

Scholarly Publication and Twitter Usage: An Insight Into the Case of Economists*

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Abstract

The present study aims to explore the patterns of Twitter usage among economists. I gather data from the website of RePec IDEAS, which contains information on registered economists around the world, their twitter account information, the number of citations they are mentioned in, and the total amount of publications submitted in academic journals. I run an OLS regression to assess the effect of citations and publications on the number of followers and twitter activity an economist will present.

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1 Introduction

- Importance:
 - Economic research and impact in social media.
 - Relevance of Twitter as a platform to share and collaborate.
- Do more citations/publications have an effect in the number of Twitter followers? Or does the number of twitter followers have an effect in citations/publications?
 - Reverse causality.
 - Research in medical journals about the latter.
 - Since we are gathering data from Top 25% Economists by Twitter followers, I argue that their academic presitge (citations and publications) will have an effect in the number of Twitter followers.

2 Literature Review

Previous work:

- What drives the number of new twitter followers? An economic note and a case study of professional soccer teams
 - More successful soccer teams get higher number of followers.
 - Possibly explained by higher utility received by spectators from following their soccer teams.

- Incorporating Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook in Economics Classrooms
- Disciplinary differences in Twitter scholarly communication
 - Researchers in economics shared the most links.
 - Scientific use of Twitter in economics, sociology and history of science appeared to be marginal.
 - No hashtags in economics were used more than once.
- Tweeting Economics are less effective communicators than scientists
- Tweeting economists: antisocial in the socials?
 - Economists tweet less, mention fewer people and have fewer Twitter conversations with strangers than an comparable group of experts in the sciences.
 - Use less accessible language with words that are more complex and more abbreviations, and their tone is more distant, less personal and less inclusive.

3 Data

- Data from Top 25% Economists by Twitter followers from <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.twitter.html>
- Data from Authors by number of citations from <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.nbcsites.html>
- Data from Authors by H-index from <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.alldetail.html>

. Table ?? contains summary statistics. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

4 Empirical Methods

While my approach explores a number of different approaches, the primary empirical model can be depicted in the following equation:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 Z_{it} + \alpha_2 X_{it} + \varepsilon, \quad (1)$$

where Y_{it} is a continuous outcome variable for unit i in year t , and Z_{it} are characteristics about the firm at which i is working, while X_{it} are characteristics about i . The parameter of interest is α_1 .

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5 Research Findings

The main results are reported in Table ??.

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6 Conclusion

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