

Ro'ee Levy

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Fields of Concentration:

Political Economy
Applied Microeconomics
Environmental Economics

Desired Teaching:

Public Economics, Political Economy, Environmental Economics, Microeconomics

Comprehensive Examinations Completed:

2016 (Orals): Political Economy and Public Economics (*with distinction*)
Environmental Economics
2015 (Written): Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

Committee:

Professor Ebonya Washington (Chair)
Professor Joseph S. Shapiro
Professor Dean Karlan

Expected Completion Date: May 2020

Degrees:

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2020 (expected)
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2016
M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2015
M.A., Economics (*with distinction*), Tel Aviv University, 2013
M.A., Political Science (*with highest distinction*), Tel Aviv University, 2008
B.S., Computer Science (*with distinction*), Political Science (*with distinction*), Tel Aviv University, 2007

Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

Falk Foundation Fellowship Fund, Yale University, 2017-2018
Overbrook Fellowship Fund, Yale University, 2015-2017
Graduate Policy Fellow, Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies, 2016-2017

Yale University Graduate Fellowship, 2014-2019
Achievement of Excellence Graduate Student Prize, Tel Aviv University, 2011-2013
Akiov Scholarship, 2010-2012
Dean's List, Tel Aviv University, 2005-2007
Achievement of Excellence Undergraduate Student Prize, 2005-2006

Research Grants:

Yale Economics Department Research Grant (with Martin Mattson), 2019
Program in Applied Economics and Policy Research Grant, Yale University, 2016; 2018
Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies Field Experiment Initiative Award, 2017
Yale Economics Department Research Grant, 2017
The Citizens' Empowerment Center in Israel Research Grant, 2010-2011

Teaching Experience:

Yale University, Teaching Assistant

Economics of Environmental and Natural Resource Management (Prof. Robert Mendelsohn), Spring 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2019
Introductory Microeconomics (Prof. Steven Berry), Fall 2017
Intermediate Microeconomics (Prof. Larry Samuelson), Fall 2016

Research and Work Experience:

Research Assistant, Evidence in Governance and Politics (Berkeley), "Metaketa-III: Natural Resource Governance", 2018-2019
Advisor to the Deputy Director of the Israel Tax Authority, coordinated the Third Green Taxes Committee focusing on alternative energies in the transportation sector, Mimshak Science and Policy Fellowship Program, 2013-2014
Economist, The Association of Environmental Justice in Israel, 2011-2013
Research Director, The Macro Center for Political Economy, Tel Aviv, 2012-2013
Researcher, The Macro Center for Political Economy, Tel Aviv, 2010-2012

Working Papers:

"Social Media and Polarization: Evidence from a Field Experiment", *Job Market Paper*.

"The Effects of Social Movements: Evidence from #MeToo", with Martin Mattsson.

Seminar and Conference Presentations:

Managerial Economics & Decision Sciences Seminar, Northwestern University, 2019
Social Media Governance Initiative, Yale University, 2019

Referee Service:

Economic Letters

Languages:

Hebrew (native), English (fluent)

References

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Decision Sciences
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Dissertation Abstract
[THE WHOLE THING NO MORE THAN 1.75 PAGES]

Short preamble, 3-5 lines, if there is a general theme, otherwise skip to:

Social Media and Polarization: Evidence from a Field Experiment, (Job Market Paper)
IDEAL IS .6-.8 PAGES; IN ANY CASE NO MORE THAN ONE FULL PAGE, INCLUDING PREAMBLE

As more individuals consume news on social media, there is growing apprehension that social media leads to greater consumption of pro-attitudinal news and as a result polarization increases. Furthermore, several recent scandals, such the Russian-based campaign to influence the 2016 elections highlight a concern that individuals may be targeted and easily manipulated on social media. By merging datasets on browsing behavior, voting behavior and news outlets, I show that consumers visit more extreme news sites through social media, and news visited through social media is more likely to match the consumer's ideology. To estimate the effect of social media news consumption, I conduct a large field experiment randomly offering subscriptions to conservative or liberal outlets on Facebook. The intervention is designed to have high external validity as besides the initial offer, it does not intervene in the participants' behavior: individuals choose whether to read or share articles from the outlets that appeared in their feed, the news supplied to participants is the actual news provided by leading media outlets during the study period, and the decision on which posts participants were exposed to is determined by Facebook's algorithm, which affects the news consumption of close to half of American adults. I collect novel data on Facebook news exposure and news related browsing behavior allowing me to analyze the entire chain of media effects: subscription to an outlet, exposure to content, consumption of news articles and sharing news.

I present four main findings. First, even though social media is associated with more segregated news consumption, individuals are willing to engage with counter-attitudinal news. Second, I find that the social media feed substantially affects news consumption habits. The slant of news sites visited was substantially affected by the intervention, suggesting that individuals do not optimize their news consumption according to their preferred slant, but instead their decisions are often driven by search costs. Third, I show that exposure to cross-attitudinal news decreases affective polarization, defined as negative attitudes towards the other party. I estimate that an increase in one standard deviation in the share of counter-attitudinal news in the social media feed, decreases affective polarization by 0.1 standard deviations. Fourth, I find that while attitudes towards parties change, political opinions are not affected by the slant of news individuals are exposed to. I decompose the mechanisms leading to greater segregation on social media and find evidence for the existence of a filter bubble: Facebook is less likely to supply posts from counter-attitudinal outlets, conditional on subscription. Together, these results imply that the algorithms governing social media may be amplifying the tendency to consume pro-attitudinal news and thus are increasing affective polarization.

The Effects of Social Movements: Evidence from #MeToo, with Martin Mattsson. **NO MORE THAN A HALF PAGE, ONE PARAGRAPH**

Social movements are associated with large changes to norms and behavior, but evidence on their causal effects is limited. We study the effect of the MeToo movement on a high-stakes personal decision, reporting a sexual crime to the police. Using a novel international data set covering 79% of the OECD population and employing a triple difference strategy over time, across countries and between crime types, we find that the MeToo movement increased reporting of sexual crimes by 14% during its first three months. We use more detailed US data to show that despite the increase in crimes reported, there was no effect on the number of sexual crimes cleared by the police. In contrast to a common criticism of the movement, we do not find evidence for large differences in the effect across racial and socioeconomic groups. While the immediate effect is larger than the long-term effect, we find a strong effect on reported crimes even 15 months after the movement started. Our results suggest that social movements can rapidly change important personal decisions by shifting social norms.

Title, any coauthors **NO MORE THAN A HALF PAGE, ONE PARAGRAPH**

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