

POL-GA 1251
Quantitative Political Analysis II
Homework 3

In this assignment, you will work with the following paper,

Blattman, Christopher (2009) “From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda.” *American Political Science Review*. 103(2): 231–247.

Replication materials are available here:

<http://chrisblattman.com/projects/sway/>

These replication materials include the data, replication code (for Stata only), and codebooks needed to replicate Blattman’s results.

1. (10 points) Write a paragraph discussing potential sources of bias in trying to estimate the effect of abduction on voting using observational data. Specifically, consider the items listed below, and then discuss the merits and drawbacks of the study’s design and analysis methods for addressing them:
 - (a) Sample selection, non-response, and missing data;
 - (b) Confounding & non-random assignment; and
 - (c) Measurement error.
2. (5 points) Estimate the effect of abduction on “Voted in 2005” using OLS, applying the same control variables and weighting that Blattman uses (see the text and notes for Table 3). The estimate may differ somewhat from Table 3 since Blattman used probit. Present your estimate in a publication-quality table. Note that the Stata survey (“svy”) commands used in Blattman’s replication file produce results that are equivalent to what you would get by performing a weighted regression with cluster robust standard errors. So, you can either use survey commands (in R it would be with the survey package) or you use weighted regression with cluster robust standard errors (in Stata this is simple, in R you could use the `estimatr` package or use `lm` with weights and then the `clubSandwich` package).
3. (10 points) Conduct a sensitivity analysis to examine sensitivity to hidden confounding for your OLS estimate of the effect on voting, working with the same reference covariates that Blattman uses in Figure 1.

For implementation, I would like you to use the `sensemakr` package as discussed in Cinelli and Hazlett (2020), available for R via cran or here:

<https://github.com/carloscinelli/sensemakr>.

Discuss the implications of your results for the robustness of the your estimate.

If you are unable to use R, then you can use an option for Stata, including the following:

- Harada’s ado files: <http://www3.grips.ac.jp/~m-harada/docs/research.html>
- Beber et al. simulation based approach, which is coded in their replication materials here: <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/24017>