

Call for Collaborators

quasimatt

QUASI INSTITUTE

`quasimatt@quasi.institute`

November 3, 2025

hey:) i send this document to people i'm interested in collaborating with for a quasi institute paper. i either 1) think you're really smart and interesting or 2) want to farm you for institutional clout or social media clout. or (most likely) both.

quasi institute papers are mostly written by me. i'm looking for co-authors who can (at minimum) help with model-building, take the development of the paper seriously and offer feedback, and ideally who have original ideas related to the topic of the paper that they will work through and formalize with me. i'm down for people to take a more active role in writing, but that's kind of the boring part lowkey and i'm kind of pedantic. a core tenet of the quasi insitute research methodology is that we don't really reference or cite other research. we just think about stuff.

the following are very general descriptions of papers that are planned or in progress. if one seems interesting to you, let's talk about it. i can share more detailed info and not only that but also additionally would love to hear what you think as well.

1 Potential Papers

1.1 Clout

already in progress. very economics-core. models clout as "parasocial capital" and basically argues that clout is a more temporary version of social capital that does not entail general trust and is rooted in the ability to command attention. an important feature of clout that it often increases through monetization, as opposed to social capital which decreases when straightforwardly monetized.

1.2 Queen Out

mostly qualitative/narrative (likely little or no math). kind of "susan sontag on camp" vibes. i want to characterize queening out as radically pro-social. it's a mode of socialization where all parties are committed to creating a certain type of conviviality that is rooted in yes-anding and in-jokes. i'm frankly very picky about who i would write this with tbh. you gotta be a professional queener fr.

1.3 Grift

this one is giving moral philosophy and econ. probably the most interesting topic on this list to me. i want to model grifting using surplus capture and honesty/lying, perhaps among other things. i do not think any intention-based conception of grifting is interesting. i am really starting at square one on this idea.

1.4 Creatonomics

this one is kind of careerist and pretty well mapped out in my head. i want to do a review of the tokenomics of creator coins and then propose a new tokenomic model that is fee-based. the general idea is that creators should benefit from people holding their token, not trading it. i have the exact tokenomic model i think is ideal in mind, but i need someone to fight with me about it and play devil's advocate etc.

1.5 quasimatt.com Social Graph

i want to significantly expand the functionality of the quasimatt.com social graph and then do empirical analysis of it. i'd like to collab with someone who is very math literate. some ideas i have are: identifying social groups (node classification), doing downstream influence analysis, examining connection trends over time. i need to wait to have at least 100 days of data to do this, so i'd start it in 2026.

1.6 Against Privacy

this one is really serious and political. the thesis is basically that every ethical problem can be understood as an resulting from an information asymmetry (we have to assume some social contract theory stuff in order to get here). there's a lot of ground to cover: governments don't work properly because of corruption enabled by privacy. economic policies often don't have the intended effect due to enforcement barriers created by privacy. social problems

(from interpersonal to systemic) result from misunderstandings that can be resolved by sharing currently private information. in general, power imbalances that may initially be justified are dramatically exacerbated by privacy until they become unreasonable. the paper will argue for a total surveillance state, with the caveat that the surveillance data is made available to everyone.

1.7 Economic Agency

it's hard to say something novel about this because it's been beaten into the ground by analytic philosophers. basically i am interested in the general idea that people are coerced into acting as economic agents (due to well,, society) and should not be held morally responsible for their action when acting as a self-interested economic agent. paper would involve defining what makes an interaction "economic" rather than "personal" and then working through the implications of that. the goal is basically to argue that it's perfectly chill to lie and fuck over someone in a completely economic environment (say, a completely anonymized interaction on a blockchain) but it's morally reprehensible to do the same thing to a friend or a person you encounter in a "non-economic" context. most relationships are not fully economic or personal.

2 So you're down to collab but you HATE these ideas?

tell me what you'd like to figure out! in general, i'm interested in:

- narrativization and meaning creation, especially the process of justification and mental gymnastics
- the moralization of economics interactions/relationships like labor, debt, coercion
- art as a commodity. i am especially interested in doing empirical analysis of art markets for some reason. i'm particularly interested in the idea that the value of "high art" is derived primarily from social context.
- silicon valley ideology, tech optimism
- social rules, conviviality, especially wrt honesty
- theories about homosexuality
- other stuff