

ECON 204: Global Poverty and Economic Development

Twitter Assignment

Due Friday, March 17 by 11:00 PM

Your assignment is to prepare a twitter thread summarizing the empirical results of the paper “Exporting and Firm Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment.” Your thread should be 5-8 tweets long, and each tweet must be no more than 280 characters.

The first tweet needs to include a hook of some sort that will grab the reader’s attention. Do not begin with “I am going to summarize...” Tweet 1 should also include a link to the paper as well as either the title or the authors.

The subsequent tweets should summarize the empirical analysis presented in the paper, including the main takeaways. To do this, you need to read the paper carefully, both to understand what the authors have done and to make sure you grasp their main message (as a hint: the conclusions that the authors want you to draw will always be highlighted in the paper’s abstract). You need to be concise and correct, and to provide the reader with concrete information about the context and data used in the paper as well as the findings.

Twitter threads need to be fun to read. You should illustrate your threads with tables and figures from the paper, or in some cases a relevant photo or meme. Since you are not summarizing your own research, you should also make sure to indicate at least one thing that you liked about the paper.

What I am looking for in this assignment:

1. Have you summarized the analysis and main results of the paper correctly in your own words? People do not have time for generalizations or word salad on twitter. Be clear and intentional about your wording in every tweet.
2. Have you gotten the reader’s attention at the start of your thread? Have you provided them a link to the paper?
3. Have you covered the main contribution(s) of the paper in no more than eight tweets?
4. Have you used visualizations effectively, both to illustrate your points and to make the thread enjoyable to read? Have you chosen the right figures/images to help the reader understand the results of the paper?
5. Is your thread creative and insightful? Is it original enough that I want to read it?

I’ve included an example of a (good) twitter thread about an economics paper on the back of this page. Additional examples are available on the course website.

Twitter thread example: “What Impacts Can We Expect from School Spending Policy? Evidence from Evaluations in the U.S.” by C. Kirabo Jackson and Claire Mackevicius.

Thread

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson · Jan 11
 Meta-analysis on the distribution of school spending effects with @cmackevicius is conditionally accepted at AER Applied.
 We move away from the “does money matter?” question and provide evidence on how much and for whom.
 ungated pre-publication copy: works.bepress.com/c_kirabo_jackson/

3 56 130 35.2K

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson
 Using Bayesian approaches, we estimate the distribution of true effects (as opposed to naively looking at the spread of noisy estimates).
 We find this true distribution is approx normal, allowing us to make policy predictions about the effect of a \$1,000 per-pupil increase.

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson · Jan 11
 Replying to @KiraboJackson
 Average effects are much larger (and large effects more likely) for low-income populations. We model the likelihood of observing certain effect sizes (for a \$1000 per-pupil increase) for different groups.

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson · Jan 11
 We find that policies that lead to larger increases in school spending tend to have larger increases in outcomes.

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson · Jan 11
 We find evidence consistent with modest publication bias. However, using the best approaches to account for this has minimal effects on the estimates and conclusions.

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson · Jan 11
 We find evidence consistent with modest publication bias. However, using the best approaches to account for this has minimal effects on the estimates and conclusions.

C. Kirabo Jackson @KiraboJackson · Jan 11
 We also discuss possible confounding bias in the individual studies and present empirical evidence that this likely has little effect on the results.