

KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chicago, IL 60647

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(404) 556-2887

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

Expected 06/2024

Ph.D., Economics

Advisors: Alex Frankel, Eric Zwick

Northwestern University

06/2016

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

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Primary: Political Economy, Behavioral Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics, Public Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Judicial Scarring

- Does sentencing a murderer change the way a judge sentences future defendants? I answer this question in the context of Cook County using the universe of felony sentencing decisions from 2011-2022. I estimate an event study around the timing of Class M sentencing hearings. Sentence lengths increase by 5% in the month following the felony sentencing, and then taper back to a baseline. Effects are driven by changes in the sentencing of relatively severe felonies (Class X and Class 1 felonies). A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that this bias effects 15% of all sentences in the sample.

Presentations: Booth Student Research in Economics Seminar (2022), Behavioral Economics Working Group (2022), Harris American Politics Conference - Roundtable Session (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 (2020)

TEACHING

Ph.D. Math Camp

Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022

Instructor

- Developed curriculum, lecture notes and problem sets with co-instructor Walter Zhang

- Course consisted of approximately one semester's worth of material touching on calculus, linear algebra, real analysis, probability, statistical inference, optimization and dynamic programming.

REFERENCES

Alexander Frankel

Professor of Economics

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

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Eric Zwick

Associate Professor of Finance

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

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MISCELLANEOUS

Programming Languages: Python, R, Stata, SAS

Hobbies: Chess, Guitar, Wheel Throwing

Citizenship: United States of America

Last Updated: September 22, 2022