Novels Shaping the Economy
A Quantitative Analysis of How Novels Contribute to the Study of Social and Economic Developments

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Two long-standing questions

• Economic: Are there Zeitgeist-driven economic fluctuations?
• Literary: Is there a way to quantify the way that novels tell us things about society?

→ Our contribution: Address these two questions in a unified framework
⇒ Bring together perspectives: digital humanities + economics
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Discussion points

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• Choice of corpus
A demonstration

Figure: Sentiment scores from three novels against economic productivity
Thank you!
Appendix
Corpus

1. Constrained by temporal availability of economic data: 1950s on

2. Copyright issues, 1950s vs. 1923

3. Why award-winners