

Economics Workshop

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Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC

Thursday
November 8, 2018

DMH 355
3:30-5:00pm

"Who Said or What Said? Estimating Ideological Bias in Views Among Economists"

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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Economics Workshops offer an opportunity for SJSU students, faculty and invited guests to enjoy academic research presentations by scholars from around the world in their areas of expertise. Following most workshop events, the Barstool Economists group meets at a local eatery, where conversations with the speaker may be continued in a less formal environment.

For information on upcoming workshops: www.sjsu.edu/economics/events.