

Claudia Marangon

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POSITIONS **Harvard University**
Postdoctoral Researcher 2025-

AFFILIATIONS *ETH Zurich* Center for Law and Economics, Research Affiliate 2025-
ETH Zurich Public Policy Group, Research Affiliate 2025-

EDUCATION **ETH Zurich**
Ph.D. in Economics
Thesis Title: “Identity and Narratives: Three Essays in Political Economy”
Committee: Elliott Ash, Dominik Hangartner, Marco Tabellini 2019-2025

Bocconi University
M. Sc., Economic and Social Sciences 2016-2019
B. Sc., Economic and Social Sciences 2013-2016

Harvard Kennedy School
Visiting Fellow Spring 2023

PUBLICATIONS *WCLD: Curated Large Dataset of Criminal Cases from Wisconsin Circuit Courts* (with
E. Ash, N. Goel, N. Li, and P. Sun)
Proceedings of the 37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (2023)

WORKING PAPERS *Judging Disparities: Recidivism Risk, Image Motives, and In-Group Bias on Wisconsin Criminal Courts* (with E. Ash)

Abstract: This paper studies racial in-group disparities in Wisconsin, which has one of the highest Black-to-White incarceration rates among all U.S. states. The analysis is motivated by a model in which a judge may want to incarcerate more due to three factors: (1) taste-based preferences about the defendant’s group identity; (2) higher recidivism risk where the defendant is more likely to commit future crimes; and (3) image motives stemming from the defendant being in the same group as the judge. Further, a judge may have better information on recidivism risk due to two factors: (4) becoming more experienced, and (5) sharing the same group as the defendant. We take these ideas to new data on 1 million cases from Wisconsin criminal courts, 2005-2017. Looking at racial disparities between majority (White) and minority (Black) judges and defendants, we find no evidence for anti-out-group bias (1). Using a recidivism risk score that we construct using machine learning tools to predict reoffense, we find evidence that judges do tend to incarcerate defendants with a higher recidivism risk (2). Consistent with judge experience leading to better information on defendant recidivism risk (4), we find that more experienced judges are more responsive in jailing defendants with a high recidivism risk score. Consistent with image motives (3), we find that when the minority group is responsible for most crimes, minority-group judges are harsher on their in-group. Finally, consistent with judges having better information on recidivism risk for same-group defendants (5), we find that judges are more responsive to the recidivism risk score for defendants from the same group when that group makes up a relatively small share of defendants.

Identity in Journalism: Evidence from News Reporting of Violence Against Women

Abstract: This paper investigates whether reporter identity shapes news content and reader behavior. Using data on the universe of murders with female victims in Italy from 2006 to 2022, matched with associated newspaper articles, I measure gender differences in reporting. I construct novel, validated narrative indices capturing two opposing reporting styles: victim-centered narratives, which focus on the victim and provide information on support resources, and perpetrator-centered narratives, which emphasize

the perpetrator's motives, like jealousy or a fit of rage. To adjust for variation in the stories and topics covered, I exploit the conditionally random assignment of journalists to crime events based on newsroom schedules. The results show substantial gender differences in reporting, with female journalists more likely to use victim-centered narratives and less likely to use perpetrator-centered narratives. Combining reporter assignment with provincial readership data in a staggered difference-in-differences design, I show that higher exposure to articles by female reporters after a murder increases calls to the helpline number for violence against women. I provide experimental evidence to support the victim-centered narratives as a key mechanism: victim-centered framing increases the perceived prevalence of help-seeking behavior, shifting norms around seeking support. By contrast, perpetrator-centered narratives lead to higher engagement among male readers while generating backlash among female readers, suggesting that identity-driven and audience-maximizing motives may reinforce one another.

ONGOING RESEARCH

Visual Justice: The Effect of Media Mugshots on Sentencing and Racial Bias (with E. Ash, S. Galletta, and B. Kohler)

What's in a Name? The Effect of Judge-Defendant Name Similarity in Sentencing (with E. Ash)

The Persuasive Power of Policy Narratives

TEACHING

Lecturer

Data Science for Public Policy: From Econometrics to AI, ETH Zurich Spring 2025
Text Data in Economics, University of Basel Fall 2023, 2024

Teaching Assistant

Data Science for Decision Making, ETH Zurich Fall 2020-2023
NLP for Law and Political Economy ETH Zurich Spring 2020-2022
Experimental Economics and Psychology, Bocconi University Fall 2018

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

SNSF Postdoc.Mobility Grant (CHF 136000) 2025-2027
ETH CIS Research Grant (CHF 7680) 2024
ETH Zurich Doc.Mobility Fellowship (CHF 7500) 2023

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences and Seminars

(including scheduled) Workshop on Gender Stereotypes in the Media and Women in Leadership Positions; Harvard Political Economy Workshop; CEPR Workshop on Media, Technology, Politics, and Society; SIOE Annual Meeting; EEA Annual Meeting; Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics Conference, Gender; APSA Annual Meeting 2026

Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series; 1st Workshop IdEP in Sustainable Economics; 2025 Petralia Workshop; Zurich Workshop in AI & Economics (*Poster*); EuroWEPS; Milano Rookie Conference 2025

NBER Summer Institute, Economics of Crime; NICEP Conference; 15th Transatlantic Workshop in Economics of Crime; Conference for Empirical Legal Studies; II Political Economy Winter Workshop (*Poster*); Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series 2024

ALEA Annual Meeting; Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Political Economy and Culture; 6th Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop; Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science (*Poster*); WEC.Jr; Narratives, Memory, and Beliefs Summer School and Workshop (*Poster*); Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series; Zurich Workshop in Narratives in Economics 2023

Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series 2022
Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series; Summer Institute in
Machine Learning in Economics, University of Chicago Booth School
of Business (*summer school*) 2021

Academic Service

Co-Organizer: Online Seminar in Economics + Data Science 2023-
Refereeing: The Economic Journal, Journal of Law and Economics

OTHER SKILLS **Languages** Italian: Native Speaker; English: Proficient (C2); French: High Interme-
diate (B2); German: Beginner

REFERENCES

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