Riding the Orange Wave:
A statistical and geospatial analysis of NDP support in Canada’s 2011 federal election
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The surprising outcome of Canada’s 2011 federal election illustrated regional cleavages in Canada’s electorate as Quebec’s representation shifted from primarily Bloc Québécois to the New Democratic Party. Research has determined theoretical socioeconomic and demographic determinants of NDP support across Canada, but not within Quebec itself. This thesis aims to locate areas of NDP support in Quebec and the rest of Canada (ROC), and determine the different socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of NDP supporters in these areas using a statistical and spatially analytical methodology. OLS regression models determine variation in NDP support for both Quebec and ROC, and the predictor variables are different from those in previous literature—indicating the 2011 election was particularly unusual. Areas in Quebec where the models do not accurately predict NDP support indicate that not only is there regional variation between Quebec and ROC, but there is regional variation within Quebec itself.