**China in the Development World: An Overview**

**PPOL 5202: Data Visualization for Data Science**

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**Background**

The People’s Republic of China (PRC) has been noticeably investing in the developing world since the 2000s, right after their economic and industrial revolution. With 20,985 projects across 165 low-to-middle income countries, China has poised itself as a leader in spearheading development in vast regions in Africa and Latin America. These loans, grants and projects are valued around $1.34 trillion from 2000 to 2021, showing the compromise of the Asian giant to become a key player in development.

**Methodology**

For this project we will be exploring a subset of this dataset, which we think is the more relevant for the international community due to the amount invested and the socioeconomic impact they have. We are targeting projects in which investment is valued over $10,000,000.00 and that have specifically precise geospatial data (as some projects might be credit loans to improve monetary policies and not have georeferences). We are also filtering by projects that fall within the definitions of ODA and OOF, as we want to see how China’s diplomacy arm leverages these endeavors in other countries.

**Data Sources**

Our main data source is a database of every development project implemented by China in the world. It groups aid, grants loans and development projects that can be defined under the OECD ODA (Official Development Assistance) and OOF (Other Official Flows) definitions. The data source comes from AidData, which is a research lab that focuses on research in development based on William & Mary’s Global Research Institute. This is the third version of the dataset which is the most comprehensive version as of today. It gathers more than 10 different sources for each one of the projects collected for this task.

AidData has come with a methodology called TUFF, which stands for Tracking Underreported Financial Flows. This methodology has the objective to gather information about development projects financed by donors that have traditionally not followed international multilateral standards on reporting. The process of TUFF takes into consideration a multifaceted approach and multistakeholder perspective on collecting, verifying and validating reports and updated data about the reports.

Each one of the records (projects) have been curated by as much as 50 different sources (both public and official one’s) from the Recipient Country (where the investment is taken place) and the Donor Country (China). This dataset relies on information from academia as well such as Duke, Harvard universities. On the other hand AidData also leverages reports from Multilateral agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and InterAmerican Development Bank. Furthermore, the research lab relies on local think tanks, government agencies and local newspapers where they can verify and get more localized data about the projects.

The TUFF methodology is very thorough and as a result gives a highly curated process with several safeguards. Through TUFF we get a very robust dataset which reliability for any research around this topic will have a high confidence.

**Findings**

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**Limitations**

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**References**

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