

Thomas Taylor

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EDUCATION

European University Institute

Ph.D in Economics

Since 2021

Supervisors : Thomas Crossley and Alessandro Tarozzi

M.Res in Economics

2022

University Paris-Saclay, Ecole Polytechnique & ENSAE

M.Sc in Economics. *Magna Cum Laude*

2020

University Paris-Sud

B.Sc in Economics and Management, Applied Economics track. *with Honours*

2018

University Degree in German and English Languages and Civilizations. *with Honours*

2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy, Development Economics, Media Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Connecting the Unconnected: Facebook Access and Female Political Representation in Sub-Saharan Africa, with Sophie Hatte and Jordan Loper

Abstract: Can social media help promote female access to political positions? Using data from 8,814 parliamentary races across 17 sub-Saharan African countries, we explore this question in a context of significant political underrepresentation of women and rising Facebook penetration over the past decade. We leverage the staggered introduction of Facebook's Free Basics—i.e., free access to Facebook through partner mobile operators—across constituencies and time, documenting the success of this connectivity shock and its subsequent effect on female political representation. We find that the availability of Facebook's Free Basics significantly increases the election of female candidates, but only after one electoral cycle. This effect is driven by female candidates endorsed by established political parties and running for the first time. Uncovering the underlying mechanisms, we document a large, positive relationship between social media use and egalitarian gender norms, particularly regarding women in politics. Examining users' online network structures, we show that this association is driven by exposure to diverse and progressive content, and that such online connections are key to Free Basics' electoral impact. Finally, we find that Free Basics' effect is contingent on the presence of fair elections but is amplified where traditional press freedom is limited.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Early but not Alone? Mail Voting and within Couple Political Agency

Far-Right Ownership in the Printed Press and Public Policy

with Mathieu Couttenier, Sophie Hatte and Stephanos Vlachos

Printing Progress? Newspapers and Female Emancipation in Pre-Suffrage Britain

with Andrea Tizzani

Exposure to Informal Markets and Educational Choices: Evidence from Artisanal Mines

with Mathieu Couttenier

TEACHING

Microeconomics 1

TA, Undergraduate 3rd year, ENS Lyon

Fall 2024

Introduction to Economics

Lecturer, Undergraduate 1st year (CPES), ENS Lyon

Spring 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Predoctoral fellow, ENS Lyon

10/2020 - 08/2021

Research assistant to Mathilde Godard, CNRS

06/2021 - 08/2021

Research assistant to Vincent Pons, Harvard Buiness School, part-time

12/2019 - 06/2021

Research assistant to Sophie Hatte, ENS Lyon

03/2019 - 07/2019

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations

2nd ENS-Bologna PhD Workshop; ENS Lyon; European University Institute

2025

MWP Populism and its Networks Workshop; European University Institute

2024

European University Institute

2023

Workshop and Seminar Organization

GenIES-CERGIC Workshop in Gender Economics, ENS Lyon

2025

Microeconometrics Working Group, EUI

2022-2023

Data Replicator

Journal of the European Economic Association

since 2024

GRANTS

Junior Laboratory Grant, ENS Lyon, *member* (3000€)

2024

EUI Ph.D Scholarship, French Minisitry of Higher Education

2021

SKILLS

Languages

French, English (native), German (advanced), Italian (intermediate)

Programing

Stata, Python, GIS, L^AT_EX(advanced), R (intermediate), Julia (beginner)