

Job Interview USE

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Background

A bit about myself

- Bas Machielsen
- PhD Candidate in Economic History, Visiting Lecturer in Finance
 - Utrecht University, Erasmus University Rotterdam
 - Expected to submit in August 2022
- Education:
 - Economics PhD Courses from Tinbergen Institute
 - MSc Economics (with honours), and MSc Business Administration
- Research Interests:
 - Applied Economics, Political Economy, Economic History, Applied Econometrics
- Work well in a team
 - Collaborative environment, helpful with code + econometrics, eager to learn

Teaching

Teaching Background

- Erasmus University
 - BSc and MSc Thesis Supervision in Finance & Investments
 - 3 Years of experience
 - Empirical theses, applied econometrics, online feedback
- Utrecht University
 - Teaching the basics of statistics and research methodology to history students for two blocks.
 - Programming and Data Analysis in Excel
 - Familiarization with basic research questions
- University of Twente
 - TA in Corporate Finance, Financial Accounting, Corporate Governance
 - Summer School in Corporate Finance, Business Valuation

Teaching Style

- Structured lectures and planning
 - Well-prepared lecture slides, examples, demonstrations, anecdotal evidence and data
 - Using RMarkdown and Jupyter Notebooks to get an intuition using concrete examples
- I am proactive, enthusiastic and curious myself
 - Always looking for new course material
 - Integrate my own work, or others' work into lectures
 - Data sets or perspectives
- Lectures with the aforementioned elements
 - I also like formats with TA sessions demonstrating one or two elementary assignments
 - Exercises that illustrate, teach, generalize, and are interpretable
- A good intuition for what students think is difficult
 - And an eye for students' varying interests, demands, and commitments

Teaching Interests

- Econometrics
 - Microeconometrics
 - Causal inference methods: IV, DiD and RDD
 - And its' applications!
 - But also more fundamental concepts
- I would also love to teach a “classic” course and give it my own twist
 - At the undergraduate or graduate level
- Political Economy & Microeconomics
 - Theory-based perspectives (e.g. Persson-Tabellini) on politics and economic outcomes
 - With assignments focused on empirics
 - Game Theory course
- Ideal Course: Data Acquisition & Economic History
 - Machine Learning methods to find and analyze data
 - Neural Networks, Object Detection, OCR, NLP
 - Anecdotal evidence, contextual knowledge, theoretical models, empirical testing

Research

Returns to Politics Under A Changing Political System

- There is strong empirical evidence that politicians use public office to serve private interests. They can do so in various ways:
 - Monetary (e.g. Eggers & Hainmuller, 2009; Fisman et al., 2014)
 - Nepotism (Dal Bo et al., 2009; Fafchamps & Labonne, 2017)
 - Ideology (Mian et al., 2010)
- Contemporary literature teaches that features of the political system influence the degree to which politicians can engage in rent-seeking activity.
- But contemporary literature usually takes a *static* perspective
 - Institutions do not change
 - Dynamic returns and political careers of different length are not taken into account

Returns to Politics Under A Changing Political System

- The interpretation of the analysis is complicated by the presence of incumbency advantages
 - Any estimated total effect of being elected on personal wealth contains a *ceteris paribus* effect, but also the incumbency advantages times the future *ceteris paribus* effects
 - To estimate these, I employ a dynamic regression discontinuity methodology based on close elections to estimate political rents using the method of Cellini et al. (2010)

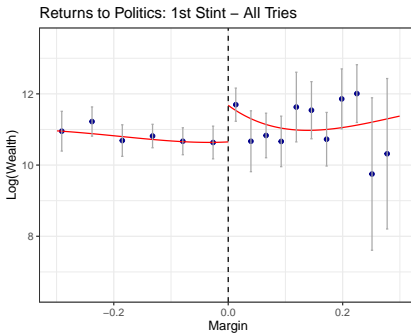
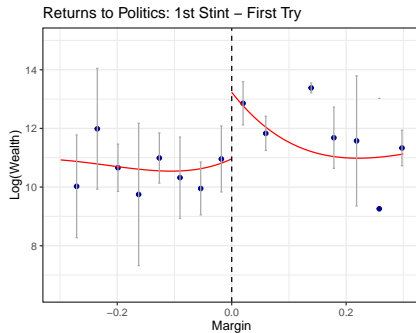
$$\log(w_i) = \alpha + \theta_{\tau}^{ITT} \cdot 1_{\text{Margin}_i > 0} + \eta \cdot f(\text{Margin}_i) + X_i \beta + \epsilon_i$$

$$\theta_{\tau}^{ITT} = \theta_{\tau}^{ATT} + \left(\sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \pi_t \cdot \theta_t^{ATT} \right)$$

- I use the identifying assumption that $\theta^{ATT} = \theta^{ITT}$ for some t^* to recursively estimate the preceding θ_t^{ATT}

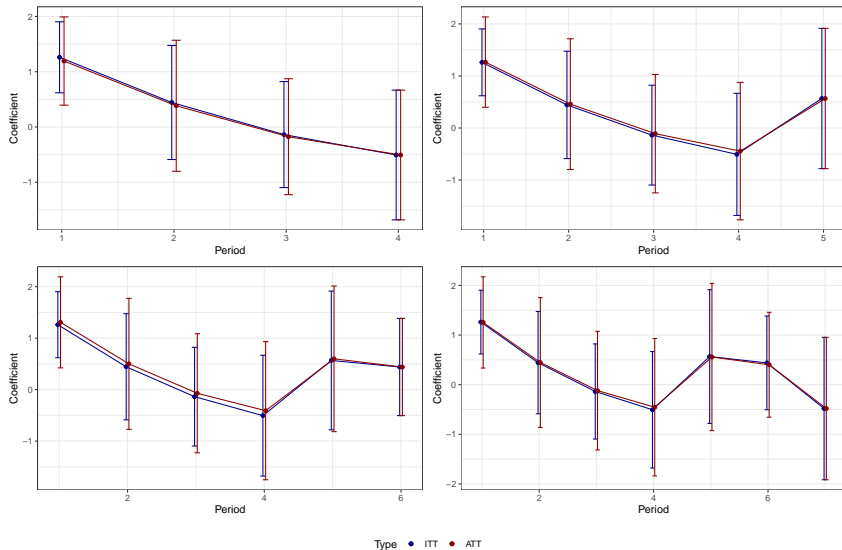
Results

- Positive returns to the first period of political activity
 - Irrespective of the number of tries it takes to be elected
 - Politicians who were elected once accumulated wealth with a rate that is about 5 percentage points per annum higher than their nearly-elected counterparts



Results

- The estimates are not sensitive to varying t^*



Interpretation

- The returns to politics are likely accrued in office
 - But only in the first period
 - Subsequent periods of political activity do not result in increased wealth
- Anecdotal evidence in support of this
 - No evidence for increased career possibilities for (ex-) politicians
 - Political lobbying as a depletable resource
- Political parties were introduced exogenously from the perspective of the candidate
 - There is only evidence of positive returns to politics when political parties did not exist
 - No evidence for a change in the pool of candidates following party introduction
 - Party discipline reduces politicians' rent-seeking possibilities

Other Work

- Democratization, Personal Wealth of Politicians and Voting Behavior
 - Does the personal wealth of politicians influence their voting behavior on a series of key laws that make a country more democratic?
 - Case study of the Netherlands, investigating **fiscal legislation** and **suffrage extensions**
 - Control-based approach, district-specific factors, politician-specific factors, portfolio composition
 - Instrumental variable approach: *expected inheritance* and *father's profession*
 - Findings: richer politicians were more likely to vote against fiscal legislation.
 - Personal wealth of politicians negatively influenced the probability of increasing taxes, and played an important role in determining government size.
- The Wealth of Dutch Politicians
- The Influence of Strikes on Electoral Attitudes (WIP)
- The Long-term Influence of Colonial Capitalism (WIP)

In Sum

- I can teach a broad range of topics
 - Able to operate in the context of economics and economic theory
 - Versatile skills and strategies to illustrate key ideas
 - Able to teach at a wide variety of different levels to different students
- A good intuition for what students think is difficult
 - Able to integrate my own & familiar research
 - Way of working: show and think about the context
- Research interests tuned towards applied microeconomics and applied microeconometrics
 - A good fit with the department