

Thomas Taylor

European University Institute, Economics Department ◦ Via delle Fontanelle 18, 50014 Fiesole, Italy
☎ +33 6 59 48 04 27 ✉ t.taylor.eu@gmail.com

EDUCATION

European University Institute

Ph.D in Economics

Since 2022

Supervisors : Thomas Crossley and Alessandro Tarozzi

M.Res in Economics

2022

Univ. 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

Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy, Development Economics, Media Economics

WORK IN PROGRESS

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

Abstract: Can social media promote female access to political positions? Internet and social media have facilitated a number of evolutions regarding ideas, perceptions and attitudes towards women and their role in society. This paper focuses on the sub-Saharan African context, where female under-representation is particularly salient in both the political and media spheres, and which experienced a rising penetration of Facebook over the past decade. We build a novel panel dataset at the constituency-election level and exploit variation in the electoral outcomes observed across 8,162 races occurring in the context of 63 parliamentary elections in 17 countries. We leverage the staggered introduction of Facebook's Free Basics - i.e. free access to Facebook through partner mobile operators - across constituencies and time, and document the success of this connectivity shock and its subsequent effect on female political representation. We find that larger accessibility of Facebook fosters the election of female candidates, but only in the medium-run. This effect is driven by female candidates endorsed by established political parties, and running for the first time. Analysis based on survey data shows that a larger demand for female leadership supports the electoral effect. Finally, we explore two transmission channels: (i) transfers of gender norms through exposure to Facebook content produced in more progressive countries, and (ii) greater visibility of female politicians through online campaigns.

Far-Right Ownership in the Printed Press and Public Policy

with Mathieu Couttenier, Sophie Hatte and Stephanos Vlachos

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

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

TEACHING

Introduction to Economics

CPES (Undergraduate, 1st year), ENS Lyon

Spring 2021

GRANTS

Ph.D Scholarship, French Ministry of Higher Education

2021-2025

SKILLS

Languages

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

Programing

Stata, Python, GIS, L^AT_EX(advanced), R (intermediate), Julia (beginner)