TV Identities: $TITLE^*$

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

Social norms are an important element of any society: some behaviors and opinions are socially desirable, while others are stigmatized. There is growing evidence that individuals care to a large extent about how they are perceived by others and that such concerns might affect important decisions in a variety of settings

2 Motivating Framework

To organize thoughts and motivate our experimental designs, we present a simple model of communication.

- 2.1 Model
- 2.2 Analysis
- 2.3 Discussion

3 Experiment 1: Expressing Xenophobia

In this section we present the results of two related experiments showing that Donald Trump's rise in popularity and eventual victory in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election causally increased individuals' perception of the social acceptability of holding strong anti-immigration views and their willingness to publicly express them.

3.1 Experiment 1A: U.S. Presidential Elections

We implemented the first experiment respectively in the two weeks before and in the week after the 2016 presidential election. The timing of the experiment allowed us to exploit the uniqueness of the situation and study the process of information aggregation as it was unfolding. We conducted both waves with workers from the online platform MTurk. A number of recent papers in economics have used the same platform to conduct surveys or experiments (e.g., ?). The platform draws workers from very diverse backgrounds, though it is not representative of the U.S. population as a whole.

3.1.1 Experimental Design

Wave 1: Intervention Before the Election.

- 3.1.2 Main Results
- 3.2 Evidence of Mechanism
- 4 Conclusion

Figures and Tables