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References

Yeon-Koo Che (co-advisor)	**Navin Kartik (co-advisor)**	**Andrea Prat**
Kelvin J. Lancaster Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics and R. P. Richman Professor of Business
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Fields of Specialization

Economic Theory, Dynamic Games, Information Economics, Media Economics

Education

2021 (expected)	Ph.D. Economics	Columbia University
2014	B.A. Math and Economics	Brandeis University

Job Market Paper

Competition and Errors in Breaking News

Abstract: Reporting errors are endemic to breaking news, despite the fact that accuracy is prized by consumers. I present a dynamic model of breaking news to understand the strategic forces behind reporting errors. In this model, news firms are rewarded for reporting before their competitors, but also for making reports that are credible in the eyes of consumers. Errors occur when firms *fake*, reporting a story despite lacking evidence. Firms can alternatively choose to be *truthful,* only reporting a story if they have confirmed it is true. I establish both existence and uniqueness of an equilibrium. Errors in equilibrium are driven by both a lack of commitment and by competition. Even if it is optimal for a firm to be truthful, it commit to it. Thus, firms can be tempted to fake even in the absence of competition, capitalizing on their good credibility and the inability of consumers to detect fake reports. In part, competition exacerbates faking by giving rise to a preemptive motive, thus incentivizing firms to report in haste. Furthermore, competition introduces observational learning, which causes errors to propagate through the market. This equilibrium also gives rise to rich dynamics. Firms become gradually more credible over time whenever there is a preemptive motive. This increase in credibility rewards firms for taking their time, and thus endogenously mitigates the haste-inducing effects of preemption. A firm's behavior will also discretely change in response to a rival report. This can take the form of a *copycat effect*, in which one firm's report triggers an immediate surge in faking by others. In addition to these core results, I perform comparative statics analysis and consider an extension in which firms have heterogeneous learning abilities.

Working Papers

Reputation in News Media: Speed vs. Accuracy

Abstract: We study news firms' reporting behavior, including their propensity to misreport, when they are reputation-driven. In our model, a news firm (sender) dynamically learns about a state and reports to a consumer (receiver). Senders are concerned with their reputation at the end of the game, and must choose when to time their report. We find that in equilibrium, the sender fakes, i.e., report despite being ignorant of the state, with positive probability in every period. This faking in turn leads to a higher level of misreporting than if the sender were instead truthful. We further find the sender's reputations is endogenously rewarded for both speed and accuracy, and thus we provide a microfoundation to the speed-accuracy tradeoff in the news media setting. Finally, we consider the dynamics in the sender's strategy, finding that the sender becomes more truthful, and thus less prone to misreporting, as time passes.

Works in Progress

Dynamic Reputation-Driven Media Bias

Abstract: We study the dynamics of reputation-driven media bias. To this end, we present a dynamic model of reputation-driven media bias. A firm privately learns about an issue in increments and reports to a consumer with each new piece of information. With each new report, the consumer updates her beliefs about the firm's information quality, i.e., the firm's reputation. Firms are forward-looking and thus take into account both their immediate and future reputations when reporting. Nonetheless, we establish that equilibrium reporting behavior is identical for myopic and forward-looking firms. In equilibrium, firms bias their reports, and this bias is shown to be driven by two separate factors. First, firms can appear more reputable by appealing to a consumer's prior bias (the *prior effect*). Separately firms with reports that are more consistent across time are viewed more favorably (the *consistency effect*). The relative importance of the consistency effect grows over time as the firm accumulates a richer history of reports.

News Accuracy and Speed: Theory and Experiment (with Silvio Ravaioli)

Recipient of 2021 IFREE Grant

Preemption and Private Learning

Work Experience

Research Assistant, Columbia University

Yeon-Koo Che	2019-2021
Andrea Prat	2018
Jacopo Perego	Summer 2019
Bentley MacLeod	Summer 2017

Research Associate, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Macroeconomic and Monetary Studies, Research and Statistics Division	2014-2016

Teaching Fellow

Game Theory (undergraduate)	Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
Microeconomic Theory (undergraduate)	Spring 2018, Spring 2019
Industrial Organization (undergraduate)	Fall 2017
Economics of the Environment (undergraduate)	Summer 2017

Honors and Awards

Caswell L. Johnson Fellowship	Columbia University	2021
Dissertation Fellowship	Columbia University	2021
Dean's Fellowship	Columbia University	2016-2020
Summer Fellowship	Microeconomic Theory Initiative, Columbia University	2020
Research Fellowship	Program for Economic Research, Columbia University	Summers 2017, 2018, 2020
Sidney H. Cohen Award for Best Undergraduate Thesis	Department of Economics, Brandeis University	2016