**Statistical Design Consulting**

**SEMESTER REPORT**

**Summer 2023**

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

**Department:** Political Science **Major Prof:** Cherie Drake Maestas

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

**Meeting Attendees:**

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

**Goal of This Project:** Ph.D Dissertation and Journal Article.

**Background:** Disinformation dissemination impacts party reputation and that matters for reelection chances. Recent societal developments and the advent of social media and networked communication has altered its reputational cost and lowered the bar of its spread.

This project uses regression to investigate the relationship between the dependent variable “party dissemination of disinformation domestically” and explanatory variables such as “political polarization” and “electoral system.” The client developed a reputational cost theory of disinformation dissemination and uses regression to test it. Specifically, the client wants to test hypotheses such as do countries with high political polarization and media fractionalization incentivize politicians to use disinformation.

The client is interested in investigating what variables could explain the global variation in disinformation dissemination domestically by political elites including politicians and parties. The client would like to discuss different ways of analyzing the data, for example, panel corrected standard errors, clustered standard errors, fixed effects models, etc.

**Progress During Current Semester:**

No activity this semester. The client is still in the process of finishing her prospectus but anticipates coming back to this project in the Fall 2023 semester.

**Current Status:** On hiatus until Fall 2023.