LCDS - Airbnb seminar, 11 July 2022

Fleur:

* People renting spare rooms, rather than whole apts/houses, will on average have less income/wealth than people renting whole houses, and therefore will be a less valued target. This may be one reason why we would see more victimization of people renting whole dwellings
* Suggest some kind of placebo test

Sander

* Has method to approximate age and ethnicity of hosts with AirDNA data (but is our extract similar to what he had?)
* Any exogenous sources of Airbnb (e.g., variation in local enforcement of short-term rental laws)?
  + New Tube stops spurring tourist and Airbnb activity?
  + CCL: I cannot think of any exogenous variation; everything is likely to impact hotel occupancy and other things as well.
* Does Airbnb generate new crime or do Airbnbs draw crime away from other places?
  + CCL: This raises an interference problem that did not occur to me during the talk. If crime stays fixed overall because it goes up in Airbnb areas and down elsewhere, you could get the same treatment effect as from just an increase of the same magnitude as the shift. We can at least rule out shifting from nearby places with a spatial lag term. Raised in paper.

Mark

* Would-be burglars might be aware of nhoods with lots of Airbnbs (i.e., semi-occupied places without guardianship) --- information effect
* Comment about hotel occupancy (to measure tourism?). My note: can we get tax receipt data by LSOA?
* Is our functional form correct? Step function as an alternative?
  + CCL: We’re not very flexible with functional forms in the DPMs as they don’t like to converge when things drift away from normality too much. Could do spline models in Poisson FE maybe?

Thiago

* Explain direct effect of Airbnb (t1) on crime (t2)
* Unconstrained models instead of constrained

Andrea

* Need to account for housing density

Charlie

* Suggest space-time models

Melinda

* Poisson hurdle model as alternative estimator?
* Generalizable findings? Can we do analysis elsewhere? Maybe Leeds

Other comments

* Leverage Covid somehow --- extend analysis to Covid pandemic period? Form of an exogenous shock to Airbnb supply/demand [contact AirDNA to purchase more data --- will doing so enhance contribution or publication potential sufficiently?]