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Related Research :

1. Bias amplification with black-box recommendations (ongoing / early stage)

   Decision making in many consequential environments today - judicial, policing, hiring etc. is made alongside an algorithmic recommendation. These algorithms are perceived to be black-boxes by the decision-maker. This project aims to understand how such recommendations interact with human decision-makers' pre-existing behavioral and discriminatory biases. Specifically, it tries to investigate whether the black box nature of the algorithm allows for motivated beliefs about the recommendation, which can be used to selectively amplify (gender, race etc.) biases and override potential self image concerns that may have previously suppressed these biases. Results from this paper would speak to whether there can be bias amplification in a system where a biased (hidden or otherwise) human makes decisions alongside an unbiased algorithm.

2. Civil society: Tracking 100 years of economic research beyond markets and states (joint with Sam Bowles and Wendy Carlin) : Forthcoming in Economic Letters

   Note : This project is listed here - mostly because it uses methods from machine learning - topic models. But the topic is unrelated to the workshop

   Using topic modeling on the corpus of papers published in seven leading economics journals since 1900, we study the evolving emphasis in research on themes relating to the state, markets, and civil society, the latter referring to families, firms as organizations and other private organizations, neighborhoods, and identity groups. We document a shift between 1900 and 1970 away from research on state-related topics towards the market, even as the economic importance of the state was growing. This was followed by a substantial movement away from market topics

towards topics related to civil society. We associate the first shift with the mathematical formalization of the Marshallian paradigm. The subsequent increased attention to civil society coincided with novel empirical methods and research questions, including experiments and the use of large datasets. Advances in game theory and the economics of asymmetric information since the middle of the last century also facilitated the extension of economists' research agendas to encompass themes central to economic behavior in civil society, including other-regarding preferences and social norms as well as strategic interactions not covered by complete contracts.