Web Appendix
Group Size and Incentives to Contribute:
A Natural Experiment at Chinese Wikipedia

Michael Zhang and Feng Zhu

In this appendix, we first provide regression results for robustness checks discussed in Section III of the paper. We then provide results from several supplemental analyses.

1 Regression Results for Robustness Checks

- **Seasonality:** We analyze the changes in contribution levels for nonblocked contributors four weeks before October 19 and four weeks after October 31 in year 2003 and 2004 in Tables A1 and A2, respectively.

- **Controversial Articles:** First, we look at contributions in new articles. We replicate the analysis in Tables 2-4 of the paper and report the results in Tables A3-A5, this time using the logarithm of weekly contributions in new articles by each contributor as the dependent variable. We then examine category information of the articles. We repeat the regression analysis and report the results in Tables A6-A8, this time only including the contributions to articles belonging to non-contentious categories.

- **Advertisement and Indoctrination Effects:** We exclude banned IDs and repeat the analysis. We report the results in Tables A9-A11.

- **Fewer New Articles for Revision:** We conduct the robustness check by re-computing individual contributions, this time only including the contributions to articles created before the block, and report the results in Tables A12-A14.

- **Proxy Server:** We remove contributors whose average weekly contributions are more than four standard deviations above the mean before the block and contributors who have contributed to categories related to information technology. We report the results in Tables A15-A17.
2 Supplemental Analyses

2.1 Additional Figures

We provide two additional figures to demonstrate the impact of the third block. Figure A1 shows the number of new contributors at Chinese Wikipedia over time. We find that before the third block, the number of new contributors grows exponentially over time, but it drops significantly as a result of the block. We also indicate the beginning and the end of each block before 2007. In general, when a block starts, the number of new contributors decreases and, after the block is lifted, the number increases dramatically.

Figure A2 shows the search volume index for the term “Chinese Wikipedia” from Google. Google’s search volume index gives how many searches have been conducted for the term, relative to the total number of searches conducted on Google over time. The search volume increased significantly right after the beginning and the end of the third block, demonstrating substantial news coverage and public attention on the block.

2.2 Additional Regression Results

To further alleviate the concern caused by the unobserved opportunity cost of time, we conducted a supplemental analysis, comparing the effect of the block on nonblocked contributors who choose to reveal more personal information to those who reveal less personal information on their user pages after controlling for the amount of effort contributors spent on their user (or user talk) pages. Those who link their contributions closely to their real-world identity are likely to care more about how their contributions to Wikipedia affect their social image. Hence, we expect them to be affected more after the block. We manually went through user pages of these nonblocked contributors and collected four pieces of information: whether the user discloses her real name, discloses her location, provides her contact information (e.g., her homepage address, email address, or instant messenger ID), or provides a link to a user talk page (which reflects a desire to interact with users or other contributors). We constructed a new variable, RevealAmount, to measure the number of pieces of information a user reveals. RevealAmount is 4 if the user reveals all four pieces of information and 0 if the user doesn’t have a user page or doesn’t reveal any personal information. We then used the following regression specification:

\[
\text{Contributions}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{AfterBlock}_t + \beta_2 \text{RevealAmount}_i \times \text{AfterBlock}_t + \beta_3 \text{RevealAmount}_i + \beta_4 \text{SocialParticipation}_i + \text{ControlVars}_{it} + \epsilon_{it},
\]

(1)

Here, we used SocialParticipation to control for the amount of effort a contributor spent on user pages and user talk pages, and it can also serve as a proxy to control for the opportunity cost of contributing for each individual. Both OLS and fixed-effects regressions reported in Table A18 suggest that those contributors who reveal more personal information in general contribute more and also are affected more by the block.
Our data also allow us to look at the impact of social ties among contributors. Nonblocked contributors who use Simplified Chinese are more likely to have stronger social ties with mainland Chinese and thus are more likely to care about the visibility of their contributions in mainland China and their interactions with contributors from mainland China. Thus, we expect the blocks in mainland China to reduce their incentives considerably. In contrast, contributors using Traditional Chinese are less likely to have strong ties with contributors and readers from mainland China. We thus expect their contributions to decrease less after the block. We construct a new dummy variable, TraditionalChineseUser_i, which is 1 if contributor i is identified as a user of Traditional Chinese, and 0 otherwise. Table A19 reports the regression results based on the following specification:

$$\text{Contributions}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{AfterBlock}_t + \beta_2 \text{TraditionalChineseUser}_i \times \text{AfterBlock}_t + \beta_3 \text{TraditionalChineseUser}_i + \text{ControlVars}_{it} + \epsilon_{it}. $$

We find that while users of Traditional Chinese contribute less on average, their contribution levels decrease much less than that of Simplified Chinese users. In other words, contributors with stronger social ties with mainland Chinese reduced their contribution levels more after the block.
Note: The shaded areas indicate the duration of the first 4 blocks.

FIGURE A1. NUMBER OF NEW CONTRIBUTORS OVER TIME
Note: The solid vertical line indicates the start of the third block and the dashed vertical line indicates the end of the third block. The y-axis (Search Volume Index) shows users’ propensity to search for a certain topic on Google on a relative basis. Google does not report the number of times a term is searched, and the numbers are normalized to take the average search volume as one.

FIGURE A2. SEARCH VOLUME INDEX FOR “CHINESE WIKIPEDIA” ON GOOGLE
TABLE A1—REPLICATING TABLE 2 OF THE PAPER FOR THE SAME TIME WINDOW IN 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1) Total</th>
<th>(2) Addition</th>
<th>(3) Deletion</th>
<th>(4) Total</th>
<th>(5) Addition</th>
<th>(6) Deletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>-0.596 [0.364]</td>
<td>-0.544 [0.351]</td>
<td>-0.277 [0.270]</td>
<td>0.083 [0.776]</td>
<td>0.195 [0.760]</td>
<td>-0.278 [0.496]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-0.123** [0.049]</td>
<td>-0.122** [0.048]</td>
<td>-0.046 [0.036]</td>
<td>-0.388*** [0.120]</td>
<td>-0.394*** [0.117]</td>
<td>-0.120 [0.098]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>0.004*** [0.001]</td>
<td>0.004*** [0.001]</td>
<td>0.002*** [0.001]</td>
<td>0.008*** [0.002]</td>
<td>0.007*** [0.002]</td>
<td>0.004*** [0.001]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observations: 283 283 283 283 283 283
R-squared: 0.18 0.18 0.21 0.15 0.15 0.08
Number of IDs: 43 43 43 43 43 43
Specification: OLS OLS OLS FE FE FE

Note: For all regression tables, heteroskedasticity-adjusted standard errors in brackets; * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%.

TABLE A2—REPLICATING TABLE 2 OF THE PAPER FOR THE SAME TIME WINDOW IN 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1) Total</th>
<th>(2) Addition</th>
<th>(3) Deletion</th>
<th>(4) Total</th>
<th>(5) Addition</th>
<th>(6) Deletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>0.042 [0.072]</td>
<td>0.028 [0.069]</td>
<td>0.054 [0.051]</td>
<td>0.011 [0.147]</td>
<td>-0.010 [0.140]</td>
<td>0.055 [0.102]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-0.084*** [0.008]</td>
<td>-0.079*** [0.007]</td>
<td>-0.052*** [0.005]</td>
<td>-0.093*** [0.031]</td>
<td>-0.082*** [0.030]</td>
<td>-0.057*** [0.022]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>0.001*** [0.000]</td>
<td>0.001*** [0.000]</td>
<td>0.001*** [0.000]</td>
<td>0.001*** [0.000]</td>
<td>0.001*** [0.000]</td>
<td>0.001*** [0.000]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observations: 3,316 3,316 3,316 3,316 3,316 3,316
R-squared: 0.07 0.07 0.06 0.01 0.01 0.01
Number of IDs: 456 456 456 456 456 456
Specification: OLS OLS OLS FE FE FE
### TABLE A3—REPLICATING TABLE 2 OF THE PAPER FOR ADDITION TO NEW ARTICLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>−0.123***</td>
<td>−0.154***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.027]</td>
<td>[0.059]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>−0.010***</td>
<td>−0.025**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.001]</td>
<td>[0.011]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Observations | 13,376 | 13,376 |
| R-squared    | 0.01   | 0.01   |
| Number of IDs| 1,707  | 1,707  |
| Specification| OLS    | FE     |

### TABLE A4—REPLICATING TABLE 3 OF THE PAPER FOR ADDITION TO NEW ARTICLES

<table>
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<th>Model</th>
<th>Dependent Variable</th>
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<th>(2)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>−0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.024]</td>
<td>[0.058]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SocialParticipation</td>
<td>−0.076***</td>
<td>−0.078***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>× AfterBlock</td>
<td>[0.018]</td>
<td>[0.019]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SocialParticipation</td>
<td>0.226***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.014]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>−0.009***</td>
<td>−0.025**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.001]</td>
<td>[0.011]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Observations | 13,376 | 13,376 |
| R-squared    | 0.08   | 0.01   |
| Number of IDs| 1,707  | 1,707  |
| Specification| OLS    | FE     |
TABLE A5—REPLICATING TABLE 4 OF THE PAPER FOR ADDITION TO NEW ARTICLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1) Addition to New Articles</th>
<th>(2) Addition to New Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>$-0.065^*$</td>
<td>$-0.069$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.039]</td>
<td>[0.066]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PercentageBlocked</td>
<td>$-0.231$</td>
<td>$-0.541^{**}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× AfterBlock</td>
<td>[0.266]</td>
<td>[0.274]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PercentageBlocked</td>
<td>$2.532^{***}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.214]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>$-0.013^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.029^{**}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.001]</td>
<td>[0.011]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age$^2$</td>
<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>13,376</td>
<td>13,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
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<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of IDs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specification</td>
<td>OLS</td>
<td>FE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TABLE A6—REPLICATING TABLE 2 OF THE PAPER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-CONTENTIOUS ARTICLES

<table>
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<th>Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1) Total</th>
<th>(2) Addition</th>
<th>(3) Deletion</th>
<th>(4) Total</th>
<th>(5) Addition</th>
<th>(6) Deletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>$-0.436^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.403^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.267^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.522^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.470^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.383^{***}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.043]</td>
<td>[0.041]</td>
<td>[0.030]</td>
<td>[0.081]</td>
<td>[0.078]</td>
<td>[0.060]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>$-0.024^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.023^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.013^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.063^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.061^{***}$</td>
<td>$-0.025^{**}$</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
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<td>[0.015]</td>
<td>[0.011]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age$^2$</td>
<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.001^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.001^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.001^{***}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
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<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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<td>1,664</td>
<td>1,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specification</td>
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<td>OLS</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>FE</td>
<td>FE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table A7—Replicating Table 3 of the Paper for Contributions to Non-Contentious Articles

<table>
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<th>Model Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1) Total</th>
<th>(2) Addition</th>
<th>(3) Deletion</th>
<th>(4) Total</th>
<th>(5) Addition</th>
<th>(6) Deletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>−0.068*</td>
<td>−0.064*</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>−0.171**</td>
<td>−0.143*</td>
<td>−0.111*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.041]</td>
<td>[0.039]</td>
<td>[0.028]</td>
<td>[0.083]</td>
<td>[0.080]</td>
<td>[0.061]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SocialParticipation</td>
<td>−0.198***</td>
<td>−0.183***</td>
<td>−0.152***</td>
<td>−0.193***</td>
<td>−0.178***</td>
<td>−0.148***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× AfterBlock</td>
<td>[0.024]</td>
<td>[0.023]</td>
<td>[0.019]</td>
<td>[0.024]</td>
<td>[0.023]</td>
<td>[0.020]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SocialParticipation</td>
<td>0.507***</td>
<td>0.477***</td>
<td>0.344***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.018]</td>
<td>[0.017]</td>
<td>[0.015]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>−0.023***</td>
<td>−0.021***</td>
<td>−0.012***</td>
<td>−0.062***</td>
<td>−0.061***</td>
<td>−0.025**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.015]</td>
<td>[0.015]</td>
<td>[0.011]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.001***</td>
<td>0.001***</td>
<td>0.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
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<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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<td>Specification</td>
<td>OLS</td>
<td>OLS</td>
<td>OLS</td>
<td>FE</td>
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<td>FE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table A8—Replicating Table 4 of the Paper for Contributions to Non-Contentious Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(1) Total</th>
<th>(2) Addition</th>
<th>(3) Deletion</th>
<th>(4) Total</th>
<th>(5) Addition</th>
<th>(6) Deletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfterBlock</td>
<td>−0.136***</td>
<td>−0.134***</td>
<td>−0.006</td>
<td>−0.153</td>
<td>−0.134</td>
<td>−0.067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.063]</td>
<td>[0.060]</td>
<td>[0.044]</td>
<td>[0.100]</td>
<td>[0.095]</td>
<td>[0.074]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PercentageBlocked</td>
<td>−1.528***</td>
<td>−1.359***</td>
<td>−1.406***</td>
<td>−2.357***</td>
<td>−2.143***</td>
<td>−2.010***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× AfterBlock</td>
<td>[0.408]</td>
<td>[0.389]</td>
<td>[0.305]</td>
<td>[0.408]</td>
<td>[0.388]</td>
<td>[0.336]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PercentageBlocked</td>
<td>7.059***</td>
<td>6.589***</td>
<td>4.862***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.331]</td>
<td>[0.315]</td>
<td>[0.258]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>−0.034***</td>
<td>−0.031***</td>
<td>−0.019***</td>
<td>−0.079***</td>
<td>−0.076***</td>
<td>−0.039***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.002]</td>
<td>[0.016]</td>
<td>[0.015]</td>
<td>[0.012]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.001***</td>
<td>0.001***</td>
<td>0.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
<td>[0.000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
<td>13,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of IDs</td>
<td>1,664</td>
<td>1,664</td>
<td>1,664</td>
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### TABLE A9—REPLICATING TABLE 2 OF THE PAPER AFTER EXCLUDING BANNED IDS

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<td>Addition</td>
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### TABLE A10—REPLICATING TABLE 3 OF THE PAPER AFTER EXCLUDING BANNED IDS

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<td>0.501***</td>
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<td>13,066</td>
<td>13,066</td>
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<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
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<td>$-0.061$</td>
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<td>$-2.303^{***}$</td>
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### TABLE A12—REPLICATING TABLE 2 OF THE PAPER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARTICLES CREATED BEFORE THE BLOCK

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<td>$-0.609^{***}$</td>
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<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.000^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.001^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.001^{***}$</td>
<td>$0.001^{***}$</td>
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<td>13,376</td>
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</table>
### TABLE A13—REPLICATING TABLE 3 OF THE PAPER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARTICLES CREATED BEFORE THE BLOCK

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<td>Addition</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
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<td>−0.191**</td>
<td>−0.127**</td>
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<td>−0.183***</td>
<td>−0.236***</td>
<td>−0.232***</td>
<td>−0.180***</td>
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<td>[0.023]</td>
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<td>[0.019]</td>
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<td>0.001***</td>
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<td>13,376</td>
<td>13,376</td>
<td>13,376</td>
<td>13,376</td>
</tr>
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### TABLE A14—REPLICATING TABLE 4 OF THE PAPER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARTICLES CREATED BEFORE THE BLOCK

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<td>Total</td>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
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<td>0.001***</td>
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<td>13,376</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(3) Deletion</td>
<td>(4) Total</td>
<td>(5) Addition</td>
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<td>[0.093]</td>
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<tr>
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<th>(3) Deletion</th>
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<td>0.08</td>
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**TABLE A17—REPLICATING TABLE 4 OF THE PAPER AFTER REMOVING DEDICATED OR TECHNICALLY ADEPT CONTRIBUTORS**

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<th>(3) Deletion</th>
<th>(4) Total</th>
<th>(5) Addition</th>
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<td>$-0.229^{**}$</td>
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Number of IDs: 1,079
TABLE A18—DIFFERENCES-IN-DIFFERENCES ESTIMATIONS OF THE IMPACT OF THE BLOCK ON CONTRIBUTORS REVEALING DIFFERENT AMOUNT OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

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<th>(5) Addition</th>
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<td>[0.013]</td>
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TABLE A19—DIFFERENCES-IN-DIFFERENCES ESTIMATIONS OF THE IMPACT OF THE BLOCK ON CONTRIBUTORS USING DIFFERENT CHARACTER ENCODINGS

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<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
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<td>0.384***</td>
<td>0.292***</td>
<td>0.449***</td>
<td>0.426***</td>
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<td>FE</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specifications:
- OLS: Ordinary Least Squares
- FE: Fixed Effects