The Socio-Cultural Effects of Race and Indigeneity on Monetary Sanctions in Minnesota

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LFOs as Punishment

National - Harris et.al. 2010

- Proliferation of LFO imposition
- Substatial legal debt relative to defendant financial status
- key cog in the reproduction of inequality

Minnesota

- 5 components in MN:
 - base fine
 - criminal surcharge
 - law library fee
 - post-court fees (e.g., probation fees, restitution)
 - other court fees (e.g., PD co-pay)





LFOs in Minnesota

LFOs over Time





Theory

Socio-Cultural Theories of Punishment

- Durkheim (1984): ritual, expressive reaffirmation of collective values fueled by moral outrage
- Mead (1918): agressive, exclusionary "righteous indignation" towards the accused

Racialization of Crime

- racial animus strongly linked to negative emotions (Sears 1988)
- perceptions of race and likelihood of criminal offending (Quillian and Pager 2001)
- crime types stereotypically associated with certain racial groups (Chiricos and Eschholz 2002)





Empirical

Extra-legal racial effects of punishment

- Race effects on sentencing outcomes (e.g., Johnson 2005, King and Johnson 2016)
- Race and the racial context interact to shape sentencing outcomes (Ulmer and Johnson 2004)

Harris et. al. (2011) ASR

- Black and Latino defendants receive higher LFOs compares to Whites, net of legal measures
- Latino drug defendants, Black violent defendants* = higher LFOs
- find courtesy stigma for both violent defendants in Black areas, drug defendants in Latino areas





Questions and Current Study

Questions

- What are the extra-legal racial effects on sentenced LFOs in MN, net of legal variables?
- Are these effects moderated by racialized socio-cultural crime scripts and community context?
- Does the community context moderate the effect for community out groups - "courtesy stigma" (Goffman 1963)?

Current Study

- Harris et.al. 2013 ASR quasi-replication using Minnesota data
- extend analyses to Indigenous populations
- Alcohol-related offenses as crime script for Native American defendants (Morris et.al. 2006)





Data

- Methods
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 - Analytical Strategy



Data

Data

MCAO





- Methods
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Measures

- DV:
- IV: Race
- Controls:





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Analytical Strategy

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Summary

Conclusions

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Limitations and future research

- lack of causal identification, race is quite endogenous
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- extend analyses to all charge levels





Questions/Comments?

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