

## Social and Political Effects of Digital Media

### Summary

We will review research on the way digital media affect both individual users and broader social and political outcomes. Topics may include (i) the political effects of digital news, including misinformation, echo chambers, and polarization; (ii) the behavioral economics of digital media including its effects on individual well being and mental health and the role of addiction; (iii) the impact of digital media on broader social outcomes such as crime; (iv) the role of digital media in non-democracies.

### Required Reading

- Allcott, Hunt, Luca Braghieri, Sarah Eichmeyer, and Matthew Gentzkow. 2019. [The Welfare Effects of Social Media](#). Working paper.
- Enikolopov, Ruben, Alexey Makarin, and Maria Petrova. 2018. [Social Media and Protest Participation: Evidence from Russia](#). R&R at *Econometrica*.
- Yang, David Y. Forthcoming [The Impact of Media Censorship: 1984 or Brave New World?](#) *American Economic Review*.

### Recommended Reading

Acemoglu, Daron, Tarek A. Hassan, and Ahmed Tahoun. 2014. "The Power of the Street: Evidence from Egypt's Arab Spring," August. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2485984>.

Bauernschuster, Stefan, Oliver Falck, and Ludger Woessmann. 2014. "Surfing Alone? The Internet and Social Capital: Evidence from an Unforeseeable Technological Mistake." *Journal of Public Economics* 117 (September): 73–89.

Bhuller, Manudeep, Tarjei Havnes, Edwin Leuven, and Magne Mogstad. 2013. "Broadband Internet: An Information Superhighway to Sex Crime?" *The Review of Economic Studies* 80 (4): 1237–66.

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Campante, Filipe, Ruben Durante, and Francesco Sobbrío. 2018. "Politics 2.0: The Multifaceted Effect of Broadband Internet on Political Participation." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 16 (4): 1094–1136.

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Enikolopov, Ruben, Maria Petrova, and Konstantin Sonin. 2018. "Social Media and Corruption." *American Economic Journal. Applied Economics* 10 (1): 150–74.

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Miner, Luke. 2015. "The Unintended Consequences of Internet Diffusion: Evidence from Malaysia." *Journal of Public Economics* 132 (December): 66–78.

Mosquera, Roberto, Mofioluwasademi (moffii) Odunowo, Trent McNamara, Xiongfei Guo, and Ragan Petrie. 2019. "The Economic Effects of Facebook." *Available at SSRN*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3312462>.

Müller, Karsten, and Carlo Schwarz. 2018. "Fanning the Flames of Hate: Social Media and Hate Crime." *Available at SSRN 3082972*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3082972>.

Qin, Bei, David Strömberg, and Yanhui Wu. 2017. "Why Does China Allow Freer Social Media? Protests versus Surveillance and Propaganda." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives: A Journal of the American Economic Association* 31 (1): 117–40.

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Twenge, Jean M. 2017. *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy--and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood--and What That Means for the Rest of Us*. Simon and Schuster.

Twenge, Jean M., Gabrielle N. Martin, and W. Keith Campbell. 2018. "Decreases in Psychological Well-Being among American Adolescents after 2012 and Links to Screen Time during the Rise of Smartphone Technology." *Emotion* 18 (6): 765–80.