

For Immediate Release

January 16, 2020

**Research papers from OIPC workshop about data-driven elections
published in special issue of international policy journal**

VICTORIA—Papers delivered by top international researchers at a workshop held last April at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC (OIPC) have been published in a special issue of *Internet Policy Review*, an international journal for academics, civil society advocates, entrepreneurs, the media, and policymakers.

“The role personal data plays today in elections is a concerning and timely issue confronting all democratic societies,” says Michael McEvoy, Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC. “For this reason, my Office hosted a workshop called ‘Data-Driven Elections: Challenges and Implications for Democratic Societies’ in partnership with the Big Data Surveillance project of the Surveillance Studies Centre at Queens University.”

The two-day event attracted some of the world’s top researchers in this field of study. In their papers, they address questions that will challenge researchers and regulators for years to come, including the efficacy of voter analytics; the accountability of the major social media platforms; the contemporary regulatory responses in Europe and elsewhere; the impact on local party organizations; and larger questions about the capture of the electorate’s personal data during and between election campaigns.

The OIPC has been at the forefront of these issues since March 2018 through its joint investigations into [Facebook](#) and [AggregateIQ](#) with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. In February 2019, the OIPC also published findings from its [investigation](#) into the capture and use of personal data by BC’s three main political parties. British Columbia is the sole jurisdiction in Canada with the legislative power to regulate the privacy practices of political parties.

“At a time when most democracies, including Canada’s, are struggling with questions about the effects of data analytics on contemporary elections and campaigns, it is critical to have sound scholarly research on these new technologies and how they are impacting our elections,” said Commissioner McEvoy. “The workshop, and this new publication, provide excellent examples of collaboration between university researchers and regulatory bodies.”

The papers from the workshop, including an [essay by Commissioner McEvoy](#), can be found at:

<https://policyreview.info/data-driven-elections>

Internet Policy Review, the open access journal on internet regulation, is published by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin.

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