

KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

CONTACT INFORMATION

2778 N Milwaukee Ave
Apartment 209
Chicago, IL 60647

karthiksrinivasan.org
ks@chicagobooth.edu
(404) 556-2887

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business
Ph.D., Economics

Expected 06/2024

Northwestern University
B.A., Economics, Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences

06/2016

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Primary: Labor Economics, Behavioral Economics
Secondary: Applied Theory, Industrial Organization

REFERENCES

Alexander Frankel (Co-Chair)
Professor of Economics
University of Chicago
Booth School of Business
afrankel@chicagobooth.edu

Devin Pope (Co-Chair)
Rothmeier Professor of Behavioral Science
University of Chicago
Booth School of Business
Devin.Pope@chicagobooth.edu

Eric Zwick
Associate Professor of Finance
University of Chicago
Booth School of Business
ezwick@chicagobooth.edu

WORKING PAPERS

Paying Attention (Job Market Paper)

- Draft coming soon!

Presentations: Booth Student Research in Economics Seminar (2023), Behavioral Economics Working Group (2023)

Judicial Scarring [\[pdf\]](#)

- Can making decisions in extreme cases bias subsequent decisions? I study this question in a high-stakes field setting: felony sentencing. I estimate the effect of sentencing a first-degree murder on the length of sentences issued to subsequent defendants. I use data on the universe of felony sentencing decisions in Cook County to estimate a difference-in-differences design comparing judges in the same courthouse who have and have not recently sentenced a first-degree murder. Judges issue sentences that are 13% longer in the 10 days after they sentence a first-degree murder. Effects are twice as large for defendants

who share the same race as the murderer and defendants who face high-class felony charges. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that this bias affects 6% of defendants on an ongoing basis because judges regularly sentence first-degree murders.

Presentations: Harris American Politics Conference (2022), Booth Student Research in Economics Seminar (2022), Behavioral Economics Working Group (2022)

Do Journalists Drive Media Slant? [\[pdf\]](#)

- When firms and workers have misaligned preferences, how do firms exert control? I explore this question in the context of online news production, where journalists and firm managers may want to produce content with different degrees of partisan slant. I construct a new dataset that links 2,700 journalists to firms, news articles, and Twitter profiles. I measure article slant with a machine learning algorithm that I train to identify partisan phrases. Using a within-journalist design, I find that writing for more right or left leaning firms does not change the slant of a journalist's writing. Journalist ideology, as measured by following decisions of Twitter users, is strongly correlated with article slant. I interpret these findings as evidence that firms exert little direct control over the slant of journalists' writing.

Presentations: Booth Student Research in Economics Seminar (2021)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Moderation, Filter Bubbles, and Free Speech

with Scott Behmer and Rafael Jiménez-Durán

- Can moderation influence the willingness of individuals to join social media platforms and express their political opinions? How does the value of moderation vary with the political composition of participants on the social media platform?

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Math Camp

Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Instructor

- Developed curriculum, lecture notes and problem sets with co-instructor Walter Zhang
- Course covered one quarter of material (36 hours of lecture)

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Eric Zwick, Owen Zidar

2016-2018

- Contributed to *Tax Cuts for Whom?*, *Capitalists in the Twenty-First Century*, *Who Profits from Patents?*

MISCELLANEOUS

Citizenship: United States of America

Programming Languages: Python, R

Last Updated: September 5, 2023