Andrea Ciccarone

Columbia Business School, Columbia University
665 W 130th St, New York, NY 10027
ac4790@columbia.edu (646) 525-0556
andreaciccarone.github.io

Placement Chairs:
Mark Dean (mark.dean@columbia.edu)
Martin Uribe (mu2166@columbia.edu)

Placement Administrators:
Jonathan Mendoza (jam2546@columbia.edu)
Amy Devine-Keum (aed2152@columbia.edu)

Education

Columbia University — 2020 - Present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics (BusEc track)

Bocconi University — 2020
M.S. in Economics and Social Sciences, *110/110 Cum Laude*

Bocconi University — 2017
B.S. in International Economics and Finance, *110/110 Cum Laude*

Research Interests

Political Economy, Media Economics, Organizational Economics, Behavioral Economics

Job Market Paper

An Image is Worth 40.38 Words: Political Partisanship in Videos

Abstract: A large share of political news is now consumed through short, visually rich videos. Yet, most measures of media bias rely on textual content and ignore images. We develop a framework to quantify partisan signals from both textual and visual components of video political ads. Applied to immigration coverage in television news, omitting visuals understates the partisan gap between channels. Which modality conveys more partisanship depends on clip length: images dominate in short clips, text in long ones. Image-based predictions are also more sensitive to emotional content, while text reflects propositional content that requires longer exposure to accumulate. A survey experiment shows that these differences translate into relevant implications for political communication. Republican images immediately increase perceived Republican partisanship, raise negative emotions, and in short clips reduce pro-immigrant charity donations, especially among Republicans. Textual cues, by contrast, lose their partisan signal in short clips but, under longer exposures, shift immigration attitudes, with effects concentrated among Democratic viewers. The results reveal distinct comparative advantages of each modality: visuals act quickly through emotion and behavior, while text persuades more slowly through attitudes and beliefs.

Working Papers

Today's Bonus, Tomorrow's Budget: Equity-Efficiency Tradeoff in Performance-Based Transfers
with Luigi Caloi

Abstract: To improve service delivery, central governments often tie intergovernmental transfers to local policy performance. While such performance-based transfers can raise efficiency by incentivizing municipalities, they may also create equity losses by disproportionately rewarding high-capacity governments with larger transfers. We study this equity efficiency trade-off using transfers to Brazilian municipalities. When two states tied transfers to relative educational performance, student test scores rose substantially: moving

from the 25th to the 75th percentile of per capita conditional transfers increased scores by 0.13 standard deviations. However, the reform also widened funding disparities, as municipalities with higher pre-existing capacity received larger transfers. In contrast, contemporaneous reforms to passive transfers had negligible effects on student outcomes. A simple model of optimal transfers interprets these findings, suggesting that performance-based transfers deliver large efficiency gains, limited equity costs, and should constitute a sizable share of the optimal transfer mix. We find minimal evidence of multitasking distortions or score manipulation. Instead, we document increased education-related inputs and suggestive evidence of reduced corruption.

Fixed Effects Topic Model
with Dan Biderman, David Blei, Wei Cai, Amir Feder and Andrea Prat

Abstract: Social scientists wish to perform topic modeling on documents that are created by different authors in different contexts. However, the same broad topic may be expressed in different ways depending on the environment where the author operates. For example, one may wish to use employee reviews to identify broad corporate culture topics, but the language of reviews is influenced by industry-specific jargon. Existing methods attempt to control for these biases ex post, such as with traditional fixed effect regressions. But these methods cannot fully separate global themes from category-specific language within them. In this paper, we introduce the Fixed Effects Topic Model (FETM), a novel approach to disentangling broad topics from contextual influences by incorporating fixed effects directly into the generative process of language. We use the FETM to identify themes in a large corpus of Glassdoor job reviews. We show that it outperforms conventional topic models, both in interpretability and predictive accuracy.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

CPE Graduate Student Grant Opportunity, *Columbia Center for Political Economy*	2024
CELSS Seed Grant, *Columbia Experimental Laboratory in the Social Sciences*	2024
J-PAL's Jobs and Opportunity Initiative Brazil (with Luigi Caloi), *J-PAL*	2023
Wueller Fellowship for Best Teaching Fellow (Runner-up), *Columbia University*	2022
Dean's Fellowship, *Columbia University*	2020 – Present

Other Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Andrea Prat and Andrey Simonov, *Columbia Business School*	2021–2024
Research Assistant to Professor Cailin Slattery, *Columbia Business School*	2021–2024
Research Assistant to Professor Marco Ottaviani, Bocconi University	2016-2017

Teaching Experience

Main Instructor in Math Camp (Economics MA)	2022 – 2024
Guest Lecturer in Political Economy (PhD), Prof. Andrea Prat	2022 – 2024
TA in Industrial Organization (MA), Prof. Ildikó Magyari	2024
TA in Game Theory and Business (MBA), Prof. Andrea Prat	2023
TA in Corporate Finance (UG), Prof. Tri Vi Dang	2023
TA in Math Methods for Economists (MA), Prof. Isaac Bjorke	2022

Bio

Citizenship: Italian
Gender: Male