# **Communication preserves inequality by shaping social preferences**

Title: The Interaction between Social Preferences, Communication, and Inequality Author: Kirill Zhazhin (UCSC), in collaboration with KL Vargas (UCSC) & L Putterman (Brown)

Setting

**Puzzle.** People share **fundamental values**, but diverge in policy opinions and **voting**.



% Support. Sources: 2021 American Values Survey, 2023 AP-NORC poll, 2019 Welfare Work Wealth Survey.

**Game.** N voters choose tax  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  to fund public goods  $g(\tau, \omega)$  and redistribution. At t=0, *i* gets initial income  $\omega_i$ . At t = 1, voters engage in communication. At t = 2,  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  is decided by Random Dictator,  $P(\tau = \tau_i) = \frac{1}{N}$ , and *i* gets payoff  $\pi_i(\omega_i, \tau)$ .

**Communication.** Open forum, **message** cost *c*.



Dave @rascal22 · Jun 26 More government control over its people. Might as well live in Russia, North Korea 118

Communication about 2024 Beverage Tax Ballot Measure.

## Contributions



















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Pilot

Functional forms; Fundamental vs. Applied.