

LEEN LINGIER

BIO

I am a political scientist specializing in intra-party politics, voter behavior, and political communication. My research explores how internal party dynamics such as leadership contests, coalition decisions, and factionalism influence political trust, legitimacy, and representation. I am among the first scholars to systematically connect intra-party divisions with public opinion, bridging the study of party organization and mass political attitudes. As part of my PhD thesis (defended 2024), I examined how party members respond to divisive decisions, using original surveys, experiments, and interviews. This work laid the groundwork for my current interest in how such divisions become visible externally, particularly through the media.

My academic profile combines robust empirical skills with an interdisciplinary approach. Despite having only defended twelve months ago, I have already published my work in leading journals (Electoral Studies, Party Politics, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Frontiers in Political Science), designed and implemented multiple survey experiments, and collaborated with international teams. Simultaneously, I gained applied research experience at Ipsos, managing high-stakes public opinion projects and strengthening my skills in survey implementation, data collection, and communicating results to non-academic audiences, including policymakers.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Party politics - Intra-party politics - Political communication - Voter behavior – Public opinion

EDUCATION

- PhD in Political Science; Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; October 2020 – September 2024
- Master in Comparative and International Politics; KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; September 2019 – June 2020 | *Magna cum laude*
- Bachelor in Political Science; KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; September 2016 – June 2019 | *Cum laude*
- Human and Social Sciences; Onze Lieve Vrouw Presentatie, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium; September 2010 – June 2016 | *Cum laude*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher – Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

June 2, 2025 – Present

I am a postdoctoral researcher within the INTRAPARTY project, led by Prof. Ann-Kristin Kölln and funded by an ERC Starting Grant. The project examines the role of intra-party factions and their impact on party functioning and electoral success in European democracies. I play a leading role in work package 3, where I will examine the effects of factions on voters' evaluations of parties through ambitious and carefully designed survey experiments in three European countries. I began working on this project three months before submitting this proposal.

Senior Research Consultant Public Affairs – IPSOS

October 4, 2024 – April 28, 2025

At Ipsos Belgium, part of the global Ipsos Group—one of the world’s leading public opinion and market research companies, I led several high-stakes public opinion and policy research projects, gaining valuable hands-on experience with both qualitative and quantitative methods. This role sharpened my ability to manage the complete research cycle—from client briefing to design, fieldwork coordination, and communicating results. I developed a strong understanding of the practical realities of survey implementation, including how fieldwork providers operate, navigating data collection constraints, and ensuring methodological robustness under real-world conditions. These skills continue to inform my academic work—particularly in managing survey experiments and collaborating with research facilitators across countries. My time at Ipsos also strengthened my capacity to translate empirical insights into accessible formats for non-academic audiences—an asset I actively utilize in research dissemination and science communication. Combined with my academic background, this applied experience equips me to bridge scholarly research with real-world relevance.

PhD Fellow – Department of Political Science, Ghent University

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2024

PhD-thesis:

“Through thick and thin. How do party members react to difficult party decisions and which factors moderate their reaction?” Supervisors: Prof. Bram Wauters and Prof. Anna Kern

My PhD research examined how party members respond to divisive decisions within their parties—such as coalition choices or leadership contests—and how those moments create lasting internal tensions between ‘winners’ and ‘losers’. I used original panel surveys, experiments, and elite interviews to explore how internal dissent affects party cohesion, trust, and loyalty. This research opened the “black box” of intra-party dynamics by focusing on reactions that are often invisible to the public but crucial to understanding internal stability.

This work laid the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological foundation for this current proposal. While my PhD focused on how intra-party division is experienced internally, the current project shifts attention to the external visibility and evaluation of these divisions: how journalists select and frame internal disagreements, and how that coverage shapes voter perceptions. In short, my doctoral research provided the empirical base and theoretical curiosity that now extends into the media–politics nexus explored in the proposed postdoctoral project.

Teaching experience:

Responsible for lecture on:

- Government communication and advisory councils (2021, 2022, 2023) for the course Citizenship and Government at Ghent University, Master of Public Administration and Management.
- Marketing (2023) for the course Current issues in Belgian politics at Ghent University, Bachelor of Science in Political Science (National Politics).

Grading papers and/or exams for the courses:

- Citizenship and Government (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Central Administrations (2022)
- Society and politics: practice (2022).

Master dissertations supervised as a (co-)promotor or assessor:

De Gheest, W. (2021). - De Henau, M. (2021). - De Croo, F. (2022). - Pauwels, F. (2022). - Coussée, Y. (2023). - Snauwaert, L. (2024). - Dereuver, E. (2024).

Workshops:

Responsible for educative workshops on coalition building organized for high-school students and adults (on demand, organized several times).

RESEARCH STAY

University of Helsinki – Finland; March – April 2023; Affiliation: Intracomp Research Group

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertation

- Lingier, L. (2024). Through thick and thin: How do party members react to difficult party decisions and which factors moderate their reaction? Ghent University. Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Ghent, Belgium. *PhD Dissertation*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Lingier, L. (2024). Can political parties narrow the intra-party winner-loser gap? An experimental test of the moderating impact of strategic communication. *Electoral Studies*, 88, 102769.
- Lingier, L., Kern, A., & Wauters, B. (2024). Accepting a party's decision to (not) participate in a coalition government. Does the inclusiveness of the decision-makers make a difference?. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 1-26.
- Lingier, L., Kern, A., & Wauters, B. (2022). Lost but not blown away. How do losers of party leadership contests react?. *Party Politics*, 13540688221126585.
- Luypaert, J., Lingier, L., Bouteica, N., Vandeleene, A., & Wauters, B. (2022). How many captains for a ship on electoral drift? Limiting the number of leadership candidates in the Flemish Christandemocratic party (CD&V). *Frontiers in Political Science*, 4, 1068207.

Work in Progress

- Lingier, L. (2025) The consociation party: navigating intra-party division through consociational approaches.
- Lingier, L., Isotalo, V., von Schoultz, A. (2025). Losing the coalition game: does ideology make a difference in local elite responses.
- Marini, S., Lingier, L., Luypaert, J., Wagner, M. (2024). Mitigating the electoral costs of party policy shifts: evidence from a conjoint experiment.
- Kölln, A.K., Lingier, L. (2025) How intra-party factions can boost electoral performance
- Ingelbeen, J, Lingier, L. (2025). Fishing for Wisdom: Local Politicians and Their Perceptions on Experts and Their Advice in Policy Formation.

DATASETS

- Lingier, L., Kern, A., & Wauters, B. (2025). PanelSurvey_IntraPartyWinnerLoser_2022 [Data set]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15720028>
- Lingier, L. (2025). Experiment_IntraPartyWinnerLoser_2024 [Data set]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15720001>

OUTREACH

As part of my doctoral research, I produced tailored research reports for the political parties that participated in my survey-experiment, including Groen and Vooruit. These reports went beyond presenting party-specific findings; they also highlighted key theoretical insights and practical takeaways relevant to internal party strategy and communication.

- Lingier, L. (2022). Reports on party member reactions (Groen & Vooruit).

Following the 2024 Belgian federal elections, I co-authored a report on preference voting behavior, which I proactively shared with national media outlets. This outreach contributed to several articles in leading newspapers and helped bring academic insights into the public debate.

- Wauters, B., Lingier, L. (2024). Preference voting in the 2024 elections.

I also wrote three op-ed articles to communicate my results to a non-expert audience:

- DeMorgen (April 5, 2023)
- De Tijd (October 25, 2023)
- DeMorgen (May 7, 2025)

CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Throughout my academic career, I have actively engaged with scholarly communities across Europe through conferences, workshops, targeted training, and a research stay abroad. These experiences have allowed me to present my work to diverse academic audiences, contribute to interdisciplinary conversations, and strengthen my methodological and leadership skills. I have presented my research at several major political science conferences, including:

- ECPR General Conference, Prague (2023) – Panel co-chair and presenter
- Politicologenetmaal, KU Leuven (2023) – Presenter and discussant
- General Conference, Innsbruck (2022) – Presenter
- Workshop, University of Helsinki (2022) – Presenter
- Workshop, Namur (2021) – Presenter and discussant
- Düsseldorf Graduate Conference (2021) – Presenter
- State of the Federation, Ghent (2020) – Presenter

These events provided opportunities to interact not only with scholars in party politics and political behavior but also with researchers working on communication, political psychology, and democratic innovation—contributing to an interdisciplinary understanding of intra-party dynamics and voter responses.

In addition to academic conferences, I have pursued an extensive program of methodological training, including courses on:

- Ghent University (2023): Causality in Quantitative Research
- ECPR Winter School (2022): Multiple Regression Analysis
- DataCamp (2021): R Programming
- Coursera (2021): Introduction to Statistical Inference
- ECPR Summer School (2021): Party Politics Theory and Methods
- Ghent University (2020): Advanced Academic English

SOFTWARE SKILLS

RStudio – SPSS – Nvivo - Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook

LANGUAGES

Dutch: Native - English: Fluent - French: Intermediate - German: Basic - Swedish: Basic

REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

Government and Opposition - Electoral Studies - Acta Política - Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development - Revista Internacional de Sociología