

# KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

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**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

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*Primary:* Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Media Economics  
*Secondary:* Political Economy, Public Economics

## REFERENCES

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**Alexander Frankel**  
Professor of Economics  
University of Chicago, Booth School of Business  
[afrankel@chicagobooth.edu](mailto:afrankel@chicagobooth.edu)

**Eric Zwick**  
Associate Professor of Finance  
University of Chicago, Booth School of Business  
[ezwick@chicagobooth.edu](mailto:ezwick@chicagobooth.edu)

**Devin Pope**  
Rothmeier Professor of Behavioral Science  
University of Chicago, Booth School of Business  
[Devin.Pope@chicagobooth.edu](mailto:Devin.Pope@chicagobooth.edu)

## WORKING PAPERS

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

- 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:* 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 (2020)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Ph.D. Math Camp

Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

*Instructor*

- Developed curriculum, lecture notes and problem sets with co-instructor Walter Zhang
- Course consisted of 36 hours of lecture covering one quarter's worth of material

## PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### 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

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*Citizenship:* United States of America

*Programming Languages:* Python, R

*Hobbies:* Chess, Guitar, Wheel Throwing

Last Updated: January 28, 2023