**Friday, December 24, 2021:**

Kristopher:

* Today, Jacob Fenton sent over half the data for me to look at. Once I give him my approval, he will finish sending over the remainder.
* There are 41 individual data files. Not all are completely necessary for this project. But, they are quite large as there are over 3.6 million nonprofit tax filing records within each of the datasets. So, while Github will serve as the central organizing repository, raw datafiles will need to be saved onto OneDrive.
* Once these larger dataset are limited down to just relevant observations, these smaller datasets which take up less space will be able to be saved onto Github.
* Notes to Sebastián for data:
  + General note: data may appear overwhelming, but we can slowly walk through it all. It’ll be less overwhelming than it first appears – I promise.
  + I was playing with some foreign expenditures data and there are some U.S. based organizations that simply never spend money abroad. My initial thinking is these should be excluded as if they are fundamentally U.S. focused, then nothing will influence foreign spending.
    - But bigger question about how best to precisely determine “anti-LGBT”
    - Quick reference: Right now, it’s a list of about 500 organizations I’ve collected that have participated in anti-LGBT/anti-gender campaigns, conferences, lobbying, etc.
  + Initial trendlines suggest that anti-LGBT organizations are actually bringing money in relative to overall nonprofits. May need to consider % rather than raw $ total?
    - Aside: If we actually demonstrate that anti-LGBT organizations move more money *back* into the U.S. that would be a powerful finding and contrary to so much public assumptions. So any significant effect is interesting!
    - But, if true, pro-LGBT organizations will be quite upset. So that makes the definition of who is counted within anti-LGBT very important.
  + We’ll need to convert all financials into real dollars so we don’t have to worry about inflation (not a big issue though since inflation was relatively low during this period)
  + I talked to Sam about doing some type of causal inference. He recommended [synthetic controls.](https://rss.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rssb.12448) This is something for us to investigate down the line. [Corresponding R package.](https://github.com/ebenmichael/augsynth/blob/master/vignettes/singlesynth-vignette.md)
    - That said, if we want to do a causal approach, we’ll need to think through the treatment groups carefully to know the relevant comparisons. I can see one model comparing all anti-LGBT organizations across the U.S. and how state-level policy intervention influences foreign funding.
    - For federal policy, though, since all anti-LGBT organizations are exposed to the treatment. The more relevant comparison may be the nonprofit sector as a whole.