



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Dynamics of International Political Leadership – Canada and the United States: Incentives, Constraints and Outcomes

A Scholarly Authors' Workshop and Book Project

Authors' Workshop Dates and Venue: May 27-29, 2026
Québec City, Québec

The Center for the Study of Canada and Institute on Québec Studies at the State University of New York (SUNY), Plattsburgh, the Jarislowsky Chair on Trust and Political Leadership at Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) in cooperation with École nationale d'administration publique (ÉNAP), Groupe d'études et de recherche sur l'international et le Québec (GERIQ), and Observatoire sur les États-Unis, Chaire Raoul-Dandurand, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM) are co-organizing a two-day authors' workshop on Canadian and American international political leadership. The goal is to produce a scholarly book volume to be published by a leading university press.

International political leadership, involving Canada and the United States, is today at the forefront of political discussion and analysis. Our workshop is designed to investigate, methodologically and empirically, those domestic and international factors that most directly impact the ability of various political leaders to exercise power in international affairs. How does the prevailing construction/structure and workings of domestic and international political institutions, for example, affect how political leadership is and can be exercised in the international community by Ottawa and Washington? What role do domestic factors such as political parties, interest groups, public opinion, the bureaucracy, and the judiciary play in influencing international political leadership by either/both nations? How does the prevailing international political system (including nations, alliances, military postures, trading arrangements, international organizations, etc.) facilitate or constrain international political leadership by Canada and the United States? When have elected political leaders in Ottawa and Washington deliberately sought to alter, even challenge, the scope and exercise of political power – and have these efforts been successful? Do such challenges fundamentally alter the dynamics of international governance moving forward? How does political leadership in the international community relate to the management of salient domestic issues or developments in international affairs? Are there substantive differences in the national experiences of Canada and the U.S.?

Our workshop is for scholars and professionals who think deeply about Canadian and/or American political leadership (i.e., prime ministers, presidents, premiers, governors and mayors) and the exercise of political power in the international system.

We are very pleased to personally invite you to participate in our project, and ask that you prepare an original, previously unpublished scholarly paper – regardless of focus (i.e., be it a historical or contemporary specific case study of foreign policy behavior, explicitly comparative, or theoretical in focus) that expressly considers, addresses, and incorporates three interrelated areas of inquiry:

*1. how is political leadership in international affairs incentivized? In other words, what **incentives** – structural or otherwise – exist that provide sufficient flexibility, effectively encouraging or promoting individual political leaders in Canada and/or the United States to exercise power at the world level?;*

*2. how is political leadership in international affairs constrained? In other words, what **constraints** can be identified that serve to counter or effectively restrain the exercise of powers by political leaders in Ottawa and/or Washington at the world level? Are constraints specific to a particular political official or domestic political institutions and culture, or are they structurally imbedded in the international political system?; and,*

*3. recognizing the incentives and constraints that directly impact the exercise of political leadership in the international arena, how do/have these factors impact political **outcomes**? In other words, in what concrete ways have political leaders in Canada and/or the United States been strongly encouraged to exercise political power, or conversely how have political officials recognized and been restrained in their political engagement and as such been relatively unsuccessful in the pursuit of political leadership in the world? Identify how political outcomes can be directly linked to the incentives and constraints international political leadership confronts.*

Participation, Timing and Results

The co-organizers and co-editors of the workshop and book volume are Drs. Christopher Kirkey, Stéphane Paquin, and, Frédérick Gagnon.

Workshop participants are required to submit their draft contributions (6,000 to 7,000 words, approximately) to the editors by May 1, 2026. Participants will receive all of the draft papers in advance of the authors' workshop, thereby allowing each contributor the opportunity to read the work of their colleagues in order to facilitate, during our time together, constructive exchanges and provide one another with useful, specific advice for revising manuscripts.

As a practical matter, each workshop participant will prepare and deliver a formal commentary of fifteen minutes on their respective draft paper, to be followed by a general discussion involving all the participants. This model allows us to keep the workshop small, structured, and focused, allowing for maximum individual participation.

The authors' workshop – including a pre-workshop reception/dinner will be convened in Québec City, May 27-29, 2026.

After the workshop, contributors will be provided with a formal written analysis/evaluation of their contribution, based on the comments raised at the workshop as well as those of the workshop coordinators/book editors. Contributors will have until August 1, 2026, to undertake any revisions and to re-submit their papers. Selected papers will be published as a book volume with a leading scholarly press.

Support for Participants

To facilitate participation in this initiative, the workshop organizers and sponsors are pleased to provide invited workshop presenters with:

- an opening evening reception/dinner on Wednesday, May 27;
- refreshments, lunch and dinner, Thursday, May 28;
- refreshments and lunch, Friday, May 29; and,
- a contribution of \$750 CAD per presenter (for individuals who do not reside in the greater Québec City region) towards travel/lodging expenses

We trust that you will agree that this is an exciting initiative, one that will lead to timely deliberation and significant scholarship. Please contact us with any enquiries you may have.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to receiving your submission (maximum 300 words, including proposed title, and your current bio) for the author's workshop/book volume(s) by September 15, 2025.

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