

# Thomas Taylor

European University Institute, Economics Department ◦ Via delle Fontanelle 18, 50014 Fiesole, Italy  
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## EDUCATION

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### European University Institute

Ph.D in Economics

*Since 2021*

Supervisors : Thomas Crossley and Alessandro Tarozzi

M.Res in Economics

*2022*

### University Paris-Saclay, Ecole Polytechnique & ENSAE

M.Sc in Economics. *Magna Cum Laude*

*2020*

### University Paris-Sud

B.Sc in Economics and Management, Applied Economics track. *with Honours*

*2018*

University Degree in German and English Languages and Civilizations. *with Honours*

*2018*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy, Development Economics, Media Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

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### Connecting the Unconnected: Facebook Access and Female Political Representation in Sub-Saharan Africa, with Sophie Hatte and Jordan Loper

Abstract: Can social media help promote female access to political positions? Using data from 8,814 parliamentary races across 17 sub-Saharan African countries, we explore this question in a context of significant political underrepresentation of women and rising Facebook penetration over the past decade. We leverage the staggered introduction of Facebook's Free Basics—i.e., free access to Facebook through partner mobile operators—across constituencies and time, documenting the success of this connectivity shock and its subsequent effect on female political representation. We find that the availability of Facebook's Free Basics significantly increases the election of female candidates, but only after one electoral cycle. This effect is driven by female candidates endorsed by established political parties and running for the first time. Uncovering the underlying mechanisms, we document a large, positive relationship between social media use and egalitarian gender norms, particularly regarding women in politics. Examining users' online network structures, we show that this association is driven by exposure to diverse and progressive content, and that such online connections are key to Free Basics' electoral impact. Finally, we find that Free Basics' effect is contingent on the presence of fair elections but is amplified where traditional press freedom is limited.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**Early but not Alone? Mail Voting and within Couple Political Agency**

**Far-Right Ownership in the Printed Press and Public Policy**

with Mathieu Couttenier, Sophie Hatte and Stephanos Vlachos

**Printing Progress? Newspapers and Female Emancipation in Pre-Suffrage Britain**

with Andrea Tizzani

**Exposure to Informal Markets and Educational Choices: Evidence from Artisanal Mines**

with Mathieu Couttenier

## TEACHING

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### Microeconomics 1

*Fall 2024*

TA, Undergraduate 3rd year, ENS Lyon

### Introduction to Economics

*Spring 2021*

Lecturer, Undergraduate 1st year (CPES), ENS Lyon

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

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Predoctoral fellow, ENS Lyon

*10/2020 - 08/2021*

Research assistant to Mathilde Godard, CNRS

*06/2021 - 08/2021*

Research assistant to Vincent Pons, Harvard Business School, part-time

*12/2019 - 06/2021*

Research assistant to Sophie Hatte, ENS Lyon

*03/2019 - 07/2019*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Presentations

2nd ENS-Bologna PhD Workshop; ENS Lyon; European University Institute

*2025*

MWP Populism and its Networks Workshop; European University Institute

*2024*

European University Institute

*2023*

### Seminar Organization

Microeconometrics Working Group, EUI

*2022-2023*

### Data Replicator

Journal of the European Economic Association

*since 2024*

## GRANTS

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Junior Laboratory Grant, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (3000€)

*2025*

Ph.D Scholarship, French Ministry of Higher Education

*2021*

## SKILLS

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### Languages

French, English (native), German (advanced), Italian (intermediate)

### Programming

Stata, Python, GIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X(advanced), R (intermediate), Julia (beginner)