The Role of Conferences on the Pathway to Academic Impact: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

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ONLINE APPENDIX

In this appendix we detail the algorithm implemented to compare each conference paper title with titles retrieved in Google Scholar. We then present further tables, associated with additional econometric specifications mentioned within the text.

A. Title-Match Algorithm

Our title-match algorithm associates, with any ordered pair (X_0, Y_0) of paper titles, a title-match dummy $B(X_0, Y_0) \in \{0,1\}$. In the present case, title X_0 is conference paper title and title Y_0 the Google Scholar paper title. The algorithm comprises the following steps 1-5.

1. Title X_1 is defined to be the portion of X_0 that precedes any first occurrence of a character "?" or ":". (Portions of paper titles that succeed these characters are often, in effect, "subtitles" with a higher tendency to change between successive versions of a paper.)

2. Titles X_2 and Y_1 are defined by converting titles X_1 and Y_0 respectively to lowercase.

3. Titles X_3 and Y_2 are defined by the following, ordered transformations from titles X_2 and Y_1 respectively. (These transformations eliminate common differences between British, American and other conventions of spelling and transliteration.)

   (a) Every string "ence" is replaced with "ense".

   (b) Every string "ae" and "oe" is deleted.

   (c) Every character "u" and "e" is deleted.

   (d) Every string "ll" is replaced with "l".

   (e) Every character "z" is replaced with "s".

(f) Every character that is not either a digit (ASCII characters 48 to 57) or a lowercase letter (ASCII characters 97 to 122) is deleted.

4. Title X_3 is partitioned into a set of n substrings, $\mathbf{x} \equiv \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ such that x_1 is the first five characters in X_3, x_2 the next five characters in X_3, and so forth. (So substrings x_1 to x_{n-1} will each have five characters and substring x_n will have between one and five characters.) We record, as the variable k, the number of elements in $\mathbf{x}$ that are substrings in Y_2.

5. If (k/n) is strictly greater than 0.5 then we let $B(X_0, Y_0) = 1$, otherwise we let $B(X_0, Y_0) = 0$.

The choices of five-character substrings (in step 4) and of a 0.5 acceptance threshold (in step 5) were determined by informal experimentation. A research assistant partitioned, by subjective judgement, a sampled set A of 900 Google Scholar matches into subsets A_1 ("more than 90 percent likely to be a correct match"), A_2 ("less than 10 percent likely to be a correct match") and $A_3 \equiv A \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2)$. Then, using $B_1 \equiv \{(X_0, Y_0) \in A : B(X_0, Y_0) = 1\}$ and $B_2 \equiv A \setminus B_1$, we chose a substring length and round-number acceptance threshold to minimise $\frac{|(A_1 \cap B_2)|}{|A_1|} + \frac{|(A_2 \cap B_1)|}{|A_2|}$.

B. Further Figures and Tables

Figures A1-A5

Tables A1-A10

Figure A1

Conference-Authors that Petitioned Against the 2012 APSA Venue

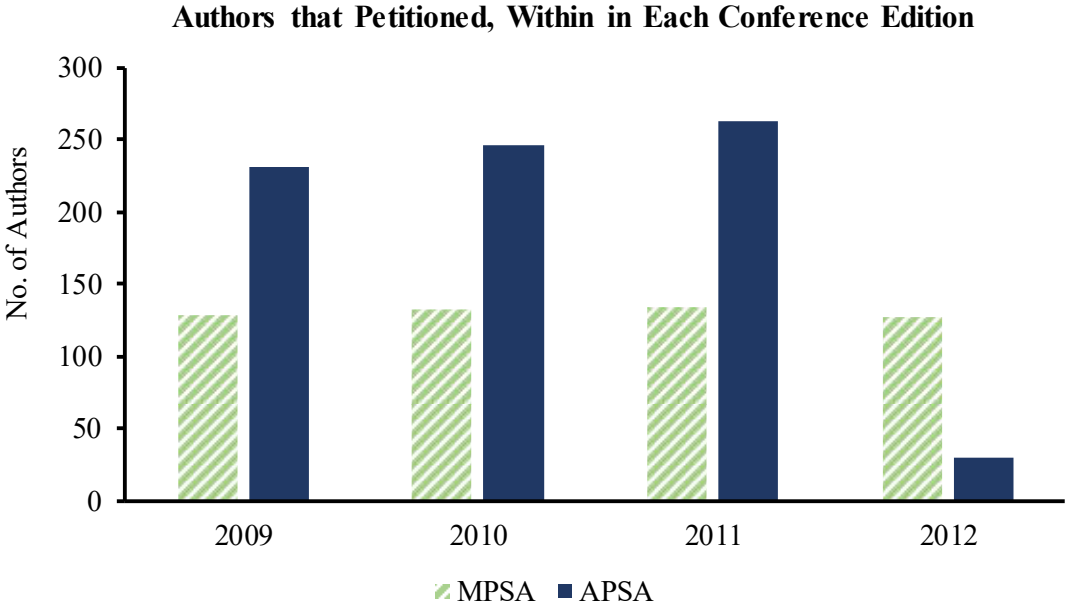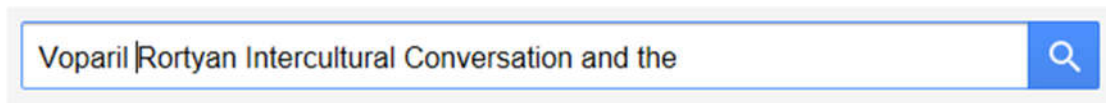**Authors that Petitioned, Within in Each Conference Edition**

Figure A2

Google Scholar Search Example: "Cited by" Data

(Conference paper: "Rortyan Cultural Politics and the Problem of Speaking for Others" by C. Voparil.)

Step 1: Search by authorship and short title

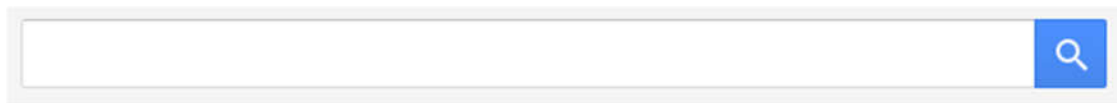Voparil Rortyan Intercultural Conversation and the

Rortyan Intercultural Conversation and the Problem of Speaking for Others

C Voparil - 2010 - papers.ssrn.com

Abstract: This paper examines Rorty's proposals for intercultural conversation as a path to global justice. Three primary claims are advanced: that Rorty's embrace of philosophy as cultural politics is of a piece with his call in the mid-1970s for philosophers to be more involved in the cause of enlarging human freedom; that his most explicit turn away from philosophy and theory toward novels and narrative is an attempt to expand the conversation beyond the West; and that his essay "Feminism and Pragmatism" offers a picture of social

☆ 🔾🔾 Cited by 1   Related articles

Step 2: Follow "cited by" link

1 result (0.01 sec)

Rortyan Intercultural Conversation and the Problem of Speaking for Others

☐ Search within citing articles

Hydric life: A Nietzschean reading of postcolonial communication

EF Ruiz-Aho - 2010 - scholarcommons.usf.edu

Abstract This dissertation addresses the question of marginalization in cross-cultural communication from the perspectives of hermeneutic philosophy and postcolonial theory. Specifically, it focuses on European colonialism's effect on language and communicative

☆ 🔾🔾 Cited by 1   Related articles   All 2 versions

Figure A3

Google Scholar Search Example: "Found … Excluding SSRN"

(Conference paper: "From the Governance of Internal Displacement to the Governance of Environmental Migration: What Can the Latter Learn from the Former?" by F. Gemenne and, P. Brucker.)

Gemenne Brucker From the governance of internal

From the **Governance** of **Internal** Displacement to the **Governance** of Environmental Migration: What the Latter Can Learn from the Former?
F Gemenne, P **Brucker** - 2013 - papers.ssrn.com
Abstract Environmental migration is often presented as one of the gravest consequences of climate change, and is already a reality in many parts of the world. Yet the protection of these migrants has not been addressed in the international normative frameworks on migration. As a result, a growing number of scholars and advocacy groups have sought to create a special convention and/or ad hoc status for these migrants, while others contended that such a legal status was not the answer. As a result, the protection of environmental
☆ 〞 Related articles

[CITATION] From the **governance** of **internal** displacement to the **governance** of environmental migration: what can the latter learn from the former?
F Gemenne, P Brücker - 2013 - orbi.ulg.ac.be
… To cite this reference: http://hdl.handle.net/2268/147491, Title : From the **governance** of **internal** displacement to the **governance** of environmental migration: what can the latter learn from the former? Language : English. Author, co-author : **Gemenne**, François mailto [Université de Liège - ULg > Institut des sciences humaines et sociales > Centre d'études de l'ethnicité et des migrations (CEDEM) >]. Brücker, Pauline []. Publication date : 2013. Peer reviewed : Yes. On invitation : No. Audience : International. Event name : Annual Congress of the American Political Science
☆ 〞 All 2 versions ≫

Figure A4

Article Outcomes: Google Scholar Data (2 years after 2012 conferences)

At Least Two Citations

Control Group (MPSA) — Treatment Group (APSA)

At Least Five Citations

Control Group (MPSA) — Treatment Group (APSA)

At Least 10 Citations

Control Group (MPSA) — Treatment Group (APSA)

Found in Google Scholar Exc. SSRN

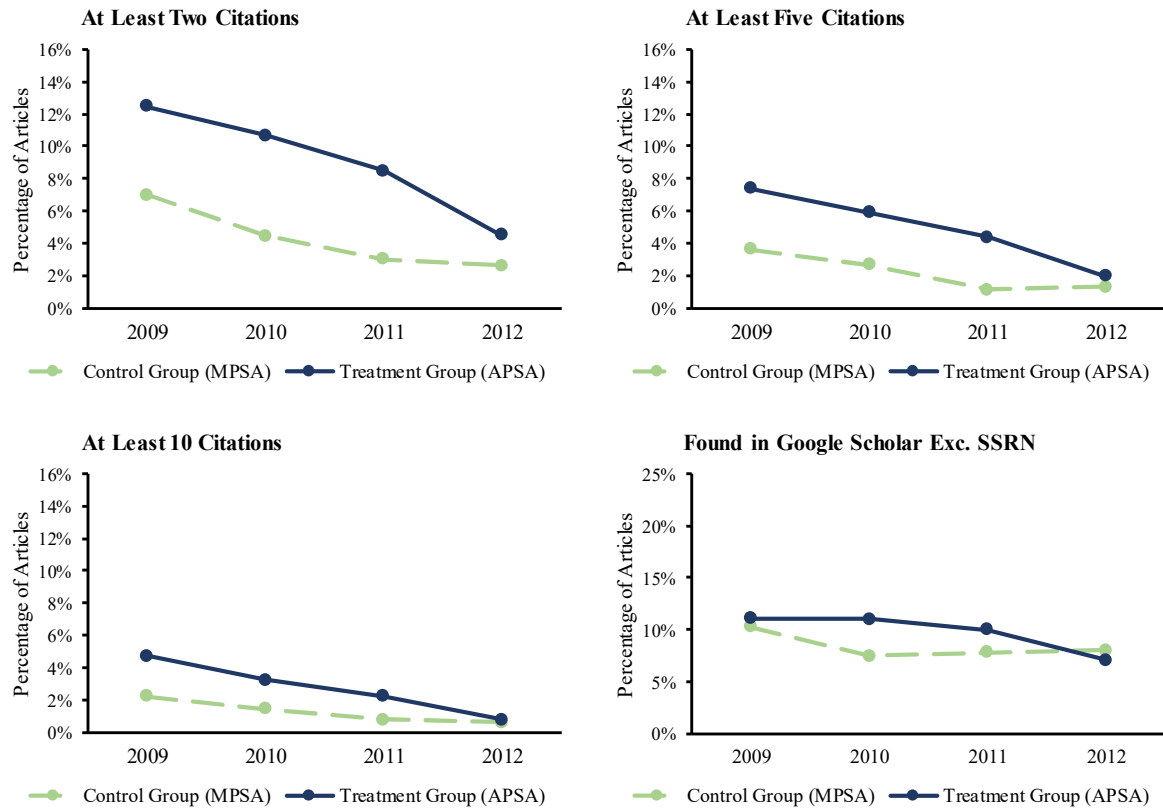Control Group (MPSA) — Treatment Group (APSA)

Figure A5

Article Outcomes: Google Scholar Data (4 years after 2012 conferences)
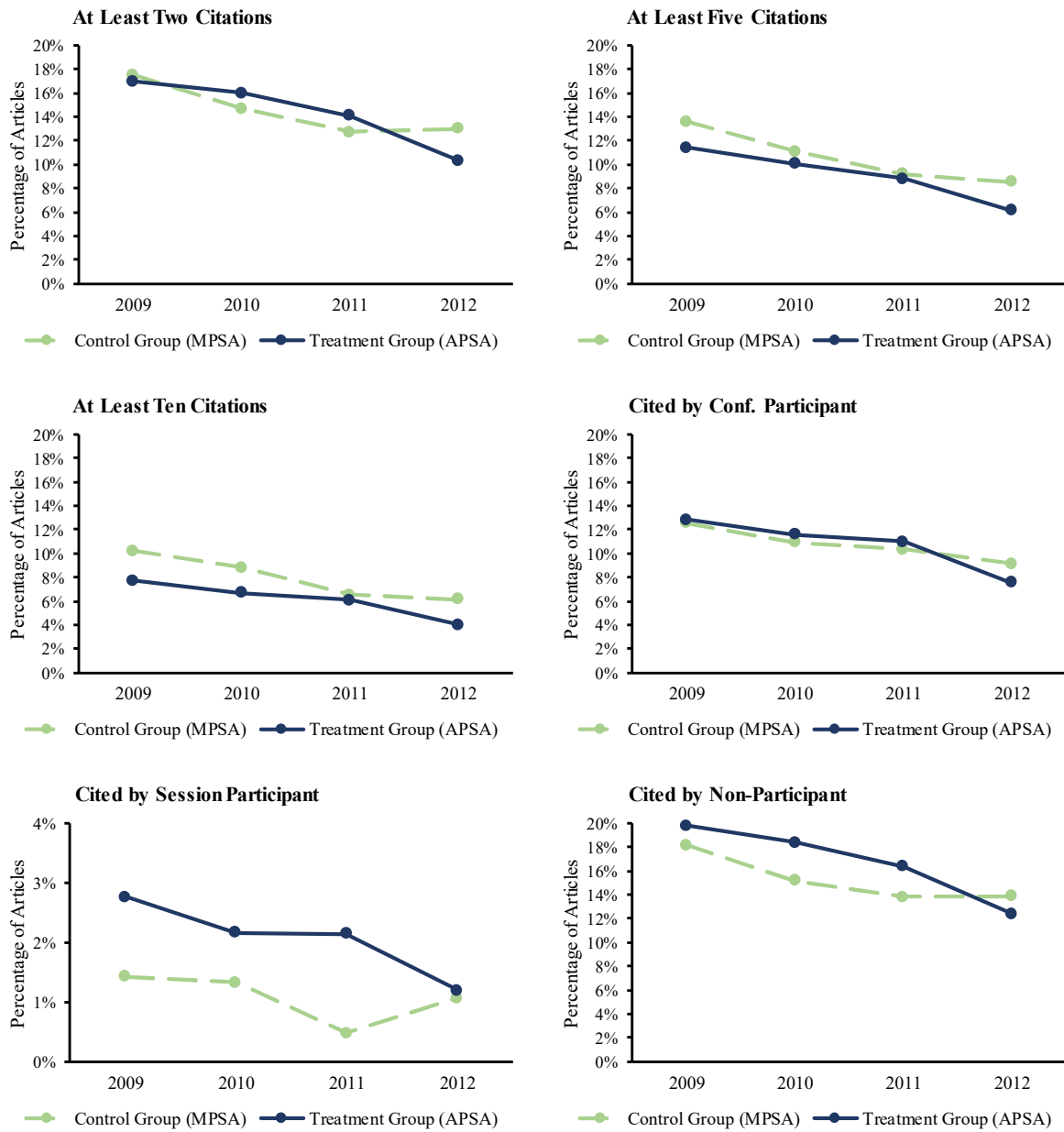
Table A1

Top 30 Most Populated Themes in the APSA and the MPSA Annual Meetings

APSA MEETINGS	MPSA MEETINGS
Theme title	Theme title
Advanced Industrial Societies	African Politics
Comparative Democratization	**Asian Politics**
Comparative Politics	Canadian Politics
Comparative Politics of Developing Countries	Comparative Political Economy
Conflict Processes	**Comparative Politics: Developing Countries**
Elections and Voting Behavior	**Comparative Politics: Industrialized Countries**
European Politics and Society	**Comparative Politics: Political Behavior**
Foreign Policy	**Comparative Politics: Political Institutions**
Foundations of Political Theory	**Comparative Politics: Transitions Toward Democracy**
International Collaboration	Conflict Processes
International Political Economy	Economic Development
International Security	Ehnicity and Nacionalism
Law and Courts	Electoral Campaigns
Legislative Studies	**European Politics**
Normative Political Theory	Foreign Policy
Political Communication	Gender and Politics
Political Economy	International Cooperation and Organization
Political Methodology	International Political Economy
Political Organizations and Parties	International Relations and Domestic Politics
Political Psychology	International Security
Political Thought And Philosophy	**Latin American and Caribbean Politics**
Politics And History	Mass Media and Political Communication
Presidency Research	Political Participation and Turnout
Public Administration	Political Psychology
Public Opinion	Politics of Communist and Former Communist Countries
Public Policy	Politics of Middle East
Qualitative and Multi-Method Research	**Program Co-chair**
Race Ethnicity and Politics	Public Opinion
Politics of Communist and Former Communist Countries	Representation and Electoral Systems
Women and Politics Research	Voting Behavior

Note: The Top 10 most populated themes in the APSA and the MPSA Annual Meetings are highlighted.

Table A2

Characteristics by Conference and Matched Samples: Averages

PANEL A	Matched Sample			Full Article Sample (with all of the MPSA papers)		
	ALL	APSA	MPSA	ALL	APSA	MPSA
Number of authors	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.36	1.37	1.36
Solo-authored	71.6%	71.6%	71.6%	70.9%	71.2%	70.7%
Affiliation rank						
[1, 10]	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	11.8%	12.4%	11.3%
[11, 100]	40.7%	40.7%	40.7%	39.9%	41.3%	38.9%
[101, ∞)	47.2%	47.2%	47.2%	48.3%	46.2%	49.8%
Any author has a publication	49.0%	49.1%	49.0%	43.7%	53.5%	36.8%
(No. publications)*(avg. impact factor)	3.16	3.24	3.08	2.90	3.73	2.31
Any author has a paper in SSRN	17.8%	17.8%	17.8%	16.2%	19.9%	13.5%
n	21,570	10,785	10,785	29,142	12,070	17,072

PANEL B	Matched Sample			Main Article Sample (with 20% of the MPSA papers)		
	ALL	APSA	MPSA	ALL	APSA	MPSA
Number of authors	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.37	1.37	1.40
Solo-authored	69.5%	69.5%	69.5%	70.7%	71.2%	68.7%
Affiliation rank						
[1, 10]	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	12.2%	12.4%	11.3%
[11, 100]	38.6%	38.6%	38.6%	40.7%	41.3%	38.3%
[101, ∞)	50.3%	50.3%	50.3%	47.1%	46.2%	50.4%
Any author has a publication	38.5%	38.5%	38.5%	50.4%	53.5%	38.8%
(No. publications)*(avg. impact factor)	2.56	2.66	2.46	3.47	3.73	2.46
Any author has a paper in SSRN	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	18.8%	19.9%	14.6%
n	6,334	3,167	3,167	15,277	12,070	3,207

Notes: Averages in Panel A refer to APSA-MPSA matched papers based on the full article sample (with all of the MPSA papers), that is described on the right. Averages in Panel B refer to APSA-MPSA matched papers, based on the main article sample (with 20% of the MPSA papers), that is described on the right.

The explanation for the matched sample is in Section 3.2.3.

Table A3

Articles' Outcomes and Characteristics by SSRN sample

	Full Article Sample (with all of the MPSA papers)		Main Article Sample (with 20% of the MPSA papers)	
	Mean	*n*	Mean	*n*
Outcomes				
(All articles) Found in SSRN	9.6%	29,142	19.8%	15,144
(APSA articles) Found in SSRN	19.5%	12,070	24.0%	12,070
(MPSA articles) Found in SSRN	2.6%	17,072	3.4%	3,074
Outcome for articles found in SSRN				
No. of SSRN downloads	95.23	2,796	99.70	2,995
Characteristics of articles found in SSRN				
Number of authors	1.43	2,796	1.37	2,995
Solo-authored	67.3%	2,796	71.0%	2,995
Affiliation rank				
[1, 10]	9.0%	2,796	9.7%	2,995
[11, 100]	39.1%	2,796	38.0%	2,995
[101, ∞)	51.9%	2,796	52.3%	2,995
Any author has a publication	55.8%	2,796	55.8%	2,995
(No. publications)*(avg. impact factor)	3.75	2,796	3.71	2,995
Any author has a paper in SSRN	25.2%	2,796	22.3%	2,995

Notes: The full article sample (with all of the MPSA papers) used as search criteria: authorship and short title. The estimated impacts of conferences for this sample are described in Table 3. The main article sample (with 20% of the MPSA papers) used as search criteria: authorship and full title. The estimated impacts of conferences for this sample are described in Table A4.

Table A4

Effects of Conferences on Articles' Visibility: SSRN Outcomes

| Outcomes | 2012 x APSA | | | |
	1 year after [1]	2 years after [2]	3 years after [3]	3 years after [4]
No. of downloads (all papers)	-6.8635 [1.657]***	-7.5362 [1.918]***	-8.5093 [2.152]***	-5.0827 [1.576]***
Posted in SSRN			-0.0623 [0.0189]***	-0.0209 [0.0135]
n (all papers)	15,055	15,038	15,032	29,035
No. of downloads (if in SSRN)	-26.0970 [19.312]	-30.1184 [24.953]	-38.9954 [27.456]	-22.2618 [13.936]
n (papers in SSRN)	2,905	2,953	2,935	2,747

Notes: Observations are at the article level. "1 year after" refers to 15 months after the 2012 conference dates. "2 years after" refers to 27 months after the 2012 conference dates. "3 years after" refers to 39 months after the 2012 conference dates. Each entry represents an estimate for the 2012 APSA coefficient from a separate regression. All regressions include controls for an indicator for whether the paper is in an APSA meeting, conference-year dummies and an APSA specific year trend, covariates for the number of authors in the paper, the total number of publications by the article authors multiplied by the average journal impact factor, an indicator for whether any author had a previous paper posted in SSRN, and affiliation dummies (using the highest ranking affiliation among the article authors). The estimates in columns 1-3 use data from the main article sample (with 20% of the MPSA papers). The estimates in column 4 use data from the full article sample (with all of the MPSA papers).

Robust standard errors are in brackets.

*** Significant at the 1% level, ** Significant at the 5% level, * Significant at the 10% level.

Table A5
Download-Outliers: Papers by conference

Downloads	Conference
1838	APSA2009
1334	APSA2009
1246	APSA2009
1182	APSA2009
924	APSA2009
896	APSA2009
768	APSA2009
754	APSA2009
620	APSA2009
595	APSA2009
591	APSA2009
525	APSA2009
4437	APSA2010
1721	APSA2010
810	APSA2010
735	APSA2010
573	APSA2010
535	APSA2010
1072	APSA2011
862	APSA2011
829	APSA2011
602	APSA2011
567	APSA2011
522	APSA2011
967	APSA2012
914	APSA2012
734	APSA2012
679	APSA2012
606	APSA2012
596	APSA2012
524	APSA2012
529	MPSA2009
832	MPSA2010
601	MPSA2010
539	MPSA2010
959	MPSA2011
3358	MPSA2012
1200	MPSA2012
610	MPSA2012
605	MPSA2012
560	MPSA2012

Table A6

Effects of Conferences on Articles' Visibility: SSRN Outcomes (winsorizing and with varying outlier cutoffs)

| | Outlier Cutoff | | | | All Papers | | All Papers (Matched Sample) | | Winsorizing (At > 500 Downloads) | |
| | > 250 Downloads | | > 1000 Downloads | | | | | | | |
Outcomes	2012 x APSA	n	2012 x APSA	n	2012 x APSA	n	2012 x APSA	n	2012 x APSA	n
No. of downloads (all papers)	-3.0660 [1.2046]**	28,935	-4.0199 [1.9186]**	29,067	-5.0446 [2.339]**	29076	-3.3379 [2.348]	21,558	-4.6980 [1.785]***	29,076
Posted in SSRN	-0.0164 [0.0134]	28,935	-0.0202 [0.0136]	29,067	-0.0205 [0.0136]	29,076	-0.0123 [0.0148]	21,558	-0.0205 [0.0136]	29,076
No. of downloads (if in SSRN)	-10.1793 [9.545]	2,647	-18.7826 [20.000]	2,779	-63.3079 [40.017]	2,788	-11.3723 [28.534]	2,403	-32.6270 [17.293]*	2,788
Excluding articles that appear in both APSA and MPSA meetings										
No. of downloads (all papers)	-3.8306 [1.251]***	26,926	-5.3839 [2.0399]***	27,088	-6.4844 [2.495]***	27097	-4.7587 [2.498]*	19,944	-6.1065 [1.888]***	27,097
Posted in SSRN	-0.0235 [0.0137]*	26,926	-0.0289 [0.0139]**	27,088	-0.0292 [0.0139]**	27,097	-0.0191 [0.0149]	19,944	-0.0292 [0.0139]**	27,097
No. of downloads (if in SSRN)	-15.7102 [13.350]	2,314	-42.1299 [31.047]	2,440	-114.0849 [63.973]*	2,449	-51.6610 [49.732]	2,124	-61.3027 [25.643]**	2,449

Notes: Observations are at the article level, and outcomes are recorded "3 years after" the 2012 conference dates. All regressions include controls for an indicator for whether the paper is in an APSA meeting, conference-year dummies and an APSA specific year trend, covariates for the number of authors in the paper, the total number of publications by the article authors multiplied by the average journal impact factor, an indicator for whether any author had a previous paper posted in SSRN, and affiliation dummies (using the highest ranking affiliation among the article authors).
Robust standard errors are in brackets.
*** Significant at the 1% level, ** Significant at the 5% level, * Significant at the 10% level.

Table A7

Effects of Conferences on Articles' Visibility: SSRN Outcomes - Poisson Model

	Outcomes	2012 x APSA [1]	n	2012 x APSA [2]	n	2012 x APSA [3]	n
[1]	No. of downloads (all papers)	-0.0618 [0.2485]	29,101	-0.0258 [0.2482]	29,035	0.3037 [0.2795]	21,524
[2]	No. of downloads (if in SSRN)	-0.3427 [0.1762]*	2,755	-0.2904 [0.1727]*	2,747	-0.1262 [0.1958]	2,369
Excluding articles that appear in both APSA and MPSA meetings							
[3]	No. of downloads (all papers)	-0.3666 [0.3166]	27,120	-0.3414 [0.3158]	27,056	0.1095 [0.3662]	19,910
[4]	No. of downloads (if in SSRN)	-0.5632 [0.2327]**	2,416	-0.5134 [0.2305]**	2,408	-0.4156 [0.2712]	2,090
Article covariates		No		Yes		Yes	
Matched sample		No		No		Yes	

Notes: Observations are at the article level, and outcomes are recorded "3 years after" the 2012 conference dates. Columns 1 and 2 use the full article sample (with all of the MPSA papers), but exclude papers that accumulated more than 500 downloads. Column 3 uses the corresponding matched sample (explained in Section 3.2.3 and described in Table A2). Each entry in columns 1, 2 and 3 represents an estimate for the 2012 APSA coefficient from a separate regression. All regressions include controls for an indicator for whether the paper is in an APSA meeting, conference-year dummies and an APSA specific year trend. Regressions in columns 2 and 3, also include covariates for the number of authors in the paper, the total number of publications by the article authors multiplied by the average journal impact factor, an indicator for whether any author had a previous paper posted in SSRN, and affiliation dummies (using the highest ranking affiliation among the article authors). Robust standard errors are in brackets.

*** Significant at the 1% level, ** Significant at the 5% level, * Significant at the 10% level.

Table A8 - Effects of Conferences on Articles' Visibility: Google Scholar Outcomes

Effects of Conferences on Articles' Visibility: Google Scholar Outcomes (4 years after 2012 conferences, 3 Google Scholar hits)

	Sample	Article Controls	>=1 citation	>=2 citations	>=5 citations	>=10 citations	n
				2012 x APSA			
[1]	All	None	-0.0690 [0.0265]***	-0.0523 [0.0243]**	-0.0321 [0.0205]	-0.0339 [0.0175]*	15,144
[2]	All	Article covariates and affiliation fixed effects	-0.0601 [0.0263]**	-0.0422 [0.0242]*	-0.0259 [0.0206]	-0.0289 [0.0175]*	15,082
[3]	All	Article covariates and author fixed effects	-0.0872 [0.0342]**	-0.0675 [0.0309]**	-0.0424 [0.0275]	-0.0476 [0.0237]**	20,773
[4]	Exc. if in both conferences	Article covariates and affiliation fixed effects	-0.0633 [0.0268]**	-0.0408 [0.0247]*	-0.0239 [0.0209]	-0.0275 [0.0177]	13,909
[5]	Matched	Article covariates and affiliation fixed effects	-0.0451 [0.0342]	-0.0208 [0.0306]	-0.0113 [0.0251]	-0.0223 [0.0213]	6,198
[6]	Matched	Article covariates and author fixed effects	-0.0844 [0.0534]	-0.0774 [0.0486]	-0.0790 [0.0411]*	-0.0724 [0.0341]**	8,556

Notes: Outcomes are recorded "4 years after" the 2012 conference dates, and consider the first 3 Google Scholar hits. Each entry represents an estimate for the 2012 APSA meeting coefficient from a separate regression, using the main article sample. Observations are at the article-author level in rows 3 and 6, and at the article level in the remaining rows. All regressions include controls for an indicator for whether the paper is in an APSA meeting, conference-year dummies and an APSA specific year trend. Article covariates include the number of authors in the paper, the total number of publications by the article authors multiplied by the average journal impact factor, and an indicator for whether any author had a previous paper posted in SSRN. The matched sample is explained in Section 3.2.3 and described in Table A2.
Robust standard errors are in brackets.
*** Significant at the 1% level, ** Significant at the 5% level, * Significant at the 10% level.

Table A9

Robustness Check: Effects of Conferences on Articles' Citations

Method	Outcome	2 years after 2012 APSA	n	4 years after 2012 APSA	n	Author fixed effects
OLS	Number of citations	-0.1762 [0.2934]	15,082	-0.8166 [3.686]	15,082	No
		-0.7737 [0.4945]	20,773	-1.9525 [3.620]	20,773	Yes
OLS	log (1+citations)	-0.0603 [0.0335]*	15,082	-0.1015 [0.0731]	15,082	No
		-0.1540 [0.0489]***	20,773	-0.1938 [0.0922]**	20,773	Yes
Negative Binomial	Number of citations	-0.4153 [0.5280]	15,082	-1.0510 [0.6025]*	15,082	No
		-0.9228 [0.3238]***	5,090	-0.4647 [0.2059]**	7,402	Yes
Poisson	Number of citations	-0.8548 [0.6136]	15,082	-0.6555 [0.6673]	15,082	No
		-1.1551 [0.1271]***	5,090	-0.5157 [0.0451]***	7,402	Yes

Notes: Outcomes are recorded "2 years after" and "4 years after" the 2012 conference dates. Each entry represents an estimate for the 2012 APSA meeting coefficient from a separate regression, using the main article sample. Observations are at the article level in odd rows, and at the article-author level in even rows. All regressions include controls for an indicator for whether the paper is in an APSA meeting, conference-year dummies and an APSA specific year trend, number of authors in the paper, the total number of publications by the article authors multiplied by the average journal impact factor, and an indicator for whether any author had a previous paper posted in SSRN.

Robust standard errors are in brackets.

*** Significant at the 1% level, ** Significant at the 5% level, * Significant at the 10% level.

Table A10

Summary Statistics

	ALL			APSA		MPSA	
	Mean	Stand Dev	*n*	Mean	*n*	Mean	*n*
Panel A: Full article sample (with all of the MPSA papers)							
Papers with a star-author	7.8%	0.27	29,142	9.2%	12,070	6.9%	17,072
Papers by session type:							
author_disc_chair_star	5.7%	0.23	29,142	7.6%	12,070	4.4%	17,072
disc_chair_star	6.6%	0.25	29,142	8.4%	12,070	5.4%	17,072
author_chair_star	22.1%	0.42	29,142	22.8%	12,070	21.6%	17,072
norole_star	65.5%	0.48	29,142	61.2%	12,070	68.6%	17,072
Panel B: Main article sample (with 20% of the MPSA papers)							
Papers with a star-author	8.9%	0.28	15,277	9.2%	12,070	7.7%	3,207
Papers by session type:							
author_disc_chair_star	7.0%	0.26	15,277	7.6%	12,070	4.7%	3,207
disc_chair_star	7.6%	0.27	15,277	8.4%	12,070	4.7%	3,207
author_chair_star	23.0%	0.42	15,277	22.8%	12,070	23.4%	3,207
norole_star	62.4%	0.48	15,277	61.2%	12,070	67.1%	3,207

Notes: Observations are at the article level

(i) "author_disc_chair_star", (ii) "disc_chair_star", (iii) "author_chair_star" and (iv) "norole_star", respectively denote articles in a session in which star-academics: (i) are assigned as a chair/discussant and as an author of a paper, (ii) are assigned only as a chair/discussant, (iii) are assigned only as an author of a paper, and (iv) have no role.