

ECON 5970 - Final Project

Economists of Twitter

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Introduction

- Researchers have increasingly been using social media (just like basically everyone else in the world) - but some are better at it than others
- Goal of my project was to look specifically at economists who are on Twitter, and see if being on Twitter and the number of followers an academic has has any relationship with their being well known in the academic world, which I measured through citations



- I collected data from the RePEc website, CitEc website, and Twitter
- I collected the first and last name, ID, h index, i10 index, citations, years active, twitter handle, tweets, followers, following I got data for 43,630 economists not on Twitter, and 1,101 on Twitter
- Looking at the data it showed that economists on Twitter had a greater mean and median for indexes, citations, and years active



Methods

I ran a regression on the data to see the relationship between the number of citations an author has, and the number of followers they have on Twitter and the number of years they have been active

Equation:

$$\log(Y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 z + \beta_3 z^2 + \epsilon \quad (1)$$

where Y is the dependent variable for citations, x is the independent variable for the number of followers, z is the independent variable for the number of years an economist has been active, and the parameter of interest is β_1 .



Findings

$$\log(Y) = .330 + .217x + .256z - .003z^2 + \epsilon \quad (2)$$

y = citations

x = followers

z = years active

So, there is a positive relationship between having more followers on twitter and more citations



What We Learned

- I learned a lot of coding in R, especially in relation to data scraping
- Learned that it can't hurt to be active and promote yourself on Twitter - its basically just networking but online
- Learned lots of formatting for Latex

