

Making Policy with Data

An Introductory Course on Policy Evaluation

Policy Briefing

Instructor: Prof Yiqing Xu
April 27

Sources of Authoritarian Responsiveness (Chen-Pan-Xu 2017)

- **Research Question:** What explains government responsiveness in an authoritarian country?
- **Sample:** China's online government platforms (>2000 counties)
- **Outcome:** Response to citizen request
- **Treatments:**
 - Threat of collective action
 - Evoking the oversight of upper level leaders
 - Claims of loyal, Communist Party membership

An Online Field Experiment in China

松滋市党的群众路线教育实践活动

市委 市人大 市政协

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财政与编制公开 行政执法公开 统计数据公开

图说松滋 投资松滋 涇水旅游 松滋人物

行政服务大厅

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An Online Field Experiment in China



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公众互动—在线咨询

真情提示

咨询对象必须明确, 咨询的内容真实、准确、完整, 不得歪曲或捏造事实。

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- 请如实填写您的姓名、联系电话、通讯地址, 以便及时与您联系, 我们一定会对您的个人信息保密。
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开始咨询

姓 名:

电子邮箱:

联系电话: *

通讯地址:

主管部门:

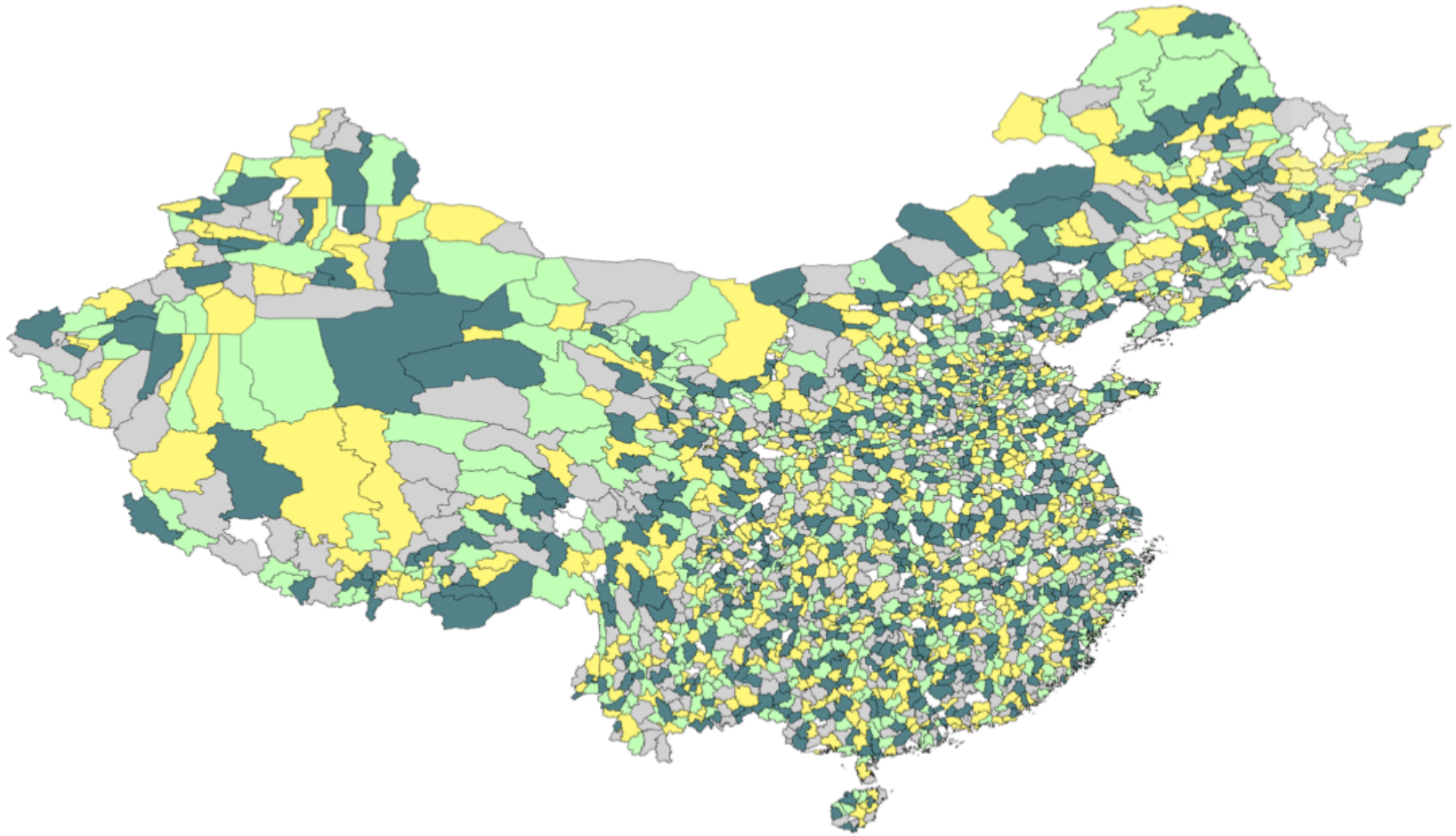
类 别:

是否公开:

咨询主题: *

咨询内容:

An Online Field Experiment in China



Treatment Conditions: Collective Action

Respected leader:

My wife and I have lost our jobs, and we have been unable to find work for a long time. Our economic situation is very difficult, and we cannot make ends meet. We have to support my elderly mother who is ill and for whom we have to buy medicine. We also have our son who is in school and has school fees and living fees that are difficult to bear. I have tried to apply for *Dibao* through my residential committee, but they say I am not eligible.

People around me are in a similar situation, they face difficulties, and they also can't get *Dibao*. If you can't help, we'll try to figure out what we can do collectively about this situation. Can you help my family obtain *Dibao*? Much gratitude!

Yours,

[Common male name]

Treatment Conditions: Tattling

Respected leader:

My wife and I have lost our jobs, and we have been unable to find work for a long time. Our economic situation is very difficult, and we cannot make ends meet. We have to support my elderly mother who is ill and for whom we have to buy medicine. We also have our son who is in school and has school fees and living fees that are difficult to bear. I have tried to apply for *Dibao* through my residential committee, but they say I am not eligible.

If this problem cannot be addressed, I'll have to report it to upper-level government officials. Can you help my family obtain *Dibao*? Much gratitude!

Yours,

[Common male name]

Treatment Condition: Loyal Party Member

Respected leader:

My wife and I have lost our jobs, and we have been unable to find work for a long time. Our economic situation is very difficult, and we cannot make ends meet. We have to support my elderly mother who is ill and for whom we have to buy medicine. We also have our son who is in school and has school fees and living fees that are difficult to bear. I have tried to apply for *Dibao* through my residential committee, but they say I am not eligible.

I'm a long-standing CCP member, I've always followed the leadership of the Party. Can you help my family obtain *Dibao*?
Much gratitude!

Yours,

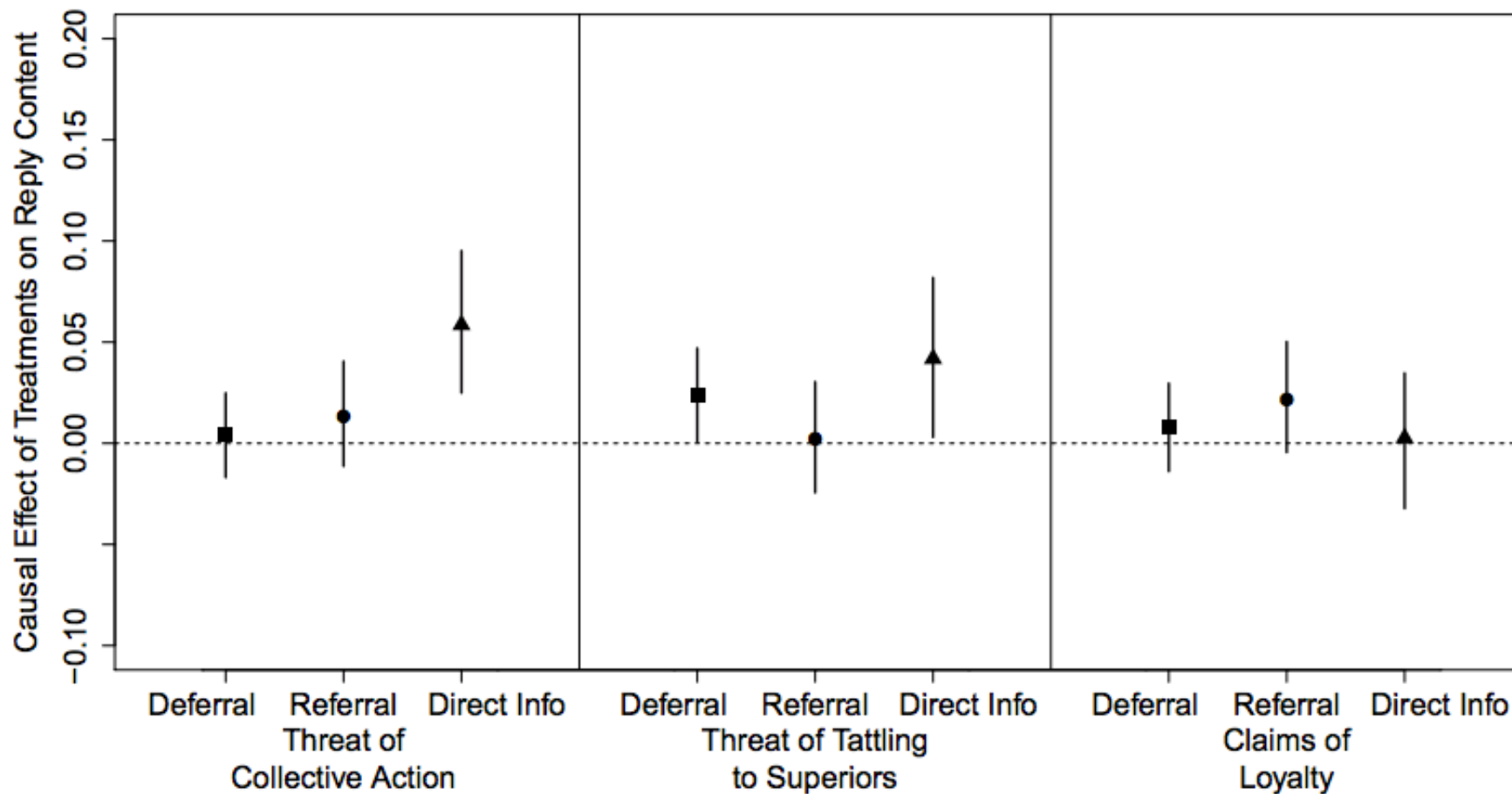
[Common male name]

Causal Effect on Responsiveness

Baseline
Responsiveness:
32%



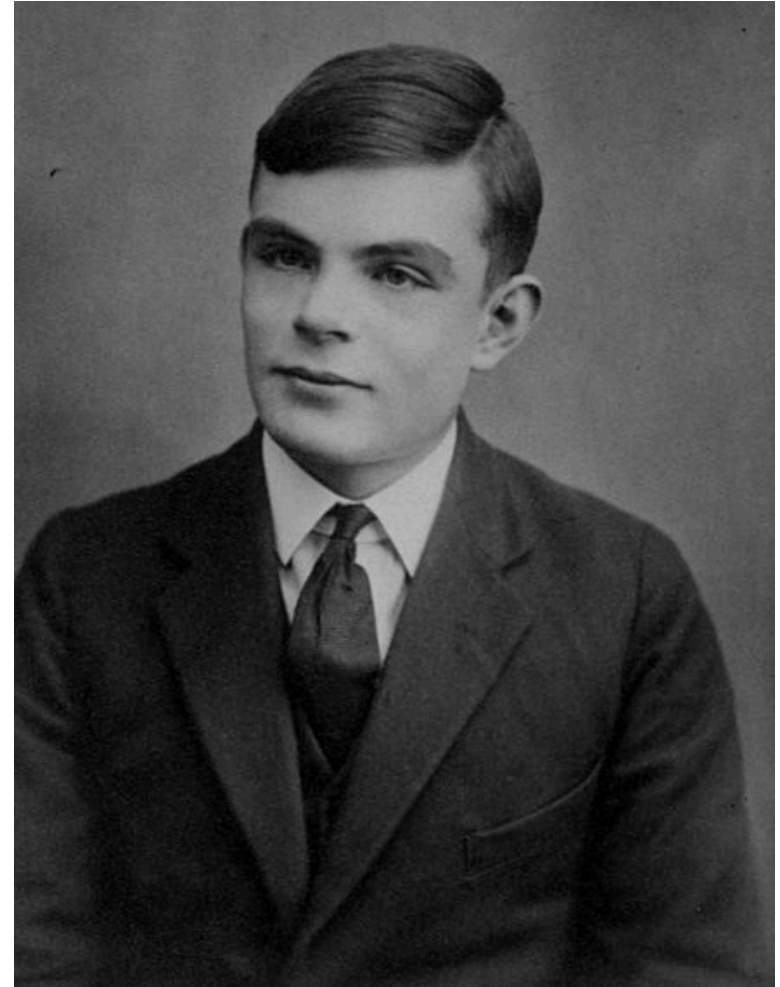
Causal Effects on Reply Content



Buzzword: Turing Test

Turing Test

- Originated from a 1950 paper by Alan Turing
- **The test:** Whether a human evaluator will be reliably differentiate a machine from a human based on lengthy natural language conversations
- An important concept in the philosophy of AI
- So far not a computer has yet passed a lengthy Turing Test
- Some people expect it to happen by 2030



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IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 14

R time!