Aleksandr (Sasha) Levkun

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics — 2022 (Expected)
University of California, San Diego — La Jolla, CA

- Committee: Simone Galperti (co-chair), Joel Sobel (co-chair), Renee Bowen, Songzi Du, Isabel Trevino

B.Sc. in Economics with High Honors — 2016
National Research University – Higher School of Economics — Moscow, Russia

REFERENCES

Simone Galperti	UC San Diego	sgalperti@ucsd.edu
Joel Sobel	UC San Diego	jsobel@ucsd.edu
Renee Bowen	UC San Diego	r0bowen@ucsd.edu

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Microeconomic Theory, Information Economics, Political Economy

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO — La Jolla, CA
Research Assistant for Simone Galperti — 2019 – 2020
Research Assistant for Joel Sobel — 2020

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Communication with Strategic Fact-Checker" — September 2021

I examine communication between an informed sender and an uninformed receiver with a presence of a strategic fact-checker. The sender makes statements about an issue to persuade the receiver to take a certain action. The fact-checker may verify the truthfulness of these statements at a cost. I characterize the equilibrium outcomes depending on the fact-checker's preferences. The sender-worst and sender-best outcomes depend on whether the underlying environment is predisposed toward the sender. The fact-checker that has preferences aligned with the receiver is not always preferred by the receiver. When many

fact-checkers are available, there exists a single fact-checker among them that delivers the same outcome.

WORKING PAPERS

"The Value of Data Records" with Simone Galperti and Jacopo Perego   September 2021

Many online platforms intermediate trade between sellers and buyers relying on individual data records of their personal characteristics. A key question is how much value a platform derives from each record. Is this value higher for one buyer than for another? What are its properties? We answer these questions by combining a modern information-design perspective with classic duality methods. We show that the value of a buyer's record cannot be correctly assessed by focusing only on the payoff that a platform directly earns from the trade between that buyer and a seller. This is because of a novel externality between records, which arises when a platform pools records to withhold information from the sellers. We then characterize how much a platform is willing to pay for more records—e.g., for getting new buyers to join it—and for better records—e.g., for more information about existing buyers. Our analysis establishes basic properties of the demand side of data markets. Our methods apply generally to a large class of principal-agent problems.

"Strategic Mediation of Information in Autocracies"   May 2020

This paper presents the optimal editorial policy by the state-owned media manipulating information flow from a strategic informed elite to an uninformed receiver that attempts to match the state of the ruler's competence with a binary action. If the elite's and audience's preferences are too distant from each other, then the editorial policy is uninformative. Otherwise, the policy provides partial information about whether the state is higher or lower than a threshold determined by the elite's ordinal preferences over the receiver's actions. The media benefits from a more lenient elite, as long as the elite is not too lenient. The media is worse off when the receiver is more critical of the ruler, whereas the elite generally is better off when the receiver is more critical. When the receiver has private information about how critical he is, I characterize the lower bound on the media's payoff obtained within the class of restricted editorial policies. I show the sufficient condition on the distribution of receiver's private information, under which the media's payoff attains this lower bound.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Subjective Uncertainty and Contract Dissolution"
with Renee Bowen and Malte Lammert   2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, San Diego   La Jolla, CA
Teaching Assistant   2017 – present

- Econ 1 (Principle of Microeconomics), ECON 3 (Principle of Macroeconomics), Econ 100ABC (Microeconomics), ECON 109 (Game Theory), Econ 171 (Decisions Under Uncertainty), ECON 210B (Macroeconomics B, graduate)

National Research University – Higher School of Economics   Moscow, Russia
Teaching Assistant   2015 – 2016

- Probability and Statistics, Econometrics

SERVICE

REFEREE

   2021   *Games and Economic Behavior*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

UC San Diego Cindy Vojtech Summer Research Fellowship	2021
UC San Diego Graduate Summer Research Fellowship	2017 – 2019
UC San Diego TA Excellence Award	2018
UC San Diego Regents Fellowship	2016 – 2017

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages:	English (fluent), Russian (native)
Programming:	proficient in Python, MATLAB, R