Judicial Independence, State Capacity and Development

Natural and Field Experiments in Development

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State Capacity and Development

- The most recent focus in Development: State Capacity
- "To promote development we have to build state capacity"
- But what is state capacity?
- It is the ability of the State to effectively enforce property rights, political rights and provide public goods
 - Legal capacity The ability of the State to enforce property and political rights.
 - Bureaucratic capacity The ability of the State officials to provide public goods
 - Social Capacity Resilient Social Institutions

Roadmap of Today's Lecture

- Building an Effective State = Building State Capacity
 - Reforms in formal institutions to build Legal Capacity: Removing Presidential Appointment of Judges
 - Changes in Informal Institutions to build Legal Capacity: Norms of Gift-Exchange
 - Bureaucratic Capacity Building: Training public officials in soft and hard-skills
 - Social Institutions and sanctions: Fostering more progressive gender norms

The Impact of Presidential Appointment of Judges Montesquieu or the Federalists?

Forthcoming in AEJ Applied October 2022 Issue

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Motivation

- In 70% of countries across the world, it is the President who appoints judges to the courts (CIA Factbook, 2021)
 - For instance in Bangladesh, United States, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria, India ...
- This seems in contradiction to the independence of judiciary
- Presidential appointment of judges may lead to "subversion of separation of powers" (Montesquieu, 1748)
- The "continuance in office" or the institution of life-time appointment (Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, 1788)



Research Question

- To what extent does Presidential appointment of judges impact judicial independence and decision quality?
 - What are the mechanisms?



The Context

- A unique natural experiment in Pakistan allows us to test who is right: Montesquieu or the Federalists?
- In 2010 the judge selection procedure in Pakistan suddenly changed
- From the President selecting the judges to the selection of judges by a Judicial Commission (consisting of peer judges):
 - Only the appointment procedure changed
 - The procedure to remove the judges same
 - The power of the judge the same (helps us isolate selection effect from incentive effects)

Summary of the Main Results

- Selection reform reduces rulings in favor of the government
- Decision quality improves
- Identification: staggered implementation due to mandatory retirement age law
- Mechanisms:
 - Selection and peer effects?
 - Lower political activity prior to appointment
 - No evidence for peer effects
 - Favorable rulings in government land expropriation cases fall
- Selection reform prevents land expropriation worth 0.14% of GDP or USD 390 million every year



Related Literature

Checks and Balances

- "Constraints on the Executive" (Acemoglu et al., 2001; La Porta et al., 2004)
- Subversion of the judiciary by the State (Shleifer, and Vishny, 2002; Ramos-Maqueda and Chen, 2020; Behrer et al., 2021)

Selection of public officials

- Selection of politicians (Besley, 2005; Guerriero, 2011; Hessami, 2018)
- Judge selection focus on selection via elections versus governor appointments (Lim, 2013)
- Link judge selection with racial bias (Alesina and La Ferrara, 2014)

Bureaucracies in developing countries

- Bureaucratic performance in developing countries (Acemoglu et al., 2020; Gulzar and Khan, 2021).
- Patronage in bureaucracies (Jiang, 2018; Colonelli et al., 2020)

Contributions

- The key contributions of this paper are
 - Show how executive control over the judiciary sharply reduces, when one of the most ubiquitous institutions across the world, the Presidential appointment of judges, is discontinued
 - 2 Judge Selection via Presidential appointment versus judge peers
 - Solution
 Link judicial selection with Judicial Independence and Rule of Law
 - Study judicial independence in the context of a developing country
- What are the conditions for the establishment of Rule of Law in society? (North and Weingast, 1989; Acemoglu and Robinson, 2019)
- How a change in selection procedure of judges may be able to promote Rule of Law



Background Data Empirical Methodology Results Identification Alternative Explanations Mechanisms Conclude Octobro Octo

Roadmap

- Background
- ② Data
- Empirical Methodology
- Results
- Identification
- Alternate Explanations
- Mechanisms
- Conclusions
- Appendix: Robustness Checks



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Background on the Reform

- 18th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan
- Before 19th April 2010 President appoints the judges
- After a Judicial Commission appoints judges
 - 11 members in the Judicial Commission
 - 9 judges, 1 law minister, 1 Attorney General
 - Selection by majority voting
 - \bullet 9/11 of the members are judges
- More Details 60



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The Data

- Judgments texts
- Judicial administrative data
- Annual reports submitted to Ministry of Justice
- Bar associations records
- Census records

An example of Raw Data

Case and Judicial Administrative Data



corresponding evidence showing government ownership — Authorities have admitted and acknowledged that property was cleared and paid off by the Plaintiff on 19th June, 1996 — Plaintiff demanded damages — Rent for time he was not in possession of the house.

Authorities committed willful and deliberate breach of right to private property. High Court directs the

Authorities committed willful and deliberate breach of right to private property. High Court directs the Federation to return the property to the rightful owner and pay damages. The petition is accepted.

H.A. Rahmani for Plaintiff

Ms. Afsheen Aman State Counsel for Defendants.



Information in Judicial Administrative Data

RETTREMENT/ELEVATION OF THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICES DURING 2015 & 2016

MR. JUSTICE KHAWAJA IMTIAZ AHMAD Judge, Lahore High Court, Lahore (Sept. 15, 2009 to June 16, 2014) Chief Justice, Labore High Court, Labore (June 17, 2014 to March 29, 2015)



MR, JUSTICE MANZOOR AHMAD MALIK Judge, Lahore High Court, Lahore (Sept. 15, 2009 to March 29, 2015) Chief Justice, Labore High Court, Labore (March 30, 2015 to Nov. 05, 2015) Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan on November 06, 2015



MR, JUSTICE IJAZ UL AHSAN Judge, Lahore High Court, Lahore (Sept. 15, 2009 to Nov. 05, 2015) Chief Justice, Lahore High Court, Lahore (Nov. 06, 2015 to June 27, 2016) Elevated as Judge, Supporte Court of Pakistan on June 28, 2016



Mr. Justice Sabibuddin Ahmad

Born in 1949 at Hydenhad; M.A. Punjab University 1969; LL.B. from Karachi University; participated in inter-collegiate debates; edited collage magazine at Government Degree College Sukkur, Government College Labore and S.M. Law College Karachi; entered local profession in 1972; practised at the bar for 25 years and appeared before the Supreme Court in important civil and constitutional matters; founder member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and its Vice President (1967-1990): participated in several International Conferences on Human Rights and allied issues; contributed several articles to newspapers and periodicals on constitutional Human Rights Issues; elevated to the beach of the Sindh



High Court on 11.1.1997; participated in several International Judicial Conferences; elected member of the International Advisory Council of the International Centre for Promotion of Human Rights (Interights) and steering committee of the South Asia Forum legal education on gender issues; mens-Senior Paince Judge of the High Court of Sindh since 28-4-2000; Member of Board of Trustees, Aga-Khan University, Katachi: and Member of the Board of Covernors of Hamdard University, Katachi

Mr. Justice Mohammad Roshan Essani



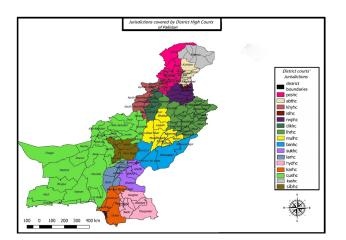
Born on 05-08-1941 at Tando Muhammad Khan (Hyderabad, Sindh); BA from University of Sindh in 1967: Diploma in Public Administra. tion from University of Sindh in 1967; L.L.B. from University of Sindh in 1900; enrolled as Advocate of Subordinate Courts on 06 March 1973. Advocate of Bigh Court 21 April 1975, and Advocate of Supreme Court. 1991; Amintant Public Prosecutor from 7.11.1972; Government Pleader District Thurparker 14.3.1988; on the Panel of Advocate General Stadis from 27.4.1995 till elevation to Benck; Deputy Attorney General of Pakistan from 5.11.1965 to 11.11.1996; Joint Secretary Theropeker District. Bar Association for the Year 1972; General Secretary Tharparker District Bar Association for the Year 1981; member Executive Committee

Tharparkar District Bar Association for many years; member Managing Committee Tharparkar District Cultural Association for the Years 1975 to 1981; member Executive Committee Tharpurhar District Tuberculosis Association for the years 1976 to 1981; member Sindh Bar Council from 1995 till elevation to Bench; member Building Committee Sindh Bay Council till elevation to Bench member Examination Committee Sindh Bar Council; elevated as Judge High Court of Sindh on 27.10.1997; member Syndicate/Senate Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Janushovo Sindh from 24.4.1998; member Board of Governors Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture Karachi from 4.5.2999; Chairman Provincial Election Authority Sindh from 19:5.2000 to 26.4.2002; Arting Chief Justice High Court of Sindh 2.5.2001 to 19.5.2001; Arting Chief Justice High Court of Sindh 25.7:2002 to 2.8:2002; Judge Election Tribunal for disposal of appeals 2002 against the decisions of Returning Officer for Elections of National Assembly and Provincial Assembly Sindle; Judge Election Tribunal for disposal of appeals 2002 against the decisions of Returning Officer for Bye Elections of National and Provincial Assembly Sindle attended Provincial Judicial Conference Sindle 2002 at Karacki.

Sample Description

- We randomly sample 7500 cases from 1986-2016
- This is about 0.2% of population of cases decided in this period
- About 500 judges deciding these cases (85% are appointed by the President)
- 16 district high courts (covers all of Pakistan, see next slide)

Jurisdictions Covered by the District High Courts



How to Measure Judicial Independence?

- Citizen vs The State
- The key outcome variable is State Victories which takes the value of 1 if State Wins and 0 if State loses
- This is case level proxy for judicial independence
- State victory variable is measured in two ways:
 - We ask a law firm to code state victories as 1 and state defeats as 0 in cases involving the State
 - Cross check result with "case against state is dismissed/accepted"

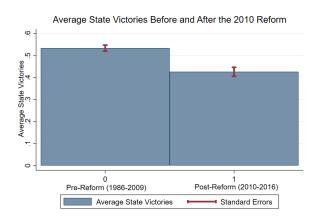


A Tale of Two Data Points

- Case # 1: "President may, in the larger public interest may perform all legislative measures which are in accordance with, or could have been made under the Constitution, including the power to amend it... The petition is dismissed." (The State vs Tikka Khan, 2005)
- Case # 2: "The fortune amassed is indeed huge and no plausible explanation has been advanced in that regard. Honoré de Balzac may be right after all, when he had said that behind every great fortune for which one is at a loss to account there is a crime... The petition is accepted...

The Election Commission of Pakistan shall issue a notification disqualifying Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif from being a member of the Parliament with immediate effect, after which he shall cease to be the Prime Minister of Pakistan" (The State vs Siraj-ul-Haq, 2017)

Selection Reform and Average State Victories



Identification Challenge - I

- Many simultaneous changes are occurring around the reform year of 2010
 - Transition to democracy in 2008
 - Lawyers Movement in 2007
- To address this we focus on the staggered implementation of the reform:
 - New judicial appointments are staggered across space-time due to limited vacancies in the respective districts in a given year
 - Previous judges had to retire for the new judges under the new selection procedure to be sworn in
 - For instance by 2016, district high court of Peshawar had 90% judges selected by the judicial commission but Sukkur high court had 40%



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Empirical Methodology

$$Y_{cjdbt} = \theta + \alpha \frac{Judge Appointed Judges in 2010}{Total Judges} X \text{ Post } 2010_t + \beta_{db} + \gamma_t + \delta_c + \mathbf{W'}_{cdt} \psi + \epsilon_{cjdbt}$$
(1)

- Subscripts c, j, d, b and t indexes cases, judges, district, benches and years, respectively
- Y represents State Wins at the case level
- $\beta_{db}, \ \gamma_t$ and δ_c are district-by-bench, year and case-type fixed effects, respectively
- W is a vector of case and district controls
- Clustering is done at the district-by-bench level (similar results for district level or before-after reform clustering)
- $oldsymbol{lpha}$ is the DiD estimator for the impact of selection reform on State Wins

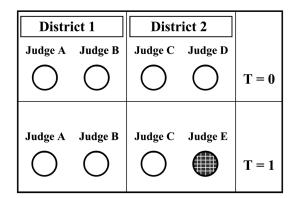
Identification Challenge - II

- ullet α , however, still does not give us the causal effect of selection reform on State Wins
- This is because . . .
 - "Politicians use frequent reassignments (transfers) across posts of varying importance to control bureaucrats." (Mani & Iyer, 2012, p. 723)
 - Corr (Appointment Effect x error) $\neq 0$



The Identification Strategy

A Pictorial Illustration



DID-IV: The First and Second Stage

First Stage:

$$\frac{\textit{Judge Appointed Judges in 2010}}{\textit{Total Judges}} _{\textit{db}}^{\text{X}} \text{ Post } 2010_{t} = \\ \theta + \pi \frac{\textit{Mandatory Retirements in 2010}}{\textit{Total Judges}} _{\textit{db}}^{\text{X}} \text{ Post } 2010_{t} \\ + \mathbf{W'}_{\textit{cdt}} \, \psi + \beta_{\textit{db}} + \gamma_{t} + \delta_{c} + \epsilon_{\textit{cjdbt}}$$
 (2)

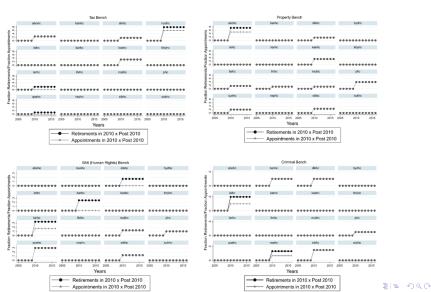
Second Stage:

$$Y_{cjdbt} = \theta + \kappa \left(\frac{\text{Judge Appointed Judges in 2010}}{\text{Total Judges}} X \text{ Post 2010}_t \right) + \mathbf{W'}_{cdt} \psi + \beta_{db} + \gamma_t + \delta_c + \epsilon_{dbt}$$
(3)

 Instrument fraction of judges appointed by judges in 2010 by the fraction of judges reaching their mandatory retirement age of 62 in 2010

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Instrument Relevance?



Instrument Independence?

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | Constitutio nal Case | Criminal Case | No. Pages | CJ on Case | No. Lawyers on Case | No. Judges on Case | Population | Population Density | Agriculture Production | Night Lights |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | 0.0251 | -0.0673 | -1.421 | -0.047* | 0.647 | 0.157 | -1329735 | -909.5 | -1256030 | |
| | (0.0824) | (0.103) | (0.988) | (0.025) | (0.492) | (0.157) | (793,338) | (599.0) | (1130347) | (0.850) |
| Bench Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 |
| R-squared | 0.382 | 0.222 | 0.254 | 0.027 | 0.064 | 0.081 | 0.950 | 0.954 | 0.707 | 0.768 |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.722 | 0.279 | 8.887 | 0.065 | 4.042 | 1.815 | 3562527 | 2065.558 | 465266 | 8.113 |



Results

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| | State Wins | | | | | | |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.149* [0.0887] | -0.202*** [0.0740] | | | | | |
| Retirements in 2009 X Post 2010 | | | 0.0619 [0.0639] | | | | |
| Retirements in 2008 X Post 2010 | | | | 0.0680 [0.169] | | | |
| Retirements in 2007 X Post 2010 | | | | | 0.0275 [0.118] | | |
| District-Bench and Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Case and District Controls | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | | |
| R-squared | 0.055 | 0.064 | 0.063 | 0.063 | 0.063 | | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | | |



Simplest Interpretation of the Design and Results

- Research design uses mandatory retirements as an exogenous source of variation
- We are comparing pro-government rulings across two courts:
 - "Control": a judge turns 62 in 2009 and the replacement is chosen by the President.
 - "Treated": a judge turns 62 in 2010 and the replacement is chosen by a Judicial Committee.
- If all Presidential appointees are replaced by the Judicial Committee, State Wins would fall by about 20 p.p. or 40% over the sample mean.



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Key Threats to Identification

- Are we picking up a pure retirement effect?
- Are we picking up an unobserved shock before the reform?



Falsification Test

Are we picking up a pure retirement effect?

• Do retirements **before** the reform impact State Wins?

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|--|
| | State Wins | | | | | |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.149* | -0.202*** | | | | |
| | [0.0887] | [0.0740] | | | | |
| Retirements in 2009 X Post 2010 | | | 0.0619 | | | |
| | | | [0.0639] | | | |
| Retirements in 2008 X Post 2010 | | | | 0.0680 | | |
| | | | | [0.169] | | |
| Retirements in 2007 X Post 2010 | | | | | 0.0275 | |
| | | | | | [0.118 | |
| District Bench and Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Case and District Controls | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | |
| R-squared | 0.055 | 0.064 | 0.063 | 0.063 | 0.063 | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | |

Differential Trends Prior to the Reform?

Are we picking up an unobserved shock before the reform?



$$Y_{cjdbt} = \theta + \alpha_s \sum_{T} \frac{\textit{Judge Appointed Judges in 2010}}{\textit{Total Judges}}_{db} X \text{ Year FE}_s$$

$$+ \beta_{db} + \gamma_t + \delta_c + \mathbf{W'}_{cdt} \psi + \epsilon_{cidbt}$$
(4)

• Consistent with reform's implementation "in a hurry" (Almedia, 2018)

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Two Alternative Explanations

- President Specific Effect?
- Chief Justice Specific Effect?



Effect of Reform by Different Presidents

| | | | State Wins | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| | Pres. Musharraf | Pres. Tarar | Pres. Leghari | Pres. Khan | Pres. Haq |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Retirements in 2010 X | -0.318*** | 3.070 | -0.312*** | -0.195 | -0.373*** |
| Post 2010 | (0.0972) | (6.182) | (0.0967) | (0.146) | (0.108) |
| District-Bench and Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 2,608 | 1,049 | 2,224 | 1,834 | 2,249 |
| R-squared | 0.104 | 0.163 | 0.129 | 0.144 | 0.120 |
| Mean Dep. Variable | 0.47 | 0.38 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.46 |



Effect of Reform by Different Chief Justices

| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|-----------|------------|----------|
| | | State Wins | |
| CJ Jamali X Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.284*** | -0.281*** | -0.338** |
| | (0.101) | [0.102] | [0.130] |
| CJ Khawaja X Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.156 | -0.143 | -0.212** |
| | (0.117) | [0.112] | [0.0983] |
| CJ Mulk X Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.166 | -0.151 | -0.204* |
| | (0.129) | [0.126] | [0.117] |
| CJ Jillani X Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.202 | -0.198 | -0.253* |
| | (0.132) | [0.129] | [0.114] |
| CJ Chaudhry X Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.0362 | -0.0413 | -0.0954 |
| | [0.161] | [0.160] | [0.168] |
| District-Bench and Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Case Controls | No | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | No | No | Yes |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 |
| R-squared | 0.056 | 0.063 | 0.064 |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 |

- Robustness Alternate specification 61
- ullet Robustness # of Judges Retiring before and after the reform 64

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Mechanisms

- What kind of cases are driving the results?
- Is there an improvement in the quality of judicial decisions?
- Is there any evidence of spillover or peer effects?
- What kind of judges are driving the results?

Impact of Selection Reform on State Wins

By Type of Case

| | Constitutio | onal Cases | Crimina | l Cases | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | |
| | | State V | Vins | | |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.149* | -0.207** | 0.0273 | 0.0240 | |
| | [0.0790] | [0.0781] | [0.203] | [0.203] | |
| District Bench and Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Case and District Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Observations | 5,362 | 5,362 | 2,077 | 2,077 | |
| R-squared | 0.067 | 0.069 | 0.116 | 0.126 | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.472 | 0.472 | 0.580 | 0.580 | |

What is a land case?

The New Hork Times

Opinion

Your House Is My House, Pakistan's Rich Say to Its Poor

Property scams start from the top here, and cut across political divides.



By Mohammed Hanif
Mr. Hanif is a Pakistani novelist.

May 28, 2019











What is a land case?

- "To Pakistanis struggling to keep a roof over their heads, the
 government and the courts can be positively hostile. In October,
 residents of Pakistan Quarters, a 70-year-old residential development
 in Karachi, were given just 10 days to leave their homes without any
 compensation by the courts."
- "The Pakistani courts are very generous with politically connected and government housing agencies who build illegal mansions or luxury apartment buildings. Just last month in Islamabad, several thousand people were evicted from One Constitution Avenue, Islamabad to build a luxury hotel. The court regularized the construction. Prime Minister Imran Khan owns an apartment in the building."



What is a Human Rights case?



HOME LATEST PAKISTAN BUSINESS OPINION PRISM CULTURE SPORT MAGAZINES WORLD TECH POPULAR MULTIMEDIA ARCHIVE

IHC suspends decision to cancel JUI-F leader Hafiz Hamdullah's citizenship

Tahir Naseer | October 29, 2019



- "Hamdullah's citizenship was canceled ... only days before the planned protest in Islamabad"
- "Justice Athar Minallah suspended the government's decision to cancel the citizenship of JUI-F leader Hafiz Hamdullah" (Dawn, 2019)
 Back 42

Is there an improvement in the quality of judicial decisions?

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Case Delay | Merit | Reversals | Process |
| | | | | Followed |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.883** | 0.213*** | -0.018*** | 0.407*** |
| Retirements in 2010 A Post 2010 | | | | |
| | [0.385] | [0.0402] | [0.0052] | [0.127] |
| District-by-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Case and Bench Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 |
| R-squared | 0.218 | 0.141 | 0.195 | 0.082 |
| Mean of dependent variable | 3.354 | 0.627 | 0.407 | 3.314 |



Is there an improvement in the quality of judicial decisions?

Some Anecdotes

- What makes a 'Bad' Decision?
 - "ruling on technicalities in Pakistan is the weapon of choice to rule unfairly" (Aziz, 2001)
 - "judges use decisions on technicalities to favour the state authorities" (Arshad, 2017)
 - "decisions on merits or evidence of the case are much less forthcoming in these politically motivated cases" (Haq, 2018)

Are lower pro-government rulings result of Corporate Capture?

| | Small and Medium Firms | | Large Corporation | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|--|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | | |
| | State Wins | | | | | |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.248* | -0.203 | 0.189* | 0.237* | | |
| | [0.144] | [0.150] | [0.109] | [0.128] | | |
| District-by-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Case and Bench Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | | |
| Observations | 864 | 864 | 435 | 435 | | |
| R-squared | 0.434 | 0.450 | 0.594 | 0.626 | | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.466 | 0.466 | 0.462 | 0.462 | | |

Pandering to Islamist mobs on the street?

| | Human-Ri Cases | Cases | | Islamic Case |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Siai | te Wins | • |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.229*** [0.0460] | -0.307*** [0.0471] | 0.0600 [1.268] | 0.0242 [0.188] |
| District-by-Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Case and Bench Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 3,428 | 2,650 | 2,146 | 222 |
| R-squared | 0.219 | 0.218 | 0.297 | 0.727 |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.462 | 0.449 | 0.544 | 0.594 |

Is there any evidence for peer effects?

Impact of Selection Reform on Presidentially Appointed Judges

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
| | State Wins | | | | | |
| Retirements in 2010 X Post 2010 | -0.0265 | 0.0147 | -0.0544 | -0.0532 | | |
| | [0.0956] | [0.104] | [0.107] | [0.106] | | |
| District Bench and Year FE | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| District Controls | No | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| Case Controls | No | No | No | Yes | | |
| Observations | 6,390 | 6,390 | 6,390 | 6,390 | | |
| R-squared | 0.001 | 0.042 | 0.044 | 0.052 | | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | | |



Mechanisms: Type of Judges

- What kind of judges are driving the results?
 - Do judge characteristics matter?
 - What are the key characteristics that distinguish the judges?

Empirical Methodology cooo description | Results | Identification | Alternative Explanations | Mechanisms | Conclusion | October | Octo

Selection Effects - I

Impact of Selection Reform on State Wins at the judge level

| | State Wins | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--|--|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | | | |
| Post-Reform Judge | -0.160*** | -0.162*** | -0.162*** | -0.0224 | | | |
| C | [0.0253] | [0.0284] | [0.0288] | [0.0476] | | | |
| District Controls | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | |
| Case Controls | No | No | Yes | Yes | | | |
| Judge Controls | No | No | No | Yes | | | |
| Observations | 482 | 482 | 482 | 482 | | | |
| R-squared | 0.093 | 0.102 | 0.109 | 0.145 | | | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.483 | 0.483 | 0.483 | 0.483 | | | |



Selection Effects - II

What are the key characteristics that distinguish the judges?

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | . (7) | (8) | . (9) | |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| | Gender | Muslim | Former | Former | Punjabi | Sindhi | Balochi | Pashtun | Other | |
| | | | Judge | Lawyer | Ethnicit | Ethnicity | Ethnicity | Ethnicity | Ethnicity | Off |
| | | | | | у | | | | | В |
| Post-Reform Judge | -0.0521* | -0.00232 | 0.00386 | 0.0106 | 0.0127 | -0.00270 | 0.00399 | -0.0004 | 0.0162 | -(|
| | (0.0285) | (0.0105) | (0.0315) | (0.0301) | (0.0115) | (0.00610) | (0.0067) | (0.0097) | (0.0142) | (|
| Age Control | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Case Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Bench Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Observations | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | 8,446 | |
| R-squared | 0.016 | 0.002 | 0.007 | 0.008 | 0.007 | 0.004 | 0.005 | 0.007 | 0.005 | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.961 | 0.991 | 0.110 | 0.892 | 0.200 | 0.051 | 0.059 | 0.141 | 0.487 | |



- Background
- 2 Data
- 3 Empirical Methodology
- 4 Results
- Identification
- 6 Alternative Explanations
- Mechanisms
- Conclusion

Policy Implications

- Judge Selection mattered for Pakistan
- External validity
 - Cautious
 - e.g. Nigeria, India, Bangladesh
- Potential to reform the judiciary
 - To reduce land expropriations

Conclu

Conclusion - I

Justice Mirza - Appointed by Judges

Justice Khan - Appointed by President





Conclusion - II

 "... The Election Commission of Pakistan shall issue a notification disqualifying Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif from being a member of the Parliament with immediate effect, after which he shall cease to be the Prime Minister of Pakistan"

(The State vs Siraj-ul-Haq, 2017)

• 5/5 judges were selected under the new selection procedure

ackground Data Empirical Methodology Results Identification Alternative Explanations Mechanisms Conclus

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Headline from May 2018







Will change process to appoint judges if re-elected: Nawaz



Thank You for Your Attention

- Twitter: @mrsultan713
- Email for more detailed questions/feedback: smehmood@nes.ru
- More information on my work: https://sites.google.com/view/sultan-mehmood/home

Opendix: Robustness Checks

Why was the Judicial Selection Reform Adopted?

- Sudden assassination of Benazir Bhutto swept her party to power
- Pakistan Peoples Party tabled the constitutional amendment
- Parliamentary debates just before the reform gives us some clues
- The reform was introduced by the incoming democratic government after a decade of military rule to reduce the political authority of the President
- "the purpose of the change was to prevent abuses of power by future military rulers who ruled as Presidents" (Almeida, 2018)
- Back 10

Alternate Specification – Reduced Form with Post Treatment Interaction Term

| · | - | State Wins | |
|--|----------|------------|-----------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| | 2 | OLS | |
| Retirements at 62/Total Judges | -0.233* | -0.211* | -0.296*** |
| X Post Reform | [0.115] | [0.120] | [0.0978] |
| Retirements at 62/Total Judges | 0.0338 | 0.0192 | 0.0255 |
| rational per a transfer in the contract of the | [0.0606] | [0.0600] | [0.0517] |
| District and Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District Controls | No | Yes | Yes |
| Case Controls | No | No | Yes |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 |
| R-squared | 0.044 | 0.050 | 0.052 |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 |

Back 38

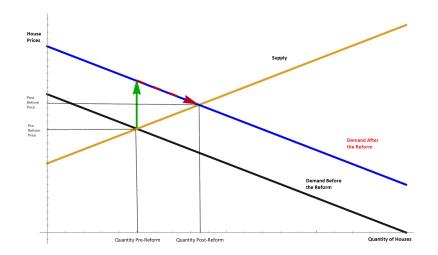
Falsification Test

Are we picking up a pure appointment or retirement effect?

• Focus on Pre-Reform Data Only (1986-2009)

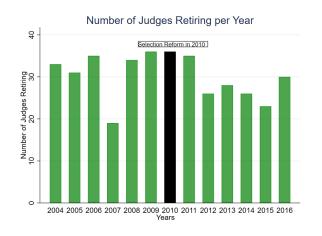
| | OLS | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | |
| | State Wins | | | | |
| New Judges/Total Judges | -0.105 [0.0626] | -0.0248 [0.0531] | | | |
| Retirements at 62/Total Judges | | | 0.00627 [0.0780] | 0.0114 [0.0604] | |
| District and Year Fixed Effects District Controls Case Controls | Yes No No | Yes Yes Yes | Yes No No | Yes Yes Yes | |
| Observations R-squared Mean of dependent variable | 5,166 0.024 0.54 | 5,166 0.037 0.54 | 5,166 0.024 0.54 | 5,166 0.037 0.54 | |

Selection Reform and House Prices



• Back ??

Number of Judges Retiring before and after Reform



Back 38

Robustness within the Democratic Period

| | Least S | 'quares | IV, 2nd Stage | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|--|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | | |
| VARIABLES | State Wins (2009-2016) | | | | | |
| Commission Judges/Total Judges | -0.338* | -0.276 | -0.481** | -0.412* | | |
| | [0.183] | [0.201] | [0.207] | [0.231] | | |
| District Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| District Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | | |
| Case Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | | |
| Observations | 2,563 | 2,563 | 2,563 | 2,563 | | |
| R-squared | 0.096 | 0.100 | 0.095 | 0.100 | | |

Robustness to Non-Linear Models

| | Logit Marg | inal Effects | Probit Marginal Effects | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | |
| VARIABLES | State Wins | | | | |
| Commission Judges/Total Judges | -0.287** [0.116] | -0.329*** [0.109] | -0.283** [0.115] | -0.322*** [0.108] | |
| District Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| District Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Case Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | |
| R-squared (Pseudo) | 0.032 | 0.038 | 0.050 | 0.047 | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | |

Robustness to Different Levels of Clustering

| | | IV, 2nd Stage | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | Before-Afte | r Clustering | District-Year Clusterin | | | | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | | | |
| VARIABLES | State Wins | | | | | | |
| Commission Judges/Total Judges | -0.311** | -0.373*** | -0.311*** | -0.373*** | | | |
| | [0.133] | [0.113] | [0.112] | [0.107] | | | |
| District Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | |
| District Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | | | |
| Case Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | | | |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | | | |
| R-squared | 0.044 | 0.052 | 0.044 | 0.052 | | | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | | | |

Robustness to District-Year Aggregation

| | Least S | iquares | IV, 2nd Stage | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | |
| VARIABLES | | Wins | | | |
| Commission Judges/Total Judges | -0.298*** | -0.331*** | -0.357* | -0.474*** | |
| 0 0 | [0.0899] | [0.111] | [0.188] | [0.160] | |
| District Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| District Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Case Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Observations | 496 | 496 | 496 | 496 | |
| R-squared | 0.203 | 0.241 | 0.203 | 0.240 | |

Check for Balance at the Case-Judge Level

Are cases randomly assigned to judges?

| Panel A: Case Level | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
| | Constitutio | Criminal | No. of | CJ on | No. | No. | Population | Population |
| | nal Case | Case | Pages | Case | Lawyers on Case | Judges on Case | | Density |
| After Reform Judge | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.211 | -0.005 | 0 116 | -0.035 | -22.208* | 13.780 |
| | [0.005] | [0.004] | [0.281] | [0.016] | [0.252] | [0.041] | [12,497] | [8.765] |
| District and Year FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 | 7,439 |
| R-squared | 0.099 | 0.092 | 0.246 | 0.017 | 0.057 | 0.072 | 0.995 | 0.995 |
| Panel B: Judge Level | | | | | | | | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
| | Constitutio | Criminal | No. of | CJ on | No. | No. | Population | Population |
| | nal Case | Case | Pages | Case | Lawyers on Case | Judges on Case | | Density |
| After Reform Judge | 0.00482 | 0.00291 | -1.692 | -0.00675 | -0.296 | -0.206 | 150 505 | 68.982 |
| Alter Keloim Judge | [0.00352] | [0.00353] | [0.912] | [0.0148] | [0.291] | [0.511] | -150,535 [229,321] | [164.34] |
| Age Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Case & District Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 482 | 482 | 482 | 482 | 482 | 482 | 482 | 482 |
| R-squared | 0.090 | 0.091 | 0.301 | 0.026 | 0.080 | 0.145 | 0.219 | 0.037 |

Was the reform anticipated by the litigants?

| | 2SLS, 2nd Stage | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|--|--|
| VARIABLES | Total Filed | Constitutional Filed | Criminal Filed | | |
| | | | | | |
| Commission Judges/Total Judges | -1,665 | -1,141 | -524.1 | | |
| | [1,286] | [926.8] | [387.0] | | |
| District and Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| District and Case Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| | | | | | |
| Observations | 448 | 448 | 448 | | |
| R-squared | 0.095 | 0.094 | 0.090 | | |
| Mean of dependent variable | 9557.09 | 6878.49 | 2678.59 | | |

Back 38

Army and the Courts

The Raymond David Saga

"(ISI Chief) General Pasha sat in the back of the courtroom, his cellphone out. He began sending out a stream of nervous text messages to (US) Ambassador Munter, updating him about the court proceedings. Pasha was one of the most powerful men in Pakistan, and yet the I.S.I. had little control over the mercurial courts in Lahore, and he wasn't entirely sure what would happen."

Mark Mazzetti (2014) in The Way of the Knife: The CIA, a Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth

Judicial Capture by Gift-Exchange

(Mehmood and Ali, 2022)

- Judiciary traditionally performs a crucial check on governments (Montesquieu, 1748; Madison, Hamilton and Jay, 1788)
- Yet, in many countries, including consolidated democracies, judiciaries seem to be abdicating their role as a check on executive power (Nalepa et al., 2018)
- One reason:
 - Judicial Capture by the Government
 - This may limit political accountability, retard economic growth and even foster the rise of autocracies (La Porta et al., 2004; Behrer et al., 2019)



Related Literature and Research Questions

- The recent literature on patronage in bureaucracies documents that government doles out favors to state officials in many developing countries (Fujiwara and Wantchekon, 2013; Finan et al., 2017; Bandiera et al., 2020; Xu, 2018; Callen et al., 2020; Colonnelli et al., 2020).
- But these works leave two critical questions open:
 - Is the suspect patronage really gift exchange, rather than an off-wage compensation that does not result in an exchange of favors?
 - 2 How judicial capture operates?
- What are the costs and benefits of this exchange?
 - How much it costs the government?
 - How much it gains?



tion Classical law & economics Extraneous factors Discrimination - Ethnic Identity Discrimin

Summary of the Main Results

- We trace full transaction of gift-exchange between the government and judiciary
- Pakistani government allocating houses to judges under the "Prime Minister's Assistance Package" and judges responding by giving pro-government rulings
- House allocation induces pro-government rulings
- Quid pro quo gift exchange:
 - Effect is only seen for cases involving the Federal government, Largest effect when Prime Minister or his cabinet is involved
- Costs and Benefits to the Government:
 - Cost to government: 0.02% of GDP in total

How to Measure Government Victories?

- The State vs the Citizen
- The key outcome variable is State Wins which takes the value of 1 if government obtains a victory and 0 if the citizen obtains a victory
- The State is all organs of the State that yields executive power a la Montesquieu (1748)
- Specifically, it is the local, provincial, federal government
- State Wins is measured in two ways:
 - We ask a law firm to code state victories as 1 and state losses as 0
 - Cross check result with "Petition against the State dimissed" and "Petition against the State accepted" markers



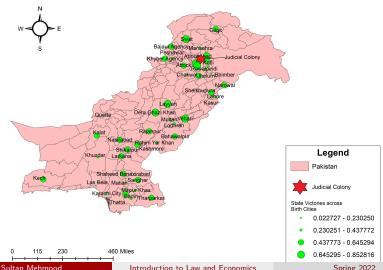
Data and Identification Challenge

- We exploit unique data on:
 - Names of all judges who received houses by the Federal government
 - Link judges who received houses with their corresponding judicial decisions
- Identification Challenge:
 - House allocation by the government may be made strategically
 - For instance, government may allocate houses to judges who are particularly anti-government to begin with (Siddique, 2013; Arshad, 2017).

Context

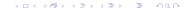
- There was high demand and fixed supply of houses
- Government allocated houses according to "distance from birth domicile" of judges
- Judges born near the Judicial Colony were more likely to receive houses than those born farther away

City of Birth and State Wins



Identification Strategy

- Nawaz Sharif in 2013 suddenly suspended house allocation upon coming to power after 10 years in exile
- This ban on house allocation was to last only till late 2015, when Nawaz Sharif revived the housing scheme "under pressure from the bureaucracy"
- Main identification idea:
 - Compare pro-government rulings of judges eligible to obtain houses based on the government's rule-of-thumb when the house allocation is in place relative to rulings by the same judges when the system is not in place
 - This allows to account for all time-invariant judge characteristics, including their distances from judicial colony to birth-cities



Empirical Methodology

$$Y_{jt} = eta_0 + eta$$
 (Distance from Judicial Colony_{city} XHouseAllocationOn_t)
$$+ \delta_j + \gamma_t + \lambda \mathbf{W}_{jt} + \epsilon_{jt}$$
 (2)

- Y represents average State Wins for the judge
- W is a vector of case and judge characteristics controls
- Standard errors are clustered at city-of-birth level
- ullet gives the effect of house allocation on government victories due to the rule of thumb



Effect of House Allocation On State Wins

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| | State Wins | | | | |
| House Allocation On X Dist. To JC | -0.285*** | -0.265*** | -0.301*** | -0.275*** | |
| | [0.0625] | [0.0642] | [0.0620] | [0.0620] | |
| Judge and Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Case Characteristics X Dist. To JC | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Judge Characteristics X Dist. To JC | No | No | Yes | Yes | |
| Case Characteristics X Allocation On | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Judge Characteristics X Allocation On | No | No | Yes | Yes | |
| Observations | 936 | 936 | 936 | 936 | |
| Number of Clusters | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 | |
| R-squared | 0.328 | 0.353 | 0.329 | 0.354 | |
| Mean Dep. Variable | 0.447 | 0.447 | 0.447 | 0.447 | |



Event-Study

$$Y_{jt} = \beta_0 + \sum_{s}^{2019} \beta_s (\text{Distance from Judicial Colony}_{city} \times \theta_s) + \delta_i + \gamma_t + \lambda \mathbf{W}_{it} + \epsilon_{jt}$$
(3)

- Subscript j, c & t indexes judges, cities & years, respectively
- Y represents average State Wins
- The Distance from Judicial Colony is interacted by year-by-year dummies
- W is a vector of time-varying controls
- Standard errors are clustered at city-of-birth level
- eta gives the effect of rule-of-thumb, with same judges at times when house

allocation was and was not operating

Sultan Mehmood

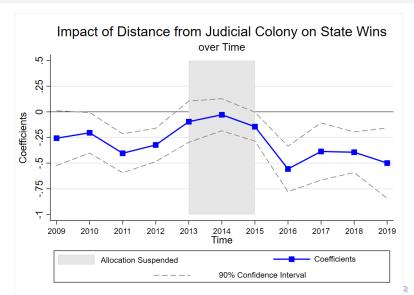
Who are the Compliers in our case?

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|--|
| | State Wins | | | | |
| House Allocation On X Dist. To JC | -0.00494 | 0.0226 | -0.363*** | -0.365*** | |
| | [0.169] | [0.164] | [0.0354] | [0.0354] | |
| Judge and Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Judge Received the House Before 2013 | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| | Never-Takers | | Compliers | | |
| Observations | 313 | 313 | 623 | 623 | |
| R-squared | 0.357 | 0.375 | 0.342 | 0.347 | |
| Mean Dep. Variable | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.42 | 0.42 | |



n Classical law & economics Extraneous factors Discrimination - Ethnic Identity Discrimi

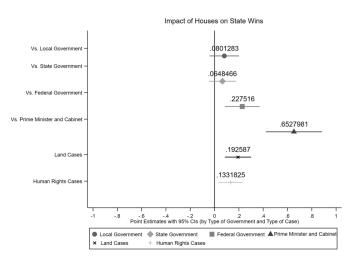
Event Study Graph





Mechanism

Gift Exchange



Mechanism

- Gift Exchange between the government and the judiciary:
 - Rulings in favor of the government only takes place in cases involving the federal government (which the Prime Minister heads)
 - 2 The largest effects documented in cases involving the Prime Minister
 - and in politically salient cases involving land expropriation and political rights of opposition politicians
- Since, the Prime Minister is instrumental in the house allocation, all this evidence points towards favor exchange.

Conclusion

- Allotment of houses to judges induces gift-exchange between the Judiciary and the Government
- Largest effects observed in cases squarely involving the Prime Minister and her cabinet
- It costed the government 0.02% of GDP to buy all the houses for judges, yet it allowed it to expropriate additional land worth 0.05 % of GDP every year.

Training Effective Altruism

Sultan Mehmood¹, Daniel Chen² and Shaheen Naseer³

Empirical Public Economics

Spring 2022

1/24

¹New Economics School Moscow

²Toulouse School of Economics

³Lahore School of Economics

Motivation and Research Question

- Prosociality or the behavior that benefits others is critical in decision-making
- It affects a wide range of decisions—public goods provision, contract enforcement, management of commons, government efficiency
- But this gives rise to a critical policy question:

How to optimally train prosocial behavior?

Motivation

- We focus on a particular soft skill; Perspective-taking, "putting yourself in someone else's shoes"
- Psychologists call this "Theory of Mind"
- Economists call this "Degree of Strategic Reasoning"
- Reduce coordination costs in teams and organizations

This Paper

- We horse race different schools of thought associated with cultivating prosocial behavior
 - Peter Singer Dweck's Effective Altruism Emphasizing benefits of prosociality induces prosocial behavior
 - Carol Dweck's Malleability of Self Emphasizing malleability of self induces prosocial behavior
- Training in the benefits of soft skills empathy in particular increases prosocial behavior in the lab and the field
 - No effect of Malleability training
 - Use of "we versus I" and "us versus them" doubled on social media (only for U)
 - A shift in policy (only for U)



The Context

- Advisors to the President, Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, governors and police chiefs
- Recent Survey from Civil Service Academy finds 70% successful candidates stated they joined the "public service due to power and prestige rather than public service"
- Intensive soft skills training workshop to Deputy Ministers from all over Pakistan (ACs, DCs, Probationaries etc)

Preview of Results

- First what we find is, training Deputy Ministers in benefits of empathy impact their altruism
 - Cooperation, and theory of mind in strategic dilemmas also increased (soft skills)
 - Blood donations, only when blood type is told (effective altruism)
 - Regular Budgetary requests sent to the Finance Ministry (we note who sent letters for implementing school and orphanage renovations)
 - Policy impact of the training is measured at extensive margin (letter sent or not) and intensive margin (how much public funds requested)

Related Literature

- The paper speaks to several strands of the literature:
 - First, we show that theory of mind (Nagel, 1995, AER) can be altered in adults
 - Second, we speak to the literature on soft skills, which labor economists recognize as explaining large puzzles in the labor market over the last half-century (Autor, 2015; Deming 2017)
 - Last but not the least, we speak to the literature on personnel economics of the state and bureaucracies in weakly institutionalized settings (Finan et al., 2017; Gulzar and Khan, 2021)

Contributions

The key contributions of this paper are:

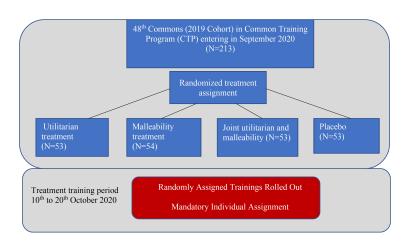
- 1 We show how soft skills can be cultivated and are not fixed
- A few randomized control trials find medium- to long-term effects of training interventions (Heckman et al. 2013; Falk et al., 2020; Alan et al., 2021; Cappelen et al. 2020) but we show even in adults soft-skills may be fostered
- This is consistent with evidence from neuroscience that adult brain continues to be "plastic" (Duffau, 2014, Nature)

Effective altruism could be a parsimonious foundation for formation of prosociality

Roadmap

- Experimental set-up
- 2 Experiment stages
- Empirical Specification
- Mechanisms
- Results
- Oppendix (Robustness check)

Experimental Set-up

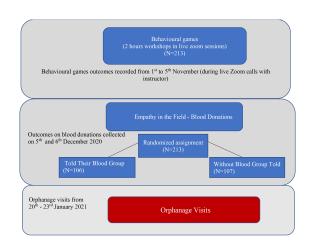


Experiment set-up

Participants were divided into four 3 month workshops treatment groups

- Utilitarian Treatment
 - Describe the private benefits of empathy (firm profit,google empathy lab)
- Malleability Treatment
 - Describe, empathy is not fixed but malleable
- Otilitarian and Malleability Treatment
- Economics Lecture (Placebo)

Experiment Measurement: Main Stages



Experiment Measurement: Main stages

- After 2 weeks of intervention
 - Played 11 behavioral games (Heroku link in live zoom session) Elicit Book choice (Empathy or Econometrics)
- After one month of intervention
 - Blood donations requests from a prominent blood bank
 - Blood for group O negative is urgently needed at the blood bank vs
 Blood is urgently needed at the blood bank
- After four months of intervention
 - Orphanage field trip/field site of senior bureaucrat
 - Public Sector Management grades Conflict management, negotiation, leadership, rule of law, preventing corruption
- 4 After 1 year of intervention
 - Regular Budgetary requests sent to the Finance Ministry

Empirical Specification

$$Y_{i} = \alpha + \beta U_{i} + \gamma M_{i} + \delta UM_{i} + \epsilon_{i}$$
 (1)

- We cluster standard errors at the individual level
- \bullet β , measures the effect of stand-alone utilitarian treatment
- \bullet γ , the effect of stand-alone malleability treatment
- ullet δ , the effect of the joint treatment.

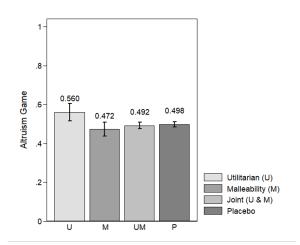
Specification

Bar charts report the main results (show raw data)

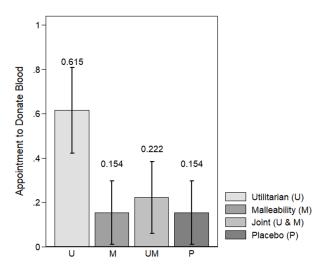
Regressions add all controls available from administrative data.

- Ability (written and interview test scores)
- Demographics (gender, income, age, years of education)
- Birth in political capitals, asset ownership, foreign visits and occupational designations
- Essentially identical results

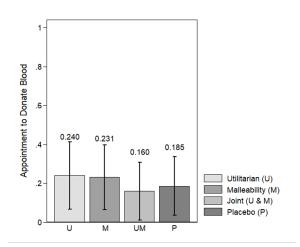
Lab-in-the-Field: Utilitarian training impacted Altruism



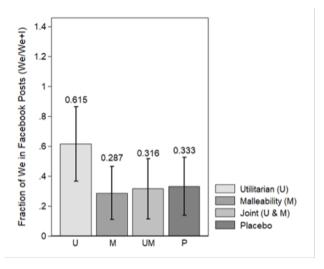
Field Measure I: Effective Altruism - Exact Blood Group Request Made



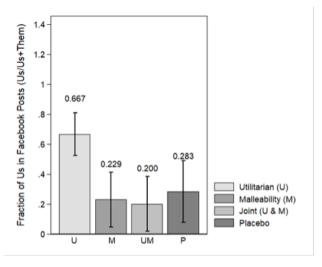
Effective Altruism - Generic Blood Group Request Made



Field Measure II: Social Media Feeds ("We" vs. "I")



Social Media Feeds ("Us" vs. "Them")



Field Measure III - Impact on Policy after 12 Months

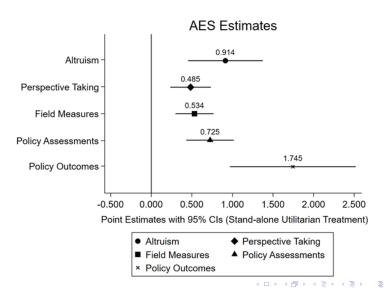
The Utilitarian training impacts their official duties

| | Orphanage | Renovation Policy | School R | enovation Policy |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | Letter Sent | Funds Requested (PKR) | Letter Sent | Funds Requested (PKR) |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| U | 0.315*** | 78,923** | 0.390*** | 74,679*** |
| | (0.0729) | (30,781) | (0.0862) | (28,484) |
| M | 0.0655 | 20,838 | -0.0326 | 15,496 |
| | (0.0516) | (22,959) | (0.0709) | (12,487) |
| UM | 0.119** | 28,611 | -0.00905 | 24,684 |
| | (0.0578) | (22,006) | (0.0703) | (17,033) |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 |
| R-squared | 0.181 | 0.105 | 0.235 | 0.149 |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | 0.194 | 57625 | 0.275 | 45625 |

Mechanisms

| | Cooperat | ion Game | Coordina | tion Game | Guessing Game | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------------|----------|--|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | |
| Stand-alone Utilitarian (U) | 0.438** | 0.374** | 0.482** | 0.405* | 0.628*** | 0.616*** | |
| | (0.198) | (0.187) | (0.203) | (0.214) | (0.211) | (0.217) | |
| Stand-alone Malleability (M) | 0.129 | 0.118 | 0.132 | 0.108 | -0.189 | -0.180 | |
| | (0.174) | (0.177) | (0.181) | (0.190) | (0.183) | (0.182) | |
| Joint Treatment (UM) | 0.174 | 0.123 | 0.074 | 0.063 | -0.013 | -0.042 | |
| | (0.174) | (0.192) | (0.207) | (0.204) | (0.169) | (0.179) | |
| Individual Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Observations | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 | |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | -0.185 | -0.185 | -0.172 | -0.172 | -0.049 | -0.049 | |
| p-value (test: $U = UM$) | 0.210 | 0.246 | 0.045** | 0.088 | 0.001** | 0.002** | |
| p-value (test: $M = UM$) | 0.810 | 0.983 | 0.748 | 0.803 | 0.264 | 0.405 | |
| p-value (test: $U = M$) | 0.142 | 0.216 | 0.048** | 0.093 | 0.000** | 0.000** | |
| p-value (test: $UM = U + M$) | 0.151 | 0.173 | 0.048** | 0.117 | 0.087 | 0.083 | |

Summary of Main Results



Conclusion

- Can prosociality be cultivated in adults?
- Almost no randomized control trials to train prosociality effectively, especially in adults (most work on children a la Heckman et al. 2013)
- We find large effects of emphasizing benefits of empathy (Singer)
- No Effect of emphasizing the malleability of the self (Dweck)
- Significant effect of a cheap and potentially scalable intervention that impacts lab (strategic dilemmas) and field behavior (blood donations and public policy)
- We show that empathy can be enhanced even among adults, which is consistent with evidence that the adult brain continues to be plastic (Duffau, 2014, Nature)

Training Policymakers in Econometrics

IOEA Workshop 2022

Judicial Independence, State Capacity and Development

23 May 2022



Motivation

- Over the last half century Economics has gone through a paradigm shift (Angrist and Pischke 2010)
 - The Credibility Revolution
 - 2019, 2021 Nobel Prizes
 - But it is an 'old' idea of "taking the con out of econometrics" (Leamer 1983)
- Broadly speaking, the credibility revolution focuses on:
 - Causality
 - Policy
- This makes it extremely relevant for policymakers



- But the practitioners or policymakers may not respond to evidence.
- A large body of literature finds that policymakers are highly averse to shifting their beliefs and policy (Baekgaard et al. 2019; Banuri et al. 2019; Vivalt and Coville 2021; Bell and Toma 2021)
- Sticking to priors and being inattentive to evidence may stymie the implementation of good policies and hurt economic development (Kremer, Rao, Schilbach 2019)

- How can we make policymakers more receptive to evidence?
 - Will training them in concepts associated with the credibility revolution make them more likely to shift their beliefs?
 - Will it induce them to change their actual policy choices?



The Context

- Deputy Ministers of Pakistan
 - Policy experts who advice the Prime Minister and her Cabinet
 - "key wheels on which the entire engine of the state runs" (Federal Government of Pakistan, 2019)
- Chosen via a competitive examination:
 - About 200 are chosen from 15, 000 exam takers annually
 - Pass rate is about 1%
- We collaborate with the Federal Government of Pakistan and an elite training Academy that trains these policymakers to conduct a field experiment with deputy ministers
- Conduct a intensive 4-week training where we aim to maximize the comprehension, retention, and utilization of the educational materials
- All the workshops are high-stakes since they count toward their future career trajectories (transfers and promotions)

This Paper - Overview

- Training deputy ministers in econometrics impacts
 - Attitudes on importance of evidence
 - Willingness-to-Pay for evidence
 - Policy decisions

This Paper - Magnitudes

• Attitudes:

- 50% **increase** in importance of quantitative evidence
- No change in importance of qualitative evidence

Stated Willingness-to-Pay:

- WTP for RCT Evidence **increases** by 300%
- WTP for Correlational Evidence decreases by 50%

• Actual Policy:

- Letters sent to Finance Ministry recommending policy with RCT evidence doubles
- Amount of funding recommended triples
- No effect on policies for which no RCT evidence was provided



Related Literature and Contributions

Paradigm Shifts

- Pivots the literature on how and why paradigm shifts occur in science to study its consequences (Kuhn 1962, Shapin 1982, Merton 1973; Foucault 1970)
 - Study the causal effects of a paradigm shift using a field experiment

Economics and Financial Literacy

- Adds to the literature on economics and financial literacy (Cole et al., 2011, Lusardi et al., 2017, Sutter et al. 2020, Ash et al 2021).
 - Study the impact of econometrics literacy training on attitudes and policy

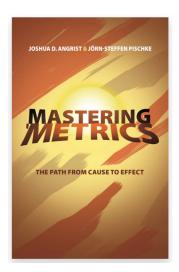
Behavioral Economics of Development

- Policymakers do not appreciate evidence due to many behavioral factors (Baekgaard et al. 2019; Banuri et al. 2019; Vivalt and Coville 2021; Bell and Toma 2021)
 - How training policymakers in modern econometrics may alleviate some of these biases

- Background
- 2 Data
- Empirical Specification
- Results
- Conclusion
- Appendix: Robustness Checks



Metrics Training



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4.2 The Elite Illusion 164 Masters of 'Metrics: Donald Campbell 175 Background 0000

> "In his new, wise, and utterly approachable book, Dr. Siegel uses beautiful and often remarkable case histories to show us how we can change our minds. brains, relationships, and even the course of certain mental illnesses." -NORMAN DOIDGE, M.D., author of The Brain That Changes Itself



THE NEW SCIENCE OF PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

Daniel J. Siegel, M.D.

Foreword by DANIEL GOLEMAN, author of Emotional Intelligence

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Minding the Brain: Riding the Resonance Circuits 59

4 The Complexity Choir: Discovering the Harmony of Health 64

Background

- Ministers are randomly assigned to a metrics or a placebo workshop
 - Treated group: Mastering Metrics by Josh Angrist and Steve Pischke.
 - Placebo self-help book training: Mindsight by Daniel Siegel
- The ministers:
 - Write 1500 word essays summarising each chapter of the book
 - Another 1500 word essay on how they would apply the book's concepts in their policymaking
 - This is based on on recent scholarship on socio-emotional learning (Yeager et al., 2019, Nature)
 - These essays or assignments are rated in a competitive manner with cash awards and commemorative shields for top performers
 - Presentation of books' lessons within the treatment arm
 - Structured discussion within the treatment arm



Background 0000

Commemorative Shields and Vouchers

Panel A: Commemorative Shield



Note: The figure shows one of the commemorative shields presented to the deputy ministers.



Note: The figure shows cash gift vouchers at a luxury departmental store. The monetary amount is designated in Pakistan Rupees. The vouchers for the first three positions within each treatment arm and are worth about USD 150, USD 100 and USD 80, respectively.



Data

The Data

- The Training Academy Course Records
- The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC)
- Own Surveys and Academy's Policy Simulations
- Ministry of Finance
- Sample of 190 Deputy Ministers out of 213 participated



OLS Estimation

$$Y_i = \theta + \alpha \text{ Metrics Assigned}_i + \mathbf{W'}_i \psi + \epsilon_i$$
 (1)

- Subscript i is an individual deputy minister
- Y represents the respective outcome
- W is a vector of individual characteristics including choice of metrics book
- Clustering is done at the individual level
- \bullet α gives the causal impact of metrics training



Partial and Full Metrics Training - Legend for Figures

- Partial Training = Pre Lecture
 - Write a short summary of each chapter of the book
 - Write how the book's concepts could apply to your policymaking
- Full Training = Post Lecture
 - Video Lectures by authors: Josha Angrist and Daniel Siegelman
 - Structured discussion: "what are the key lessons?" "how will you apply these concepts in your career"
 - Presentation of the main lessons of the book
- Assignments and presentations were rated in a competitive manner with cash awards and commemorative shields awarded to top performers



Balance

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) | (11) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | Birth in political capitals | Income | Age | Education | Visited Foreign Country | PAS | PSP | Other groups | Pre- Treatment Written Assessment | Pre- Treatment Interview Assessment | Pre-Treatment Mathematics Assessment |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Metrics Assigned | 0.0528 | -7,327 | 0.212 | 0.104 | -0.00229 | -0.0130 | -0.0549 | 0.0235 | 0.960 | 2.208 | 0.0627 |
| Looigheo | (0.0902) | (4,601) | (0.395) | (0.0873) | (0.0712) | (0.0438) | (0.0348) | (0.0570) | (5.049) | (3.091) | (0.218) |
| Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 |
| R-squared | 0.047 | 0.165 | 0.253 | 0.225 | 0.070 | 0.630 | 0.453 | 0.645 | 0.484 | 0.227 | 0.017 |
| Mean of dependent variable | 0.324 | 34258.26 | 26.775 | 0.516 | 0.225 | 0.169 | 0.099 | 0.610 | 655.585 | 131.085 | 7.221 |

Attrition

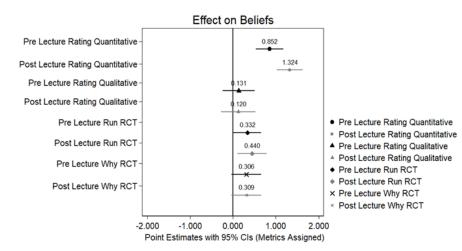
| | Attrition in | Attrition in Sample 2 | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Metrics Assigned | -0.058 | -0.053 | 0.001 | 0.008 |
| | (0.045) | (0.047) | (0.031) | (0.035) |
| Individual Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Observations | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 |
| R-squared | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.014 | 0.052 |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.06 | 0.06 |



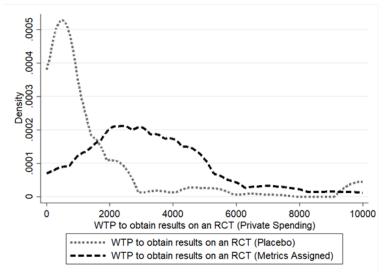
Results I - Policy Attitudes - Original Units

| | Pre-Lecture Rating Quantitative | Post-Lecture Rating Quantitative | Pre-Lecture Rating Qualitative | Post Lecture Rating Qualitative | Pre-Lecture Run RCT | Post-Lecture Run RCT | Pre-Lecture Why Run RCT | Post-Lecture Why Run RCT |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
| Metrics Assigned | 0.912*** (0.176) | 1.538*** (0.178) | 0.136 (0.196) | 0.122 (0.206) | 0.167** (0.082) | 0.220** (0.085) | 0.151* (0.087) | 0.153* (0.087) |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | 2.745 | 2.979 | 2.490 | 2.596 | 0.362 | 0.404 | 0.396 | 0.396 |

Results



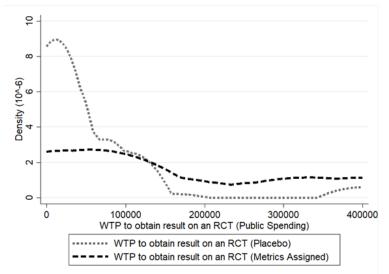
Results II - Willingness-to-Pay for RCTs - Private

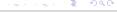




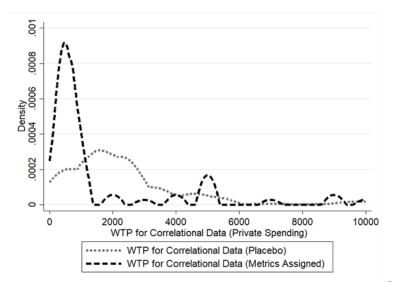
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Results III - Willingness-to-Pay for RCTs - Public



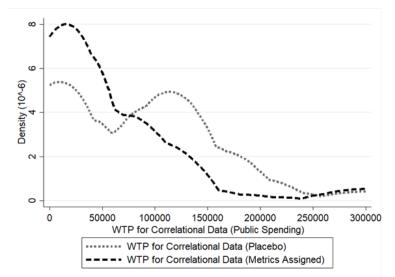


Results IV - Willingness-to-Pay for Correlations - Private



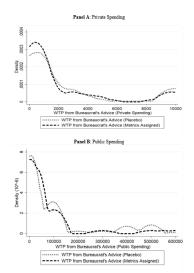


Results V - Willingness-to-Pay for Correlations - Public





Results VI - Willingness-to-Pay for Bureaucrat Advice



Results VII - Willingness-to-Pay - Summarized

| | | Private Spending | | Public Spending | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | Amount Randomized Trial | Amount Correlational Data | Amount Expert Bureaucrat | Amount Randomized Trial | Amount Correlational Data | Amount Expert Bureaucrat | | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | | |
| Metrics Assigned | 2,063*** | -1,020*** | -1,986 | 1391308** | -35,274*** | -2,048 | | |
| | (587.5) | (340.4) | (1,390) | (665,160) | (13,033) | (34,090) | | |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Observations | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | | |
| R-squared | 0.217 | 0.202 | 0.104 | 0.094 | 0.217 | 0.202 | | |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | 1539.453 | 2214.07 | 4490.008 | 928546.1 | 94136.72 | 115937.5 | | |



Prior and Posterior Beliefs on the Impact of Deworming

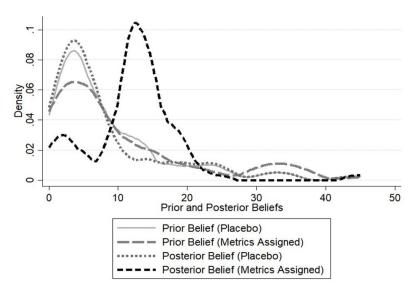
- We then collect prior and post-signal beliefs on the impact of a prominent policy that was to be rolled out by Government of Pakistan in the next fiscal year
 - Deworming in Schools
- We then reveal a "signal" on the causal impact of Deworming in Schools on Long Run Incomes

The Signal

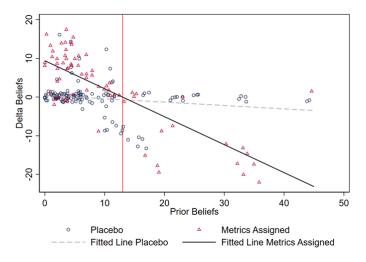
Recent randomized evaluation finds deworming impacts on economic outcomes up to 20 years later. Individuals who received deworming experience up to 3 additional years of schooling, 14% increases in consumption expenditure, 13% increases in hourly earnings, 9% in non-agricultural work hours (Source: PNAS, 2021).

Initial and Post-Signal Beliefs on Deworming's Impact

Results



Initial and Shifts in Beliefs

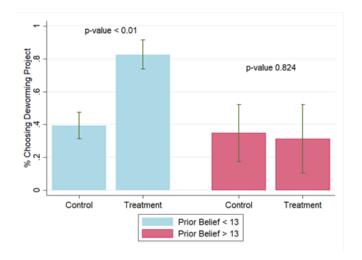


Policy Choice facing Deputy Ministers

- Policy Choice
 - Deworming Policy in Schools
 - Computer Labs Policy in Schools

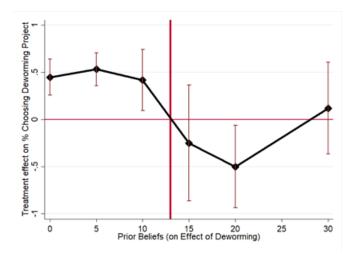


Impact on Stated Policy Choice - I





Impact on Stated Policy Choice - II





Impact on Policy

What about deputy ministers' policy responses in their official duties?



Impact on Actual Policy - Extensive and Intensive Margin

Recommendations made to the Ministry of Finance

| | Dewori | ning Policy | - | ige Renovation Policy | School Renovation Policy | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Letter Sent | Funds Recommended | Letter Sent | Funds Recommended | Letter Sent | Funds Recommended | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | |
| Metrics Assigned | 0.290*** | 401,888*** | 0.011 | 18,254 | -0.053 | -10,042 | |
| | (0.083) | (109,081) | (0.062) | (22,179) | (0.078) | (15,197) | |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Observations | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | |
| R-squared | 0.164 | 0.206 | 0.120 | 0.103 | 0.089 | 0.100 | |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | 0.174 | 171812.1 | 0.174 | 51073.83 | 0.262 | 41744.97 | |



Results

The Bottomline

When faced with policy choices having real reputational costs, implementation challenges and public budgetary constraints, treated policymakers choose policy for which there is causal evidence.

Conclusion

- We find that training in the paradigm of the credibility revolution impacts:
 - Attitudes on importance of quantitative evidence
 - Willingness-to-Pay for experimental evidence
 - Policy decisions
- One year after the training, in their official duties, treated policymakers are:
 - Twice as likely to actually choose policies for which there is causal evidence
 - Triple the funding recommendations for such policies



Future Work

- Does this replicate to other contexts?
 - Currently, we are training UK Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries in Econometrics
 - What was in the training that was most impactful?
- Can we build capacity in other skills?
 - Not just hard-skills but also soft-skills are important Training Effective Altruism (Revise and Resubmit, Nature)
 - Training Policymakers in Al



Thank You for Your Attention

- Twitter: @mrsultan713
- Email for more detailed questions/feedback: smehmood@nes.ru

| | Pre Lecture Rating Quantitative | Post Lecture Rating Quantitative | Pre Lecture Rating Qualitative | Post Lecture Rating Qualitative | Pre Lecture Run RCT | Post Lecture Run RCT | Pre Lecture Why Run RCT | Post Lecture Why Run RCT |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
| Metrics Assigned | 0.912 | 1.538 | 0.136 | 0.122 | 0.166 | 0 .220 | 0.151 | 0.153 |
| | (0.000) *** {0.000} *** | (0.000) *** {0.000} *** | (0.487) {0.491} | (0.554) {0.533} | (0.046) ** {0.075} * | (0.011) ** {0.012} ** | (0.085) * {0.104} | (0.080) * {0.096} * |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 |
| Mean of dep. var. (placebo) | 2.657 | 2.657 | 2.657 | 2.714 | 0.400 | 0.400 | 0.386 | 0.379 |



Randomization Inference - II

| | Dewor | ming Policy | Orphanag | e Renovation Policy | School Re | novation Policy |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | Letter Sent | Funds Requested | Letter Sent | Funds Requested | Letter Sent | Funds Requested |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Metrics Assigned | 0.656 | 0.714 | 0.0288 | 0.131 | -0.122 | -0.0808 |
| | (0.001) *** | (0.001) *** | (0.866) | (0.412) | (0.498) | (0.510) |
| | {0.001} *** | {0.001} *** | {0.868} | {0.508} | {0.507} | {0.635} |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 |
| R-squared | 0.164 | 0.206 | 0.120 | 0.103 | 0.089 | 0.100 |



Multiple Hypothesis Testing

| | Lecture Rating Quantitative | Deworming Letter | Deworming Funds | Amount Randomization Trial | Amount Correlation Data | Assessment Public Policy | Assessment Research Methods |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| Metrics assigned | 1.541 | 0.290 | 401,888 | 1391308 | -35,274 | 0.505 | 0.799 |
| p-value | (0.001) *** | (0.001) *** | (0.001) *** | (0.038) ** | (0.007) *** | (0.003) *** | (0.001) *** |
| Sharpened q-value | [0.002] *** | [0.002] *** | [0.002] *** | [0.009] *** | [0.004] *** | [0.002] *** | [0.002] *** |
| FWER p-value | {0.002} *** | {0.002} *** | {0.002} *** | {0.175} | {0.002} *** | {0.179} | {0.002} *** |
| Observations | 190 | 190 | 190 | 180 | 180 | 190 | 190 |
| R-squared | 0.425 | 0.164 | 0.206 | 0.094 | 0.148 | 0.071 | 0.218 |
| Mean of dep. var. (Placebo) | 2.745 | 0.174 | 171812.1 | 928546.1 | 94136.720 | 0.171 | 0.219 |



Transmission of Social Norms Why Rights Revolutions are Rare?

IOEA 2022

23th May 2022



Motivation

- Recognition of the marginalized is fundamental for economic and political empowerment of vulnerable groups (Smith, 1759; Hegel, 1820)
 - Campaigns for equal rights are in fact "struggles for recognition" (Taylor, 1992, p. 26).

The Research Questions

- How can progressive attitudes be fostered?
- Can these attitudes transmit and spillover to others?
- Why are progressive attitudes not universally adopted?

The Context

- Primary School Teachers in Government Schools of Pakistan
 - Civil servants: public school teachers
 - These teachers teach 5 to 12 year-olds
- We conduct a randomized control trial in collaboration with the Progressive Education Network (PEN)
 - PEN is one of the largest network of public schools in the world with about 300 schools operating across Pakistan

Data Empirical Specification Results Experimental Demand Conclusion 000 00 00 00 00

This Paper - I

- Study Design:
 - We randomly assign teachers to a Visual Narrative-a live screening of the movie "Bol" emphasizing gender rights + a self-reflection workshop on themes of the movie
 - We reinforce the Visual Narrative with a semester-long gender studies curriculum that the teachers taught to students "Self-Persuasion Treatment"
- Treated teachers become more supportive of equitable gender rights
 - Gender attitudes transmit to students
- Effects are heightened, when the Visual Narrative is combined with the curriculum
- Bottomline: Greater recognition of gender rights can be fostered

23th May 2022

This Paper - II

- But this "moral entrepreneurship" is costly
 - The cultivation of more equitable gender views is stressful
 - Stress is measured in self reported surveys but also via teachers' hormonal responses in their blood plasma concentrations
 - Treated teachers have higher self-reported stress and elevated blood cortisol concentration
- This negative effect of increased stress attenuates via a moral bandwagoning effect:
 - The negative effects dissipate as more and more teachers adopt the new gender attitudes
 - Progressive gender norms can be cultivated but they come with
 - This may explain why progressive gender norms do not easily take hold in societies



Related Literature and Contributions

Social Norms

- A vibrant literature has looked at how social norms impact economic, political and social behavior (Mas and Moretti, 2009; Bursztyn and Jensen, 2015; Fujiwara et al., 2019; Bursztyn et al., 2020)
- We contribute to this literature by documenting the external versus internal social sanctions – in stymieing rights revolutions

Bandwagoning and Herd Behavior

- A classic literature on bandwagoning provides theoretical framework for herd behavior (Becker, 1991; Bikhchandani and Hirshleifer, 1992; Banerjee, 1992; Shiller, 1995).
- People have herd mentality: financial markets, protests, voting etc
- We provide causal evidence on how herding may reduce the costs of adopting a new moral norm



Roadmap

- Background
- 2 Data
- Empirical Specification
- Results
- Experimental Demand
- Conclusion
- Appendix: Additional Robustness Checks



Context and Sample

Background

- We collaborate with the Progressive Education Network (PEN) and embed a field experiment within their regular teacher training
- PEN works to improve the quality of education via a public-private partnership, similar to charter schools in the US.
- These schools are managed using public funds by the private actors in a public-private partnership
- Sample is all PEN schools in Punjab: 607 teachers, 15000 students



Visual Narrative Treatment

Background

- Bol Movie as the Visual Narrative Treatment
 - We arranged a live screening of the movie about gender rights
 - The screening of the movie followed an hour-long discussion about recognition of gender rights
- The movie features a strong female lead on death row telling the story of why she found it necessary to murder her father
- The movie is critically acclaimed and one of the highest-grossing Pakistani films of all time

The Visual Narrative

The Movie Bol



(New Economic School)

Transmission of Social Norms

23th May 2022

Visual Narrative + Self-Persuasion Treatment

- Visual narrative augmented with self-persuasion
 - Self-Persuasion: Gender studies curriculum.



Background

Gender studies curriculum

Background 000000

- Teachers and students self-reflect together:
 - Draw all the work that your father does.
 - Draw all the work that your mother does.
 - Which of these are the same? Which are different?
 - Why is that?
 - Would you want the job of your mother or your father when you grow up?
 - Why is that?



Background

Gender Studies Curriculum

A Typical Lesson Log Entry

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| Subject/ Date | Topic/ Page# | No. of Periods | Pedagogical Strategy/Teaching Methodology | Resource Material (AV Aids) | Assign -ment |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Swelents table to job wou pting fo | tell u | ohose prefer | Q -> would you want the job of your mother or your father, when you grow up? Part 1s- Ask the class on what their mothers' q fathers' do. Rart 2 =- Ask the class, what they would choose | - Book - Pictures - Book | write a note on what your Job in future is more |
| S | SLOS / ELC | Ds 1 | to become, from what their parents do? Part 3:- Show them the following pictures. | | look the And doe it recon any of your parent job? |
| SLOs | / ELOs | + | rt48- Initiate an open oliscussion on what he children choose from the in above picture stheir job & why? | | |

The Data

Data ●00

- The Progressive Education Network Adminstrative Records
- Surveys
- Plasma Cortisol Tests and Implicit Association Tests



d Data Empirical Specification Results Experimental Demand Conclusion

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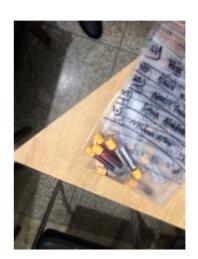
Collecting Blood Samples for Cortisol - I





(New Economic School) Transmission of Social Norms 23th May 2022

Collecting Blood Samples for Cortisol - II





$$Y_i = \theta + \alpha_1$$
 Visual Narrative $_i + \alpha_2$ Visual Narrative & Self Persuasion $_i + \mathbf{W'}_i \psi + \epsilon_i$

(1)

- Subscript i is an individual teacher or student
- Y represents the respective outcome
- W is a vector of controls
- Standard errors are clustered at the teacher level
- \bullet α 's give the causal impact of visual narrative and joint treatments

Summary of Experimental Design

- Teachers are randomly assigned to a Visual Narrative
 - They watch the movie "Bol" (3 hours)
 - The movie, Bol (literally, to speak up), is a Pakistani Urdu-language social drama with a strong female lead on death row
 - She tells her story of why she found it necessary to murder her father as her "right to exist as a woman" was subverted
 - Engage in a structured discussion of gender-related themes of the movie (1 hour)
- Teachers are randomly assigned to Visual Narrative and Self-Persuasion
 - The visual narrative treatment is augmented with gender studies curriculum which teachers teach for 4 months.
 - Teachers and students self-reflect and envision equal rights
 - Recent research suggests teaching concepts can be a instrument of self-persuasion

Balance

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Bol Movie Heard | Bol Movie Watched | Married | Av. Teaching Hours | Av. Class Size | Teaching Experience | Years of Education | Educational Specialization |
| Visual Narrative & Self-Persuasion | 0.0173 [0.0651] | 0.0598 | -0.0619 [0.0687] | 0.130 [0.362] | -1.409 [2.757] | 0.481 [0.407] | 0.138 [0.210] | -0.0125 [0.0600] |
| Visual Narrative | 0.0687 [0.0640] | 0.0869 [0.0675] | -0.0767 [0.0674] | 0.418 [0.356] | -2.323 [2.708] | 0.0238 | 0.0719 [0.206] | 0.0109 [0.0589] |
| U | -0.00220 [0.0634] | 0.0265 | 0.0107 | -0.0927 [0.353] | -0.666 [2.683] | -0.0173 [0.396] | -0.112 [0.204] | -0.0539 [0.0584] |
| M | 0.0216 [0.0647] | 0.0766 [0.0683] | -0.0965 [0.0682] | 0.132 [0.360] | -2.167 [2.737] | 0.441 [0.404] | -0.0771 [0.209] | -0.0559 [0.0596] |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 |
| R-squared | 0.067 | 0.075 | 0.078 | 0.063 | 0.088 | 0.075 | 0.057 | 0.085 |
| F Statistics (Joint Significance) | 0.814 | 0.697 | 0.431 | 0.681 | 0.905 | 0.547 | 0.736 | 0.697 |
| Mean of dependent var | 0.647 | 0.475 | 0.516 | 30.13 | 26.35 | 4.500 | 12.672 | 0.270 |

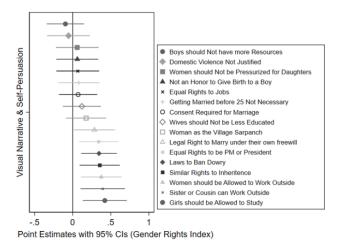


Effect on Gender Attitudes - I

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Gender | Petition to | Petition to | Gender IAT |
| | Recognition | Criminalize | Abolish | Score |
| | Index | Dowry | Polygamy | |
| Visual Narrative & Self-Persuasion | 0.187*** | 0.566*** | 0.512*** | 0.348** |
| | [0.0510] | [0.143] | [0.146] | [0.162] |
| Visual Narrative | 0.140*** | 0.362*** | 0.349** | 0.247* |
| | [0.0511] | [0.130] | [0.140] | [0.136] |
| U | 0.0607 | 0.0221 | -0.0626 | -0.0786 |
| | [0.0445] | [0.104] | [0.0557] | [0.140] |
| M | 0.0897* | 0.0595 | -0.0191 | -0.114 |
| | [0.0531] | [0.109] | [0.0603] | [0.123] |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 607 | 607 | 607 | 527 |
| R-squared | 0.138 | 0.140 | 0.200 | 0.131 |

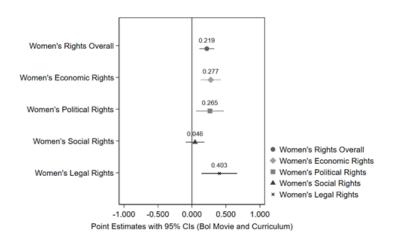


Effect on Gender Attitudes - II



Effect on Gender Attitudes - III

Legal Discrimination

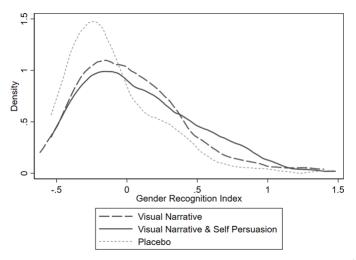




Results 00000000000

Effect on Progressive Gender Attitudes

Distributions





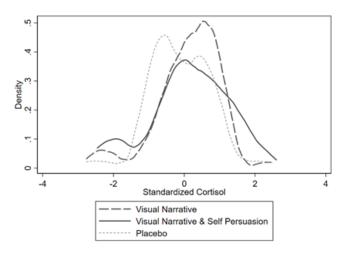
Effect on Stress

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| | Stress Likert | Stress Dummy | Cortisol | Standardized |
| | | | Levels | Cortisol |
| Visual Narrative & Self-Persuasion | 0.444*** | 0.231*** | 1.138*** | 0.344*** |
| | [0.158] | [0.0406] | [0.427] | [0.129] |
| Visual Narrative | 0.306** | 0.189*** | 0.694* | 0.210* |
| | [0.153] | [0.0343] | [0.419] | [0.127] |
| U | -0.109 | -0.0181 | 0.0206 | 0.00624 |
| | [0.121] | [0.0142] | [0.424] | [0.128] |
| M | 0.0331 | -0.0329* | 0.374 | 0.113 |
| | [0.143] | [0.0172] | [0.410] | [0.124] |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 |
| R-squared | 0.156 | 0.293 | 0.145 | 0.145 |
| Mean of Dep. Variable | 2.269 | 0.091 | 11.152 | 0.000 |



Effect on Stress

Distributions





Effect on Domestic Violence

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Victim of | Domestic | Beliefs abo | ut Domestic | Victim of | Domestic |
| | Viol | ence | Viol | ence | Viol | ence |
| | | | | | (Marlowe | e-Crowne) |
| Visual Narrative & Self-Persuasion | 0.375*** | 0.357** | 0.0996 | 0.114 | 0.344** | 0.332* |
| | [0.144] | [0.144] | [0.135] | [0.135] | [0.172] | [0.173] |
| Visual Narrative | 0.285** | 0.273** | -0.216* | -0.205 | 0.274* | 0.267* |
| | [0.129] | [0.128] | [0.128] | [0.129] | [0.162] | [0.161] |
| | -0.0159 | -0.0168 | 0.126 | 0.132 | -0.0100 | -0.00227 |
| U | [0.0889] | [0.0886] | [0.130] | [0.130] | [0.116] | [0.114] |
| | 0.0498 | 0.0333 | 0.175 | 0.198 | 0.0359 | 0.0246 |
| M | [0.0909] | [0.0912] | [0.138] | [0.139] | [0.117] | [0.117] |
| Individual Controls | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 | 526 | 526 |
| R-squared | 0.093 | 0.101 | 0.123 | 0.130 | 0.096 | 0.106 |



A Step Back

- Progressive Gender Attitudes can be fostered but it comes at costs
- Norm subverters bear the brunt through Internal and Social Sanctions
- Might Explain why rights revolutions are so rare!
- But can we mitigate the damage?



Moral Bandwagoning Effect on Internal Sanctions

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Stress Likert | Stress Dummy | Cortisol Raw | Standardized |
| | | | | Cortisol |
| Fraction of Joint Treated | 0.854 | -0.120 | -5.988** | -1.810** |
| Teachers X Joint Treatment | [1.160] | [0.317] | [2.666] | [0.806] |
| Visual Narrative & Self- | 0.217 | 0.263** | 2.729*** | 0.825*** |
| Persuasion | [0.362] | [0.102] | [0.823] | [0.249] |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 607 | 607 | 607 | 607 |
| R-squared | 0.157 | 0.293 | 0.151 | 0.151 |
| Mean of Dep. Variable | 2.269 | 0.091 | 11.152 | 0.000 |



Do norms spillover to students?

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| | Overall | Girls | Boys | Gender Gap |
| | | | | (Girls - Boys) |
| Visual Narrative & Self-Persuasion | 0.243*** | 0.400*** | 0.112* | 0.425*** |
| | [0.0504] | [0.0698] | [0.0636] | [0.159] |
| Visual Narrative | 0.138*** | 0.266*** | 0.0488 | 0.0704 |
| | [0.0530] | [0.0766] | [0.0595] | [0.169] |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 13,911 | 6,804 | 7,107 | 8,936 |
| R-squared | 0.043 | 0.062 | 0.041 | 0.192 |



 Data
 Empirical Specification
 Results
 Experimental Demand
 Conclusion

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Alternative Mechanism

Moral Bandwagoning Effect on Attitudes & Social Sanctions

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| | Gender | Petition to | Petition to | Standardized | Beliefs | Victim of |
| | Recognition | Criminalize | Abolish | Gender LAT | about | Domestic |
| | Index | Dowry | Polygamy | Score | Domestic | Violence |
| | | | | | Violence | |
| Fraction of Joint Treated | -0.204 | 0.524 | -0.194 | -1.355 | -1.235 | 1.064 |
| Teachers X Joint Treatment | [0.332] | [1.012] | [0.997] | [1.232] | [0.962] | [0.988] |
| Visual Narrative & Self-Persuasion | 0.242** | 0.426 | 0.564* | 0.693* | 0.441 | 0.0533 |
| | [0.106] | [0.300] | [0.332] | [0.374] | [0.301] | [0.297] |
| Individual Controls | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Observations | 607 | 607 | 607 | 527 | 607 | 607 |
| R-squared | 0.139 | 0.141 | 0.201 | 0.134 | 0.133 | 0.107 |



Discussion of Experimental Demand

- Unlikely, specially for blood cortisol concentrations
 - Cortisol is secreted by adrenal glands, involuntarily, in response to stress
- We use implicit association test, which is based on the idea that the easier the mental task, the faster the response:
 - IATs have the advantage of (1) mitigating social-desirability bias in the responses and (2) capturing implicit associations that may be unknown to the individual but may nevertheless affect attitudes and behavior
- We find similar results when use Marlowe-Crowne social desirability scale that rigorously measures a person's propensity to give socially-desirable answers
 - When we discard individuals who score high on this social desirability scale, the results are essentially identical



Conclusion

- We find that progressive gender norms can be cultivated:
 - These norms spillover from teachers to students
 - But the norm subverters pay
- Norm subvertors:
 - Have more progressive implicit and explicit gender attitudes
 - Are about 0.3 standard deviations more stressed
 - Are about 0.4 standard deviations more likely to experience domestic violence
 - The negative effect virtually disappears as the new norms diffuse through society



Thank You for Your Attention

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