing Canada's Intervention Policy in Libya and Syria*. Thesis passed without revisions.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B. A.)

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

2012–2015

Major Political Science, Minor Law & Society.

HONOURS DIPLOMA OF COLLEGE STUDIES

VANIER COLLEGE

2010–2012

Social Science and Mathematics, Honours.

EMPLOYMENT:

RESEARCHER

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
2022-2025

Researcher for the Governance of Emerging Technologies (GET) group, then the Digital Transparency Cluster (DTC).

INTERVIEWER AND ANALYST
ROTMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
2023-2024

Project: Explaining Resistance to DEI Initiatives. Conducted 50+ interviews. PI: Dr. Camellia Bryan.

HEAD TEACHING ASSISTANT
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
2019-2024

Course Topics: Theories of International Relations, Globalization, International Security, Democracy and Digital Media..

RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
2019-2024

Managed project goals, budget, administration, risk management, and research staff.

- Project: State Formation. PI: Dr. Seva Gunitsky.
- Project: Queer Activism in the MENA. PI: Dr. Janine A. Clark.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
2017-2019

Course Topics: Theories of International Relations, Globalization, International Security, Democracy and Digital Media..

BUSINESS ANALYST
BOMBARDIER AEROSPACE
2013-2017

Business analyst in the IT department at Bombardier Aerospace. Managed projects, negotiated NDAs and telecommunications contracts.

CREDENTIALS:

2025 Training: Media Communication. CÉRIUM, University of Montreal.

2023 Training: Embedded Writing Instruction. University of Toronto.

2022 Certificate: LaTeX Typesetting. UdemY. Certificate [here](#).

2022 First Responder, Red Cross. Certificate ID 13652949-8811490.

2019 Data Science in R. HarvardX [online]. Certificates [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#).

2019 Open Diver. PADI. Certificate ID 1908AB2212.

2019 Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations (IR & Comparative).

RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS:

2025 Graduate Student Award
CAD \$1,000
Association for Netnographic Research

2025 Dissertation Writing Grant & Visiting Scholarship
CAD \$5,000
*The Montreal Centre for International Studies
University of Montreal*

2023 Robert C. Vipond Graduate Scholarship in Political Science
CAD \$5,000

Vincent Tovell Graduate Scholarship in International Relations
CAD \$2,500

2021 Outstanding Teaching Award
University of Toronto
CAD \$1,500

2020 Emerging Thought Leader
Women in International Security (WIS)

2019 Research Fellowship
CAD \$3,000
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

PUBLIC - FACING:

2025

Invited Presenter. *DEMED*. University of Glasgow.
"Democratic Discourse in the Age of Platforms: Lessons from Canadian Political reddit"

Big if True. TVO.
Expert Commentary: "Season Highlights"

Evidence for Democracy.
Expert Interview: "Disinformation in Canada"

The Montreal Gazette.
Expert Interview: "Cyber-threats to Canada's democratic process"

CP24 Breaking News. CTV News.
Expert Commentary: "Foreign Interference Campaign Targeting Chrystia Freeland"

2024

Invited Panelist. *Digital Expo*. Toronto Public Library.
"Misinformation and Disinformation in Public Education"

The Vassy Kapelos Show. CTV News.
Expert Interview: "The U.K. riots, disinformation, and digital literacy"

The Evan Bray Show. CTV News.
Expert Commentary: "Disinformation and Democracy"

PUBLICATIONS:

journal articles

Kindarji, Valérie and Wong, Wendy H. "Democracies in the Information Disorder: Comparing Digital Literacy Policy in the U.S., Finland, and Estonia." [under review at *Politics & Society*].

book chapters

Kindarji, Valérie. "Digital Subversion: Assessing the Indirect Effects of Foreign Disinformation Operations on Democracy." In *The Weaponization of Disinformation*, edited by Bessma Momani and Shelly Ghai Bajaj. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press, 2025 [forthcoming].

newspaper articles

Kindarji, Valérie and Wong, Wendy H. "Canada's AI strategy must not leave citizens behind." *The Montreal Gazette*. October 21, 2025.

Kindarji, Valérie and Wong, Wendy H. "Digital Literacy Will be Key in a World Transformed by AI." *The Globe and Mail*. March 11, 2023.

public policy reports

Burchell, K., Ross, J., Tolz, V., Yu, S., Amundson, J., Ding L., Forgacs, H., Kindarji, V., Korotaev, R., Markelov, M., Rodriguez, S., Scarff, S. & Zabalueva, A., with Hutchings S. and Conduit, D. (2025). *Beyond Disinformation: Identarian Narratives meet Authoritarian Practices, Lawfare & Marketcraft. A Knowledge Synthesis and Policy Report*. Universities of Toronto and Manchester.

working papers

Kindarji, Valérie and Kehlenbach, Stefan E. "Designing the Digital Citizen: Digital Literacy and Neoliberal Responsibilization." [80% complete]

Kindarji, Valérie. "Democratic Discourse in the Age of Platforms: Lessons from Canadian Political Subreddits." [60% complete]

Kindarji, Valérie. "The Trust-Tech Paradox: Digital Government in the Era of Democratic Malaise." [30% complete]

conference publications

Kindarji, Valérie. "Educational Responses to Disinformation in the U.S., Finland, and Estonia." American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting. September 2025.

Kindarji, Valérie. "Digital Literacy and Big Tech in Scandinavia, the Baltics, and North America" Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS), Yale University, June 2024.

Panelist, invited. "Pre-Propaganda and Systemic Industrialized Deception." Beyond Disinformation, Centre for European and Eurasian Studies (CEES), Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Toronto, Canada. 2024.

Discussant: "Power to the People? Digital Literacy," Sovereignty in the Age of Data Symposium, April 2023.

Kindarji, Valérie. "Digital Subversion: Assessing the Indirect Effects of Foreign Disinformation Operations on Democracy." Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute (CPI) & University of Waterloo. Waterloo, ON. April 2023.

Kindarji, Valérie et al. "Designing the Digital Citizen: Digital Literacy and Neoliberal Responsibilization," Western Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference, 2023.

Kindarji, Valérie et al. "The Revolution that Wasn't: Business as Usual in the COVID-19 Exposure Notification Rollout," American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference, 2022.

Kindarji, Valérie, "Middle Power Dilemmas: A Comparative Analysis of Canada's Foreign Policy in Libya and Syria", International Studies Association. Toronto, 2019.

Kindarji, Valérie, "Comparing Canada's Responses to Home-Grown Terrorism." Robarts CGSC. York University. Toronto, 2019.