

Undue hate: A behavioral economic analysis of hostile polarization in US politics and beyond
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Daniel F. Stone, Bowdoin College, Department of Economics (dstone@bowdoin.edu)

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Part I: The Biased Righteous Mind

Introduction

Chapter 1: The affective polarization bias: theory

I provide a mostly informal economic analysis of interpersonal dislike and propose definitions of three conceptualizations of “mistaken dislike,” including the *affective polarization bias*, the focus of the remainder of the book.

Chapter 2: The affective polarization bias: evidence

I review several types of evidence of affective polarization bias in US politics, mostly from prior literature across psychology, political science, and economics, but with some original analysis.

Part II: Explanations

Chapter 3: Overarching biases: the usual suspects and beyond

I review and offer some new thoughts on the major general biases that affect us in many aspects of life, including partisan politics and interpersonal disagreement.

Chapter 4: Tastes and truth

I discuss two theories for why we tend to excessively dislike those we disagree with in general; one that is relatively well-known and one that is more novel.

Chapter 5: Strategy and repeated interactions

I discuss why strategic behavior in relationships contributes to biased dislike and why feedback effects can cause biased dislike to grow.

Chapter 6: Information

I discuss why we tend to observe, and interpret, information (from the media and our online and offline social networks) in a way that exacerbates the effects discussed in prior chapters.

Part III: Implications

Chapter 7: Undoing hate?

I briefly summarize and discuss implications of the prior chapters for future research, personal choices, and policy options. I don't deny the many constraints impeding change, but still consider a wide range of possibilities for short-run and long-run impacts.