CURRICULUM VITAE



Nicolas Audignon, PhD

Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia (September 2026 – May 2027)

Associate Researcher, CERSA (UMR 7106), University Paris-Panthéon-Assas

Email: nicolas.audignon@outlook.com

Research Interests

Executive Politics, Presidency, Transitions of Power, Electoral Promises, French Politics, American Politics, Comparative Political Institutions.

Education

PhD in Political Science (defended and awarded March 2025)

- Dissertation titled " 'When You Become President…' From Yes We Can to La République en Marche: The Political Myth of the First 100 Days to Succeed in Office".
- Professor Yves Surel, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas.

Georges Vedel Graduate School, CERSA, Double Trusteeship CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) and University Paris-Panthéon-Assas.

2016 - 2017 - Master 2 – Political studies (Valedictorian)

- Master's thesis titled: "Populist trend in Western democracies? Comparative study of the presidential elections in France and the United States" under the supervision of Professor Yves Surel.

Department of Political Sciences, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas.

2015 - 2016 - Master 1 – Political Science (Valedictorian)

- Specialized in Political Communication.

Department of Political Sciences, University Versailles Saint-Quentin en Yvelines, Guyancourt.

2015 - Obtained a law degree, political science specialization.

- Law School, University Auvergne 1, Clermont-Ferrand.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS

Grants

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award, Franco-American Fulbright Commission, hosted by the Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia (2026–2027).

Academic Achievements

Appointed as ATER (teaching and research fellow), combining research and teaching duties, funding two additional years of doctoral research (2022-2024).

Awarded a fully funded PhD scholarship ("contrat doctoral") covering three years of doctoral research. (2018-2022).

Ranked first in class, Master's Year 2 (Political Science) – Paris-Panthéon-Assas University (2017).

Ranked first in class, Master's Year 1 (Political Science) – University Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (2016).

International Research Experience

Visiting Fulbright Scholar at the Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia (September 2026 – May 2027). Contributes to the Presidential Oral History Program, from background research and briefing materials to interviews with senior officials of the first Trump administration and the Biden administration. Faculty host: Professor Barbara Perry.

Visiting Scholar at the Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, under the supervision of Professor Sidney Milkis, conducting research on the U.S. presidency (2019-2020).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lectures on Constitutional Law for digital undergraduate courses – 2022 and 2023.

Lecturer – "Introduction to Political Science". Paris-Panthéon-Assas University. October 2020 – January 2021

- Taught two groups of first-year undergraduate students.
- Responsible for course preparation, exam design, grading, and assisting with final exam evaluations.

Lecturer – "US Law and Institutions". Paris Nanterre University (Paris X). January – April 2021

- Taught the entire course in English. Responsible for two undergraduate groups (first-year students).
- Designed course content and assessments; taught and graded undergraduate sections.

Lecturer – "Comparative Political Institutions". Paris I - Panthéon-Sorbonne. January – June 2019.

- Management of three groups. Preparation of second-year bachelor's degree courses: double-degree in history/political science, bachelor's degree in Political Science and law degree. Exam preparation. Correcting exams and helping correct final examinations.

Lecturer – "Comparative Political Systems''. Paris I - Panthéon-Sorbonne. January – June 2018.

- Academic training experience. Preparation of two groups of second-year bachelor's degree courses: double-degree in history and political science, law degree. Exam preparation and corrections. Participated as an oral exam jury member.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Academic trainings at the APSA conference. Los Angeles. August 2023:

- APSA Short Course - SC17: Interpretive Process Tracing & Practice Tracing (QMMR C), by Professors Jeffrey Checkel and Vincent Pouliot.
- APSA Process Tracing Short Course, by Professors Andrew Bennett, Jeffrey Checkel and Tasha Fairfield.

ESL 902-6 Advanced Writing (GEAS). University of Virginia. Spring 2020.

- Course taught by Pia Adler.
- Advanced academic English writing. Focus on structure, argumentation, and clarity in scientific articles. Training in writing and revising papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Education in legal and political English - Georges Vedel Graduate School. Paris-Panthéon-Assas. November 2018 - June 2019

- Course taught by Mrs. Jennifer Merchant. Oral presentations, English literature and grammar to improve skills with the language as a whole. Paris-Panthéon-Assas. March 2018 - June 2018
- Course taught by Mr. Jonathan Magidoff. "Introduction to US Constitutional Law" and "Federalism in the US" were among the topics addressed. Active participation to improve English speaking skills.

MOOC on American Government. HarvardX - HKS101A. edX - Online courses. March – May 2018.

- Focus on three sessions: "Congress and Party", "Presidents and Domestic Policy", and "Federal Bureaucracy".

PUBLICATIONS

Book chapters

"**Crisis of Democracy and Institutions: Do Presidents Keep Their Promises?**", in *Les Crises*, Mare & Martin, 2026.

- This chapter examines whether the promises made during the 2016 U.S. and 2017 French presidential campaigns regarding democratic crisis led to meaningful institutional change. Based on a comparative analysis of Emmanuel Macron and Donald Trump, it shows that despite several reforms, presidents mainly focused on fulfilling general electoral promises rather than addressing the deeper structural challenges to democracy.

"**Between Promises and Realities: Political Actors' Strategies for Managing Expectations During Transitions of Power**" in *Absence. Legal Perspectives*, Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2026.

- This chapter analyzes the early months of presidential leadership in France and the United States through the concept of "absence," defined as the gap between public expectations and political action. Focusing on the first hundred days of Obama, Trump, Sarkozy, Hollande, and Macron, it highlights how leaders manage the pressures of electoral promises through early legislative actions, strategic delays, and symbolic positioning.

Articles Under Review

"Alternation Without Rupture, Rupture Without Alternation: The Institutional Conditions of Democratic Turnover." Under review at *Government and Opposition*.

"Promised Spoils, Recycled Networks: Transition Time and Executive Politicization." Under review at *Governance*.

"Governing by Rupture: What Early Executive Action Produces in France and the United States." Under review at *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

« Le sas et le stock. Transitions présidentielles et fabrique de la capacité à gouverner (France–États-Unis) ». Under review at *Revue française d'administration publique*.

« Jupitérien ou proche ? La prise de pouvoir présidentielle entre distance et proximité (Hollande, 2012 ; Macron, 2017) ». Under review at *Politix*.

Working papers

« Deux horloges. Les présidents français et l'Europe dans les cent premiers jours (2007, 2012, 2017) ».

« Tenir vite. La sélection des instruments dans la réalisation des promesses présidentielles (France, États-Unis) ».

« Hériter pour gouverner. Ce que le parti fournit à une prise de pouvoir présidentielle (France, États-Unis, 2007-2017) ».

SELECTED CONFERENCES

Invited Talks (2026–2027)

Lunch talk on the French presidential election, Department of French, University of Virginia, March 24, 2027 (Scheduled).

CERSA Annual Conference on "Crises" – September 2023:

- Presentation: "Crisis of Democracy and Institutions: Do Presidents Keep Their Promises?"

APSA annual meeting in Los Angeles - American Political Science Association – August 2023.

- First article : "Misinformation during Presidents' First Hundred Days: A Cost/Benefit Analysis."
- Second article : "Leadership in Presidential Takeovers: Disinformation as an Opportunity?"
- Discussed 5 posters.

Joint Sessions Workshops - ECPR. Presenting one article + 2 discussions – April 2023, 5 days.

- Article on "Semi-presidential vs. Presidential regime: to what extent do they shape the leadership challenges faced by newly elected Presidents?"

Doctoral Students' Conference – Angers. Presentation of a Paper – April 2023

- Presentation on the theme of "absence," focusing on the role of expectations toward Presidents, the dissatisfaction of these expectations, and their political implications.

"Biden, Year Two" conference - University of Chicago Center in Paris – March 10, 2023:

- "Navigating Crises in Turbulent Times – A Review of Biden's Second Year in Office".

Biden Year One Conference - University of Chicago Center in Paris – February 17, 2022.

- "Biden's First 100 Days and First Year: Can We Already Assess the President's Term?"

IPSA – 26th World Congress of Political Science. Presentation of a Paper – July 2021

- "Presidential Transition and the First Hundred Days: Origins and Evolution of Presidential 'Roles'."

ECPR - General Conference Austria. Paper Presenter – 2020:

- "Presidential Transitions and The Redefinition of the Executive-Parliament Relationship. Does Embodying Change Necessarily Strengthen Presidential Leverage?"
- "Presidential Transitions and Their Influence in the Policy Process. Embodying the Change: is it All About Policies?"

SELECTED SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Designed and delivered training programs – 2024-2025.

- Conducting a literature review (2 hours).
- Writing a PhD dissertation (7 hours).
- Writing a scientific article (25 minutes).
- Building a thesis outline (20 minutes).

Presentations on research practices during epistemology courses (2021, 2022, 2024, 2025).

Master's course at Artois University: "Presidential and Semi-Presidential Regimes" – April 25, 2023.

Mixed-Methods Seminar. Paris- Panthéon-Assas. 2018.

- Co-organization of one of the monthly Seminars on Mixed-Methods. Methodology seminar in cooperation between the CECP and the CERSA, on the difficulties of each PhD student and the professional requirements of the research field.

ACADEMIC ROLES AND EVENT ORGANIZATION

Organizer of research seminars at CERSA 2022-2023 (10 seminars).

Co-organizer of the conference "Biden, Year Two" at the University of Chicago Center in Paris – March 2023.

Co-organizer of research seminars at CERSA 2021-2022 (6 seminars).

Coordinator of the "US Law" course for third-year Political Science students (L3). US Law, Paris-Panthéon-Assas University.

Participated in my research center's YouTube project focused on research dissemination (CERSA).

Participated in the "Dazibao" podcast to discuss my research.

Gave a guest lecture at the University of Virginia (UVA) within a French course on contemporary French politics.

Member of the Language Division ("Pôle Langues") at my Research Center (CERSA).

Participated in juries organized by PhD students for ATER (Lecturer-Researcher) job preparation.

Served on a mock PhD defense panel for candidate preparation.

RESEARCH OUTREACH

Website: doctoratdonut.com.

- 3000 to 4000 visits each month.

YouTube channel: "Le Décodeur du Doctorat, PhD":

- Around 82,000 views each month.
- 12,630 subscribers (as of September 2026).

Public-Facing Articles (selected):

"The Research Problem Is NOT the Question in the Introduction" – November 1, 2024

"Working While Doing a PhD: How to Get Organized" – April 17, 2024

"Thesis Defense: 7 Tips to Prepare Successfully" – December 20, 2023

"Writing a Thesis: How to Be Efficient" – November 15, 2023

"Software for Thesis Writing: How to Choose the Right One" – January 18, 2023

"How to Write the 'Interviews' Section in Your Thesis" – November 22, 2022

"The S.P.R.I. Writing Method: Why It's THE Best Method for Your PhD (with Examples)" – September 30, 2022

"The 'Functionality' Criterion for a Literature Review – and Why Ignoring It Will Block You" – September 7, 2022

"Lecturer-Researcher Applications (ATER): The 4 Pillars of a Successful Campaign" – April 18, 2022

"Step-by-Step Writing of a Scientific Article" – February 5, 2022

Videos on the YouTube channel:

"I Analyzed 300 Thesis Defenses: Here's How to Succeed at Yours" – April 15, 2025

"How to Formulate a Research Question: The C² FORMULA" – March 9, 2025

"How to Conduct a Literature Review Effectively (Tested on 100 Dissertations)" – February 20, 2025

"I Tested NotebookLM for My Dissertation… Incredible Results! (Episode 2)" – February 15, 2025

"STOP Making Bad Thesis Outlines! How to Do It Right (Examples + Common Mistakes)" – February 3, 2025

"How to Write a Scientific Article: The Complete Guide" – January 14, 2025

"Discussion vs. Results: Two Key Differences (Often Overlooked)" – January 2, 2025

"Succeeding at Your Thesis Defense: 9 Key Questions to Prepare" – December 3, 2024

"How to Formulate Your Research Problem" – November 1, 2024

"Theoretical Framework, Conceptual Framework, Literature Review: Differences Clearly Explained" – October 15, 2024

Additional Outreach Article

Tocqueville Review - Tocqueville21

- "The First Hundred Days: Is It Possible to Assess Biden's Presidency?"

LANGUAGES

French (native).

English (fluent; teaching and publishing).

German (A2).

REFERENCES AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

References available upon request.

Dissertation Committee

Ms. Brigitte GAÏTI, University professor, University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (rapportrice).

Ms. Natacha GALLY, Associate Professor, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas.

Mr. William GENIEYS, Research Director, CNRS / Sciences Po Paris (rapporteur).

Ms. Isabelle GUINAUDEAU, Researcher, CNRS / Sciences Po Paris.

Ms. Florence HAEGEL, University professor, Sciences Po Paris.

Ms. Barbara PERRY, J. Wilson Newman Professor in Presidential Studies, University of Virginia (United States).

Mr. Yves SUREL, University professor, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas (thesis supervisor).