Problem Set #2

MACS 30200, Dr. Evans

Due Wednesday, May. 3 at 11:30am

Table 1: Computational papers and student assignments

"Performing Authority: Communicating Judicial Decisions in Lower Criminal Courts"[a]	"Measuring Representational Style in the House: The Tea Party, Obama and Legislators' Changing Expressed" Priorities"[b]	"Is the Internet Causing Political Polarization? Evidence from Demographics"[c]	"Understanding the Advice of Commissions-motivated Agents: Evidence from the Indian Life Insurance Market"[d]
Cheng Yee Lim	Julian McClellan	Alice Chung	Weijia Li
ChihYu Chiang	Benjamin Rothschild	Luxi Han	Rodrigo Valdes Ortiz
Erin Ochoa	Yuqing Zhang	Huanye Liu	Dongping Zhang
Bobae Kang	Chelsea Ernhoffer	Ariel Xu	Sushmita V. Gopalan
Reid McIlroy-Young	Wenxi Xiao	Wanlin Ji	Haylee Ham
Yiqing Zhu	Jingyuan Zho	Esha Banerjee	Xinshu Sun
Hyung Jin Cho	Soowan Kim	Xingyun Wu	Yang Hou
Joanna Tung		Zhuo Leng	Tong Ju

[a] Sharyn Roach Anleu and Kathy Mack, "Performing Authority: Communicating Judicial Decisions in Lower Criminal Courts," *Journal of Sociology*, 51:4, pp. 1052-1069 (2015).

[b] Justin Grimmer, "Measuring Representational Style in the House: The Tea Party, Obama and Legislators' Changing Expressed Priorities," in *Computational Social Science: Data and Prediction*, ed. R. Michael Alvarez, Cambridge University Press (2016).

[c] Levi Boxell, Matthew Gentzkow, and Jesse M. Shapiro, "Is the Internet Causing Political Polarization? Evidence from Demographics," NBER Working Paper #23258, National Bureau of Economic Research (March 2017).

[d] Santosh Anagol, Shawn Cole, and Shayak Sarkar, "Understanding the Advice of Commissions-motivated Agents: Evidence from the Indian Life Insurance Market," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99:1, pp. 1-15 (March 2017).

1. **Critical review computational approach to answering research question.** Your assignment is to write a critical review of the main computational/empirical approach to answering the research question in your assigned paper from Table 1 above. Your critical review has no page minimum or page limit. But it should have the following components.

   (a) State the research question of your assigned paper.

   (b) What data did the paper use?

   (c) What theory did the paper reference in order to interpret the data? (Note: it is possible that the paper has no reference to theory.)

   (d) Was your assigned paper a descriptive study, an identification exercise, a numerical solution to system of equations study, or some combination of the three? (These are the three classifications we discussed in class.)

   (e) What computational methods did this paper use to answer the research question? What was their result or answer to the question?

(f) Think of yourself as an academic referee. Give two suggestions to the author(s) of your assigned paper of things the authors might do to improve their results or strengthen their evidence for the answer to the question.

(g) A PDF of your answers to parts (a) through (f) should be uploaded into your "ProblemSets/PS2" folder of your GitHub project repository by 11:30am on Monday, May 1.