



Tiziano Rotesi

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Qualifications

Sept. 2013 – now	Ph.D. in Economics and Finance, at Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milan, Italy.
Sept. 2012 – July 2013	Master in Economics and Finance, at Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, Barcelona, Spain.
Feb. 2010 – July 2012	Master of Science in Economics, at Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy.
Sept. 2006 – Feb. 2010	Bachelor in Economics, at Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy.

Awards and Scholarships

Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi – Ph.D. Scholarship.
Universitat Pompeu Fabra – Scholarship for Ph.D. track.

Research Interests

Primary Fields: Political Economy, Experimental Economics.
Related Fields: Applied Microeconomics – Information, Networks.

Working Papers

Do Social Media Matter? The effect of Twitter on US Politics [Job Market Paper]

In this paper I study the impact that Twitter had on voting behavior during the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections. I first develop a measure of Twitter penetration across regions by matching user accounts with counties. Second, I provide a novel identification strategy to study the causal effect of the presence of the social network on voting behavior. It is indeed necessary to address endogeneity concerns related to unobservable variables. Changes in the political debate or waves of discontent at the local level could drive users towards Twitter, to the extent that the platform allows them to express their opinion or gather information. To this end, I exploit variation in the popularity of sport teams that signed new players with Twitter accounts, making therefore the social network more interesting for their fans. Estimates show that the impact on turnout is negative. Moreover, I find a negative effect on the share of votes for Democratic Party. By using data from the Current Population Survey, I also find that respondents tend to discuss less about politics in areas with a higher Twitter penetration. Taken together, these results suggest that Twitter did not favor a constructive debate around politics, but it rather fostered sentiment against politics.

Information Transmission in a Social Network: A Controlled Field Experiment. (with Eleonora Patacchini and Paolo Pin).

Using an app for smartphones we run an experiment among high school students to study the pattern of aggregation of sparsely distributed information when competing agents are arranged in small networks and can share only non-verifiable pieces of information. Our first finding is that the level of cooperation is high, especially among students that belong to the same class. Nevertheless the level of centralization of the network significantly affects the final results, with the most central node benefiting in terms of payoffs. By adding a second node with a high centrality we see that the results change significantly, with more signals traveling through the links. We then turn to a parsimonious level-k approach to characterize players according to their behavior in the game. When estimating the model we see that data are consistent with a vast majority of players acting cooperatively, with the difference across networks driven mainly by a small share of strategic players.

Conferences

- 33rd Congress of the European Economic Association – Cologne – August 2018
Do Social Media Matter? The effect of Twitter on US Politics
- 71st European Meeting of the Econometrics Society – Cologne – August 2018
Information Transmission in a Social Network: A Controlled Field Experiment
- Applied Economics Workshop – Petralia Sottana – July 2018
- Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference – London Business School – May 2018
Information Transmission in a Social Network: A Controlled Field Experiment
- 3RD Doctoral Workshop on The Economics of Digitization - Telecom ParisTech – May 2018
Do Social Media Matter? The effect of Twitter on US Politics
- 4th Annual Conference on Network Science and Economics – Vanderbilt University - April 2018
Information Transmission in a Social Network: A Controlled Field Experiment
- IV International Economics PhD Conference – University of Leicester – March 2018
Do Social Media Matter? The effect of Twitter on US Politics – Poster Session
- EDGE Jamboree – Università Bocconi – September 2017
Do Social Media Matter? The effect of Twitter on US Politics
- Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference – London Business School – May 2017
Do Social Media Matter? The effect of Twitter on US Politics

Work Experience

Feb. 2018 – May 2018	TA, Social and Economic Networks (Master of Science), Bocconi University.
Feb. 2018 – May 2018	TA, Microeconomics (Undergraduate School), Bocconi University.
July 2017 – Aug. 2017	RA, Principal Investigator: Eliana La Ferrara.
Feb. 2017 – May 2017	RA, Principal Investigator: Fernando Vega-Redondo.
Feb. 2017 – May 2017	TA, Social and Economic Networks (Master of Science), Bocconi University.
Feb. 2017 – May 2017	TA, Microeconomics (Undergraduate School), Bocconi University.
Sept. 2016 – Dec. 2016	TA, Microeconomics (Undergraduate School), Bocconi University.
Feb. 2016 – May 2016	TA, Social and Economic Networks (Master of Science), Bocconi University.
Sept. 2015 – Dec. 2015	TA, Microeconomics (Undergraduate School), Bocconi University.
Feb. 2015 – May 2015	Tutor, Principi di Economia (Undergraduate School), Bocconi University.
Sept. 2014 – Dec. 2014	TA, Microeconomics (Undergraduate School), Bocconi University.
Mar. 2011 – July 2012	Tutor, Matematica (Undergraduate School), University of Florence.