**SODA496 Project Outline**

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**Introduction**

* Research question: How does the government type influence on the morality by death penalty statement
* Why is this topic matters: “Political instability can have significant impacts on the administration of justice and the protection of human rights, including the use of the death penalty (Ward, 2020).”
* Thesis: Government fragility will leads to higher morality by death penalty statement
* H1: Government anarchy leads to higher morality by death penalty statement
* H1-1: Government anarchy leads to higher morality by death penalty statement if there is a higher literacy rate
* H1-2: More fragile autocracy increases the morality by death penalty statement if there is a higher literacy rate

**Literature review**

* What the origins of regime types can tell us about when the death penalty is used. (Beber, B., Acarcco, A., 2012)
  + Regime type and the use of the death penalty
* A Government type, democratic experience, and support for the death penalty. (Wojciezak, M., 2013)
  + People in democratic countries are less likely to support the death penaty
  + Influence of government type on attitudes towards the death penalty is more significant in non-democratic countries
* Cross-sectional data, so less causality. Also, data limited to some number of countries.

**Data**

* Dependent variable: the number of execution by death penalty from 2007 to 2022 in 80 countries collected by Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide
  + Database tracks the laws and practices of capital punishment in 80 countries
  + Limitation: some states classify death penalty as state secrets or only provide selective data.
  + To overcome, categorize dataset into five levels.
* Independent variable: fragile index for 179 countries from 2006 to 2022 collected by Fragile States Index powered by The Fund For Peace (FFP)
* Independent variable for hypothesis1-1: literacy rate from World bank Data Indicator (WDI) collected by UNESCO Institution for Statistics (UIS).
  + It is a percentage of people ages 15 and above who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement about their everyday life to evaluate educational attainment.
* Independent variable for hypothesis 1-2: democracy index from Our World in Data, which evaluated the countries in terms of democracies and autocracies worldwide.

**SODA496 Project Research Plan**

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**Introduction**

This research paper examines the relationship between government type and the morality of the death penalty statement. In the Ward’s article, he stated that “political instability can have significant impacts on the administration of justice and the protection of human rights, including the use of death penalty (Ward, 2020).” Understanding how different types of government influence attitudes towards the death penalty can, therefore, provide valuable insights into how to promote justice and human rights worldwide.

This paper argues that government fragility leads to higher morality by death penalty statement. Additionally, two sub-hypotheses are set to study the impact of literacy rates and the level of autocracy for the further exploration.

*H1.* Government anarchy leads to higher morality by death penalty statement.

*H1-1*. Government anarchy leads to higher morality by death penalty statement if there is a higher literacy rate.

*H1-2*. More fragile autocracy increases the morality by death penalty statement if there is a higher literacy rate.

**Literature Review**

The study by Beber and Acarcco showed a support that democratic regimes are less likely to use the death penalty than authoritarian regimes. Wojciezak, similarly, found the people in democratic countries are less likely to support the death penalty than in non-democratic countries. In addition, the study shows that the influence of government type on attitudes towards the death penalty is more significant in non-democratic countries, but the study did not study the attitudes towards the actual use of the death penalty. Both study used a cross-sectional data for a limited number of countries to have low internal validity and external validity.

**Measures and Data**

This research will use a dataset from the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide in 80 countries between 2007 and 2022. The database tracks the laws and practices of capital punishment in those countries, but because some states classify death penalty as state secrets or only provide selective data, the reliability of the dataset is limited. To reduce this limitation, classify the dataset into five categories: extremely high, high, medium, low, and zero, and ranked in 0 to 4 scales.

The independent variable is the fragile index for 179 countries from 2006 to 2022, collected by the Fragile States Index powered by The Fund for Peace (FFP). The countries did not match for the countries in dependent variable will be removed and the data for the year of 2006 also be excluded. Additionally, for hypothesis1-1, the literacy rate from the World Bank Data Indicator (WDI) collected by UNESCO Institution for Statistics (UIS) will be used as an independent variable. The democracy index from Our World in Data, which evaluates countries in terms of democracies and autocracies worldwide will be used for hypothesis1-2 joined with the fragile index.

**Citation**

Beber, Benjamin, and Alexandra Scacco. "What the origins of regime types can tell us about when the death penalty is used." *American Political Science Review*, vol. 106, no. 2, 2012, pp. 432-448.

Wojcieszak, Magdalena. "Government type, democratic experience, and support for the death penalty." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, vol. 41, no. 2, 2013, pp. 99-105.