

Making Policy with Data

An Introductory Course on Policy Evaluation

Policy Briefing

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April 27

Sources of Authoritarian Responsiveness (Chen-Pan-Xu 2017)

- **Research Question:** What explains government responsiveness in an authoritarian country?
- **Sample:** China's online government platforms (>2000 counties)
- **Outcome:** Response to citizen request
- **Treatments:**
 - Threat of collective action
 - Evoking the oversight of upper level leaders
 - Claims of loyal, Communist Party membership

An Online Field Experiment in China

The screenshot shows the homepage of the official website of Songzhi City, Hubei Province. The top banner features the Chinese flag, the hammer and sickle logo, and the text "松滋市党的群众路线教育实践活动". Below the banner, there are links for the city committee,人大, and 政协. The main navigation bar includes 首页, 松滋概况, 政务公开, 依法行政, 在线办事, 互动交流, 公众服务, 每日新闻, and 项目见效年. A search bar and weather information (Songzhi, 阴转多云, 13°C~7°C) are also present. The left sidebar has a photo of a meeting and links to news, government departments, TV news, and project construction. The right sidebar features a "Government Announcement" section with links to various notices. Below these are sections for the Mayor's mailbox, news releases, and various government services like administrative reconsideration, engineering project information disclosure, and emergency management.

An Online Field Experiment in China

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设为主页 加入收藏
Songzi-China



本站首页 | 走进松滋 | 依法行政 | 政务公开 | 网上办事 | 投资松滋 | 公众互动 | 三农服务 | 和谐松滋 |

您现在位于: 首页 >> 公众互动 >> 在线咨询

公众互动—在线咨询

真情提示

咨询对象必须明确，咨询的内容真实、准确、完整，不得歪曲或捏造事实。

- 为了安全、保密，实现我们与您的双向交流，请您使用有效的Email与我们联系。
- 请如实填写您的姓名、联系电话、通讯地址，以便及时与您联系，我们一定会对您的个人信息保密。
- 请一事一投，内容完整的，将优先处理。
- 请认真填写表格（带 * 项不能为空），以便更好地与您联系。
- 请您遵守《计算机信息网络国际联网安全保护管理办法》。
- 您发的咨询内容在默认情况下将被公示在松滋市政府网站上，并会将您的姓氏公开名字省略。如您不愿意公示咨询内容，请选择“不公开”。

开始咨询

姓 名:

电子邮箱:

联系电话: *

通讯地址:

主管部门: 松滋市民政局

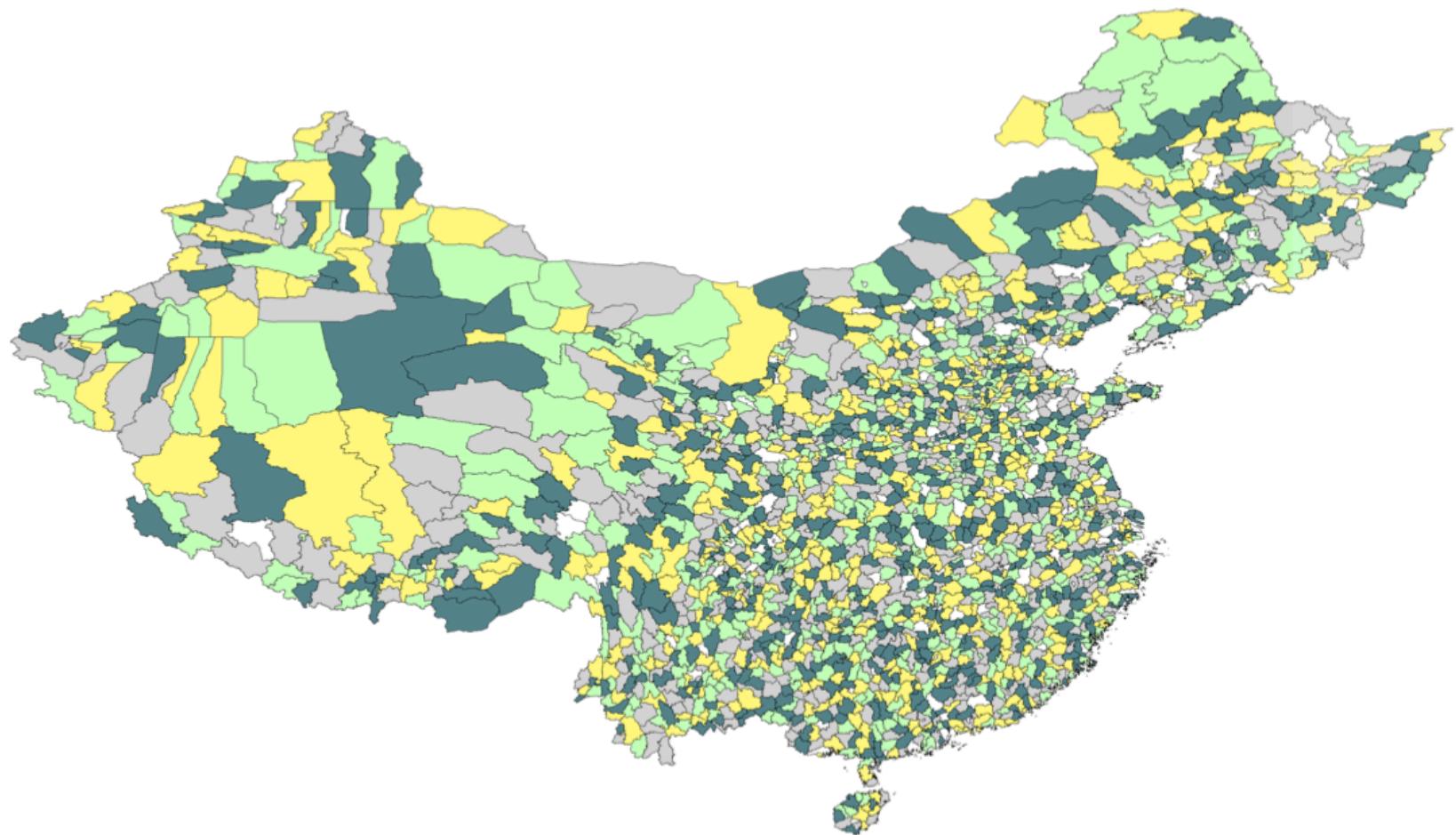
类 别: 公共服务

是否公开: 司公开

咨询主题: *

咨询内容:

An Online Field Experiment in China



Treatment Conditions: Collective Action

Respected leader:

My wife and I have lost our jobs, and we have been unable to find work for a long time. Our economic situation is very difficult, and we cannot make ends meet. We have to support my elderly mother who is ill and for whom we have to buy medicine. We also have our son who is in school and has school fees and living fees that are difficult to bear. I have tried to apply for *Dibao* through my residential committee, but they say I am not eligible.

People around me are in a similar situation, they face difficulties, and they also can't get *Dibao*. If you can't help, we'll try to figure out what we can do collectively about this situation. Can you help my family obtain *Dibao*? Much gratitude!

Yours,

[Common male name]

Treatment Conditions: Tattling

Respected leader:

My wife and I have lost our jobs, and we have been unable to find work for a long time. Our economic situation is very difficult, and we cannot make ends meet. We have to support my elderly mother who is ill and for whom we have to buy medicine. We also have our son who is in school and has school fees and living fees that are difficult to bear. I have tried to apply for *Dibao* through my residential committee, but they say I am not eligible.

If this problem cannot be addressed, I'll have to report it to upper-level government officials. Can you help my family obtain Dibao? Much gratitude!

Yours,

[Common male name]

Treatment Condition: Loyal Party Member

Respected leader:

My wife and I have lost our jobs, and we have been unable to find work for a long time. Our economic situation is very difficult, and we cannot make ends meet. We have to support my elderly mother who is ill and for whom we have to buy medicine. We also have our son who is in school and has school fees and living fees that are difficult to bear. I have tried to apply for *Dibao* through my residential committee, but they say I am not eligible.

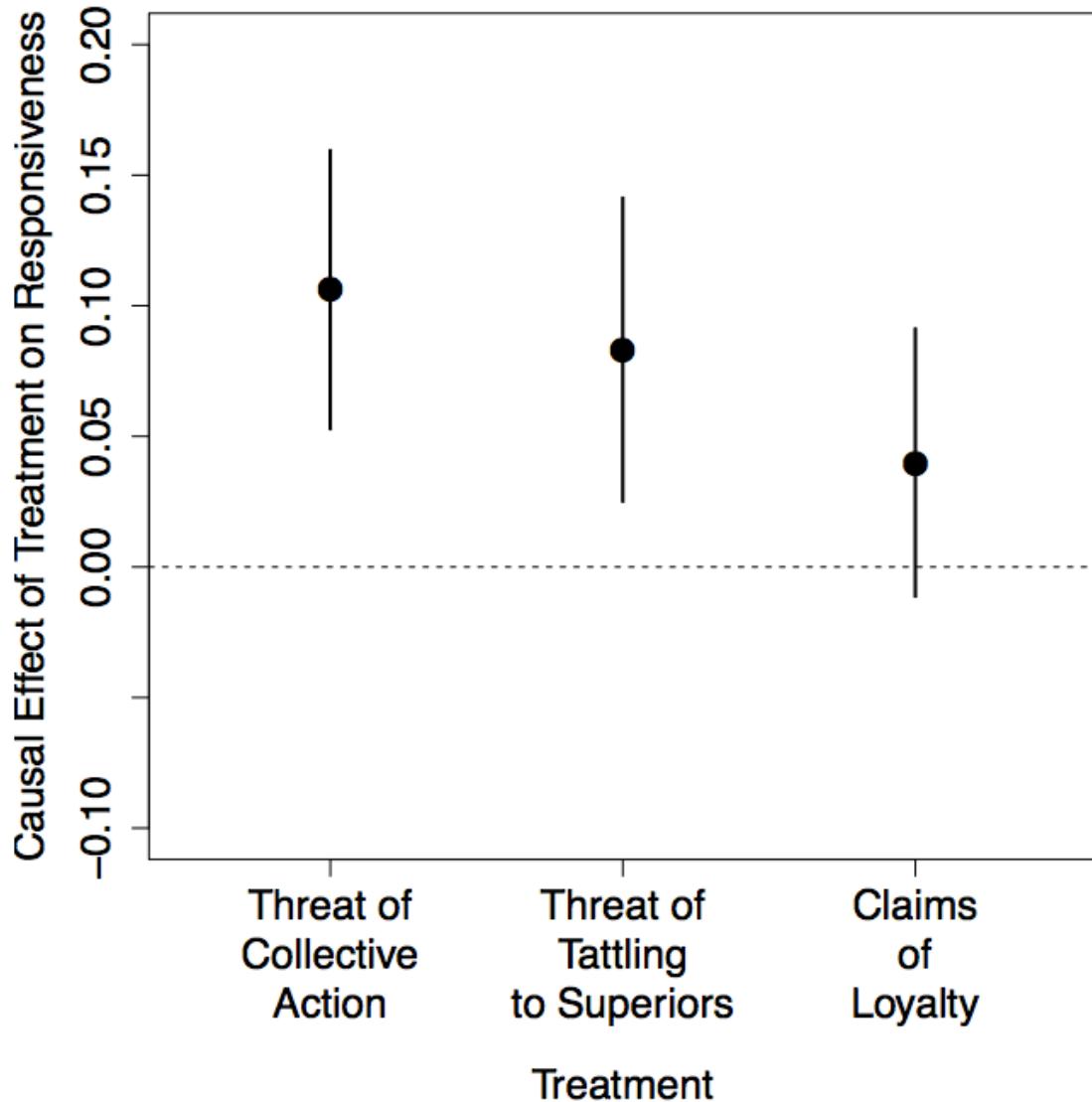
I'm a long-standing CCP member, I've always followed the leadership of the Party. Can you help my family obtain Dibao? Much gratitude!

Yours,

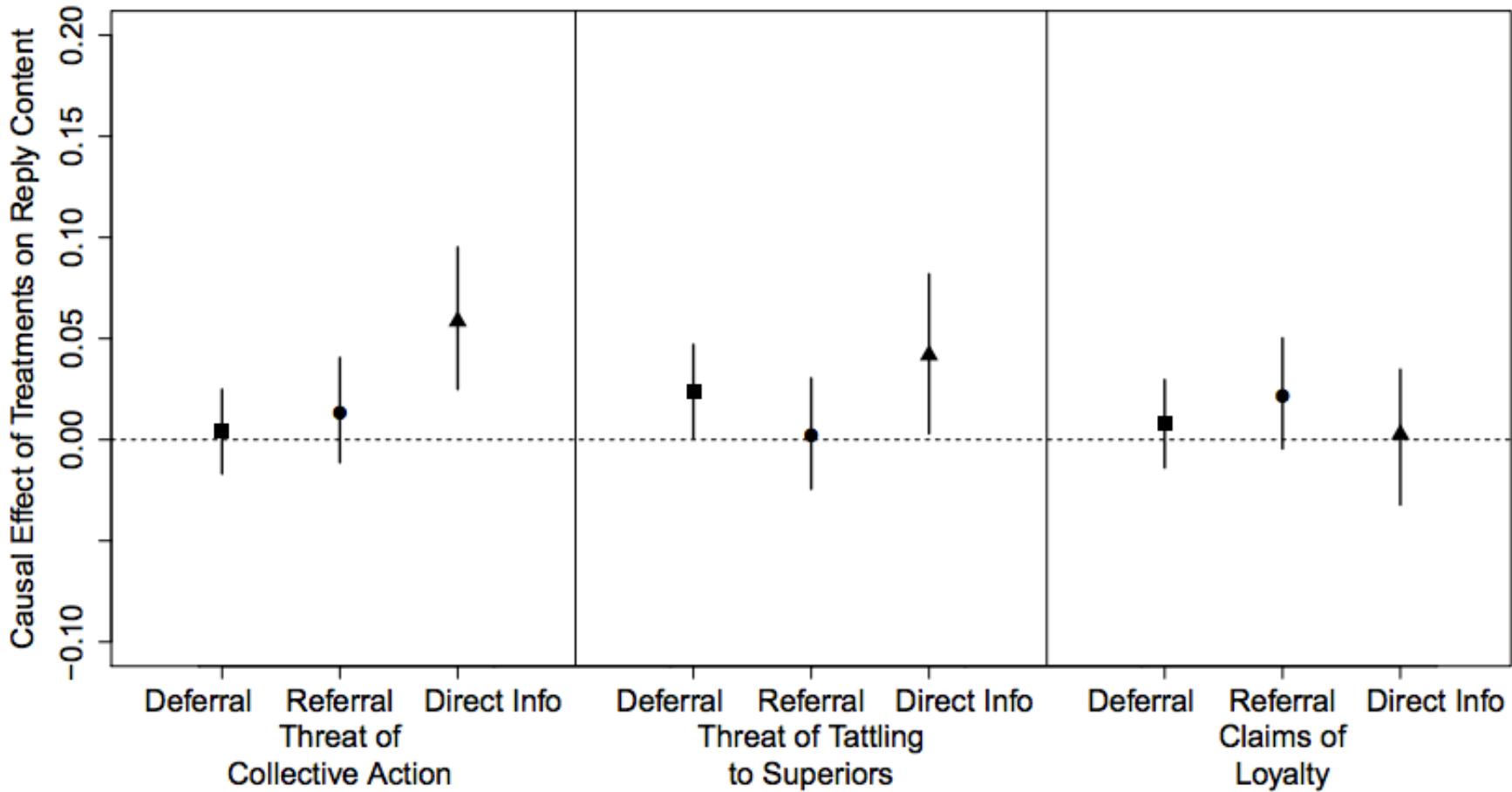
[Common male name]

Causal Effect on Responsiveness

Baseline
Responsiveness:
32%



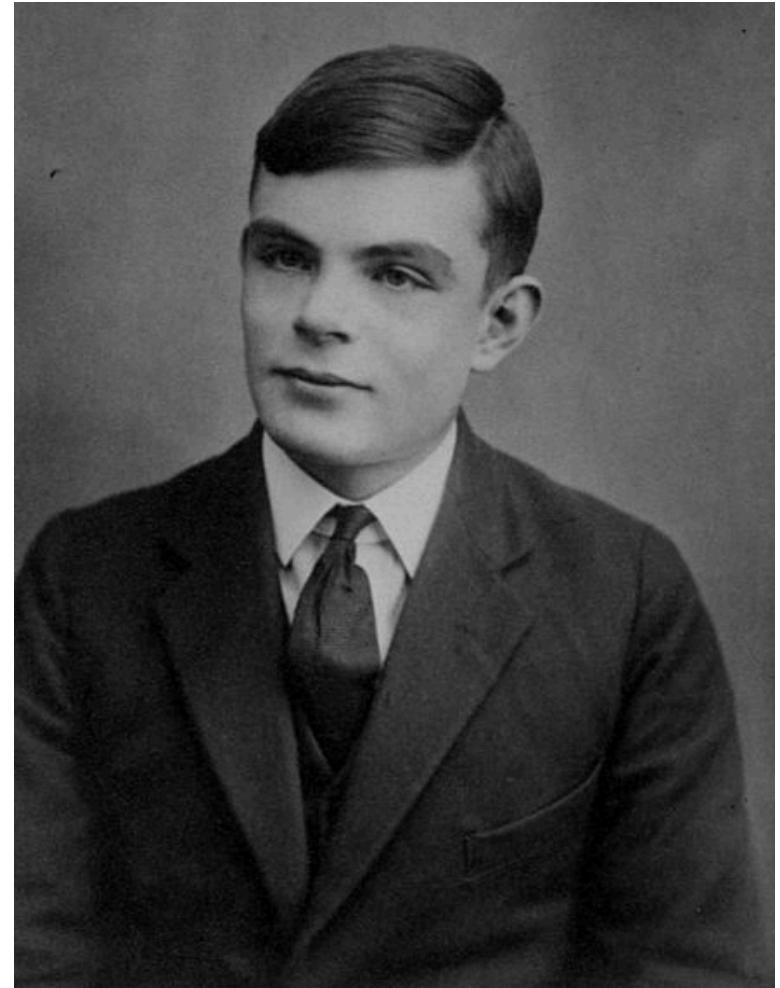
Causal Effects on Reply Content



Buzzword: Turing Test

Turing Test

- Originated from a 1950 paper by Alan Turing
- **The test:** Whether a human evaluator will be reliably differentiate a machine from a human based on lengthy natural language conversions
- An important concept in the philosophy of AI
- So far not a computer has yet passed a lengthy Turing Test
- Some people expect it to happen by 2030



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IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 14



R time!