

DR. JAMES DENNISON

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MAIN ACADEMIC POSITIONS

European University Institute, Florence, Italy	
Part-time Professor, Migration Policy Centre	2019 – present
Director of Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration	
Research Fellow, Migration Policy Centre	2017 – 2019
Stanford University, The Europe Center, USA, Visiting Scholar	2025 – present
Harvard Kennedy School, USA, Pierre Keller Professor	2025 – 2026
University of East Anglia, UK	
Researcher (Leverhulme Trust grant recipient)	2022 – 2024
University of Stockholm, Sweden	
Researcher (Swedish Research Council grant recipient)	2019 – 2021
Universidad Carlos III - Instituto Juan March, Spain, Visiting Fellow	2020 – 2021
Harvard University, Center for European Studies, USA, Visiting Faculty	2019 – 2020

EDUCATION

European University Institute	2014 – 2017
PhD Social and Political Sciences (defended July 2017)	
Thesis: ‘Re-Thinking Turnout: Explaining Within-Individual Variation in Electoral Participation’	
Supervisors: Prof. Hanspeter Kriesi & Prof. Harold Clarke (University of Texas, Dallas)	
University of Oxford, Nuffield College, Jnr. Visiting Fellow. Mentor: Prof. Geoff Evans	2015
European University Institute, MRes Social and Political Science	2013 – 2014
London School of Economics, MSc Political Science and Political Economy	2009 – 2010

JOURNAL ARTICLES

33. Dennison, J., Piccoli, L., and Carmo Duarte, M. 2024. ‘Migration Communication Campaigns: Towards a Research Agenda and Open Database’ *Journal of European Public Policy*
32. Dennison, J. 2024. ‘Europhoria! Explaining Britain’s pro-European moment, 1988-1992’ *Political Studies*
31. Dennison, J. 2024. ‘Emotions: Functions and significance for attitudes, behaviour and communication’ *Migration Studies*, 12(1): 1-20
 - “Editor’s Choice” of issue
30. Moise, A., Dennison, J., and Kriesi, H. 2024. ‘Explaining European attitudes to refugees after the Russian invasion of Ukraine’ *West European Politics*, 47(2): 356-381
 - Winner of [the Gordon Smith and Vincent Wright Memorial Prize](#) for best WEP article in 2024
29. Reinl, A-K., Seddig, D., Dennison, J., and Davidov, E. 2024. ‘Basic human values and preferences for an EU-wide social benefit scheme’ *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 62(2): 564-582
28. Dennison, J. 2023. ‘The reliability of retrospective survey measurement in assessing migrant reintegration: evidence from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan’ *International Migration*. 61(6): 312-329
27. Dennison, J. and Kustov, A. 2023. ‘The Reverse Backlash: How the success of Populist Radical Right Parties relates to more positive immigration attitudes’ *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 87(4): 1013-1024
 - Featured in: [Financial Times](#), [Die Presse](#), [Népszava](#), [Politico](#), [Economist](#), [Niskanen Center](#)
26. Dennison, J. and Kriesi, H. 2023. ‘Explaining Europe’s changing electoral landscape: societal trends, public issue salience, and party system issue agendas’ *European Political Science Review*, 15(2): 483-501

25. Dennison, J. 2023. 'How Migrant Resource Centres affect migration decisions: quasi-experimental evidence in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, and Pakistan' *International Migration*, 61(4): 104-119
24. Dennison, J. and Turnbull-Dugarte, S. 2022. 'Populist Attitudes and Threat Perceptions Experimental Evidence from India and the United Kingdom' in *Political Psychology* 43(5): 873-892
23. Dennison, J., Kustov, A., Geddes, A. 2022. 'Public Attitudes to Immigration in the Aftermath of Covid-19: Little change in policy preferences, big drops in issue salience' *International Migration Review*
 - Mentions: [Mixed Migration Centre](#), [European Parliament](#)
22. Dennison, J. 2022. 'A review of experimental evidence of how communication affects attitudes to immigration' in *Comparative Migration Studies* 10(2): 35
21. Dennison, J. 2022. 'Re-thinking the drivers of regular and irregular migration: evidence from the MENA region' in *Comparative Migration Studies* 10, 21
20. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. 2022. 'The centre no longer holds: the Lega, Salvini, and the remaking of Italian immigration politics' in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(2): 441-460
19. Dennison, J. 2021. 'Narratives: a review of concepts, determinants, effects, and uses in migration research' in *Comparative Migration Studies* 9, 50
18. Mendes, M. and Dennison, J. 2021. 'Explaining the rise of the radical right in Spain and Portugal: Salience, Stigma and Supply' in *West European Politics*, 44(4): 752-775
17. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. 2021. 'Thinking globally about attitudes to migration: concerns about social conflict, economic competition and cultural threat' in *The Political Quarterly*, 92(3): 541-55
16. Dennison, J., Seddig, D., and Davidov, E. 2021. 'The role of human values in support for EU membership' in *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 52(4): 372-387
15. Dennison, J. and Draege, J. 2021. 'The dynamics of electoral politics after the Arab Spring: Evidence from Tunisia' in *Journal of North African Studies*, 26(4): 756-780
14. Dennison, J., Davidov, E., and Seddig, D. 2020. 'Explaining Voting in the UK's 2016 EU Referendum: Basic Human Values, Attitudes to Immigration, European Identity and Trust in Politicians' in *Social Science Research*, 92: 102746
13. Dennison, J. 2020. 'How issue salience explains the rise of the populist right in Western Europe' in *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 32(3): 397-420
12. Dennison, J. 2020. 'How niche parties react to losing their niche: the cases of the Brexit Party, Change UK, and the Greens' in *Parliamentary Affairs*, 73(S1): 125-141
11. Dennison, J. 2020. 'A proposal for simultaneous reform of the House of Commons and House of Lords' in *The Political Quarterly*, 91(2): 442-447
10. Dennison, J. 2020. 'A basic human values approach to migration policy communication' in *Data and Policy*, 2: E18
9. Dennison, J., Carl, N. and Evans, G. 2019. 'European but not European Enough: An Explanation for Brexit' in *European Union Politics*, 20(2): 282-304
8. Dennison, J. 2019. 'A Review of Public Issue Salience: Concepts, Determinants and Effects on Voting' in *Political Studies Review*, 17(4): 436-446
7. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. 2019. 'A Rising Tide? The Salience of Immigration and the Rise of Anti-Immigration Political Parties in Western Europe' in *The Political Quarterly*, 90(1): 107-116
6. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. 2018. 'The Perils of Europeanised Migration' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(8): 1137-1153
5. Dennison, J. 2018. 'The rug pulled from under them. UKIP and the Greens' in *Parliamentary Affairs*, 71(1): 91-108
4. Draege, J. and Dennison, J. 2017. 'Making Sense of the 2016 Italian Constitutional Referendum' in *Mediterranean Politics*, 23(3): 403-409
3. Birch, S. and Dennison, J. 2017. 'How Protest Voters Choose' in *Party Politics*, 25(2): 110-125

2. Dennison, J. 2015. 'The Other Insurgency? The Greens and the Election' in *Parliamentary Affairs*, 68(1): 188-205
1. Dennison, J. and Goodwin, M. 2015. 'Immigration, Issue Ownership and the Rise of UKIP' in *Parliamentary Affairs*, 68(1): 168-187

BOOKS

2. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. 2024. *What people think about immigration and why it matters*. OUP
1. Dennison, J. 2016. *The Greens in British Politics: Protest, Anti-Austerity, and the Divided Left*. Palgrave

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

8. Dennison, J. (2023), 'Why did the UK leave the EU? The state of the science of explaining Brexit' in, eds. Fossum, J. E. and Lord, C., *Handbook of Brexit*, Edward Elgar, pp. 26-41
7. Dennison, J. and Vrânceanu, A. (2023), 'Public opinion on immigration' in, eds. Recchi, E., and Safi, M., *Handbook of Human Mobilities and Migrations*. Elgar. PP. 182-202
6. Dennison, J. and Hunger, S. (2023), 'Cleavage Politics in the 21st century' in, eds. Vasilopoulou, S., Carter, N., Keith, D. and Sindre, G., *The Routledge Handbook of Political Parties*.
5. Dennison, J., Vrânceanu, A. (2022). Public Opinion and the Politics of Migration. In: Scholten, P. (eds) *Introduction to Migration Studies*. IMISCOE Research Series. Springer, Cham.
4. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. (2021), 'Migration and the Future of Europe' in, eds, *Fifty Years of the Edinburgh Europa Institute*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press
3. Goodwin, M. and Dennison, J. (2018), 'The Radical Right in the United Kingdom' in eds. Rydgren, J. *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
2. Dennison, J., Grumbinaitė, I. and Oliver, T. (2018) 'Baltic member states: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania' in, ed. Oliver, T., *Europe's Brexit*, Newcastle: Agenda.
1. Evans, G., Carl, N. and Dennison, J. (2017) 'Brexit: The Causes and Consequences of the UK's decision to leave the EU' in, eds. Castells, M. et al, *Europe's Crises*. Chichester: Polity

CITATION METRICS

Per Google Scholar (26/3/25): Total citations: 2305; H-index: 24; i10-index: 38

GRANT CAPTURE AND FUNDING

Widening Grant, EUI internal grant for "PsyMig" project (€30,000)	2025
Leverhulme Trust, Early Career Fellowship (~£190,000)	2022 - 2024
International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	2018 - 2023
Migration Policy Centre research contribution for EuroMed IV and V (~€540,000)	
Swedish Research Council, International Postdoc (€250,000)	2019 - 2021
Department of Business, Innovation and Skills	2013 – 2017
PhD tuition fees (€48,000) and grant (€60,000)	

TEACHING

9. Harvard Kennedy School: Migration public opinion, politics, and policy in Europe 2025 - 2026
 8. Migration Policy Centre Winter School, Lecturer 2022 – 2025
 7. Political communication: description, evaluation, and intervention. STG, EUI 2020 – 2025
 6. Impact Assessment, International Centre for Migration Policy Development 2020 – 2023
 5. Segmentation Analysis, International Centre for Policy Advocacy 2020
 4. The Politics of the 'Migration Crisis', PhD course, EUI 2019
 3. EU JRC Evidence and Policy Summer School, Lecturer, Speaker 2017 – 2018
 2. Migration Policy Centre Summer School, Lecturer 2017 – 2025
 1. University of Sheffield, Graduate Teaching Instructor 2015 – 2016
- POL229 - Political Analysis: Research Design and Data Analysis

- **Associate Editor, Comparative Migration Studies** 2022 - present
- PhD external examiner: Martha Radford-Kirby, Nuffield College (2023); Joseph Cerone, George Washington University (2023)
- Reviewer: *American Political Science Review* (*3), *British Journal of Political Science* (*3); *Journal of Politics*; *Electoral Studies*; *West European Politics* (*2); *Bulletin of Economic Research*; *Parliamentary Affairs* (*2); *European Journal of Legal Studies*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*; *European Union Politics*; *Publius*; *Political Studies*; *Review of International Political Economy*; *Economic Inquiry*; *Politics*; *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (*8); *Environmental Politics*; *East European Journal of Society and Politics*; *Party Politics* (*3); *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*; *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*; *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *Political Research Quarterly* (*2), *Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology*; *European Sociological Review*, *Comparative Migration Studies*, *Electoral Studies* (*7), *European Journal of Political Research* (*3), *Data & Policy*; *Social Science Research* (*2), *Political Psychology* (*2), *European Political Science Review* (*2), *Perspectives on Politics*, *Journal of European Public Policy* (*2), *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Government and Opposition*, *Acta Politica*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*
- Evaluator: European Commission H2020, Societal Challenge 6 call H2020-SC6-MIGRATION-2020; *Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)*, 2020; 2024; 2025; *Fond Wetenschappelijke Onderzoek* reviewer 2024-26; University of Cologne prize committee
- Advisory Board member: World Values Survey UK

POLICY REPORTS (SELECTED)

24. Dennison, J. 2024. *Emigration narratives: what migrants believe and why it matters*: [here](#)
23. Dennison, J. 2024. *A global outlook on public attitudes to immigration: from description to explanation to intervention*. Global Forum on Migration and Development: [here](#)
22. Dennison, J. 2024. *Re-balancing migration narratives: key lessons on communication*: [here](#)
21. Dennison, J. 2024. *Storytelling as strategic communication on migration*: [here](#)
20. Dennison, J. 2023. *Communication and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration*: [here](#)
19. Dennison, J. 2023. *Communication on Irregular Migration*: [here](#)
18. Dennison, J. 2023. *Using emotions in migration policy communication*: [here](#)
17. Dennison, J. 2022. *Using Retrospective Survey Measurement in Assessing Migrant Reintegration: Evidence from IOM programmes in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan*: [here](#)
16. Dennison, J. 2022. *Impact assessment of the Migrant Resource Centres in the Silk Routes Region*: [here](#)
15. Dennison, J. 2022. *Re-thinking the drivers of regular and irregular migration*: [here](#)
14. Dennison, J. 2022. *Strategic Communication for Migration Policymakers*: [here](#)
13. Dennison, J. 2022. *Impact Assessment of the Migrant Resource Centres in the Silk Routes Region*: [here](#)
12. Dennison, J. 2021. *Understanding and Explaining Attitudes in the Silk Routes region*: [here](#)
11. Dennison, J. 2021. *Migration narratives in the Euro-Mediterranean region: what people believe and why*.
10. Dennison, J. and Duffy, B. 2021. *Lockdown scepticism and Brexit support*: [here](#)
9. Dennison, J. 2020. *How to perform impact assessments: Key steps for communication interventions*: [here](#)
8. Dennison, J. and Geddes, A. 2020. *Why COVID-19 does not necessarily mean that attitudes towards immigration will become more negative*. IOM report: [here](#)
7. Dennison, J. 2020. *What policy communication works for migration? Using values to depolarize*. [here](#)
6. Dennison, J. and Nasr, M. 2020. *Attitudes to immigration in the Arab-speaking world: Explaining an overlooked anomaly*. UN International Organisation for Migration: Migration Research Series
5. Dennison, J. and Nasr, M. 2020. *Impact of Public Attitudes to migration on the political environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Southern Partner Countries*: [here](#)

4. Dennison, J. 2019. *Impact of Public Attitudes to migration on the political environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Europe*. ICMPD report: [here](#)
3. Contributor to: IOM. 2018. *Informing the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration*
2. Dennison, J. and Dražanová, L. 2018. *Public attitudes on migration: Rethinking how people perceive migration. An analysis of existing opinion polls in the Euro-Mediterranean region*: [here](#)
1. Contributor to: CEPS. 2018. *The Cost of Non-Europe in Migration Policy*

INVITED SPEAKER (SELECTED)

European Commission, Science for Policy Dialogue, Brussels, 2025
 International Border Management Conference, Tunis, Tunisia, 2024
 United Nations, Global Forum on Migration and Development narratives panel, Geneva, 2023, 2024
 European Commission – European Migration Forum, Brussels, 2023
 NCCR – On the Move, keynote speaker, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 2023. See video [here](#).
 Club of Venice, EU28 Heads of Government Communications meeting, Nicosia, 2023
 United Nations, Institute for Migration, speaker on measurement and surveys, Nairobi, Kenya, 2023
 Euro-Mediterranean migration workshop, Government of Morocco, Rabat, 2022
 Budapest Process ‘Silk Routes Countries’ internal seminar, ICMPD, 2021, 2023
 Euro-Mediterranean migration conference, ICMPD, Paris, 2021
 Green Party of England and Wales, Executive Committee, 2021
 Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Conference, Seville, 2020
 Europe Conference, Harvard Kennedy School, 2020
 Club of Venice, EU28 Heads of Government Communications meeting, London, Dubrovnik, 2020
 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Communicators’ Workshop and High-Level Event, Athens, 2019
 Global Forum on Migration and Development, Government of Morocco, Rabat, 2019
 ‘Europe’s Turning Point on Migration?’, (Organiser) Brussels, 2019. See video [here](#).
 ‘Attitudes to immigration and the future of the European Union’, Club of Venice, Venice, 2018
 ‘The political effects of attitudes to immigration’, MIDEF conference, Berlin, 2018
 ‘Brexit: Why the UK and why now?’, University of Amsterdam, 2018
 ‘Explaining Attitudes to Immigration in Europe’, European Parliament, Brussels, 2018
 ‘Attitudes to Immigration in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean’, Tunis, 2018
 ‘What would a fair Brexit look like?’, EUI Thoughts on the future of Europe series, 2018
 State of the Union 2018, EUI Florence, Narratives and Attitudes to Migration. See video [here](#).
 Understanding attitudes to immigration in Italy today’, Metropolis conf. Florence, 2018. See video [here](#).
 Presenting evidence to the European Parliament Select Committees. 2018. See video [here](#)
 ‘What Europeans think of immigration’ at EPIM, Brussels, 2018
 ‘Looking behind the culture of fear’ Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Budapest, 2018
 ‘Public Attitudes on Migration’, European Commission talk with cabinet, Brussels, 2017
 ‘The Rise of Populism’, After dinner speaker with Barclays and McKinsey, London, 2017
 ‘International cooperation in responsibility-sharing for refugees’, American University in Cairo, 2017
 ‘Movements and Parties’, Invited workshop discussant at University of Aberdeen, 2017
 ‘Brexit: The Causes, Process and Consequences’, Network for EU Legal Studies, Stockholm, 2017
 ‘Explaining the Causes and Consequences of Brexit’, EUI, SPS department seminar, Florence, 2016
 ‘What now for the Green Party?’ Presentation to the Green Party of England and Wales, London, 2016
 Modelling individual dynamics with political science data, University of Essex, Colchester, 2016
 ‘Still Strategic Eurosceptics and Polite Xenophobes?’, St. Antony’s College, Oxford, 2015
 ‘Green party voters: populists, socialists or environmentalist’, Friends of the Earth, London, 2015

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, 2019; *International Society for Political Psychology*, Lisbon, 2019; *Council for European Studies*, Madrid, 2019; *Political Studies Association-ISPG*, Genoa, 2019; *European Governance and Politics Programme*, Florence, 2018; *Election, Public Opinion, and Parties conference*, Nottingham, 2017; *Political Studies Association*, Brighton, 2016; *Election, Public Opinion, and Parties conference*, Cardiff, 2015; *8th Swiss Household Panel Conf.*, Lausanne, CH, 2015; *British Votes Election Conference*, Manchester, 2015; *German Socio-Economic Panel Symposium*, Bremen, 2015

LANGUAGES

English (native); Spanish (B2; conversational); Italian (B1); French (elementary)

TRAINING

National University of Singapore Summer School: Network Analysis	2016
University of Essex Summer School: Time Series Analysis	2015
University of Essex Summer School: Panel Data Analysis, Structural Equation Modelling	2014
European University Institute Workshops: Regression Discontinuity, Diff-in-Diff, R	2014 – 2016

BLOG POSTS AND PRESS (SELECTED)

Quotes and interviews: [The Financial Times](#) (*2); [The Economist](#); *Pagina 99*; *La Repubblica*; *Folha de São Paulo*; *De Volksrant*; *De Morgen*; [Saraite](#); *International Business Times*; BBC; *Daily Telegraph*

Book reviews: LSE Review of Books, *Political Science Quarterly*

Blog posts and op-eds:

Good to Know: Issue importance in politics (with Prof. Alex Kustov), Good Authority

The fragility of EU border and migration politics (with Prof. Andrew Geddes), EUIdeas

Why Coronavirus is likely to be bad news for Europe's radical right, Euractiv

Europe's Greens are on fire... and it's not just because of the sweltering heat, in [The Guardian](#)

The emergence of the populist radical right in Spain demonstrates the conditions when such parties succeed, LSE

Why immigration has the potential to upend the Italian election, LSE Euorpp

Op-ed: Are Europeans turning against asylum seekers and refugees?, European Council on Refugees and Exiles

Brexit and NATO: Never the twain shall meet? (with Dr. Tim Oliver), Dahrendorf Forum: [here](#)

Experts react to the Florence Speech, LSE Brexit blog

Norway elects a new parliament on 9/11. Here are 4 things to know. Monkey Cage Blog, Washington Post

The Dutch aren't turning against immigration, LSE EUROPP

A Long Time Coming: Brexit and What Happens Next, LSE Brexit Vote

What next for the Greens? The Green Party after Natalie Bennett, LSE British Politics and Policy

A Long Time Coming: Brexit and What Happens Next, LSE Brexit Vote

What next for the Greens? The Green Party after Natalie Bennett, LSE British Politics and Policy

The Green Surge and how it changed the membership of the party, (with Dr. Poletti), LSE Blogs

Reluctant Europeans? Britain and the EU Referendum, EUI Times

Portugal's change of government puts the country firmly in uncharted territory, LSE EUROPP

The EU Referendum in Northern Ireland, LSE British Politics and Policy

Populist Personalities? LSE British Politics and Policy

From Devo-Max to West Lothian Max, LSE British Politics and Policy

The Loser Takes it All-The SNP After the Referendum, LSE General Election 2015

Green Party Voters Look Like Lib Dems, think like Labour voters and are as dissatisfied as 'Kippers, LSE

UKIP- A flash-in-the-pan or a long-term insurgent? Ballots and Bullets

An English Parliament: The Best Way to Save the UK? Open Democracy

Though the Green Party's popularity may continue to rise, it is too ideological to become a 'UKIP of the left', LSE

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Consultancy for political parties, international organisations, NGOs, etc.	2017 – present
National Audit Office, London, United Kingdom	2012 - 2013
The Houses of Parliament, London, United Kingdom	2011 - 2012
The European Commission, Brussels, Belgium	2010 - 2011
The House of Lords, London, United Kingdom	2009 – 2010
TEFL teacher, Barcelona, Spain; Cambridge, UK; Santiago, Chile; Hanoi, Vietnam	2007-2009, 2013

REFERENCES

Professor Hanspeter Kriesi, European University Institute hanspeter.kriesi@eui.eu
Professor Alex Kustov, University of North Carolina at Charlotte akustov@uncc.edu
Professor Geoffrey Evans, University of Oxford geoffrey.evans@nuffield.ox.ac.uk
Professor Eldad Davidov, University of Cologne e.davidov@uni-koeln.de
Professor Bobby Duffy, King's College London bobby.duffy@kcl.ac.uk