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The Arch Diocese of Boston is pleased to announce that its path-breaking paper "Evidence of Divine Intervention" by Tomas de Torquemada and Diego de Deza is now forthcoming in the Quarterly Journal of Economics (QJE), the highest-cited journal in economics. The study has documented irrefutably that Roman-Catholic cardinals (anonymous to protect confidentiality) were able to guess random numbers significantly better than chance would have predicted.

The Torquemada and de Deza study was at first rejected for its lack of credibility and lack of replicability. However, with an appeal to the QJE, this mistaken decision was ultimately overturned.

Torquemada and de Deza noted that other prominent and influential papers in economics had also at first been criticized by a (subset of less important) economists for lack of credibility. They pointed to many other papers that had convincingly demonstrated associations novel but at first surprising. For example, influential papers had shown that abortion reduced crime rates generations later, that 90% country debt ratios led to reduced economic growth, that Social Security reduced economic private savings, and that aggregation into cross-country regressions was the best way to achieve statistical significance.

The Torquemada and de Deza appeal further argued that limiting trust of papers to those in which the authors were trusted by the editors could lead to a limited perspective that could reduce paradigm-shifting innovations. Like intellectual and physical proximity to Boston, "trust in authors' abilities" should not be a factor in accepting papers.

Torquemada and de Deza noted that surprising findings also stood the best chance of further increasing the QJE's own citation standings as the premier journal in economics. Moreover, a path-breaking paper such as "Evidence of Divine Intervention" could help propel the authors to star status, and cement their intellectual statures, too—which in turn would reflect positively on the QJE.

Although some QJE editors objected to the fact that the study would not be replicable, Torquemada and de Deza responded that this was too cynical a perspective. After all, replicability in clinical medical practice simply means that the study could be repeated elsewhere, and the QJE and other journals would be free to publish future studies with different findings. They also offered their help in evaluating any future studies in the customary capacity as anonymous referees and associate editors. With appointments in major economics departments, and the awareness by other researchers of who would likely be their referees in this area in the future, objectivity and a flourishing follow-up literature would be practically assured.

Finally, Torquemada and de Deza convincingly dispelled the final editorial objection that it had been shown in previous experiments that paranormal abilities to divine numbers did not exist. As Angrist and Pischke had pointed out in the Journal of Economic Perspectives in 2010, "The Credibility Revolution in Empirical Economics," causality is always local. Just because the divine spirit had chosen not to intervene in other experiments does not mean that it would not have intervened in the case of cardinals, where its own credibility was more at stake, too. The cardinal test (a sexy phrase always helps) was simply more powerful, a direct consequence of its superior experimental design.

The paper is scheduled for publication in the April 2018 issue.