# Lumiere Research Program

Research Paper Outline

Due Date: 18th of July

1. What are you studying?

* minority groups

Ethnic and racial inequality persists in almost all strata of society. Along with facing discrimination and exclusion, minority groups are underrepresented and lack equal access to the most basic amenities like education, medical/health care.

* covid
  + impact that it has had, talk all about covid.

Large-scale loss of life, global unemployment, crashing of world’s economies, the threat of extreme poverty and social disruption are the ramifications caused by the covid-19 pandemic. This unprecedented challenge due to covid has upended lives around the world: It has attacked health, livelihood, as well as social life.

* covid policies
  + different kinds of policies

Efforts have been taken to combat the unnerving circumstance introduced by covid-19 in the form of policy decisions. Policies have been enforced globally to curb the spread of the pandemic. These include restrictions enforced across all spectrums – from closing of nail salons to quarantines to travel bans. For reducing the risk of rise of cases through community transmission, policies like curfews have been brought into action to restrict people from contracting covid. Businesses, Tourism, Hospitality are few of the industries that have undergone considerable damage due to covid. Policies have restricted people from going to restaurants and bars, and at a point, had limited them to offer only pickup or takeout services. Mask mandates have been enforced to lessen the risk of transmission during contact with another human. Such policies have had a major toll on industries as well as human life.

1. Why study this?

* Minority groups: how can we improve or increase the impact of our policies, how can we prevent negative health outcomes

Measures have to be taken to ensure inequality does not prevail and decisions affecting the public are taken not only to save/benefit only one sector whilst harming ones in minority. As data functions like a mirror to the problems faced by society, analysing data on the difference in the impact of covid-related policies on whites and minority groups can help guide policy decisions to make more inclusive, specific changes benefitting all. Furthermore, identification of why some groups get impacted more or less can be studied: the reasons why one group has the lowest death rates/infection rates can be applied for the betterment of the others. Identifying possible solutions will be viable once made aware of the current circumstance.

* Politics/government: how effective are policies?

Policies enforcing lockdowns, night-curfews, closing of indoor businesses such as nail salons, restaurants and bars, and mask mandates have been effective in mitigating the spread of covid by reducing the risk of community transmission of the disease.

Lockdowns

* + <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7268966/>
  + <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32495067/>
  + <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-020-01009-0>

Curfews

* + <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-020-01009-0>
  + <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/yes-curfews-can-help-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19-heres-how>

Mask Mandates

* + <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776536>
  + <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>
  + <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01394-0> (lifted)
  + <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
  + <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7010e3.htm>
  + <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7010e3.htm>

Restaurants

* + <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-020-01009-0>
  + <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7010e3.htm>
* morality: is it right for certain groups to be impacted more than others?

For policy decisions to be more effective for a certain group over others is morally incorrect. Covid-19 has had devastating effects across all groups, and policies should be enforced with extreme caution to ensure no group is being neglected. Reasons why some groups aren’t getting as affected due to policy decisions, i.e. infection rates aren’t going down, have to be taken into consideration while making specific adjustments.

1. What do we know/challenges?

* Research Question:

How do covid-related policies affect infection/death rates of minority groups? Specifically, could it be that covid related policies impact minority groups more than whites?

* Define covid related policies: Mask Mandates, Opening/Closing of restaurants & bars
* Define Minority Groups: Black, White, Asian
  + GENERAL
  + do policy restrictions reduce the impact of covid on minorities?
  + do policies that relax restrictions lead to more deaths for minorities than other groups
* Potential hypotethesis
  + Akshita et al 2007, said that this happend
    - minority groups have cultural barriers that prevent them from following covid related policies
  + Jimenez et al 2005, said this
    - minority groups do not have equal access to health related information
* Akshita's hypothesis:

1. Goals
   * Brief overview of the method

The goal is to assess changes(rise/dip) in the infection/death rates of each group as a consequence of covid related policy changes. To do this, I will be using time series, regression analysis. The goal is to model the relationship between covid related policy changes and death rates of different minority groups.

* + what kind of data?
* In order to collect my data, I will search covid databases from the last two years. We will search for time series data bases. The data sets will be of the following:

A) Dates when covid-related policy changes made(When were restaurants allowed to be open? /When were restaurants closed? /When was the mask mandate enforced? /When was the mask mandate relaxed? /Opening & Closing of Bars)

B) Daily Infection/Death Rates/Vaccine administration for different groups (Whites, Asians, African Americans, Latinos, etc.)

* The data will be obtained from both federal and state databases. I will use them to help me answer my question.
  + how do minority groups respond to policy changes