

Sylvan's (academic) life

Dissertation Prospectus Workshop

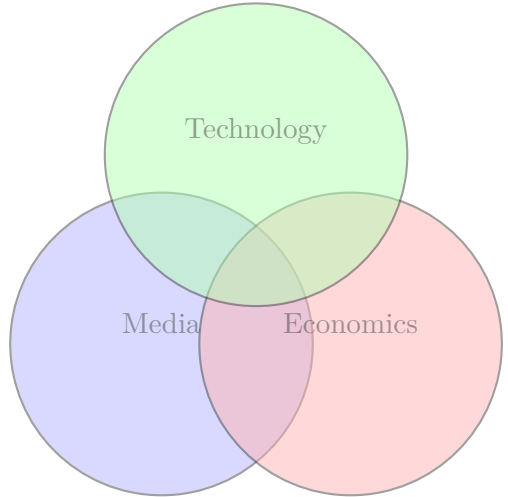
9 Oct 2024

Basics

- American Politics
- Methods
- Pat, Tara, Josh, Hye Young

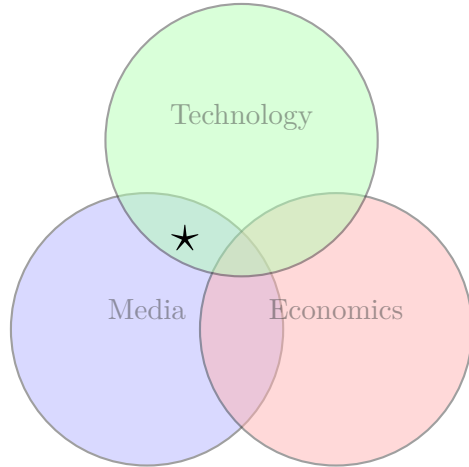
Basics

- American Politics
- Methods
- Pat, Tara, Josh, Hye Young
- “The effect of technology on the political economy of American media” (?)



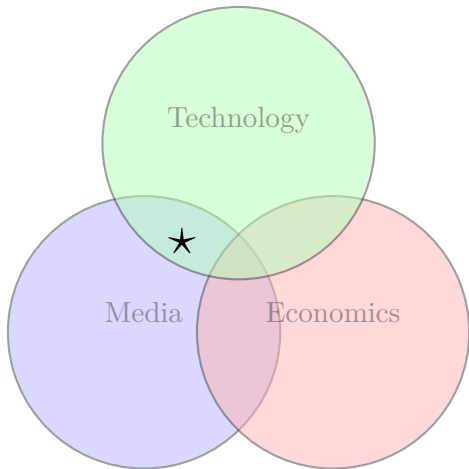
★ MA paper - partisan news on social media

- Field experiment: does showing people out-partisan news on Twitter change their issue attitudes?



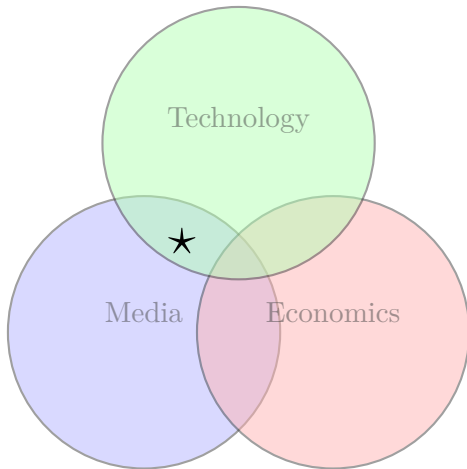
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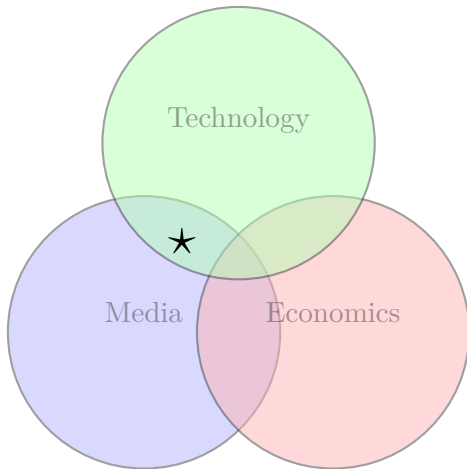
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- Status: pre-review at Nature Human Behavior as a Registered Report



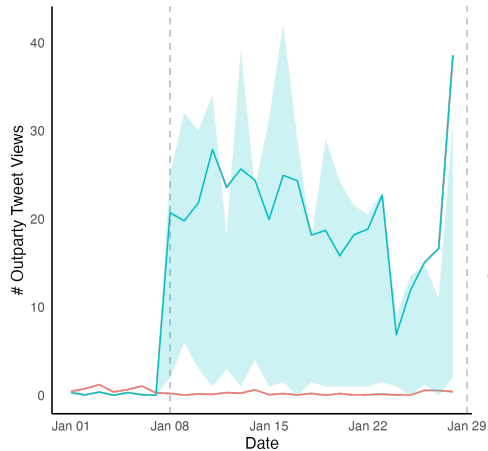
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- I like this project, but possible null result + no new theory + coauthorship?

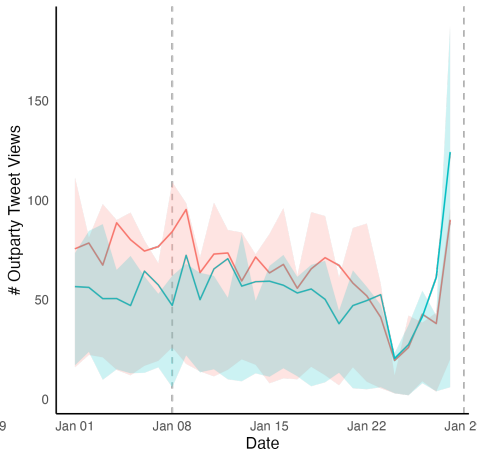


★ MA paper - partisan news on social media

a Daily Outparty Tweet Views Per Respondent



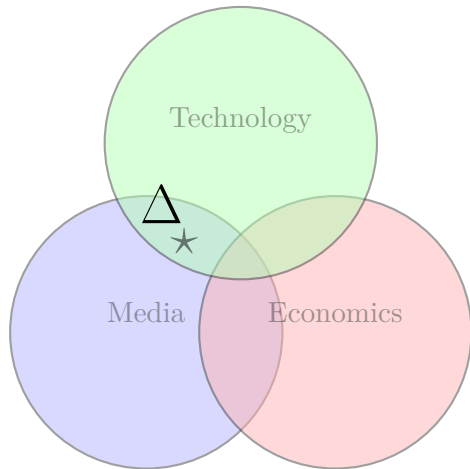
b Daily Total Tweet Views Per Respondent



Control Treat

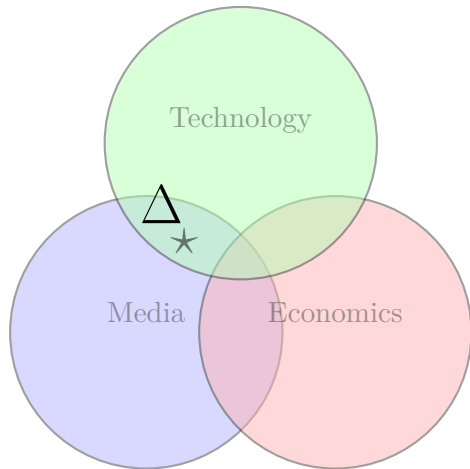
Δ QP - evaluating issue stances of long texts with LLMs

- Lots of methods for short texts (twitter), but less on longer texts which requires a different approach. I collect human labels for a bunch of op-eds and show how a particular prompting strategy with GPT performs better than other methods



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- Status: Undead. OpenAI keeps releasing new models and reviewers are like, “why didn’t you test this model that came out last week”
- I want this one to be over. but maybe will rescue with a substantive (descriptive) application?



Δ QP - evaluating issue stances of long texts with LLMs

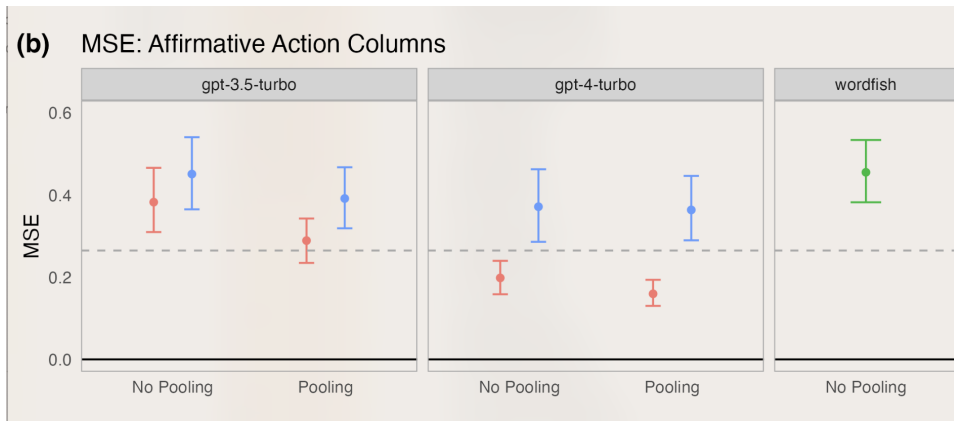


Figure: Performance of different methods. Red - my method. Blue - naive methods.

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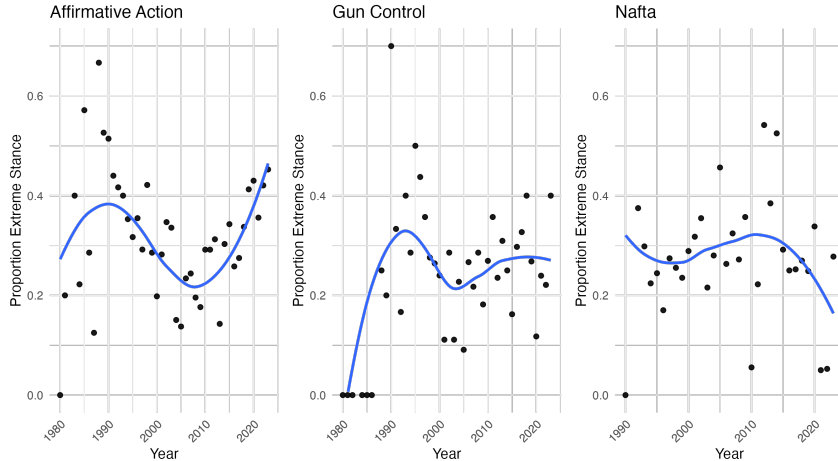
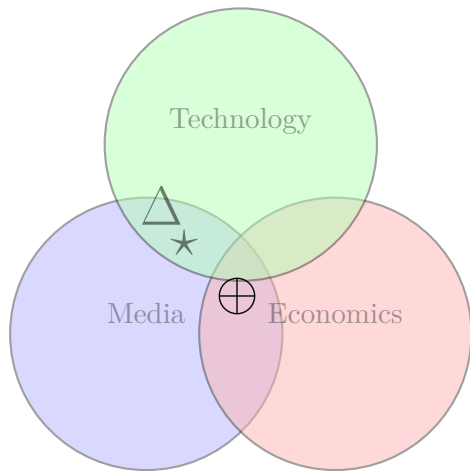


Figure: Some interesting variation in polarization by issue

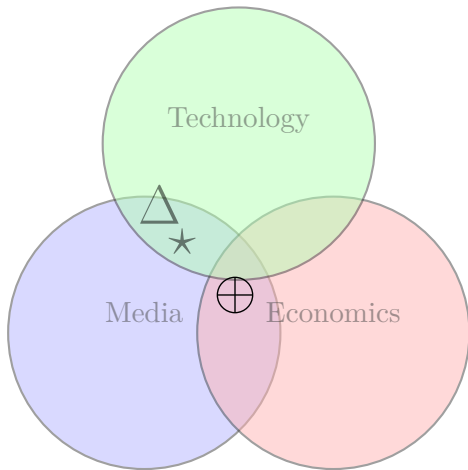
⊕ Climate Policy and Journalist Ideology (with Hye Young You)

- What role do individual journalists play in driving media slant? How has this changed in the context of new economic pressures on newsrooms and Trump's presidency actively antagonizing the press?



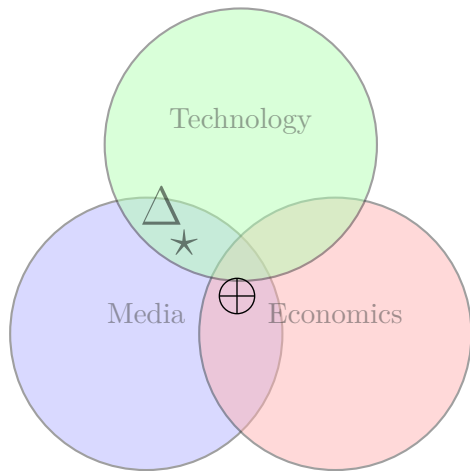
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- 18k climate change policy news articles, journalist information, and estimate slant by identifying cited groups with LLMs (ie, fossil fuel group vs environmental activist comments on policy have different slant)



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- 18k climate change policy news articles, journalist information, and estimate slant by identifying cited groups with LLMs (ie, fossil fuel group vs environmental activist comments on policy have different slant)
- Early results: elite educated younger journalists exhibit greater leftward slant.
- Next: flesh out the story? Leverage switchers? Trump presidency DiD?



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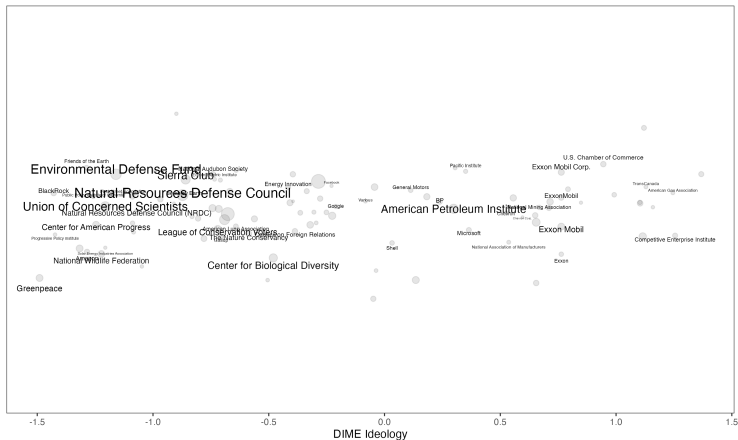


Figure: Lots of data - matched cited sources to DIME

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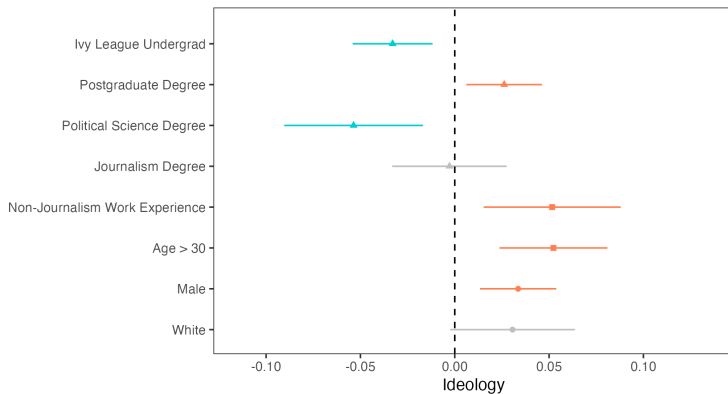
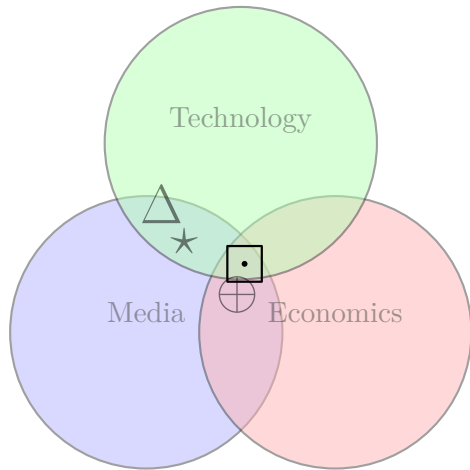


Figure: Simple correlations

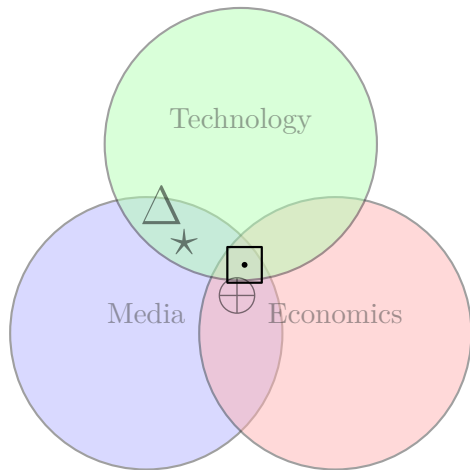
□ Media, experts and policy

- (Very) new project focusing on the role of experts/scientists in media and connection to distrust in institutions



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- Newsroom resources $\downarrow \Rightarrow$ reporting aggregates, quoting experts $\uparrow \Rightarrow$ mismatch with local experience \Rightarrow trust \downarrow ?



Summary

- ★ Partisan news on social media (with CSMAP)
- Δ Evaluating issue stances of long texts with LLMs
- \oplus Climate Policy and Journalist Ideology (with Hye Young You)
- \boxplus Media, experts and policy
- Work to do on all of these. Hopefully a JMP will fall out of the last one? How to prioritize?

