**Statistical Design Consulting**

**SEMESTER REPORT**

**Spring 2024**

**Client:** Hanna Sistek  **File Number:** 23-056

**Department:** Political Science **Major Prof:** Dr. Cheri Maestas

**Consultant:** Youha Shin **Initial Meeting Date:** 04/04/2023

**Meeting Attendees:** Hanna Sistek, Youha Shin

**Statement of Problem:** To test a reputational cost theory of disinformation dissemination by political elites.

**Goal of This Project:** PhD Dissertation and Journal Article

**Background:**

This research project investigates the factors influencing disinformation dissemination by political parties and elites in the US. The client’s reputational cost theory is tested by examining the relationship between party disinformation dissemination and variables like political polarization and electoral systems.

The analysis aims to identify patterns and variations in disinformation dissemination across countries and over time, considering factors such as election cycles and different units of analysis. The discussion includes recommendations for data visualization, model selection, and statistical techniques (e.g., clustered standard errors, fixed effect vs. mixed effect models) to address questions effectively.

**Progress During Current Semester:**

There was a follow-up meeting in the beginning of the Spring 2024 semester; however, the client primarily had questions pertaining to a separate project form the original study. The client remarked that the original study had been on hiatus for the time being, given that there are two other studies that the client needed to develop as part of her research.

Much of the follow-up meeting was a conceptual discussion without explicit recommendations for design or analysis. Examples of power analysis in the context of binary polling were provided, and references (from Dr. Craig) were shared with the client.

The client then reached out near the end of March noting that the new experiment had received external funding and will begin piloting at the JMK Social Science Lab. They then noted that they were starting the coding process and would surely come seek out assistance from the SCS when they were ready. As of yet, no updates have been sent by the client, but the next consultant may expect greater progress starting from the next semester onward.

**Current Status:** Continuing.