

RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences

Big Data in Political Economy

VOLUME 2 · NUMBER 7 · NOVEMBER 2016



RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences

Big Data in Political Economy

VOLUME 2 · NUMBER 7 · NOVEMBER 2016



The Russell Sage Foundation

The Russell Sage Foundation, one of the oldest of America's general purpose foundations, was established in 1907 by Mrs. Margaret Olivia Sage for "the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States." The foundation seeks to fulfill this mandate by fostering the development and dissemination of knowledge about the country's political, social, and economic problems. While the foundation endeavors to assure the accuracy and objectivity of each book it publishes, the conclusions and interpretations in Russell Sage Foundation publications are those of the authors and not of the foundation, its trustees, or its staff. Publication by Russell Sage, therefore, does not imply foundation endorsement.

Board of Trustees

Sara S. McLanahan, Chair

Larry M. Bartels
Karen S. Cook
W. Bowman Cutter III
Sheldon H. Danziger
Kathryn Edin
Lawrence F. Katz
David Laibson
Nicholas Lemann
Martha Minow
Peter R. Orszag
Claude M. Steele
Shelley E. Taylor
Richard H. Thaler
Hirokazu Yoshikawa

Mission Statement

RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal of original empirical research articles by both established and emerging scholars. It is designed to promote cross-disciplinary collaborations on timely issues of interest to academics, policymakers, and the public at large. Each issue is thematic in nature and focuses on a specific research question or area of interest. The introduction to each issue will include an accessible, broad, and synthetic overview of the research question under consideration and the current thinking from the various social sciences.

RSF Journal Editorial Board

Elizabeth O. Ananat, Duke University

Annette Bernhardt, University of California,

Karen S. Cook, Stanford University

Sheldon H. Danziger, RSF

President Janet C. Gornick, The

Berkeley

CUNY Graduate Center

Jennifer Hochschild, Harvard University Douglas S. Massey, Princeton University Mary E. Pattillo,

Northwestern University James Sidanius, Harvard

University

Mary C. Waters, Harvard

University

Bruce Western, Harvard

University

Copyright © 2016 by Russell Sage Foundation. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher. Reproduction by the United States Government in whole or in part is permitted for any purpose.

Opinions expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the editors, editorial board, trustees, or the Russell Sage Foundation.

We invite scholars to submit proposals for potential issues through the *RSF* application portal: https://rsfjournal.onlineapplicationportal.com/. Submissions should be addressed to Suzanne Nichols, Director of Publications.

To view the complete text and additional features online please go to www.rsfjournal.org.

Russell Sage Foundation

112 East 64th Street New York, NY 10065

ISSN (print): 2377-8253 ISSN (electronic): 2377-8261

ISBN: 978-0-87154-730-9

RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 7

Big Data in Political Economy

ISSUE EDITORS
Atif Mian, Princeton University
Howard Rosenthal, New York University

CONTENTS

Introduction: Big Data in Political Economy 1

Atif Mian and Howard Rosenthal

A Data-Driven Voter Guide for U.S. Elections: Adapting Quantitative Measures of the Preferences and Priorities of Political Elites to Help Voters Learn About Candidates 11 Adam Bonica

Income, Ideology, and Representation 33 *Chris Tausanovitch*

Shining the Light on Dark Money: Political Spending by Nonprofits 51

Drew Dimmery and Andrew Peterson

Home Truths: Promises and Challenges in Linking Mortgages and Political Influence 69

Deniz Igan

Data Science and Political Economy:
Application to Financial Regulatory
Structure 87
Sharyn O'Halloran, Sameer Maskey, Geraldine
McAllister, David K. Park, and Kaiping Chen