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Please provide a short description of the course of study pursued during graduate work, including the type of course work pursued, major and minor focus of study, year of advance, and so on.

I am in my third year of the Business and Public Policy PhD Program at Berkeley Haas and passed the program's comprehensive exam this summer. This program is similar to a typical business economics program, and I have taken the microeconomics and econometrics sequence in the Berkeley Economics department. I have taken the second-year Industrial Organization sequence and David Card's labor course. My classes at Haas have covered theoretical insights on political economy, including voting models and selection of politicians, and contract theory with a focus on auctions and reputation.

Please provide a short description of general research interests or other projects pursued. If the student has proposed a dissertation, and formed a committee, please provide a short description, expected date of completion, and general details.

Broadly, I am interested studying in the role of online markets and platforms in both individual and firm decision making.

Currently, I am studying the responsiveness of individuals' donation behavior on an online crowdfunding platform to external political shocks. I am interested in how both creators of online campaigns and campaign donors respond to political shocks. I focus on the initiation of campaigns on Indiegogo pertaining to LGBTQ issues and on donations to these campaigns following state-specific proposed changes to the legality of gay marriage. This context allows me to examine how altruistic behavior online is influenced by shocks that make specific topics more salient.

I am also working on a project evaluating the effect of being listed on the online platform Yelp on business outcomes. There are several areas of interest here-- first, I hope to isolate the effects of being added to Yelp for existing businesses, and additionally, I want to understand how Yelp expanded its footprint across categories and geographic areas. To address the first question, I am studying Yelp's purchases of data from business listing companies (for example, Yellow Pages) and examining the spillover effects of individual businesses being added on Yelp on the outcomes of other geographically proximate businesses already on the site. To evaluate the development of Yelp as a search marketplace more broadly, I am exploring how an exogenous increase in listings in a certain category, for example, restaurants, influences the number of listings in an unrelated category, like beauty salons. Yelp is a particularly valuable setting to study because of its prominence as a review site and availability of both user search and business listing data.