**Kyle Froisland/Saki ECNS 560 Project Topic**

1. A statement of your research question. State this relationship in the form of a question and be as specific as possible.
   1. What is the impact of U.S. sanctions on Venezuela on migration out of the country.
2. Explicitly state the **cause** and **effect** relationship implied by your research question.
   1. As sanctions increase in Venezuela, it becomes increasingly difficult to economically sustain, and more Venezuelans will migrate to other countries.
3. Describe a hypothetical ideal randomized controlled experiment that could measure the causal effect.
   1. RCT to examine the impacts of US economic sanctions on out migration in a country, would start with samples of relatively similar countries in different clusters from around the world including South America (Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil), the EU (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy,  Spain, Sweden, and Portugal) and the African Union (Lesotho, Togo, Mali, and Mozambique).
   2. The researcher would then collect detailed data on the location, sociodemographics, labor market characteristics (industry, occupation, income, hours worked, etc.), and other relevant information for the population (ideally) of or a representative sample of individuals (at a minimum) in each country over several time periods.
   3. The researcher would then randomly select about 50% of the countries in each cluster (continent in this case) for treatment (US economic sanctions) and impose the treatment. If the researcher wanted to add extra "control" to the experiment, they could impose the treatment randomly in time across subsets of the treated groups within the clusters.
   4. The researcher would continue to gather the data described in 2 for several more time periods (or as long as possible).
   5. The researcher can then compare the in and out migration rates in the treated and non-treated countries before and after the treatment, while also controlling for the characteristics of each country in each period. However, since the treatment is random, these characteristics should not have a large effect on the estimated migration changes.
4. Describe why your research paper topic is important and interesting. Answer the "Who cares?" question regarding your topic.
   1. This could have an impact on United States policy decisions with regard to economic sanctions if the impact on citizens is more fully understood. If the intent of sanctions is to curb undesirable political activity but the actual impact is that citizens are simply leaving the country at an increased rate, then this would provide evidence that the policies are counterproductive.

Briefly summarize two existing empirical economics research papers that relate to your topic. For each paper, answer:

1. Paper 1: Oil Market Effects From U.S. Economic Sanctions
   1. What was the research question examined in the paper?
      1. What is the impact of U.S. sanction on the Venezuelan oil market (among other nations).
   2. What data was used to address the research question?
      1. Congressional Research Service
   3. What were the paper's findings?
      1. U.S. sanctions had a negative impact on Venezuelan oil supply.
2. Economic Sanctions as Collective Punishment: The Case of Venezuela
   1. What was the research question examined in the paper?
      1. What is the impact of sanctions on living conditions in Venezuela?
   2. What data was used to address the research question?
      1. World Economic Outlook Database
   3. What were the paper's findings?
      1. U.S. Sanctions on Venezuela led to an increased mortality rate, shortages in essential medicine, and reduced access to potable water