

Regional Convergence, Spatial Scale, and Spatial Dependence:

Evidence from Homicides and Personal Injuries in Colombia 2010-2018

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[Slides available at <https://quarcslab.bind.io/>]

Motivation:

- Beyond GDP, social variables and their convergence are relevant for development studies (Royuela et al 2015)
- Persistent income differences, differences in health indicators and in "general" regional inequality in Colombia.
Among the most unequal countries in the world in terms of the income gini coefficient.
- Scarce academic literature on inequality (convergence approach) and crime at the municipality level.

Research Objective:

- Study convergence/divergence of homicide rates (NMR) and personal injury rates (NPIR) across municipalities and departments in Colombia 2010-2018
- Analyze spatial autocorrelation and its robustness at different disaggregation levels

Methods:

- Classical convergence framework (Barro and Sala-i-Martin 1992)
- Distributional convergence framework (Quah 1996; Hyndman et. al 1996)
- Spatial autocorrelation (Moran's I and differential Moran's I)

Main Results:

1. **Sigma Convergence** and **Beta Convergence** for both homicide and personal injury rates at the state level.
However just **Beta Convergence** for both crimes at the municipal level.
2. Regional disaggregation matters: **Local convergence clusters**
3. Clustering dynamics different clubs for both crimes and levels
4. Spatial Autocorrelation robust only at the municipality level

Main Contributions

1. Study of **classical and distribution convergence** for two crimes and **contrasting results for two levels**: 32 States and 1120 municipalities.
2. Spatial autocorrelation is **robust for the higher level**.
3. Uniform progress of States and municipalities (NMR). first **robust findings of convergence of NMR** in the literature.

Outline of this presentation

1. Data description Non crime rates
2. Global convergence: Using classical summary measures
 - o Beta convergence
 - o Sigma convergence
3. Regional disaggregation:
 - o Distribution dynamics framework
 - o Distributional convergence
4. Global spatial autocorrelation:
 - o Disaggregation effects
5. Policy discussion
 - o The Colombian National Development Plan 2018-22
 - o CCTs and spatial autocorrelation
6. Concluding Remarks

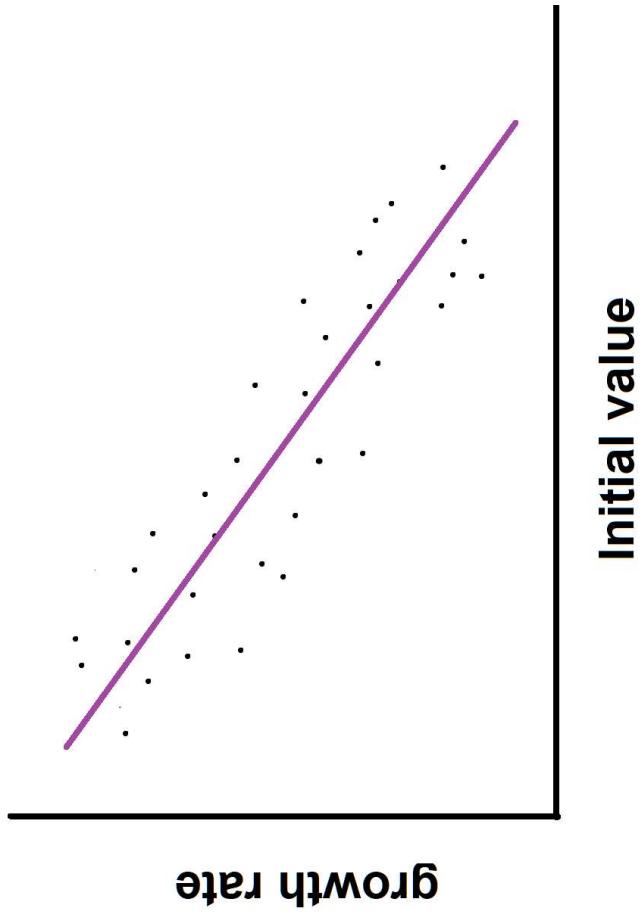
Data:

- Total number of homicides and personal injuries in Colombia per year from 2010 until 2018 (data taken from the national police).
- Data is aggregated at the municipal and departmental levels.
- Population census and estimates for states and municipalities.
- Raw rates are computed:
$$\text{raw rates} = \text{crimes} / \text{population}$$
- Non-crime rates are computed:
$$NCR = 10000 - \text{raw rate} * 10000$$
- Survival rates are chosen because positively defined variables are a standard in the convergence literature.

(2) Global convergence:

Using the classical convergence framework

Beta convergence (the catch-up effect)

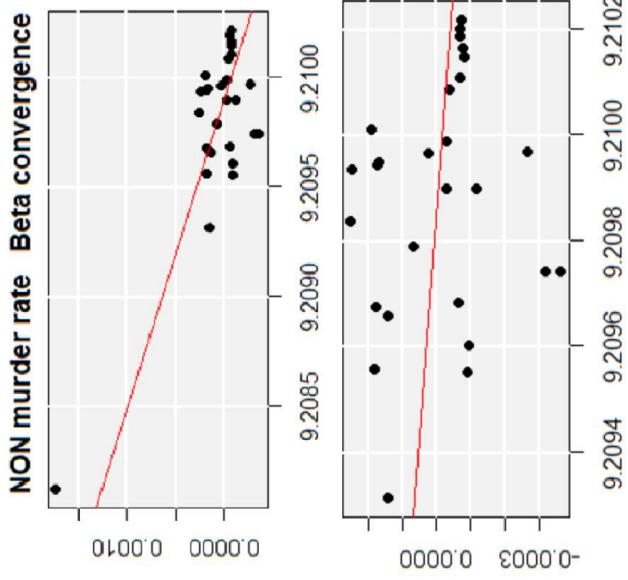
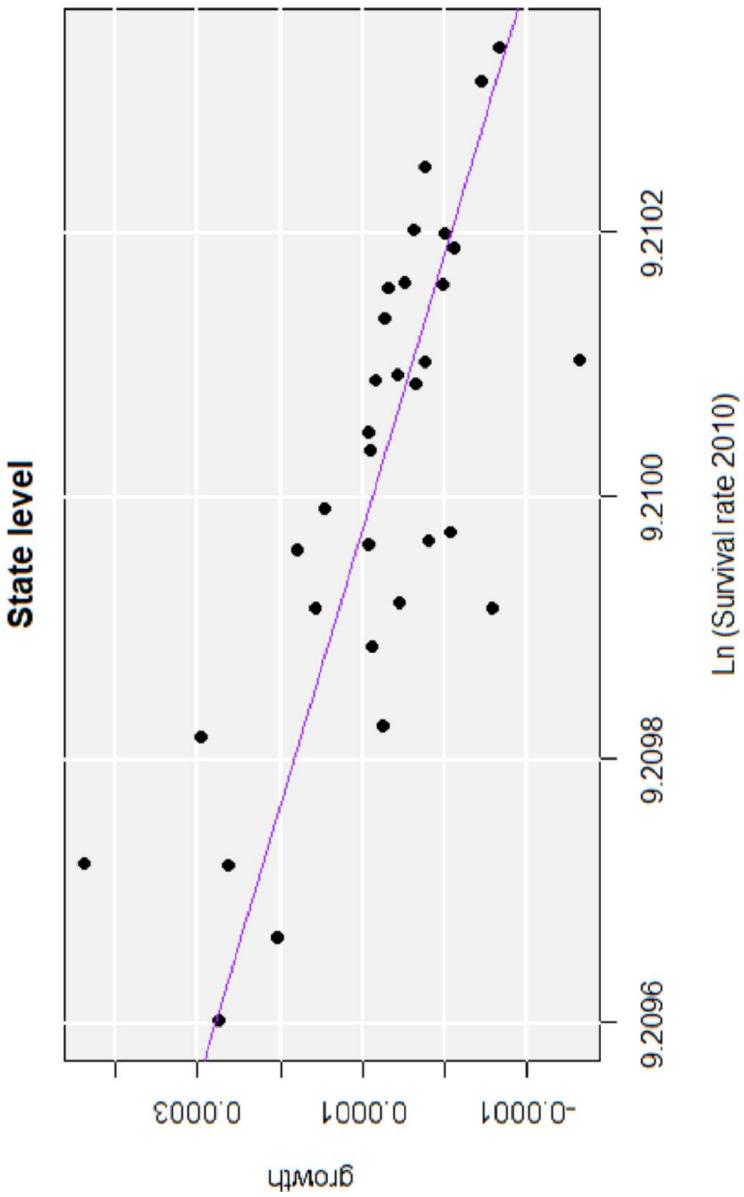


Sigma convergence (the dispersion of the data decreases over time)

States- Sigma and Beta convergence (NMR)

σ (Standard deviation) $\sigma_{2010} = 1.84$ $\sigma_{2018} = 1.26$

$$\log \frac{Y_t}{Y_0} = \alpha + \beta * \log Y_0 + \epsilon \quad \beta = -0.476^{***} \quad \text{halflife} = 8.59 \text{ years}$$



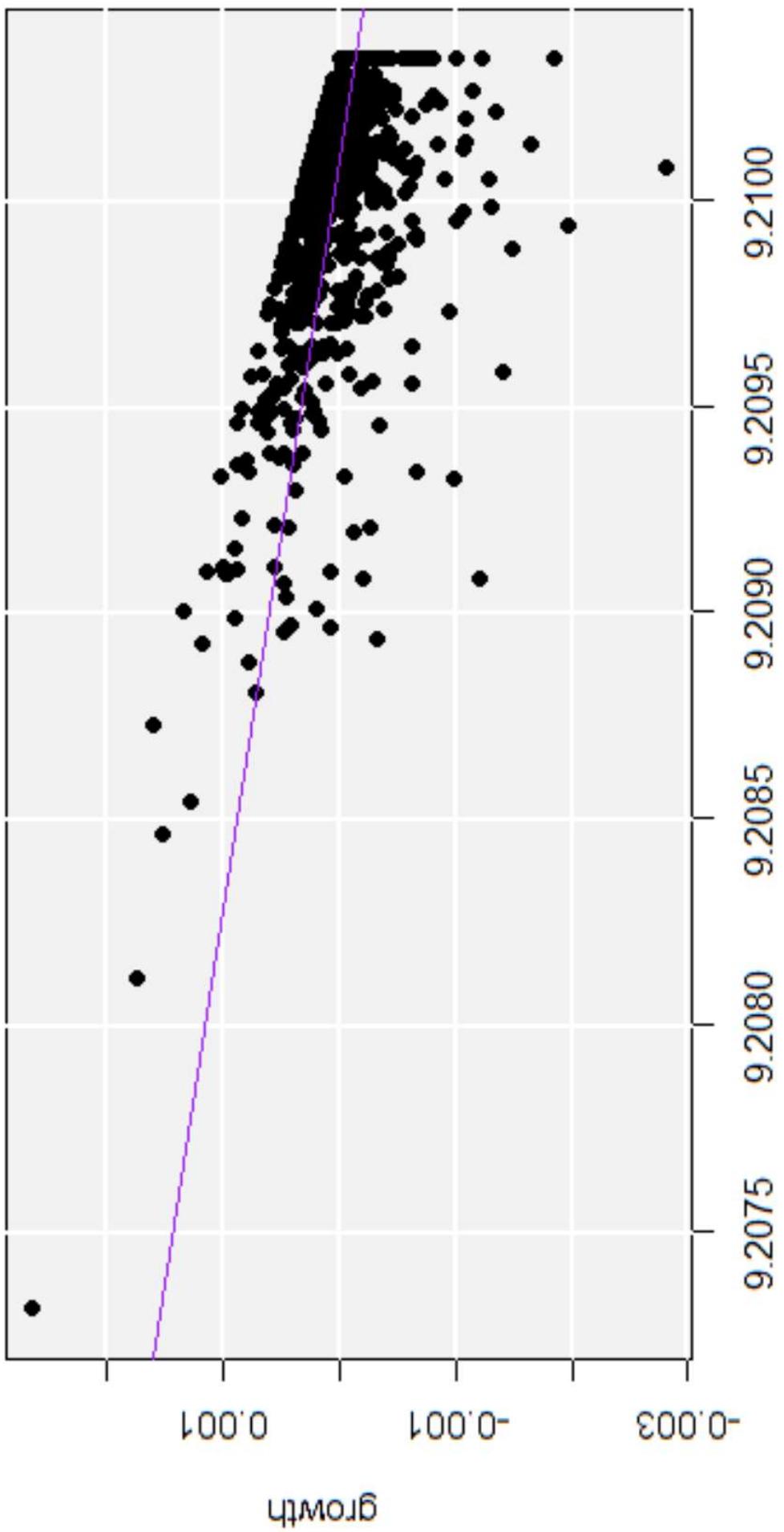
Data for 1990-2005

Royuela and García, 2015

Municipalities - ONLY Beta convergence (NMR)

$$\log \frac{Y_t}{Y_0} = \alpha + \beta * \log Y_0 + \epsilon \quad \beta = -0.551^{***} \quad \text{half life} = 6.92 \text{ years}$$

Municipality level



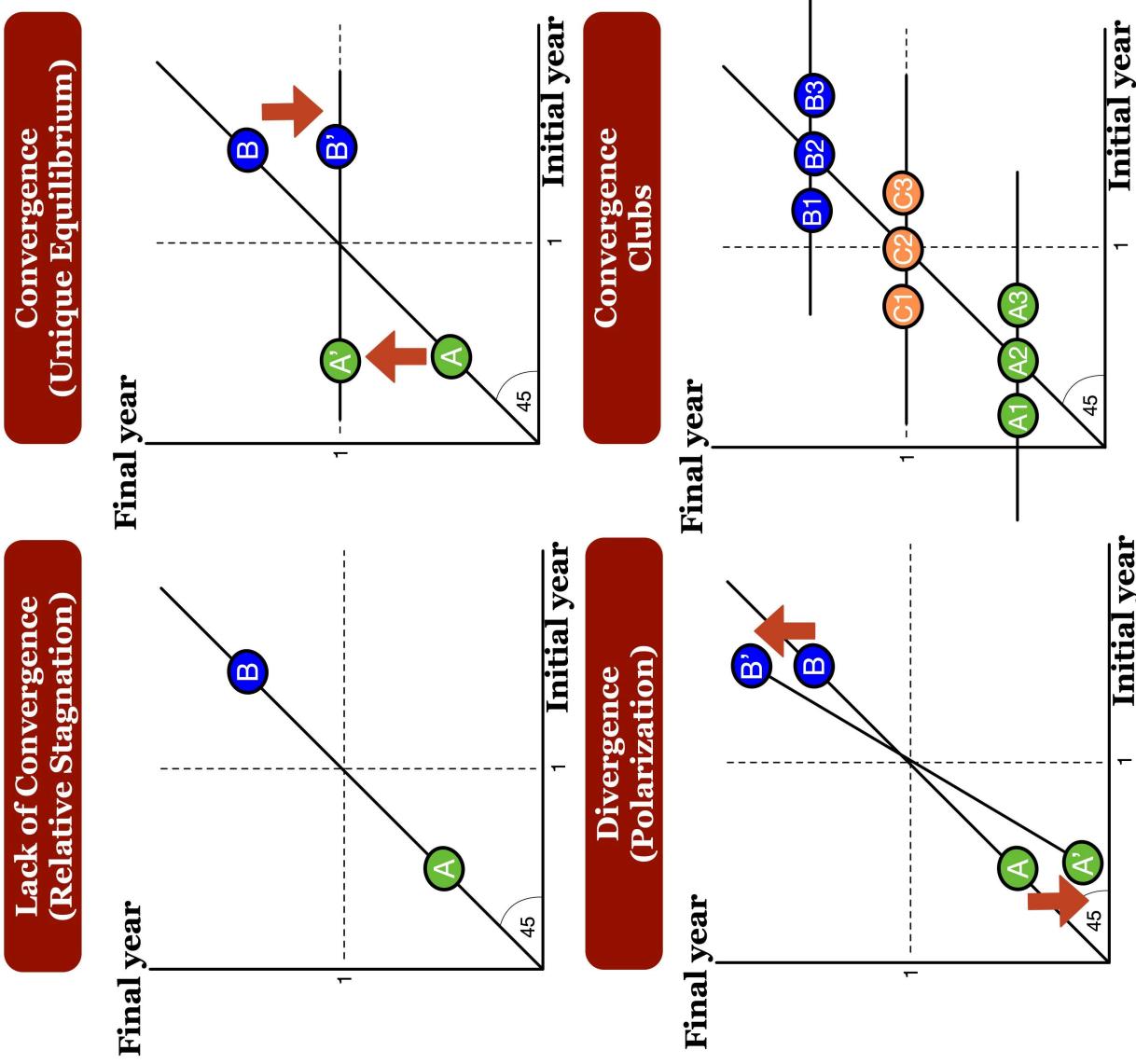
Beta and sigma convergence summary

Table 1. Classical convergence framework summary

Crime Rate	Beta	Half-Life Coefficient (in years)	σ_{2010}	σ_{2018}
NMR (state)	-0.08	8.6	1.9	1.3
NMR (municipality)	-0.10	6.9	3.1	3.3
NPIR (state)	-0.13	5.3	9.3	8.2
NPIR (municipality)	-0.06	10.2	9.5	15.0

Note: all beta coefficients are highly significant p-value < 0.001

(3) State and Municipality disaggregation: The distribution dynamics framework



(3) Local convergence clusters

NMR State level: 4+? convergence clusters

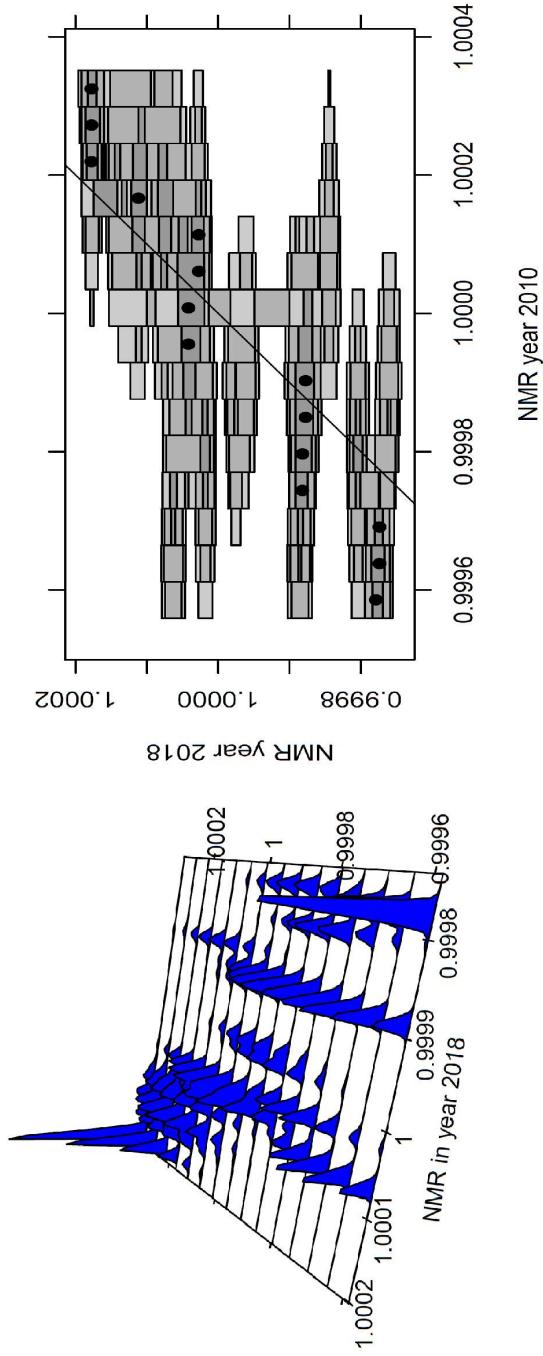
NMR Municipal level: 2+? convergence clusters

NPIR State level : 2 convergence clubs

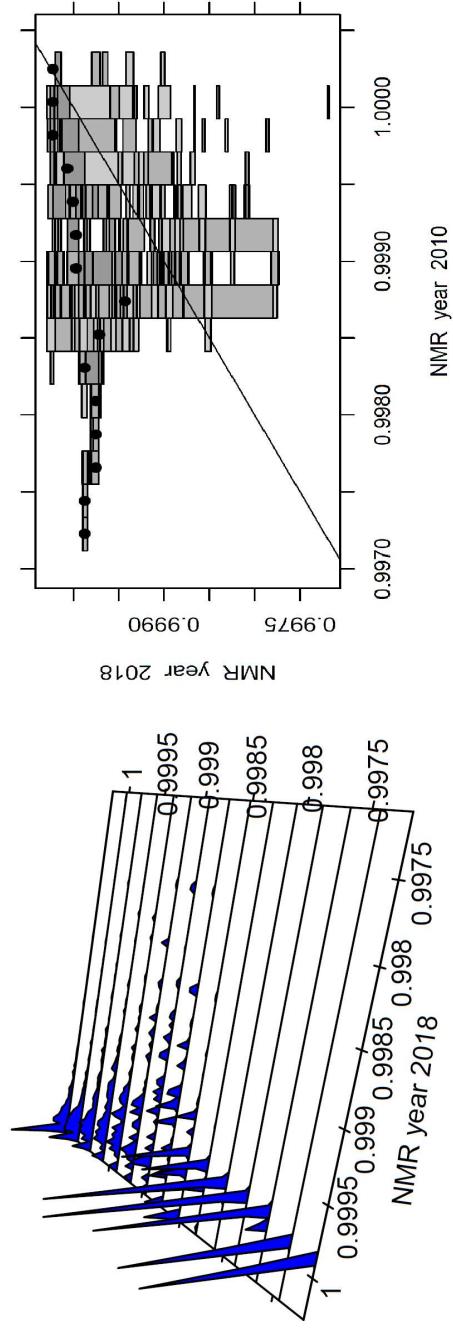
NPIR Municipal level : "stagnation" and 2 convergence clubs

NMR at both levels

State level: 4+? convergence clusters (previous studies found 2-3)

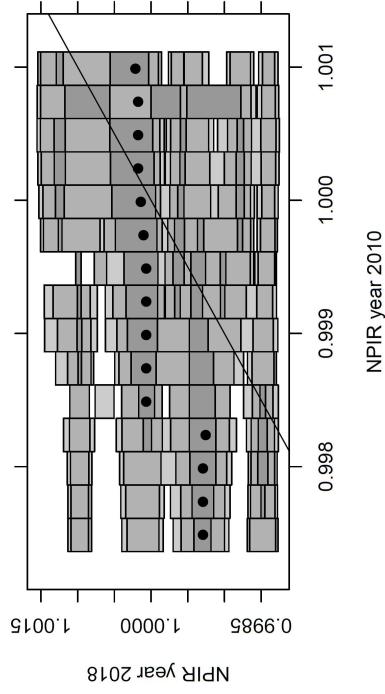
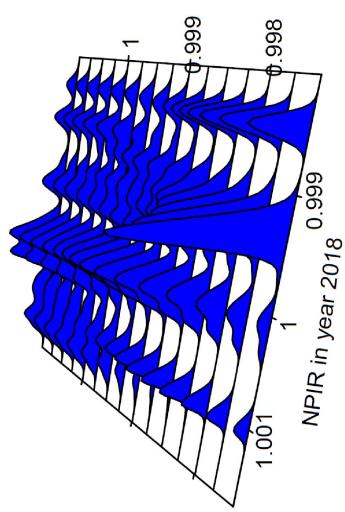


Municipality level: 2+? convergence clusters

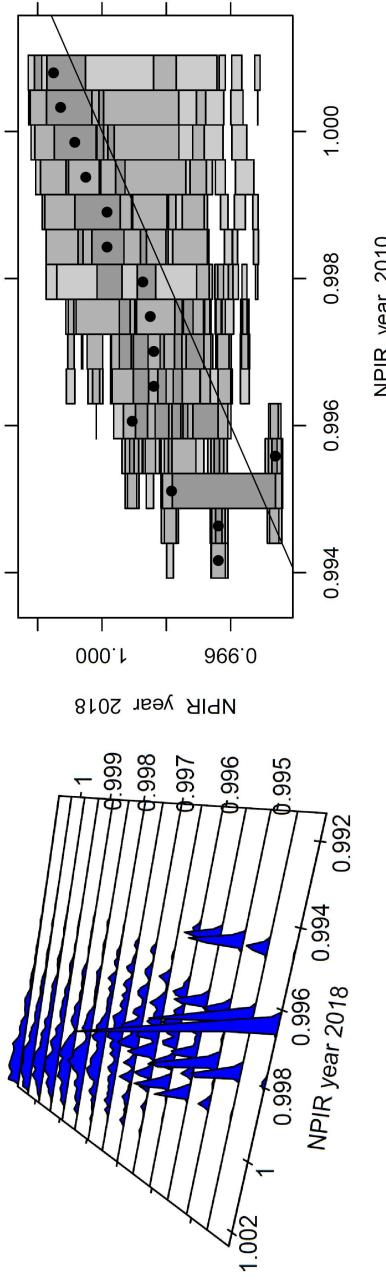


NPIR at both levels

State level: 2 convergence clusters



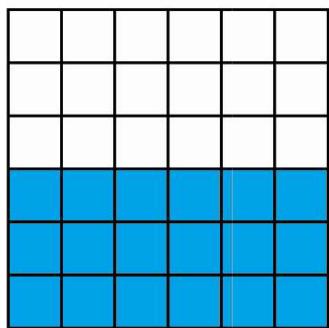
Municipality level: 2 convergence clusters and "stagnation"



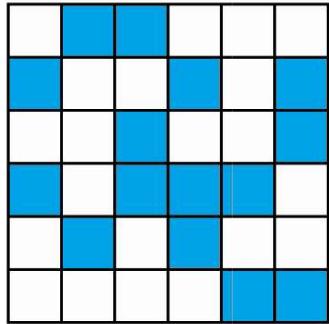
Interesting results; the same number of clusters but stagnation patterns are stronger at the municipal level

(4) Spatial Autocorrelation (Theory)

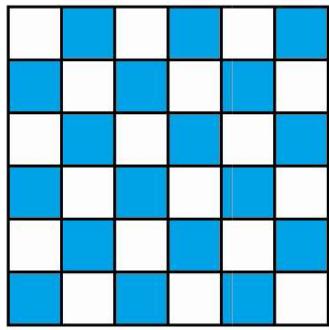
High Intuition Concept



Positive spatial
autocorrelation



No spatial
autocorrelation



Negative spatial
autocorrelation

Source: adapted from Radill (2011)

More Formal (less intuitive)

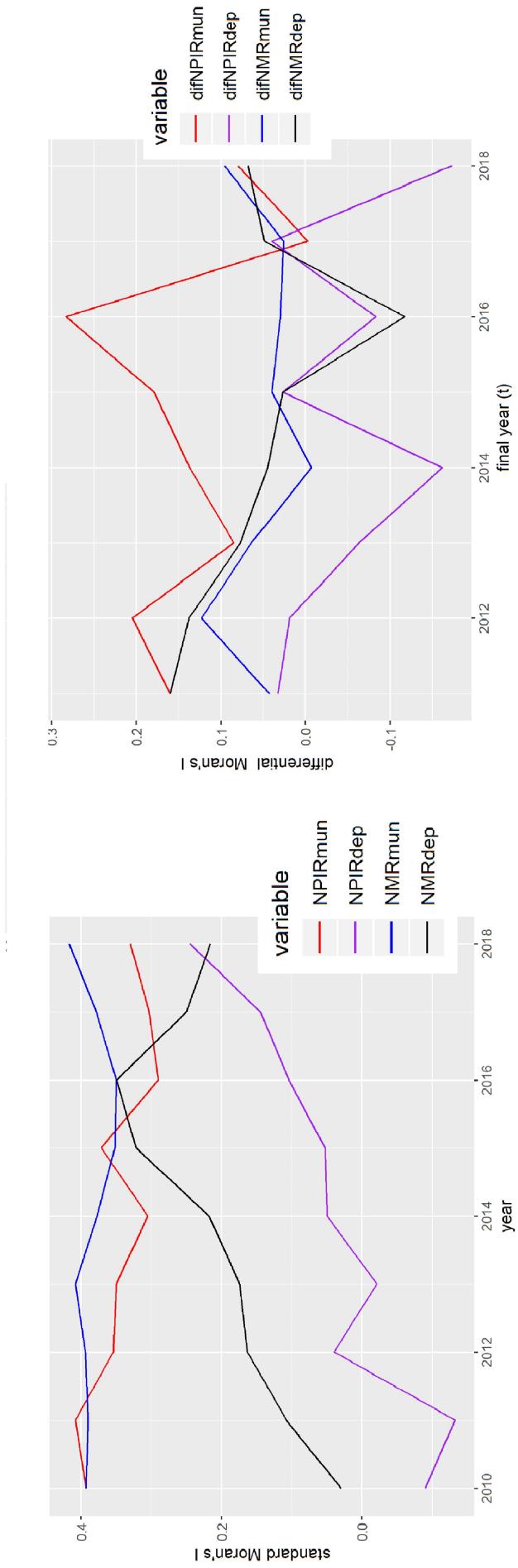
$$I = \frac{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij} z_i \cdot z_j}{\sum_i z_i^2} = \frac{\sum_i (z_i \times \sum_j w_{ij} z_j)}{\sum_i z_i^2}.$$

Differential Moran Scatter Plot ($y_{i,t} - y_{i,t-1}$)

If there is a fixed effect μ_i related to location i , it is possible to present the value at each location for time t as the sum of some intrinsic value and the fixed effect. $y_{i,t} = y *_{i,t} + \mu_i$. Differencing the variable to control for the locational fixed effects $y_{i,t} - y_{i,t-1}$.

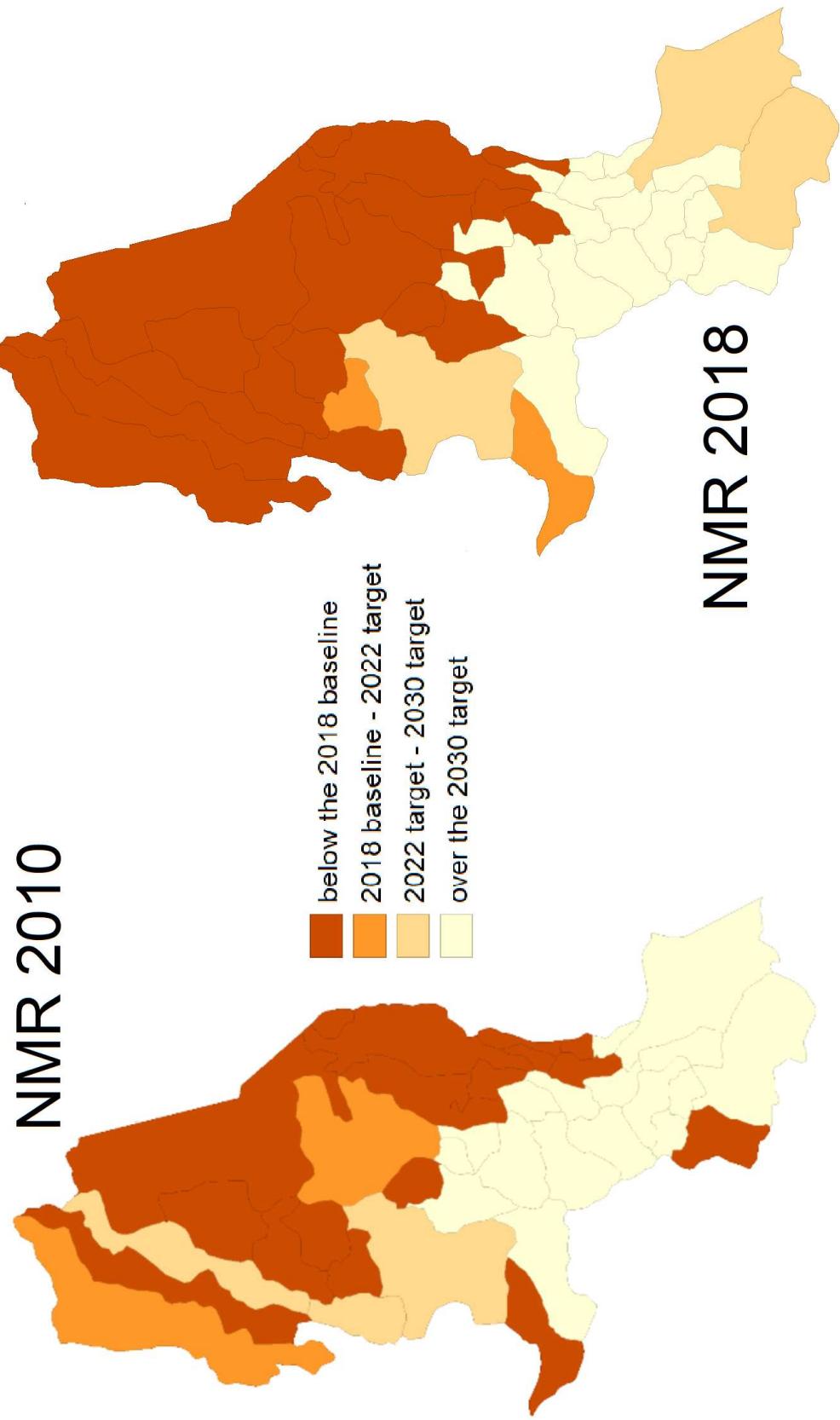
(4) Spatial autocorrelation (Results)

- State level: Moran's I statistic is significant, differential Moran's I is not significant (*not robust*)
- Municipal level: Standard and Differential Moran's I significant (*robust*)



(5) Policy discussion

- vertical and horizontal policy coordination, spillovers and borders.
- It could be more appropriate for the formulation of national development plans to have convergence targets at the state level as well as the municipal level



(5) Policy discussion - The need for a spatial perspective in current cash transfer programs:

- Spatial regressions could be used to test determinant hypothesis. Moreover, such research could contribute to the literature by suggesting a case for spatially focused CCTs.
- A research jump from micro to macro both in scale and time.
- Ultimately, this type of analysis could serve as tool for combating organized crime in specific locations (Ingram and Marchesini da Costa , 2017).

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Panel A: Efecto sobre la tasa de homicidios y el robo a casas								
Tasa de homicidios								
Proporción FA con pago	0,248 (0,440)	0,231 (0,426)	0,185 (0,375)	0,230 (0,363)	1,199 (2,896)	1,569 (2,495)	2,549 (2,084)	2,171 (2,132)
R ²	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Observaciones	30.155	30.155	15.480	9.610	30.155	30.155	15.480	12.545
Panel B: Efecto sobre el robo a personas y a vehículos								
Robo personas								
Proporción FA con pago	-6,649** (3,117)	-6,711** (2,980)	-6,263*** (2,714)	-7,547*** (3,251)	-0,512* (0,262)	-0,527** (0,204)	-0,265 (0,196)	0,052 (0,327)
R ²	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,01
Observaciones	30.155	30.155	15.480	12.545	30.155	30.155	15.480	9.610
Ancho de banda	8 días	8 días	3 días	I&K	8 días	8 días	3 días	I&K
Forma funcional	Sin incluir	Cuártica	Cuadrática	Lineal	Sin incluir	Cuártica	Cuadrática	Lineal

(5) Concluding Remarks

Uplifting results "on average":

- Differences in overall raw rates at the state level **have decreased**. On average **less** homicides (**inclusive improvement at the state level**) but "more" personal injuries (More research is needed, less dispersion).
- **fast beta convergence** at the municipality level.
- Robust signs of **convergence** of homicide and personal injury rates at the state level. The first in the convergence literature about crime in Colombia.

Beyond classical convergence:

- Regional differences matter in **both disaggregation levels**. there are **Multiple local convergence clubs**; with more clubs at the state level.

The Role of Space

- Subsequent Differential Moran's I are robust and significant at the **municipality level only**

Policy, Space and CCTs

(5) Concluding Remarks

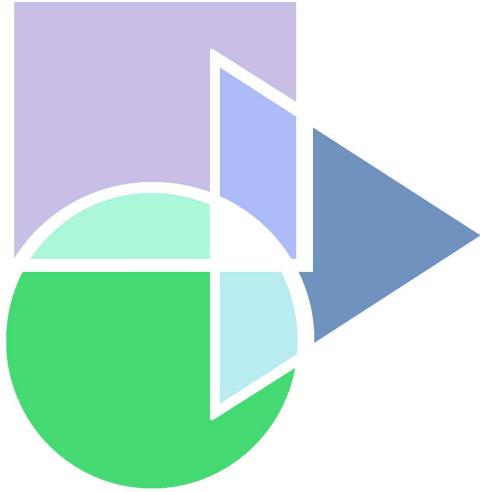
Implications and further research

- Strong spatial autocorrelation suggest the possibility of applying spatial filters in order to remove the spatial component of crime variables.
- Convergence clusters help us to find regions with similar outcomes, coordination among them can be promoted.
- Has crime followed a trajectory or are there more spill over patterns? are there local clusters? LISA analysis.
- At the state or department level (including more variables) a probit model may help us to find the determinants for a conditional "jump" to the upper clusters.

Thank you very much for your attention

You can find this presentation on my website <https://felipe-santos.rbind.io> and on our lab's website <https://quarcs-lab.rbind.io/>

If you are interested in our research, the tools we use and the data we handle; please check our QuaRCS Lab website.



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