Replication: The Political Legacy of American Slavery

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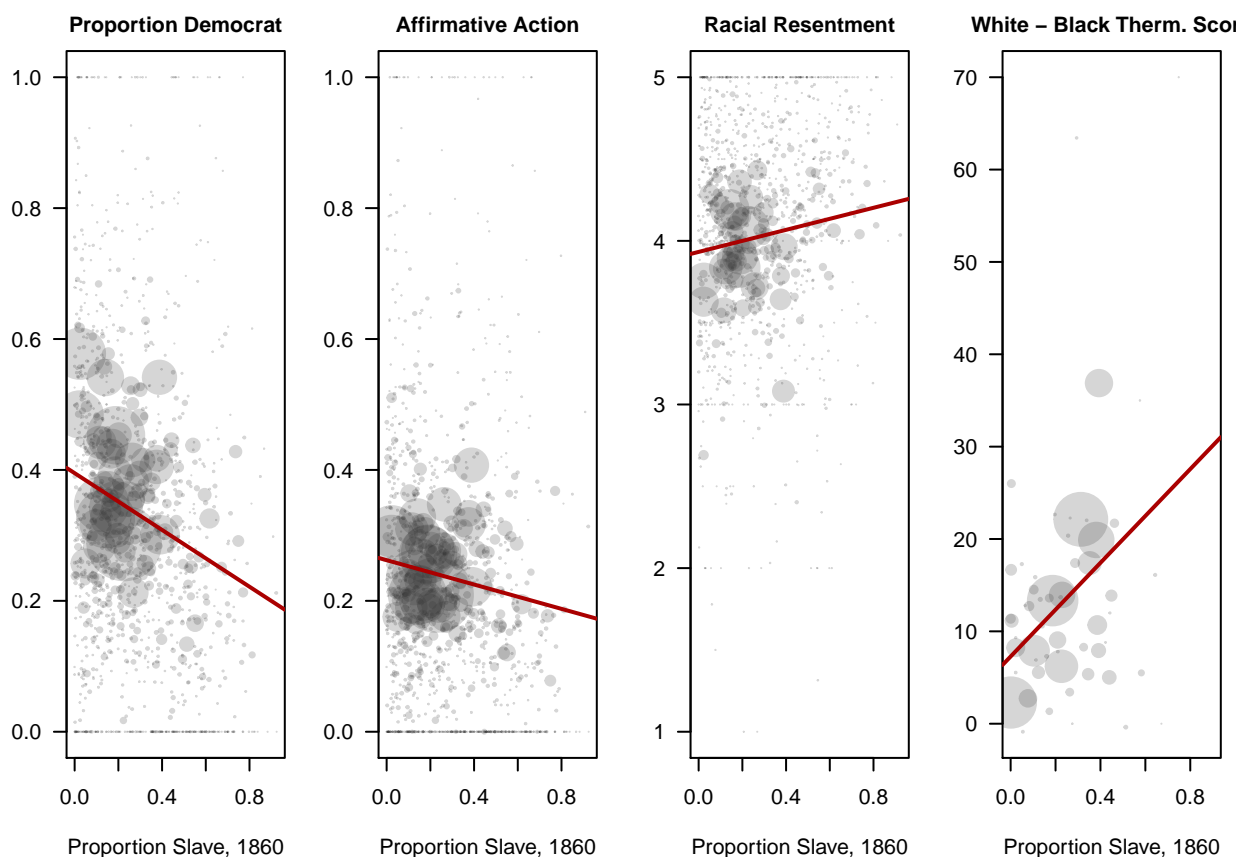
Abstract

I partially replicate "The Political Legacy of American Slavery" by Acharya, Blackwell, and Sen (2016b) from Acharya, Blackwell, and Sen (2016a). The main regression results (Tables 1-3) appear as in the original paper. Some of the figures either cannot be replicated without further guidance (Fig. 1), take too long to knit (Fig. 3), or require additional data (Fig. 6). I include more detailed comments about the statistical methods the authors used in the comments of this file.

Figure 1. Estimated proportion slave in 1860 by county.

This figure is missing a necessary dataframe (counties2000) with no explanation about where it came from.

Figure 2. Bivariate relationships between proportion slave in 1860 and the four outcome measures with a linear fit.

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Table 1. Effects of Slavery on White Political Attitudes

	Proportion Democrat		Support for Affirm. Action	Racial Resentment	White-Black Therm. Diff
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Prop. Slave, 1860	−0.217**	−0.127**	−0.145**	0.463**	36.125**
	(0.023)	(0.043)	(0.036)	(0.139)	(9.211)
Level	County	County	County	County	Individual
1860 Covariates		✓	✓	✓	
State Fixed Effects		✓	✓	✓	✓
State-Year Fixed Effects					✓
Clustered SEs					✓
N	1,242	1,152	1,152	1,027	1,489
R^2	0.065	0.203	0.101	0.143	0.183

Table 2. Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effect of Slavery

	Proportion Slave, 1860	Proportion Democrat	Support for Affirm. Action	Racial Resentment	White-Black Therm. Diff
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Cotton Suitability	0.441**				
	(0.037)				
Prop. Slave, 1860		−0.277**	−0.247**	0.823*	51.748*
		(0.104)	(0.088)	(0.352)	(19.305)
State Fixed Effects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geographic Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Model	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS
	First Stage	Second Stage	Second Stage	Second Stage	Second Stage
N	1,120	1,120	1,120	998	51
F Statistic	80.077** (df = 21; 1098)				

Table 3. Effects of Slavery on White Attitudes Net the Effect of the Contemporary Proportions of African Americans

	Prop. Democrat		Affirm. Action		Racial Resentment	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Prop. Slave, Direct Effect	−0.150**	−0.130*	−0.153**	−0.130**	0.514**	0.472*
	(0.043)	(0.057)	(0.037)	(0.042)	(0.140)	(0.184)
Prop. Black, 2000	0.172**		0.062		−0.416**	
	(0.043)		(0.037)		(0.140)	
State Fixed Effects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1860 Covariates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bootstrapped SEs		✓		✓		✓
Model	WLS	Seq. g-est.	WLS	Seq. g-est.	WLS	Seq. g-est.
N	1,152	1,152	1,152	1,152	1,027	1,027
R^2	0.214	0.209	0.103	0.095	0.151	0.144

Figure 3. Characteristics of white out-migrants and in-migrants compared to white nonmigrants for high-slave and low-slave counties, where migration took place between 1935 and 1939.

This takes too long to knit.

Figure 4. Effect of proportion slave on vote for Democratic presidential candidate in the South over time.
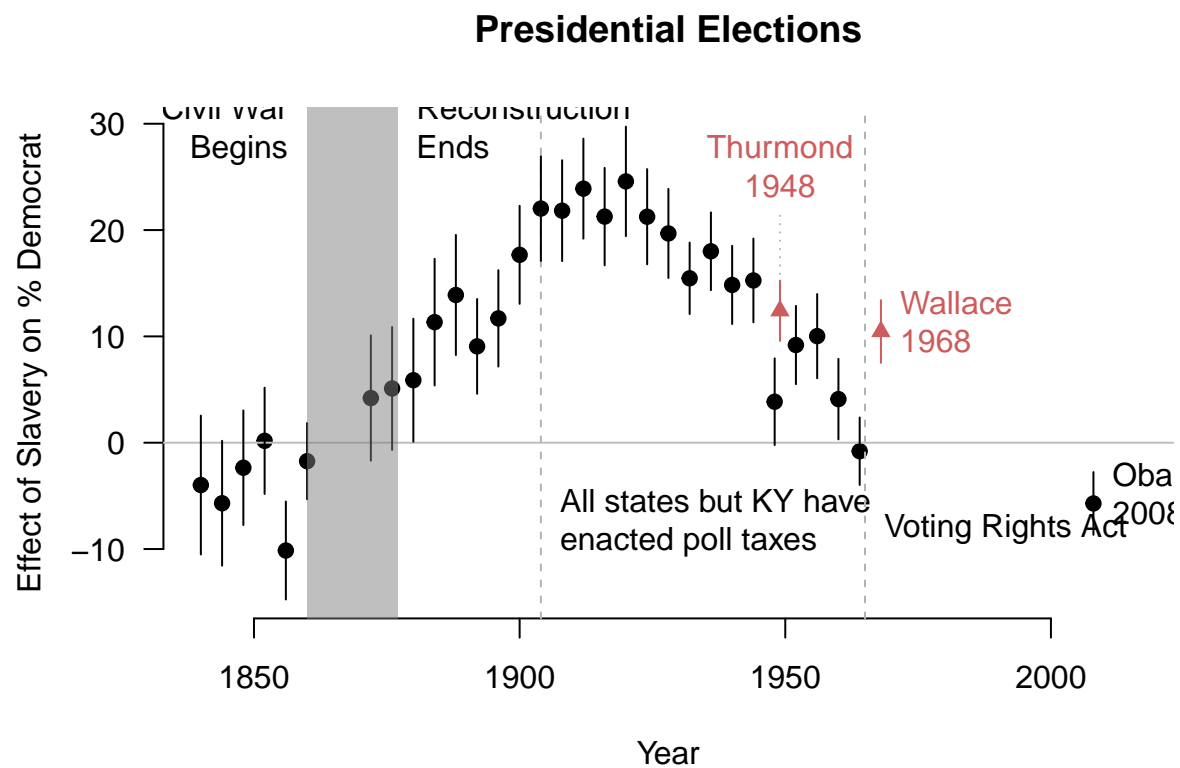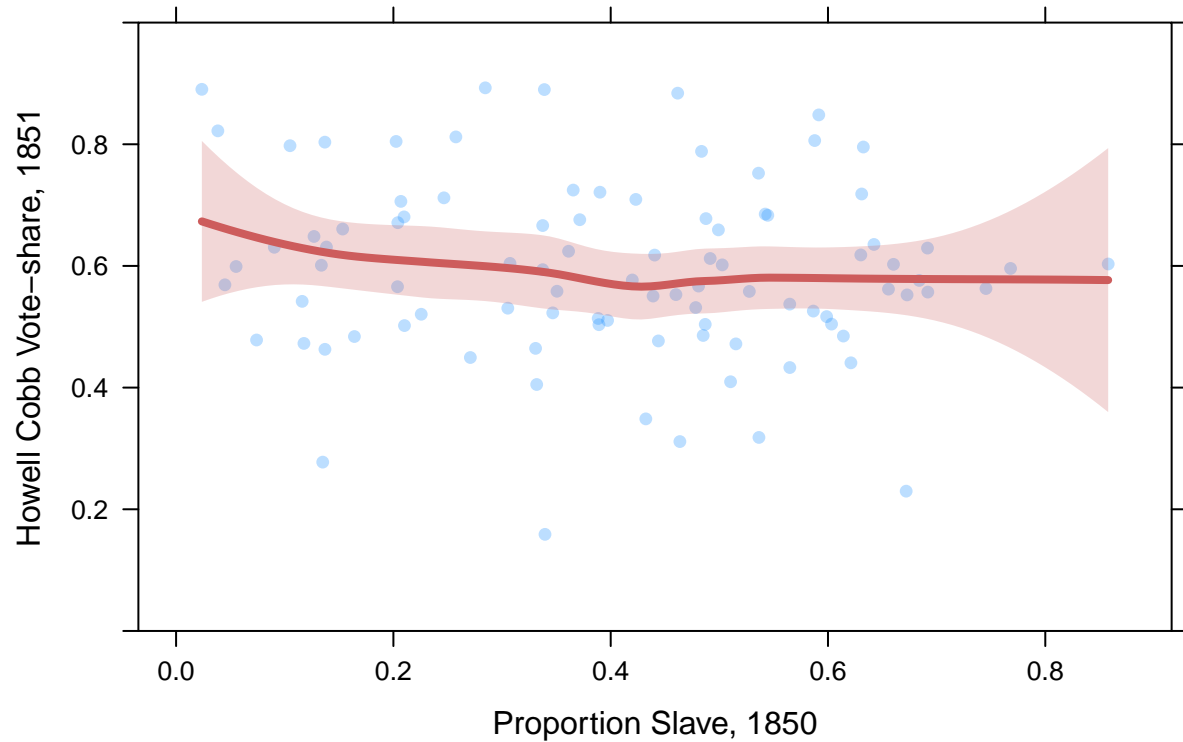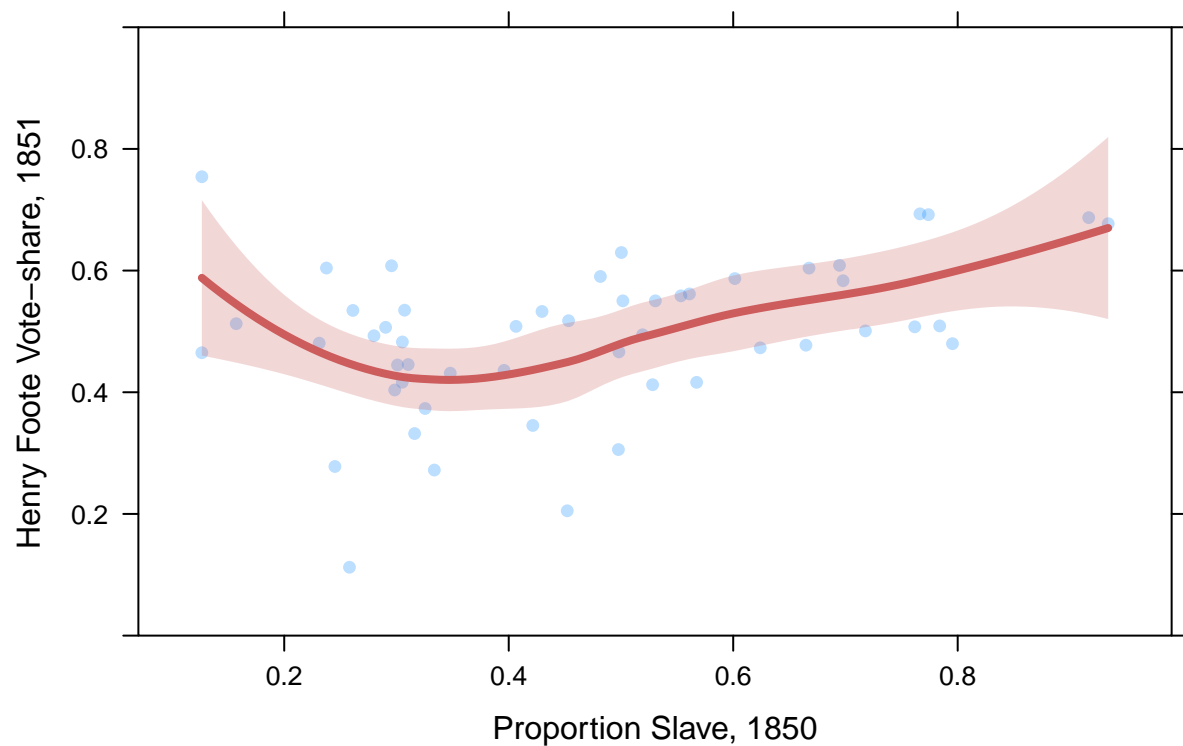
Presidential Elections

Figure 5. Within-state relationship between proportion slave in 1850 in a county and percentage voting for Unionist candidates in 1851 in that county.

Georgia Gubernatorial Election, 1851

Mississippi Gubernatorial Election, 1851

Figure 6. Correlation coefficients between parent's white racial preference in 1965 and their children's white racial preference measured at four time periods: 1965, 1973, 1982, and 1997.

Cannot be replicated by data on the Harvard Dataverse. Register and download *Three Generations Combined, 1965-1997 (ICPSR 4532)* here to replicate it.

References

Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen. 2016a. "Replication Data for: The Political Legacy of American Slavery." Harvard Dataverse. doi:10.7910/DVN/CAEEG7.

———. 2016b. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery." *Journal of Politics* 78 (3): 621–41. http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/686631.