

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, October 8, 2018

Where: 350 JMHH

When: 12:00 – 1:15 pm

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What Smartphone Location Data can Teach us about Partisan Biases and Cognition

ABSTRACT:

77% of adult Americans carry smartphones, and the data they produce represents a tremendous opportunity to learn about cognition and decision making. We use anonymized data for 15 million smartphone users to study partisan antipathy and biases, using partisan responses to events such as the 2016 election, hurricanes, and mass shootings as the basis for event studies. Towards antipathy: we find that Democrats, African-Americans, and Hispanics traveled less, slept less, and stayed home more, after the 2016 election; also, mixed-party Thanksgivings shortened by 47 minutes. Towards cognition, we find that belief in government warnings about hurricanes has become partisan, and a 15% post-election partisan difference has opened up in both hurricane evacuations and post-mass-shooting public-space avoidance.