

Alejandra Agustina Martínez

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics 2019 - 2023 (exp.)
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.
Thesis title: Essays on political economy, social norms and networks.
Advisor: Antonio Cabrales.
Master in Economic Analysis (Leading to Ph.D.) 2017 - 2019
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.
Bachelor in Economics 2011 - 2016
Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Tucumán (UNT), Argentina.

REFERENCES

Antonio Cabrales **Warn N. Lekfuangfu** **Johannes Schneider**
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SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

Research Interest

Political economy. Development economics. Economics of networks.
Applied microeconomics. Microeconomic theory.

Job Market Paper

Raise your voice! Activism and peer effects in online social networks.

Abstract: Do peers influence individuals' involvement in political activism? To provide a quantitative answer, I study Argentina's abortion rights debate through Twitter - the social media platform. Pro-choice and pro-life activists coexisted online, and the evidence suggests peer groups were not too polarized. I develop a model of strategic interactions in a network - allowing for heterogeneous peer effects. Next, I estimate peer effects and test whether online activism exhibits strategic substitutability or complementarity. I create a novel panel dataset - where links and actions are observable - by combining tweets' and users' information. I provide a reduced-form analysis by proposing a network-based instrumental variable. The results indicate strategic complementarity in online activism, both from aligned and opposing peers. Notably, the evidence suggests homophily in the formation of Twitter's network, but it does not support the hypothesis of an echo-chamber effect.

Work in Progress

Hate speech in social media: evidence from Bolsonaro's election in Brazil

In short: How does the arrival of new information regarding social norms affect individuals' online behavior? We study how the 2018 Brazilian presidential election of Bolsonaro - which was almost a tie - affected online hate speech, particularly against LGBT+ minorities. This project relies on Twitter data for 2018-2021 and applies text analysis techniques to detect hate speech. We follow a Differences in Differences approach to identify the parameter of interest, using the election result as an information shock.

The exposure to this shock may be heterogeneous, so we measure its local incidence by considering election results in each electoral district.

Silence in social networks

In short: How do social interactions affect what we publicly say and what we do not? I study a model of social norms, assuming interactions are structured through a network. Individuals choose whether to conform to a social norm - have a speech – or not – stay silent. Social norms may be controversial, and their compliance is observable. Then, individuals may remain silent (i) if no norm aligns with their preferences or (ii) if they do not want to conform to a social norm different from their friends - by social pressure. I investigate how the network structure and distribution of preferences - regarding social norms - affect the equilibrium outcome and under which circumstances the social pressure mechanism arises.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences and Workshops

2022: *CAGE Summer School - University of Warwick, Workshop: The Political Economy of Conflict - jointly organized by Royal Holloway and Queen Mary University of London, Workshop: Networks in Economics - Universidad de Buenos Aires (online), UC3M Ph.D. Workshop, Annual meeting of the Argentinian Association of Political Economy (online), and RedNIE seminar (online).*

2021: *Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, UC3M Ph.D. Workshop.*

2020-2018: *UC3M Ph.D. Workshop.*

2016: *Annual meeting of the Argentinian Association of Political Economy.*

Seminars

2023: *Stockholm School of Economics (scheduled).*

2022: *Tilburg University.*

SHORT COURSES

2022: *New research in Political Economy, CAGE-Warwick; Python for Web scraping (online), University of Rome Tor Vergata.*

2021: *The Economics of Norms, Aspirations and the Media (online), University of Oslo; Data Science for Large and Unstructured Data, II Ph.D. School, SEA.*

2015: *Poverty and Inequality in Latin America, Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Main Teaching Fields

Microeconometrics. Game Theory. Microeconomic Theory. Applied economics.

Teaching Assistant, Ph.D. level, UC3M

Econometrics III. English. Prof. Carro.

2019 - 2021

Microeconomics II. English. Prof. Loeper.

2021

ENTER Network, UC3M

Coordinator of Ph.D. Students Seminars at UC3M.

2021-2022

Teaching Assistant, Bachelor level, UC3M

Microeconomics. English. Prof. Schneider.

2019, 2021

Applied Economics. Spanish. Prof. Cáceres del Piano.

2019 - 2020

Labor Economics. Spanish. Prof. Alba Ramírez.

2018

	Teaching Assistant, Bachelor level, UNT	
	Economic Problems of Latin America. Spanish. Prof. Nicolini.	2015 - 2017
	Mathematical Analysis. Spanish. Prof. Rodríguez.	2013 - 2014
HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS	FPI Scholarship	2020 - present
	<i>State Research Agency, Spain.</i>	
	Pre-doctoral research training scholarship (PIPF)	2019 - 2020
	<i>Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.</i>	
	Master Scholarship	2017 - 2019
	<i>Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.</i>	
	Scientific Vocations Scholarship	2015
	<i>Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional (CIN), Argentina.</i>	
	Amartya Sen Program Scholarship	2016
	<i>Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.</i>	
	Vice Dean's congratulation letter for excellent teaching	2018 - 2021
	<i>Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.</i>	
	Silver Medal (Second GPA) of the Economic Sciences Faculty	2015
	<i>Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Tucumán, Argentina.</i>	
NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE	Consulting Assistant	2015, 2021
	Economic Development. Consultant: E. Nicolini.	
	<i>Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP), Spain.</i>	
OTHER DATA OF INTEREST	Citizenship. Argentinian.	
	Languages. Spanish (native), English (fluent).	
	Computer programming	
	Python, Stata, Matlab, \LaTeX , Twitter developer account.	
	Volunteer work	
	<i>Volunteer and Treasurer. Fundación Payasos Sociales, Argentina, 2014 - 2017.</i>	
	<i>Volunteer. Cruz Roja Española, Madrid, Spain, 2021 - present.</i>	

Last update: February 2023.