

# Police Disruption and Performance: Evidence from Recurrent Redeployments within a City

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# Why Do We Care?

- Policy: Does more policing increase the likelihood of arrest?
- Economics: Police/robbers are playing a game; how do shift changes affect the equilibrium outcome?



# Data

- Robberies in Milan, Italy from Jan. 2009 to June 2011



# Methodology and Research Design

- Exploit quasi-experimental levels of police presence due to shift changes
  - Polizia and Carabinieri rotate around the city for some reason
- Event study, semi-parametric, and DiD designs
- Threat: Shift changes are predictable

# Contribution

- All estimations similar:  $\approx 30\%$  decrease in probability of arrest if crime occurred during shift change (13% to 8%)
- Effect driven by the furthest businesses
- Robbers are unaware of shift changes

# Things I Liked

- Creative use of wacky policy
- Cost/benefit calculation (even though the math was a little loosey-goosey)
- Proposes solutions to the problem

# Concerns

- Imprecision on precisely when/where shift change took place
- External validity
- Disregards robbers' welfare from stealing the loot



## Extension

- Is there anywhere else with a similarly ridiculous policy?