Andy Cao

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Texas A&M University, College Station TX, 2018-present.

   Dissertation Committee: Danila Serra (chair), Jennifer Doleac, Catherine Eckel, Marco Palma

M.A., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2018

B.A., Economics, Nanjing University, China, 2016

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Behavioral/Experimental Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Crime, Corruption

WORKING PAPERS

Does News Coverage of Hate-motivated Mass Shootings Generate More Hatred? (Job Market Paper)

This paper investigates the role that the media play in promoting hatred through the news coverage of mass shootings. I first show through observational data that the media treat mass shootings differently depending on the motive behind the shooting. Any time a shooting targets a specific ethnicity/race/religion/gender, i.e., the shooting is hate-motivated, its news coverage differs in two respects: 1) higher coverage; 2) more focus on the shooter. I then show that there is more public interest in hate-motivated mass shootings, based on online searching behavior. Finally, I provide suggestive evidence that, immediately following a hate-motivated mass shooting, there is an increase in the number of hate crimes against the same victimized group. Based on these findings and the existing literature, I hypothesize that the way hate-motivated mass shootings are covered in the news contributes to spreading hatred. I test my hypotheses by conducting an online information provision experiment where I manipulate how a real past mass shooting targeting immigrants is reported in the news. In particular, I examine how, in the United States, Democrats and Republicans, who have different ex-ante views about immigration, react to news coverage that emphasizes the hate ideology or the identity and personal background of the shooter. Results from the experiment show that receiving details about the shooter's hate ideology increases Republicans' support for the shooter. Emphasis on the shooter's identity and background increases Democrats' support for both the shooter and the shooter's hate ideology. The latter finding is driven by the more right-leaning individuals within the Democrat sample.

Can Social Media Rhetoric Incite Hate Incidents? Evidence from Trump's "Chinese Virus" Tweets (with Jason Lindo, and Jiee Zhong). Revise & resubmit, *Journal of Urban Economics*.

Becoming Friends or Foes? How Exposure to Competitive Environments and Social Proximity Shape Social Preferences (with Eugen Dimant, Kyle Hyndman, and Nanyin Yang).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Cancel Culture: an Experimental Study of its Causes and its Impacts

Who Self-select into Committees? (with Dmitry Ryvkin and Danila Serra).

How important are climate, inclusion and wage potential to college major choice? (with Marco Castillo, Ragan Petrie, and Sora Youn).

Cooperation, Emotions, and Punishment in Public Goods Experiments: A Biometrical Investigation (with Catherine Eckel, Jinliang Liu, Phatchaya Piriyathanasak, Samuel Priestley, Nanyin Yang, Sora Youn).

HONORS AND AWARDS

John Van Huyck Endowed Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2022

Ray C. Battalio Memorial Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2022

Graduate Student Research and Presentation Travel Award, Texas A&M University, 2022

College Summer Graduate Research Grant, Texas A&M University, 2022

Charles H. Gregory Class of '64 Graduate Strategic Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2022

Presentations

Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 2022 (scheduled)

North-American Economic Science Association Conference, Santa Barbara, California 2022 (scheduled)

Online Seminar in Economics + Data Science hosted by ETH Zurich, 2022 (scheduled)

Eighth Biennial Social Dilemmas Conference, Boston, Massachusetts 2022

World Economic Science Association Conference, Boston, Massachusetts 2022

North-American Economic Science Association Conference, Tucson, Arizona 2021

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Marco Castillo, Texas A&M University	Spring 2021-Spring 2022
Research Assistant for Danila Serra, Texas A&M University	Spring 2020-Summer 2021
Research Assistant for Catherine Eckel, Texas A&M University	Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Department of Economics, Texas A&M University

Experimental Economics	Summer 2022
Qualifier Review Session for Macro 1 (Ph.D.)	Summer 2021

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Texas A&M University

Introduction to Economics Data analysis, by Craig Schulman	Fall 2019
Intermediate Microeconomics, by Robert Maness	Spring 2019
Intermediate Microeconomics, by Rodrigo Velez	Fall 2018

Tutoring Lab, Department of Economics, Texas A&M University   Fall 2022

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, z-Tree, oTree, Python, LaTeX, MatLab

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: USA

SERVICE

Graduate Instruction Committee, Texas A&M University	Fall 2022
Economics Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M University	Spring 2022
Student Mentor for incoming PhDs	Fall 2020-Fall 2022

REFERENCES

Professor Danila Serra (chair)
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