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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2020
M.A.	Economics, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2012
B.S.	Statistics, Renmin University of China, China, 2009

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION DURING Ph.D. EDUCATION

Primary: Applied Econometrics
Secondary: Econometrics

DISSERTATION

Applied Economics Essays

Committee: Prof. Sebastian Galiani (Chair), Prof. Peter Murrell, Prof. John Wallis

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Socially Embedded Knowledge network and the Making of Opinion Leaders: Evidence from Twitter”

Diversity of ideas increases a society’s adaptive efficiency. This paper explores the impact of knowledge consumer network structure on idea diversity defined as the number of people who are widely heard (i.e., the number of opinion leaders). I use as data a Twitter network and related tweets: topic modeling yields 45 topics, network analysis yields 4 nearly isolated network communities, and each topic-community pair corresponds to a knowledge market and thus to a sample point for which we define variables for regression analysis. I also use a friendship network as an instrument for the whole network. I find in a knowledge market that when enthusiastic consumers on average occupy more central positions in a network connecting consumers, they’ll have more influence through network effects on other consumers with respect to which opinion producers to pay attention to. This demand-side social influence concentrates consumers’ attention, makes more opinion producers become opinion leaders, and leads to more similarity among opinion leaders both in terms of who pay attention to them and in terms of whom they pay attention to. I provide a mathematical model to shed light on the mechanism underlying these empirical findings. Compared with most literature on network effects where network effects are based on well-stirred interactions, the network effects theoretically and empirically captured in this paper are non-homogenously networked.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“Assessing External Validity,” 2019, working paper, with Sebastian Galiani

“Health, Education, Quantity-Quality Tradeoff and Economic Growth,” 2019, working paper

“Development Spillover and Institutional Changes: A Trade Economy Political Perspective,” 2019, working paper

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Economic Development of Selected Areas: China (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2016

Instructor, Industrial Organization (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2016

Instructor, Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate), University of Colorado at Boulder, Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant, Econometrics II (a PhD course), University of Maryland, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, and Spring 2019

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Development Research Center of Chinese State Council, 2014

Intern, China Credit Rating Co. Ltd., Spring 2013

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Yordon Prize in Microeconomics, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2011

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2019: Washington Area Development Economics Symposium 2019

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)

REFERENCES

Prof. Sebastian Galiani	University of Maryland	sgaliani@umd.edu	(301) 405-3518
Prof. Peter Murrell	University of Maryland	pmurrell@umd.edu	(301) 405-3476
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