

Sylvan's (academic) life

Dissertation Prospectus Workshop

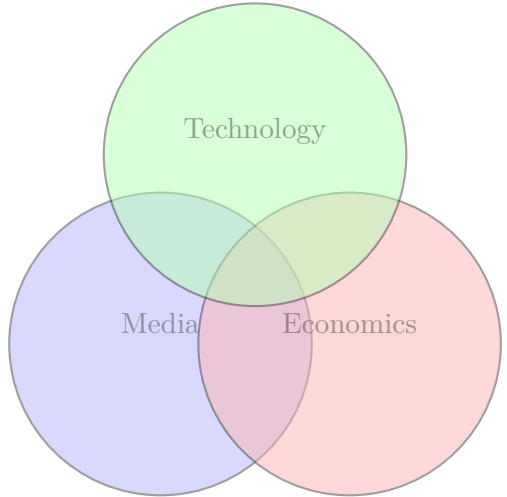
9 Oct 2024

# Basics

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

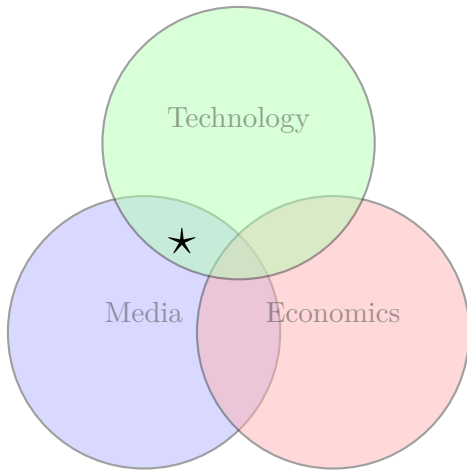
# Basics

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



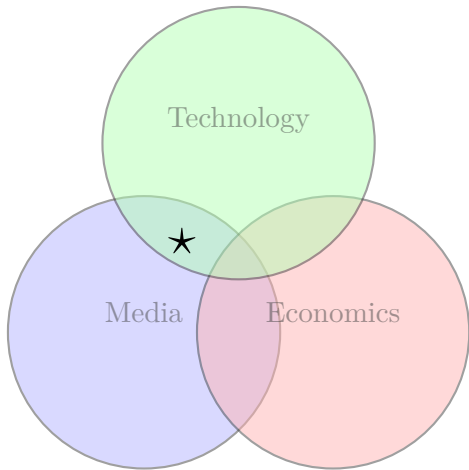
## ★ MA paper - partisan news on social media

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



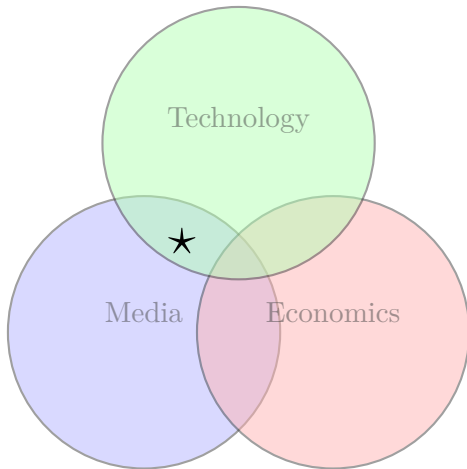
## ★ MA paper - partisan news on social media

- Field experiment: does showing people out-partisan news on Twitter change their issue attitudes?
- IMO every field study on this tests very weak intervention. So I made custom software to manipulate respondents' social media feed.



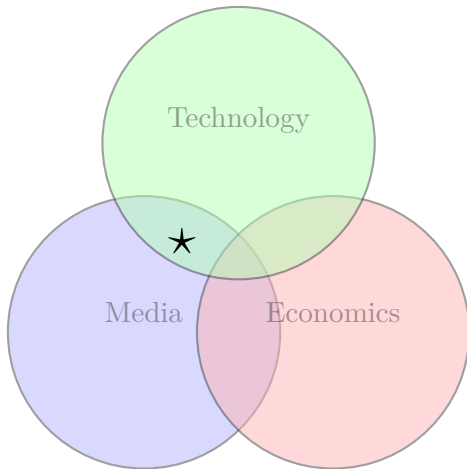
## ★ MA paper - partisan news on social media

- Field experiment: does showing people out-partisan news on Twitter change their issue attitudes?
- IMO every field study on this tests very weak intervention. So I made custom software to manipulate respondents' social media feed.
- Funded (and co-authored) with CSMAF
- Status: pre-review at Nature Human Behavior as a Registered Report



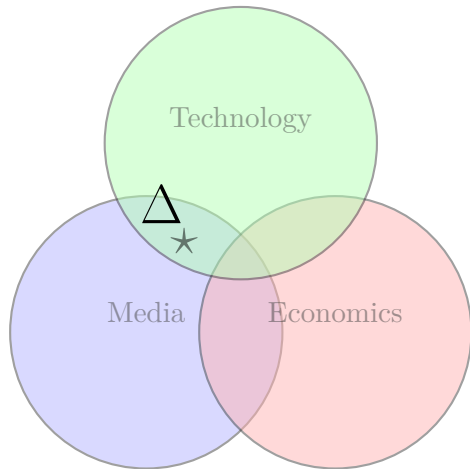
## ★ MA paper - partisan news on social media

- Field experiment: does showing people out-partisan news on Twitter change their issue attitudes?
- IMO every field study on this tests very weak intervention. So I made custom software to manipulate respondents' social media feed.
- Funded (and co-authored) with CSMAF
- Status: pre-review at Nature Human Behavior as a Registered Report
- I like this project, but possible null result + no new theory + coauthorship?



## $\Delta$ QP - evaluating issue stances of long texts with LLMs

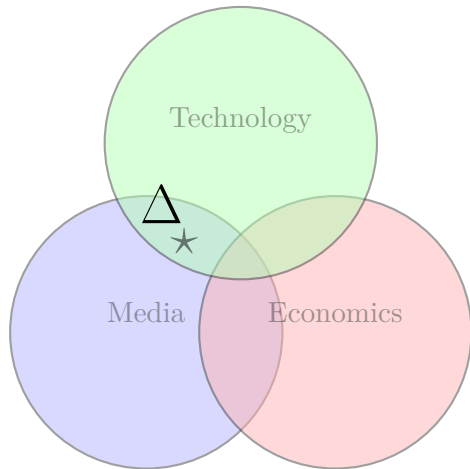
- Lots of methods for short texts (twitter), but less on longer texts which requires a different approach. I collect human labels for a bunch of op-eds and show how a particular prompting strategy with GPT performs better than other methods





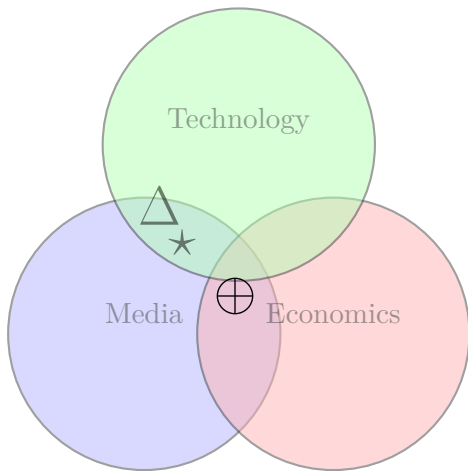
## $\Delta$ QP - evaluating issue stances of long texts with LLMs

- 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
- 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?



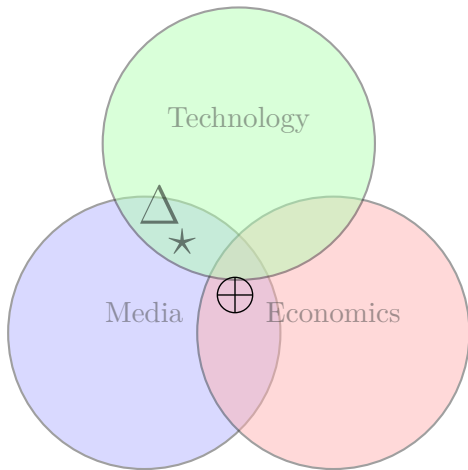
## ⊕ Climate Policy and Journalist Ideology (with Hye Young You)

- 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?



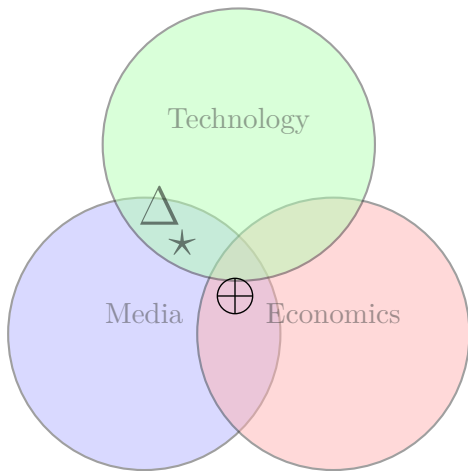
## ⊕ Climate Policy and Journalist Ideology (with Hye Young You)

- 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?
- 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)



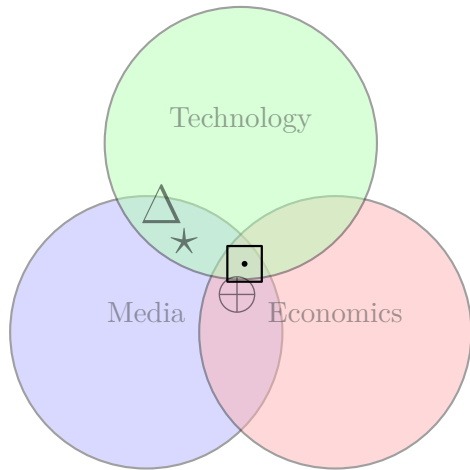
## ⊕ Climate Policy and Journalist Ideology (with Hye Young You)

- 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?
- 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?



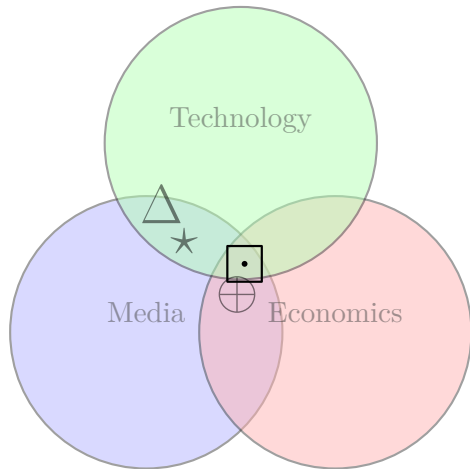
## □ Media, experts and policy

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



## □ Media, experts and policy

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

