



School of
Public Policy



NIK NANOS


Executive Fellow

International / Canadian
Governance Policy



Nik Nanos is a Canadian public opinion researcher, data scientist and policy scholar whose work focuses on democratic resilience, electoral behaviour, energy policy, defence and security issues, and Canada-United States relations. He is an Executive Fellow at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy, where his work contributes to applied policy research and public debate on governance, political risk and evidence-based decision-making.

Mr. Nanos is the Chief Data Scientist and Founder of Nanos Research, one of Canada's most established public opinion and market research firms. His research has been central to understanding voter volatility, public confidence and policy legitimacy, particularly during periods of political disruption. He is widely recognized for pioneering publicly released nightly election tracking in Canada, a practice he has conducted in every federal election since 2004, contributing to the empirical study of electoral dynamics and democratic accountability.



A significant component of his academic work examines Canada–U.S. relations, including cross-border security, trade and political alignment. He served as a Research Associate Professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where his research focused on binational relations and North American political dynamics, reflecting long-standing scholarly engagement with continental governance issues.

Nik is currently the Chancellor of Carleton University and a research professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Ottawa. He is a Fellow of Canadian Research and Insights Council (FCRIC), a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (FRCGS), Chair of the Positive Energy Advisory Council at the University of Ottawa and a member of the Canadian Defence and Security Network Board.

Mr. Nanos' research spans energy policy and defence-related public opinion, particularly the interaction between public trust, political leadership and policy durability in democratic systems. His work on democratic resilience and populism explores how small shifts in voter sentiment can have disproportionate effects on political outcomes, a theme developed in his book *The Age of Voter Rage*.

He holds undergraduate degrees in History and Political Studies, as well as an MBA from Queen's University, and undertook PhD-level studies at the University of Nottingham in Politics and International Relations School. He is also an ICD.D graduate of the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program.

In recognition of his contributions to public policy research and civic discourse, Mr. Nanos has been appointed a Member of the Order of Canada (CM).

