

Sam Crawley

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Education

Victoria University of Wellington <i>PhD (Political Science)</i>	Wellington 2017 - 2021
Victoria University of Wellington <i>Bachelor of Arts with Honours (First Class, Political Science)</i>	Wellington 2015
Victoria University of Wellington <i>Graduate Diploma in Arts (Political Science)</i>	Wellington 2013 - 2014
Otago Polytechnic <i>Bachelor of Information Technology</i>	Dunedin 1998 - 2001

PhD thesis

Title: *Dimensions of public opinion on climate change: belief, issue salience and support for government action*

Supervisors: Hilde Coffé and Ralph Chapman

Examiners: Mona Krewel (Victoria University of Wellington), Llewelyn Hughes (Australia National University), Lyle Scruggs (University of Connecticut)

Description: My PhD research investigated why the response to climate change has been inadequate in developed countries. I focus primarily on the role of public opinion, and argue that the low public salience of climate change means that politicians are not under substantial pressure to act. I analyse survey data from Eurobarometer, the New Zealand Election Study and from my own survey to support my argument.

Employment

Victoria University of Wellington <i>Teaching Fellow</i>	Wellington 2023 -
Victoria University of Wellington <i>Whitinga Postdoctoral Fellow</i>	Wellington 2021 - 2023
I was awarded a two-year Whitinga Fellowship in 2021 of \$320,000. My research project expanded on my PhD work, investigating and comparing public opinion on climate change in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. These two countries share a similar political history, but have important differences in the context of climate change, including climate policy outputs. I used an online survey and focus groups to probe these differences, and to get a clearer understanding of why members of the public tend to rank climate change as a low salience issue. As part of my fellowship, I also taught into several undergraduate politics courses.	
Victoria University of Wellington <i>Head Tutor</i>	Wellington 2021
Head tutor of POLS114: Introduction to Comparative Politics, a 300 student undergraduate course, where I worked with five other tutors.	

Victoria University of Wellington*Research Assistant***Wellington**

2017 - 2021

I worked as a research assistant on a number of projects (primarily with Hilde Coffé). This work involved literature searches, data collection creating figures and tables, and editing manuscripts for submission to academic journals.

University of Exeter*Research Assistant***Exeter (remotely)**

2021

I worked with Professor Susan Banducci to analyse data collected to pilot a new module for the European Social Survey.

Victoria University of Wellington*Tutor***Wellington**

2015, 2018 - 2021

I worked as a tutor for several courses.

Catalyst IT Limited*Senior Developer / Technical Lead***Wellington**

2010 - 2017

My role at Catalyst was primarily as a technical lead, working on projects with development teams to build systems for clients such as Spark, TAB, InternetNZ and the Electoral Commission.

Financial Times*Analyst Programmer***London**

2007 - 2009

At the Financial Times, I was employed as a software developer, often taking lead roles within particular projects.

Publications

Journal articles and book chapters.....

- Coffé, H., Crawley, S., & Givens, J. (2025). Growing polarisation: Ideology and attitudes towards climate change. *West European Politics*, 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2024.2435727>
- Crawley, S., Chapman, R. (2025). Resolution and resistance: What shaped New Zealand's climate change policies under the sixth Labour government? *Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00323187.2024.2446333>
- Crawley, S. (2024). Conservative worldviews and the climate publics of New Zealand and Australia. *International Journal Of Public Opinion Research*, 36(2), edae027. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edae027>
- Barker, F., Crawley, S. (2024). Selecting diversity: ethnicity, party strategies and candidate selection in New Zealand elections, 1996-2020. *Political Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032321724130002>
- Crawley, S. (2024). In the shadow of COVID-19? Climate change and the 2020 election. In J. Curtin, L. M. Greaves, & J. Vowles (Eds.), *A "Team of Five Million"? The 2020 New Zealand General Election and COVID-19*. ANU Press. <https://doi.org/10.22459/TFM.2024.09>
- Crawley, S., & Dinica, V. (2022). Institutionalising environmental sustainability transitions in New Zealand and Australia: Introduction to the special issue. *Political Science*, 73(2), 85–102. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00323187.2022.2037440>
- Crawley, S., Coffé, H., & Chapman, R. (2022). Climate Belief and Issue Salience: Comparing Two Dimensions of Public Opinion on Climate Change in the EU. *Social Indicators Research*, 162, 307–325. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-021-02842-0>
- Crawley, S. (2021). Disentangling the relationships between conservative economic and social attitudes and support for environmental action. *Journal of Political Ideologies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13569317.2021.1966939>

- Crawley, S., Coffé, H., & Chapman, R. (2020). To what extent do interest group messages shape the public's climate change policy preferences? *British Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41293-020-00144-6>
- Crawley, S., Coffé, H., & Chapman, R. (2020). Public opinion on climate change: Belief and concern, issue salience and support for government action. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 22(1), 102–121. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1369148119888827>

Preprints.....

- Crawley, S. (2024, September 13). Stable salience? The impact of political rhetoric on climate policy opinions and issue salience. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/9f8zx>

Other publications.....

- Krewel, M., Vowles, J., Gibbons, M., Crawley, S., & Jamieson, T. (2024, October 29). 2023 election study: What voters really wanted, and why the coalition's mandate could be fragile. *The Conversation*. <http://theconversation.com/2023-election-study-what-voters-really-wanted-and-why-the-coalitions-mandate-could-be-fragile-242179>
- Crawley, S. & Gibbons, M. (2024, September 10). Are New Zealanders 'sick and tired' of spending on cycleways? Not according to this survey. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/are-new-zealanders-sick-and-tired-of-spending-on-cycleways-not-according-to-this-survey-238322>
- Crawley, S. (2022, June 27). Conservative ideology and environmental public opinion. *Ideology Theory Practice*. <http://www.ideology-theory-practice.org/1/post/2022/06/conservative-ideology-and-environmental-public-opinion.html>
- Veen, J. V., Vowles, J., Curtin, J., Greaves, L., & Crawley, S. (2021, October 15). Anniversary of a landslide: New research reveals what really swung New Zealand's 2020 "COVID election." *The Conversation*. <http://theconversation.com/anniversary-of-a-landslide-new-research-reveals-what-really-swung-new-zealands-2020-covid-election-169351>
- Crawley, S. (2021, May 19). Most people consider climate change a serious issue, but rank other problems as more important. That affects climate policy. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/most-people-consider-climate-change-a-serious-issue-but-rank-other-problems-as-more-important-that-affects-climate-policy-161080>
- Crawley, S., Coffé, H., & Chapman, R. (2020, January 10). The public's climate change views: Strong beliefs but low salience. *British Politics and Policy at LSE*. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/uk-climate-change-views/>

Media comments.....

- Mline, J. (2023, Oct 14). Election night live report. *Newsroom.co.nz*. <https://newsroom.co.nz/2023/10/14/newsroomconz-election-night-special-the-result/>
- Witton, B. (2023, Sept 11). Undecided voters may decide the general election. Can the 'two Chrises' swing them? *Stuff.co.nz*. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/132894230/undecided-voters-may-decide-the-general-election-can-the-two-chrises-swing-them>
- Manhire, T. (2023, March 23). A 'climate change election' in 2023? Here's what the polling tells us. *The Spinoff*. <https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/22-03-2023/a-climate-change-election-in-2023-heres-what-the-polling-tells-us>

Conference presentations

Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science conference: An economic choice? The issues that shaped the 2023 New Zealand general election, 2025, Wellington

New Zealand Political Studies Association conference: Worry, efficacy and complexity: Understanding how the public thinks about the issue salience of climate change, 2024, Auckland

Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science conference: Examining the influence of political rhetoric on the public salience of climate change: a survey experiment, 2023, Brisbane

New Zealand Political Studies Association conference: Conservative ideology and the “climate publics” of Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, 2022, Online

New Zealand Political Studies Association conference: What happened with climate change in the 2020 NZ election?, 2022, Online

American Political Science Association conference: Candidate Selection Strategies and Diversification of the New Zealand Parliament, 2021, Online

Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science conference: Beyond Belief: Three dimensions of public opinion on climate change in the EU, 2019, Melbourne

New Zealand Political Studies Association conference: Beyond Belief: Three dimensions of public opinion on climate change in the EU, 2019, Christchurch

New Zealand Political Studies Association conference: The dimensions of climate change opinion, 2018, Wellington

Teaching

Lecturing and course co-ordination

2024: COMS301: Applied Communication Project, Teaching Fellow

2024: PCOM303: Politics, Sport and Entertainment, Lecturer

2023-2024: POLS114: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Lecturer

2022-2024: POLS213: Political Representation, Course co-ordinator

2022: POLS232: Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Elections, Lecturer

Recent guest lectures

2023: POLS232: Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Elections

2022-2024: POLS586: Approaches to Comparative Political Science

2020-2022: SOSC218: Special Topic: The Climate Crisis: Justice, Emotion and Social Change

Teaching assistant

2021: POLS114: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Head Tutor

2019: POLS231: Governing Divided Societies, Tutor

2018: POLS232: Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Elections, Tutor

2018, 2020-2021: INTP247: Wealth and World Affairs, Tutor

2015: INTP363: Human Rights, Tutor

CRAN contributions

bayestestR: Contributing author

ggEffects: Contributing author

MplusAutomation: Multiple patches contributed

Professional service

MBIE Endeavor Smart Ideas Grant Advisory Board

Advisory Board Member

2024-

I was invited to be part of an advisory board for an AI project aimed at detecting misinformation (Project title: "Information Measurement for Explainable Artificial Intelligence")

Maunuhanga - Wellington Postdoctoral Society

Co-chair (2023-2024); Committee member (2021-2022)

2021-2024

The Wellington Postdoctoral Society is a new organisation, aimed at providing information and assistance to early career researchers. I was involved in planning the activities of the Society.

Environmental Politics and Policy Network (NZPSA)

Committee member

2021-

I have contributed to the EPPN since 2021 by being a judge for the annual Postgraduate paper prize, and have joined the newly formed organising committee.

Postgraduate Students Association (Victoria University of Wellington)

Vice President (Community)

2019-2020

The Vice President (Community) role involved organising and overseeing PGSA events, including the 2020 VUW Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. In addition, I was involved in Postgraduate advocacy, sat as a student representative on several university committees, and played a central role in planning the activities and goals of the PGSA.

Awards and scholarships

Victoria University of Wellington

Sir Desmond Todd Memorial Prize (Most outstanding PSIR PhD thesis)

2021

Ministry of Business and Innovation

Whitinga Postdoctoral Fellowship

2021

Postgraduate Students Association (Victoria University of Wellington)

Lifetime Membership Award

2020

Victoria University of Wellington

Victoria Doctoral Scholarship

2017

Victoria University of Wellington

Margaret Clark Prize 2015 (Most outstanding essay or thesis on New Zealand politics)

2016

Victoria University of Wellington

Victoria Graduate Award

2015