

# DANIEL CASEY

Daniel.Casey@acu.edu.au

Responsiveness; public opinion; Australian politics; mass-elite linkages; representation; innovative teaching & assessment

## SUMMARY

I am an academic who bridges the public policy / academia divide, bringing my 15 years of public service skills and knowledge into academia. I combine theory and practical knowledge in my teaching and research. My PhD thesis, inspired by my public service work, used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to examine how letters from the public influence prime ministerial agenda.

My current research interests include politicians' e-newsletters; responsiveness; political participation; public opinion; and public administration. My publications include articles on doctoral training in political science; policy theory and process; and archival research. I have extensive teaching experience, including convening seven different courses.

My research skills include computational text analysis (*Quanteda* and LDA topic-models); quantitative methods (OLS, logistic and multinomial regressions; survey design/implementation/analysis); and qualitative methods (FOI, archival research, elite interviews).

In the public sector, I have extensive experience of the parliamentary, political, and non-government environment, including 15 years as a public servant, including more than four years in central agencies, with a focus on social policy development and program implementation; working for a peak NGO for the mental health sector; and 4 years working for members of Parliament, including the Opposition Whip in the House of Representatives.

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer (Level B): Australian Catholic University (ACU) 2025 – current

- Teaching focused, continuing, 0.6 FTE
- National Lecturer-in-charge: Introduction to International Relations (POLS104); The Nature of Democracy (POLS214); World Politics & Justice (POLS309); Introduction to Australian Politics (POLS101).

Lecturer (Level B): ANU – Fixed Term Research & Teaching Contract 2024-25

- Convenor/Co-convenor: Introduction to Politics (POLS1004) ; Elections, Political Behaviour & Public Opinion in Australia (POLS2111); and Australian Political Institutions (POLS2114).

Associate Lecturer (Level A3): ANU - Fixed Term Teaching Contract 2023

- Convenor: Applied Policy Project (POLS3041).

Sessional Academic (Level A1): ANU – Casual marking and tutoring. 2022-23

- Head Tutor, Introduction to Politics (2023); Tutor, Introduction to Politics (2022).

# EDUCATION

## Australian National University

### 2021 – 2024 – PhD (Political Science)

- Title: “The opinion-agenda linkage - How letters from the public to the Prime Minister impact the policy agenda”
- Directors’ PhD Scholarship for the Study of Australian Politics
- Awarded the UK Political Studies Association McDougall Trust prize for best PhD dissertation in the sphere of elections, electoral systems and representation (2025)
- Supervisors: Prof. Ian McAllister; Prof. Ken Benoit; and Dr Marija Taflaga

### 2004 – BA/LLB (1<sup>st</sup> class honours)

National Undergraduate Scholarship

Holding Redlich Prize for Property Law

# PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 10) **Casey, D.** (2025) Robodebt and the Limits of Learning: Exploring meaning-making after a crisis. *Journal of European Public Policy*
- 9) **Casey, D.** (2025) Responsiveness to the public opinion expressed in letters to political leaders: insights from Australia. *Government and Opposition*
- 8) **Casey, D.** (2025) *CanberraInbox*: Political Communication, the Personal Vote and Representation Styles—Studying Legislators’ e-Newsletters in Australia. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.
- 7) **Casey, D.** (2024). Analysing policy success and failure in Australia: Pink batts and set-top boxes. *Australian Journal of Public Administration*.
- 6) **Casey, D., & Black, J.** (2024). Selective rememberings?: Access to ‘private’ documents at the national archives of Australia. *Humanities Research*, 20(1), 89-103.
- 5) **Casey, D.** (2024). Punctuated equilibrium and the dynamics of political participation: the case of letter writing. *Policy Studies*, 45(1), 1-20.
- 4) **Casey, D.** (2024). ChatGPT in public policy teaching and assessment: An examination of opportunities and challenges. *Australian Journal of Public Administration*.
- 3) **Casey, D., Rutledge-Prior, S., Young, L., Malloy, J., & Berdahl, L.** (2023). Hard Work and You Can’t Get It: An International Comparative Analysis of Gender, Career Aspirations, and Preparedness Among Politics and International Relations PhD Students. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 56(3), 402-410.
- 2) **Casey, D., & Rutledge-Prior, S.** (2023). Bridging the expectation gap: a survey of Australian PhD candidates and supervisors in politics and international relations. *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 58(4), 494-512.
- 1) **Rutledge-Prior, S., & Casey, D.** (2023). “An Isolating Experience Aggravated by COVID”: Exploring Disconnections Between Political Science PhD Candidates and Supervisors. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 56(3), 357-364.

# FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- UK Political Studies Association – McDougall Trust prize for best PhD dissertation in the sphere of elections, electoral systems and representation (2025)
- School of Politics and International Relations (ANU) – Internal research grant (\$3000) to support the development of *CanberraInbox* (2024).
- Australian Studies Institute – Adhoc grant (\$4000) to support the development of *CanberraInbox* (2024)

World Association of Public Opinion Research - Naomi Turner Prize for best paper written and presented by a student at their annual conference for *Democratic Responsiveness to Different Forms of Public Opinion* (2023)

Australian Political Studies Association – Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize for *Democratic Responsiveness to Different Forms of Public Opinion* (2023)

American Political Science Association - Virginia Gray Graduate Student Research Award (2022)

American Political Science Association - Presidential and Executive Politics Section Travel Grant (2022)

3 Minute Thesis 2022:

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences – *Runner Up* and *People's Choice Winner*  
ANU – *Finalist*

## OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

5) **Casey, D.**, & Rottinghaus, B. (2025) "Letters to Leaders" in Nai, A (et. al.) *Encyclopedia of Political Communication* Edward Elgar (forthcoming).

4) **Casey, D.**, & Fletcher, M. (2023). Proudly "Disinterested": Public Administration and Social Science PhD Programs. In *Non-Academic Careers for Quantitative Social Scientists: A Practical Guide to Maximizing Your Skills and Opportunities* (pp. 87-96). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

3) **Casey, D.**, (2022) "Accessing documents of former Ministers – plugging the accountability gap". *Public Law Review* 33: 91-96.

2) **Casey, D.**, (2022) "'Dear John...': Letters from the public to Prime Minister Howard", *Policy Perspectives Series - John Howard Prime Ministerial Library, University of New South Wales*.

1) **Casey, D.**, (2021) "Book Review: Dear Prime Minister: Letters to Robert Menzies 1949–1966. By Lyons, Martyn (Sydney: UNSW Press, 2021), pp. vi + 266. AU\$39.99 (pb)." *Australian Journal of Politics & History*

## PUBLIC IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

My research has been featured in a range of media articles and books:

- ["Frustrating" system keeping thousands of public records out of sight](#) (The Canberra Times)
- [Freedom of information: Mark Dreyfus to reverse Coalition block on national cabinet documents, but host of requests may never be answered](#) (The Canberra Times)
- [Sweaty T-shirts, tampons and other 'weird shit' people have sent to politicians](#) (Crikey)
- [An Aussie popstar's Liz Truss fail-fest cameo, and a surprise push for governor-general](#) (Crikey)
- [Welcome minister, the next Horizon scandal is here in your department | Computer Weekly](#) (Computer Weekly)
- [Study lists ROFL lessons of robodebt](#) (The Mandarin)
- Morton, R. *Mean Streak* HarperCollins (book on Robodebt, which includes my Robodebt research)
- [Robodebt: Did public service learn from welfare scandal?](#) (Crikey)

Invited public-facing speeches:

- Australian Trucking Association's Future Leader's Forum – 2024 & 2025.
- Yarralumla Primary School – Year 5 & 6 civics education – 2023 & 2024

# PUBLIC FACING PUBLICATIONS

[“Yes We Spam”](#) – series of 6 articles with Crikey during the 2025 Federal election

[“How did public service leaders talk to staff about Robodebt? What they said – or didn’t – is revealing](#)  
*The Conversation* (18 October 2024, 9200+ reads)

[“Access to documents about Australia’s political history is fraught and inadequate. It needs to change”](#)  
*The Conversation* (3 May 2024, 2600+ reads).

“Managing and sustaining the APS workforce: a graduate perspective” *Public Administration Today*, (2006) 6, 35–36.

“East Timorese begin weaving their own political fabric”. *The Canberra Times* (26 April 2002).

“Drastic reform in uni entrance system needed”. *The Canberra Times* (11 January 2002).

“State Selective Schools are the Key to Equity” *The Canberra Times* (21 May 2001).

“Let Young Voices Have a Say”. *The Australian* 25 September 1997.

# ACADEMIC SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Initiated and lead the development of School-wide guidance on handling in-class discussions of the war in Gaza.
- Invited to speak at both College and University-wide events on innovative teaching and assessment ideas given the impact of ChatGPT (based on my article [ChatGPT in Public Policy Teaching and Assessment: An Examination of Opportunities and Challenges](#))
- Convened my School’s HDR & ECR Seminar series (2023-24)
- Peer reviewer for *Journal of European Public Policy*; *Cambridge Elements*.

# SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Democratic Responsiveness to different forms of public opinion*: European Consortium for Political Research (2023); World Association of Public Opinion Research (2023); Australian Political Science Association (2023)

- Winner of the World Association of Public Opinion Research Naomi Turner Prize, for the best paper written and presented by a student.
- Winner Australian Political Science Association – Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize

*Letters from the public to the Prime Minister –what they say and why it matters*: Australian Political Science Association Political Organisations and Participation Workshop (2022)

*Dear Prime Minister: Letters to the Executive as Public Opinion & Agenda Setting*: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2022) and Australian Political Science Association Conference (2022)

*Hard work and you can’t get it: Career aspirations and preparedness among Australian and Canadian PhD Candidates in Politics and IR*: Canadian Political Science Association Conference (2022)

*Selective rememberings? Access to personal documents at the National Archives of Australia*: Australian History Association Annual Conference (2022) and Australian Society of Archivists Conference (2022)

*Access to official papers of a former minister*: Australian Institute of Administrative Law Annual Conference (2022)

## NON-ACADEMIC WORK

I have 15 years work experience in the Australian Public Service (APS), reaching the level of Executive Level 2, as well as experience working for a backbench member of Parliament. I managed teams of up to 8 people, requiring highly developed communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills. I have worked at the interface of policy and politics, working with ministerial offices, writing ministerial briefings and Cabinet documents. I have also worked extensively with stakeholder groups (including universities and researchers) to improve policy development and implementation.

### Department of Social Services

*Director, Payments & Pensions Policy Groups (EL2) 2016 – 2021*

### Mental Health Australia

*Manager, Policy and Projects 2015 – 2016*

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

*Senior Advisor (EL2) Social Policy Div; Office of Work & Family; & NDIS Taskforce 2011 – 2015*

### Department of Broadband, Communications & the Digital Economy

*Assistant Director (EL1) & Director (EL2) Digital Switchover Taskforce 2008 – 2011*

### Australian Public Service - Various

*Various (Grad – EL1) 2005 – 2008*

### Office of Mr Michael Danby MHR, Member for Melbourne Ports

*Senior Electorate Officer 2003 - 2005*