

Nicolas Viens – Academic Resume

Email: nicolas.viens@ubc.ca

Phone: 819-943-4139

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic sociology; environmental sociology; sociology of the climate crisis; political economy of finance; sociology of 'green' finance; human ecology; energy and climate politics; Canadian politics; fossil fuel industry policies; social networks; post-growth development; energy & just transition; state and public institutions; corporate governance.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology

2023-

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Awards & Scholarships

2024-2028 – Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

2023-2027 – UBC Four Year Fellowship

2023-2027 – Doctoral Research Scholarship, Fonds de Recherche du Québec Société et Culture (FRQSC)

2023, 2024 – President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award

M.A. in Development Studies

2019-2021

York University, Toronto, ON

Scholarships

2020-2021 – Ontario Graduate Scholarship Queen Elizabeth II (OGS/QEII)

2020-2021 – Master's Scholarship, Fonds de Recherche du Québec Société et Culture (FRQSC)

2019-2020 – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

2019-2021 – York Graduate Fellowship

2019-2021 – York Graduate Scholarship

Bachelor of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship & Co-op Profiles

2016-2018

Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, QC

- Graduation with Distinction
- Final Cumulative GPA: 3.9/4.0

Awards & Distinctions

2018 – Bowey Robson Prize for Strategic Management

2018 – Academic Honour Roll & Undergraduate Prize in Business Administration

2018 – Bishop's University's nominee for the *Forces Avenir* – *Personality* Provincial Award

2017 – Bishop's University's nominee for the CEWIL Co-Op Intern of the Year National Award

2017 – Awarded membership to the Golden Key Honours Society

Scholarships

2018 – Ronald Crowley Scholarship for Business & Economics

2018 – Waterville TG Inc. Scholarship

2017, 2018 – Foundation Second- & Third-Year Scholarship

2017 – Desjardins Scholarship for academic excellence

ACADEMIC REALIZATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Jorgenson, A., Goh, T., Koop-Monteiro, Y., Shakespear, M., Viens, N., and Gletsu, G. (2025). "Income Inequality is Driving the Climate Crisis: A Longitudinal Analysis of Province-Level Carbon Emissions in Canada, 1997-2020", *Energy Research & Social Science*, Volume 119, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103845>.
- Viens, N., Sapinski, J.P., and Laurin-Lamothe, A. (2024). "Decarbonization, hegemonic projects, and the green growth policy-planning network: the case of Québec", *Environmental Sociology*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2024.2387418>.

- Jorgenson, A., Goh, T., Koop-Monteiro, Y., Shakespear, M., Viens, N., and Gletsu, G. (2024). "Economic growth and income inequality increase the carbon intensity of human well-being for Canada's provinces", *npj Climate Action*, 3, 58, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44168-024-00144-y>.
- Viens, N. (2022). "Racing to the last barrel: Linking oil and gas industry interests to climate inaction in Canada", *Energy Research & Social Science*, Volume 91. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102748>.
- Viens, N. and Fortier, D. (2018). "Sustainable Policymaking: Balancing Profitability & Sustainable Development in Businesses", *European Journal of Sustainable Development*, Volume 7, Issue 4, pp.33-42. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14207/ejsd.2018.v7n4p33>.
- Fortier, D. and Viens, N. (2018). "Leadership Education and Sustainable Development: Guidelines for Updating the Curriculum", *European Journal of Sustainable Development*, Volume 7, Issue 4, pp.53-63. ISSN: 2239-5938. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14207/ejsd.2018.v7n4p53>.

Policy Research

- Viens, N. (2024). "Fiche No2 – Le modèle de développement", in the collective series *Transport collectif, pilier de la transition énergétique*, Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS). [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2024). "Fiche No3 – Automobiles et inégalités", in the collective series *Transport collectif, pilier de la transition énergétique*, Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS). [Link](#).
- Viens, N. and Desrochers, F. (2022). *Mesurer la transition écologique : une approche écocentrique comme option de rechange au PIB*. Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS), research paper. [Link](#).
- Couturier, E.-L. and Viens, N. (2021). *Fiscalité municipale : une réforme nécessaire pour une transition juste*. Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS), socioeconomic research paper. [Link](#).

Editorials & Blogs

- Viens, N. and Jorgenson, A. (2025, 28 January). Income inequality is driving carbon emissions in Canada. *Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2022, 17 May). Le Hummer électrique ne sauvera pas la planète. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2022, 4 March). Comment mettre en œuvre la transition juste au Canada? En en faisant davantage. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2021, 7 September). Rapport du GIEC : l'être humain est responsable de la crise climatique, mais certains le sont plus que d'autres. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2021, 3 June). Crise climatique : quand la justice joue le rôle du gouvernement. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2021, 8 April). Taxe carbone fédérale : L'Institut Fraser se trompe. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Schepper, B., Viens, N. and Marleau, A. (2021, 25 March). L'environnement parmi les grands perdants du plan budgétaire 2021-2022. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2021, 3 March). La transition juste est à notre portée : l'histoire le prouve. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2020, 16 November). La « crise » du déficit n'a pas les conséquences de la crise environnementale. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).
- Viens, N. (2020, 6 October). Redressement économique : Les leçons de l'économiste Tim Jackson et de la crise financière de 2008. *Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS)*. [Link](#).

CONFERENCES

- 2025 – "Public Funds, Private Gains: Offshore Havens and the Limits of De Risking Decarbonization." Canadian Sociological Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- Received "Best Economic Sociology Paper" award.
- 2024 – "De-risking and the infrastructural entanglements of decarbonization: the cases of Saudi Arabia and Québec, Canada." American Sociological Association Conference, paper session, Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 – "Decarbonization, hegemonic projects, and the clean growth policy-planning network in Quebec, Canada." Canadian Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Received "Congress Student Merit" award.

2024 – “De-risking and the infrastructural entanglements of decarbonization: the case of Saudi Arabia.” Society for Socialist Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada.

2024 – “Decarbonization, hegemonic projects, and the clean growth policy-planning network in Quebec, Canada.” Climate Policy Studies Network – Climate Social Science Network Conference, virtual conference.

2023 – “The green growth policy-planning network in Quebec: a structural analysis.” Society for Socialist Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada.

2022 – Sapinski, J. P., Viens, N., Laurin-Lamothe, A., & Pineault, É. “Decarbonization, hegemonic projects, and the clean growth policy-planning network in Québec, Canada.” 40th Sunbelt Conference, International Network for Social Network Analysis, Cairns, Australia.

2022 – “Jusqu’au dernier baril : relier les intérêts de l’industrie des énergies fossiles avec l’inaction climatique au Canada, 1990-2019.” 89th Acfas congress, colloquium organized by the *Atelier d’écologie sociale du capitalisme avancée* (ESCA, Social Ecology of Advanced Capitalism Workshop), Montreal, Canada.

2021 – “Climate Change Inaction in Canada: Political Subsystems and Policy Outcomes in the Oil & Gas Industry, 1999-2019.” 3rd Annual Political Science Graduate Students Association Conference, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

- Received “Best Conference Article” award.

2019 – “Sustainability in Business Practices: Providing an Educational Framework for the Leaders of Tomorrow.” 8th Academic International Conference on Multi-Disciplinary Studies & Education, Oxford, United Kingdom.

2018 – “Sustainable Policymaking: Balancing Profitability & Sustainable Development in Businesses.” 6th International Conference of Sustainable Development, Rome, Italy.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

2023

Climate and Society Lab, University of British Columbia, BC

Dr. Andrew Jorgenson (PI)

- Contributing to research the societal causes, consequences, and solutions to the climate crisis
- Application of mixed methods on the social factors underlying disproportional emissions

Collaborative Researcher (contractual/freelance)

2020

IRIS – Institut de recherche et d’informations socioéconomiques (*Socioeconomic Research and Information Institute*), Montreal, QC

- Conducting research projects for policy papers on key ecological and socioeconomic issues in the province of Quebec
- Creation of media communications regarding the climate crisis (blog articles, newspaper articles, radio interviews)
- Participation in an interdisciplinary committee on the just transition towards a low-carbon economy
- Analysis of governmental budget plans

Research Professional (contractual, part time)

2021-2024

Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB

Dr. Jean-Philippe Sapinski (PI)

- Assisting research and data collection for the project “Decarbonization, ecological transition and carbon lock-in: discourses and social organizing of just transition movements and the anti-transition elite in Eastern Canada”
- Policy network / social network analysis in the context of the climate crisis and just transition
- Leading and managing two research assistants during the data collection of the social network analysis of cleantech and anti-transition organizations in Quebec

Research Officer

2021-2023

Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, Gatineau, QC

- Conducting multilevel evaluations of governmental programs (measuring relevance, efficacy, and efficiency)
- Developing research design, implementing qualitative & quantitative research methods
- Handling of government databases

GUEST LECTURES & INTERVIEWS

- 2024 – “Imaginer et créer la transition énergétique: enjeux sociaux de la décarbonation au Québec.” Graduate class guest lecture, Université de Montréal.

- 2024 – “Political economy of the energy transition: hegemonic projects & the green de-risking state.” Undergraduate class guest lecture, University of British Columbia.
- 2023 – “Into the ‘Anthropocene’? Inequality within conceptualizing the climate crisis and decarbonization projects.” Undergraduate class guest lecture, University of British Columbia.
- 2023 – “Imaginer et créer la transition.” Graduate class guest lecture, Université de Montréal.
- 2022 – “Café climatique avec Nicolas Viens : vers un nouvel indicateur de richesse?” Radio interview, *Radio-Canada*. [Link](#).

SERVICE TO ACADEMIC PROFESSION

Journal Reviewer

- 2024 – *Scientific Reports*
- 2023 – *Climate action*

Conference Organization

- 2023 – Session presider, “Environmental policy: international and global perspectives,” American Sociological Association Conference, Montreal, Canada

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

2023

University of British Columbia

- Grading, group activity planning, class material preparation, lecturing
- Engage one-on-one with students for assessment and mentoring
- Courses: SOCI361: Social inequality; SOCI352: Work and inequality; SOCI250: Crime and society; SOCI200: Sociology of the family; FMST 210: Family Context of Human Development.

Teaching Assistant

2017-2018

Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, QC

- Marked exam questions, proctoring exams
- Managed a database of over 150 students

Upper-Level Management Intern (Co-op)

Summer 2017

CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS (Integrated University Center of Health and Social Services), Sherbrooke, QC

- Worked in the Quality and Performance Department (DQEPE), regarding the *Access to Services in English* program, at the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS, healthcare organization of over 17,000 employees
- Reviewed program's overall quality, created an action plan to improve its services across the CIUSSS' wide territory
- Initiated and managed the network with healthcare systems from English-speaking provinces, federal health organizations and local associations to exchange knowledge and better adapt services to own local population
- Closely interacted with the organization's upper-level management and directors to improve health services

Military Service – Infantry Reservist

2012-2015

Canadian Armed Forces – Sherbrooke's Fusiliers Regiment, Sherbrooke, QC

- Developed strong mental skills, values and traits such as leadership, conscientiousness and stress management
- Awarded the Regiment Command Officer's *Commendation for Outstanding Performance* after one year of service

PERSONAL SKILLS

- High critical thinking & analytical skills
- Strong writing skills (academic papers, policy briefs, op-eds, blogs, and more)
- Research interests: post-growth development, climate policy, just transition
- Proficient in R, Nvivo, and UCINET/NetDraw software
- Fully bilingual: French/English
- High discipline and conscientiousness
- Autonomous & self-driven
- Team player
- Proactive & initiative taker