
Abstract: There exists a long-standing debate about the influence of ideological views in economics. Surprisingly, however, there is no concrete empirical evidence to examine this critical issue. Using a randomized controlled online experiment involving economists in nineteen countries, we estimate the effect of ideological bias on views among economists. Participants were asked to evaluate statements from prominent economists on different topics. However, source attribution for each statement was randomized without participants’ knowledge. For each statement, participants either received the actual source, an altered ideologically-different source, or no source. We find that changing source attributions from mainstream to less-/non-mainstream, or removing them, significantly reduces economists’ reported agreement with statements. We suggest that these results are consistent with the existence of ideological bias among economists.

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