Presenting

Pablo Balán

GOV 1263, April 12 2018
Assignment #4: Graded
Presentations have been randomized
Final project due April 26
Quasi-mandatory OH: sign up!
The menu

- Presentation structure
- Visualization
You have 10-12 minutes to:

1. Research question/Motivation
2. Context
3. Research design
4. Hypotheses and mechanisms
5. Estimation (time permitting)
6. Timeline (convenient)
Research question and motivation

- Whose mind are you going to change about what?
- Your audience does not care about your topic
- Assume the audience is about to leave the room
- What are we gonna learn from your study?
- Why is your experiment necessary?
- Is it a question that we don’t have an answer for? Or because previous answers are flawed? [LIT REVIEW]
The origins of inclusive political institutions

Taxation $\rightarrow$ Participation $\rightarrow$ Accountability


“The lower the level of taxation, the less reason for the public to demand representation.” - Huntington (1991)

“Taxation can be a catalyst for political and economic change... political institutions respond to an expanding tax domain.”
- Besley & Persson (2013)
Does taxation *cause* participation?

**Theoretically unclear**: could be opposite (Scott 2009)

**Endogeneity**: omitted variables, reverse causality

**Empirical challenges**:
- Finding setting with near-zero prior taxation
- States target certain individuals
Where are you planning to implement your experiment?
What institutional and social details are relevant?
Why is this a good context to test your hypothesis?
How does your choice of context speak to external validity concerns?
Why Kananga? (cont.)

1. Low-capacity state
2. Low formal tax collection among citizens
3. Exogenous fiscal crisis
4. Few opportunities for citizens to participate in government
Research Design

- What are your units of randomization?
- What’s your sampling procedure?
- What is your treatment. At what level is it assigned? Blocking/clustering
- What is your outcome? How are you going to measure it? [Same for secondary outcomes]
First field experiment to randomize tax collection

Property tax collection campaign in Kananga, DRC

- Unit of randomization: neighborhood (431)
- Treatment: door-to-door tax collection
- Control: no tax enforcement (status quo)
- Measures of participation:
  1. Attendance at townhall meetings, or
  2. Submission of suggestion cards
- Timeline: March 2016 - May 2017
- N = 2,913 (random sample)

Preliminary result:

- Campaign increases collector visits and tax compliance

Main result:

- Campaign increases participation by 5 ppts (28%)
Hypotheses and mechanisms

- Clearly state the main hypothesis and any secondary hypotheses
- Secondary hypotheses: about secondary outcomes and heterogeneous effects
- State the mechanism (economic/behavioral logic) behind each hypothesis
The origins of good inclusive institutions

Taxation \rightarrow Participation \rightarrow Accountability

Tax-participation hypothesis

[Image of protest sign saying: "WANTED LEADERS WHO PAY TAXES"]

[Image of protest sign saying: "WANTED COMPETENT LEADERS"]
Why does tax collection increase participation?

Three families of mechanisms:

1. Payment-based mechanism
2. Signaling mechanism
3. Collective-action mechanism
Tips (from Jesse Shapiro)

▶ Assume everyone is about to leave the room
▶ Don’t give too much detail. Be precise but terse
▶ Make sure the audience
  ▶ Believes in your question
  ▶ Understands your design
VISUALIZATION
Review of Test Data Indicates Conservatism for Tile Penetration

- The existing SOFI on tile test data used to create Crater was reviewed along with STS-87 Southwest Research data
  - Crater overpredicted penetration of tile coating significantly
    - Initial penetration to described by normal velocity
      - Varies with volume/mass of projectile (e.g., 200ft/sec for 3cu. In)
    - Significant energy is required for the softer SOFI particle to penetrate the relatively hard tile coating
      - Test results do show that it is possible at sufficient mass and velocity
    - Conversely, once tile is penetrated SOFI can cause significant damage
      - Minor variations in total energy (above penetration level) can cause significant tile damage
  - Flight condition is significantly outside of test database
    - Volume of ramp is 1920cu in vs 3 cu in for test
Columbia Space Shuttle Accident, 2003
The Cognitive Style of Powerpoint

The Very-Big-Bullet phrase fragment does not seem to make sense. No other VBs’s appear in the rest of the slide, so this VB is not necessary.

A model to estimate damage to the tiles protecting flat surfaces of the wing

Spray On Foam Insulation, a fragment of which caused the hole in the wing

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Slide design

▶ Every word is precious
▶ Use your tricks just once
▶ Maximize data-ink ratio (this slide does not do this!!)
▶ Don’t ever, ever use “Prezi” 😊
Bad plots
Never use pie charts

A survey shows most people feel more secure in large corporations.
Percentage believing where the most secure jobs are:

- None/Don't know: 5%
- In small businesses: 8%
- Self-employed: 13%
- In medium-sized companies: 24%
- In large corporations: 49%
Good plots
Good plots
Good plots

Temperature During The Retreat

Date in 1812

Degrees Celsius

Oct 19 Oct 26 Nov 02 Nov 09 Nov 16 Nov 23 Nov 30 Dec 07
Good plots
Good plots

NOT SURE IF IT'S DATA VISUALISATION

OR JUST MODERN ART