

Dissertation Defense

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April 19, 2024

**Religious Media, Conversion and its Socioeconomic Consequences:
Evidence from the Rise of Pentecostals in Brazil**

with Giulia Buccione

- Religions endorse certain behaviors and uphold certain social norms
- Difficult to study the causal effect of religion on behaviors
 - 1) Ingrained to culture and institutions → Fast-growing new religious movements
 - 2) Endogeneity in affiliation → Exogenous shocks to the probability of conversion

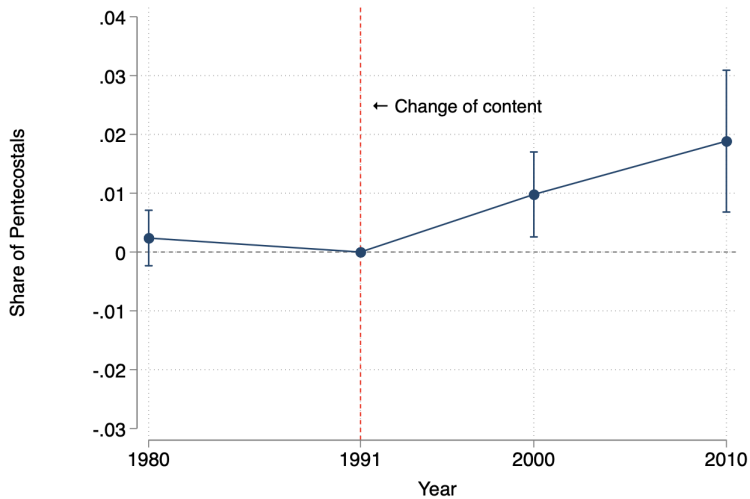
- Religions endorse certain behaviors and uphold certain social norms
- Difficult to study the causal effect of religion on behaviors
 - 1) Ingrained to culture and institutions → Fast-growing new religious movements
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Research Question

We study the rise of Pentecostals in Brazil

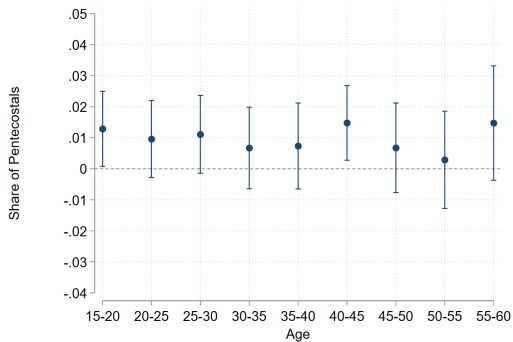
- One of the world's fastest-growing religious movement
 - Increased by 400% between 1991 and 2010 in Brazil
 - From 3% of the population in 1980, to 16.8% in 2010
 - Fosters conservative values, particularly for women
- Quasi-random variation in exposure to religious media
 - Bankruptcy of a channel in a very concentrated market → unique opportunity
 - Change of ownership of a TV channel → religious content
- Church-prescribed behaviors:
 - Traditional role of women: labor market participation, fertility, education
 - Voting

Results: Pentecostals

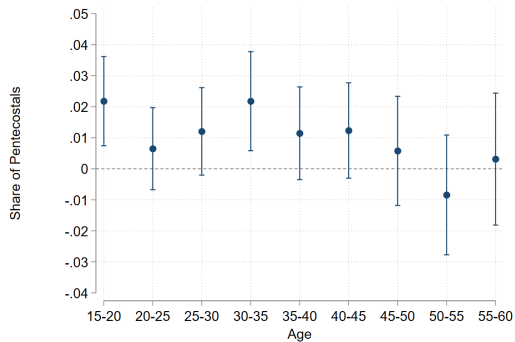


Results: Pentecostals

(a) Men by age

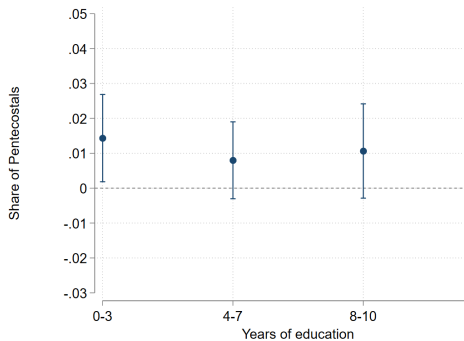


(b) Women by age

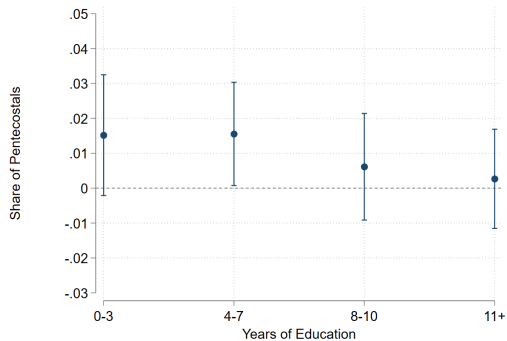


Results: Pentecostals

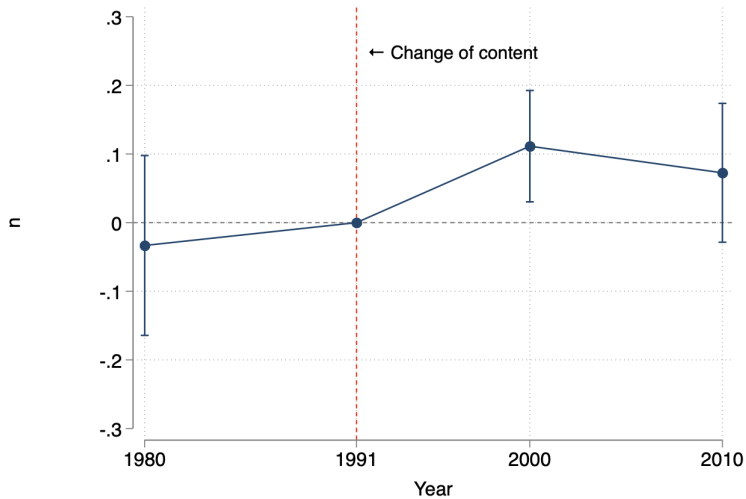
(a) Men by education



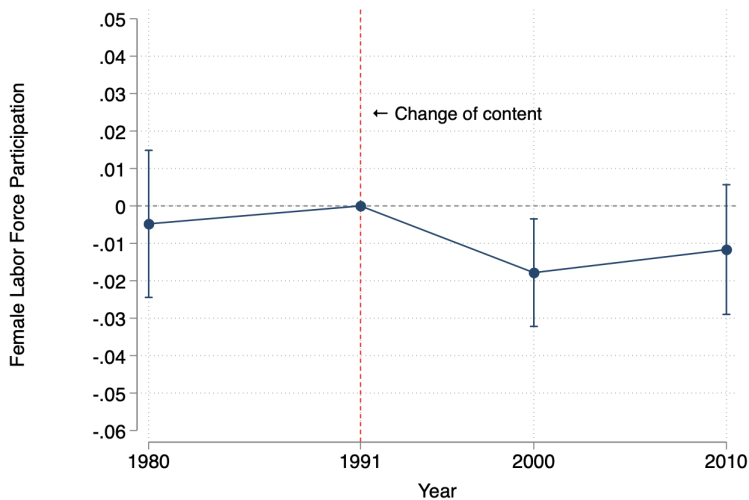
(b) Women by education



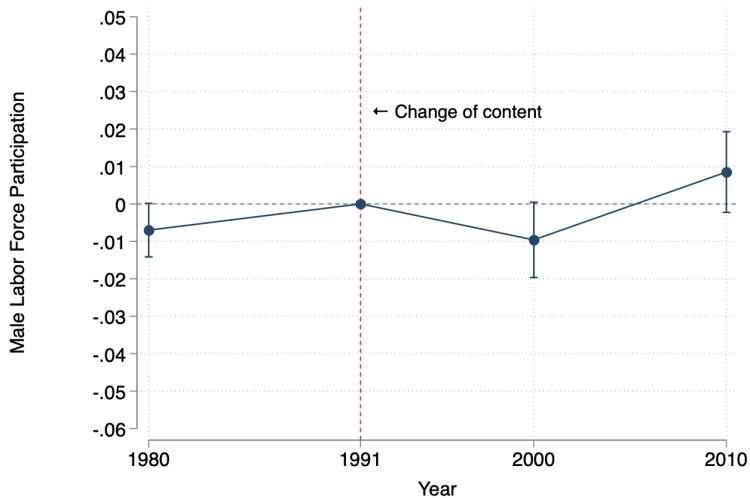
Results: Fertility



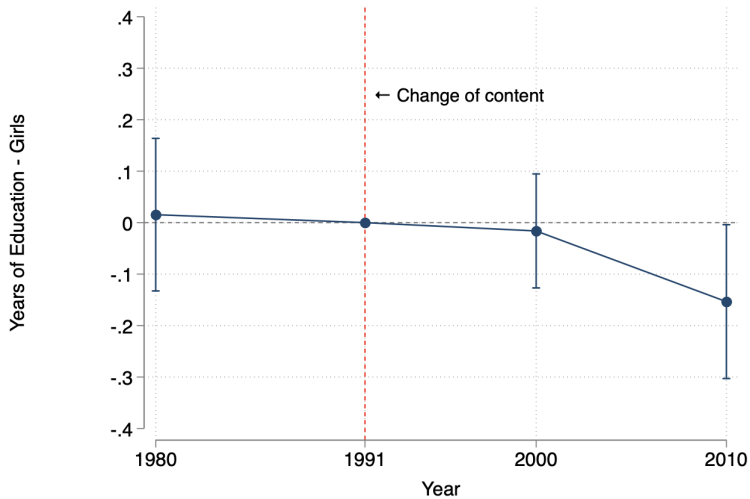
Results: Female Labor Force Participation



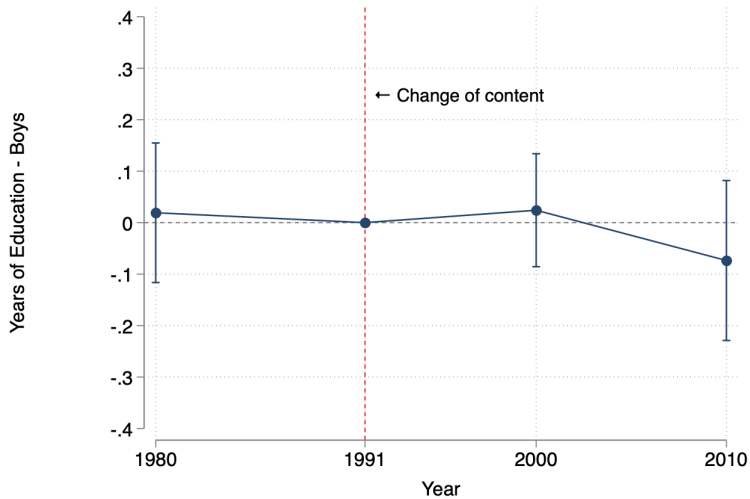
Results: Male Labor Force Participation



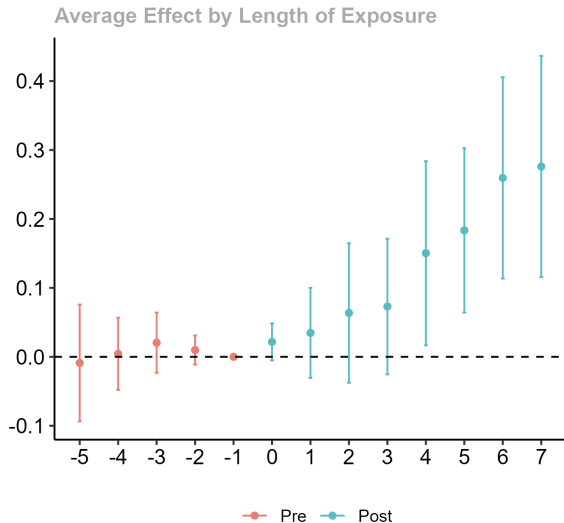
Results: Girls' Education



Results: Boys' Education



Results: Number of Churches



Feedback and Next Steps

- Who converts?
- Explain better how the purchase took place
- Add another pre-period (1970)
- Look at 2018 presidential election
- Submit!

**Free Childcare and the Motherhood Penalty:
Evidence from São Paulo**

With João Garcia and Rafael Latham-Proença

Positioning and Background

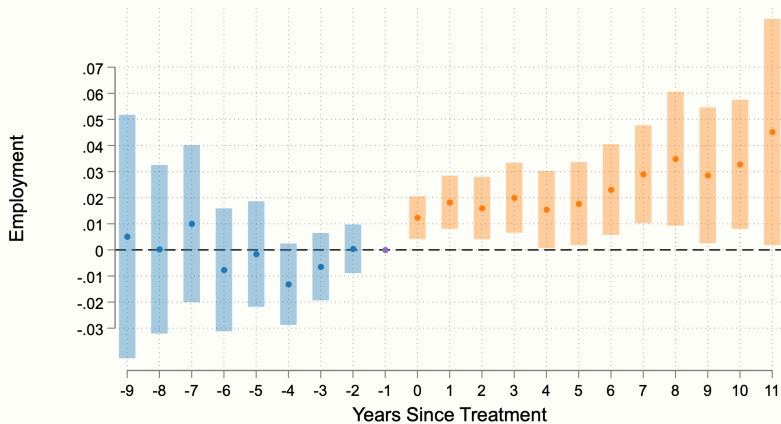
- Latin America has the largest motherhood penalties in the world, but relatively little evidence on impact of policies to address the issue, especially at scale.
- We study the large expansion of free childcare in Sao Paulo in 2008-2018.
- We use the Single Registry and focus on the poorest half of the population.

Research Question

- Did the expansion of free childcare facilities in SP increase mothers' employment?
- DID analysis using different timing of childcare expansions in different school districts.
- Alternatively, within-district comparison of mothers vs mothers-to-be:

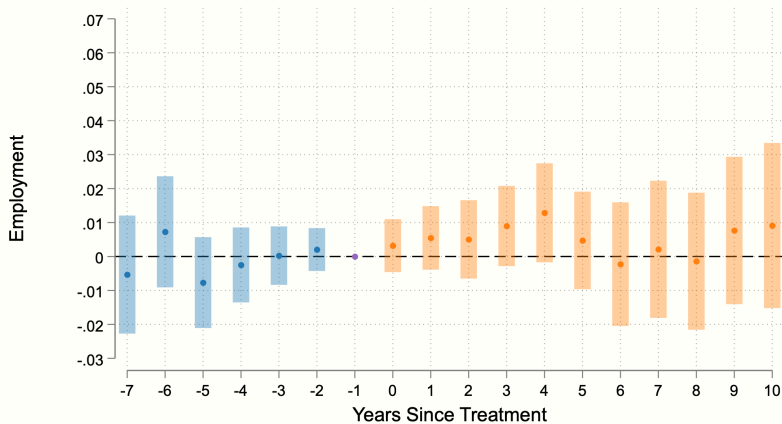
$$Y_{d,t,\tau} = \alpha_{d,\tau} + \gamma_{d,t} + \sum_{\substack{k=-4 \\ n \neq -2}}^6 \beta_k \textit{Availability}_{d,t} \cdot 1_{\tau=k} + \varepsilon_{d,t,\tau}$$

Results: Mothers' Employment



Pre average: -0.002 (0.009)
Post average: 0.024*** (0.008)
Pretrends p-value: 0.343
Pre = Post p-value: 0.070

Results: Employment of Mothers-to-Be



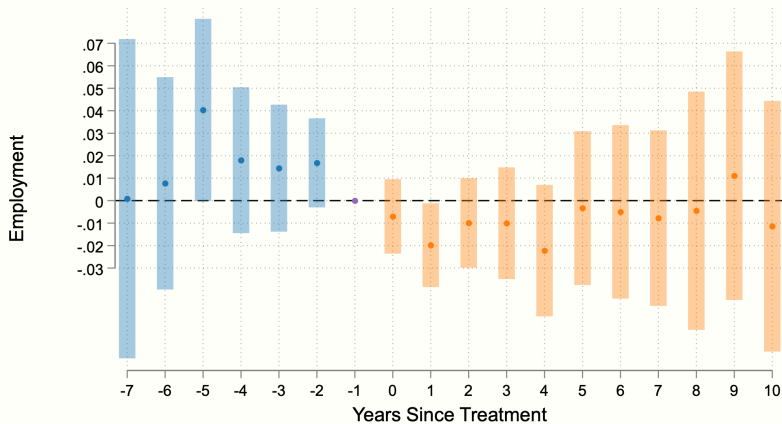
Pre average: -0.001 (0.005)

Post average: 0.005 (0.007)

Pretrends p-value: 0.129

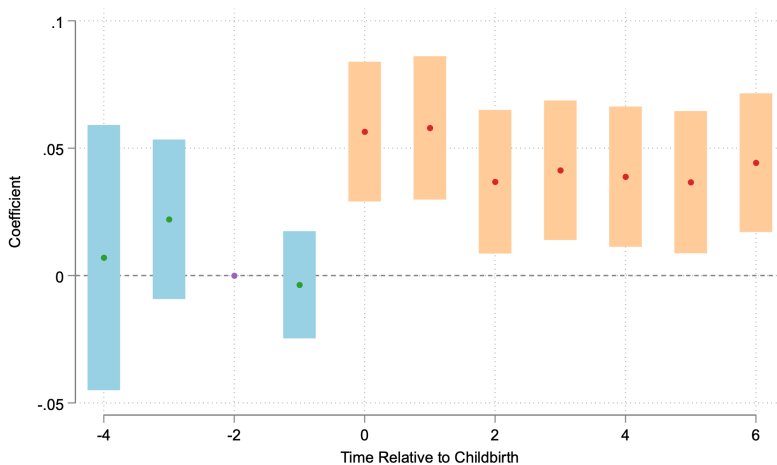
Pre = Post p-value: 0.527

Results: Employment of Fathers



Pre average: 0.016 (0.015)
Post average: -0.008 (0.015)
Pretrends p-value: 0.526
Pre = Post p-value: 0.273

Results: Employment of Mothers, Within-District Comparison



Pre-birth p-value: 0.5010
Pre = Post p-value: 0.0065

Feedback and Next Steps

- Better documentation of migration patterns. Net in-migration as an outcome?
Check frequency of moves within city?
- Results on informality. We have data available, but lower quality.
- General equilibrium effects.
- More data on quality of new childcare centers.
- Goal: Submission before June.

**Religious Mayors, Teenage Pregnancy, and
Sexual Education in Schools**

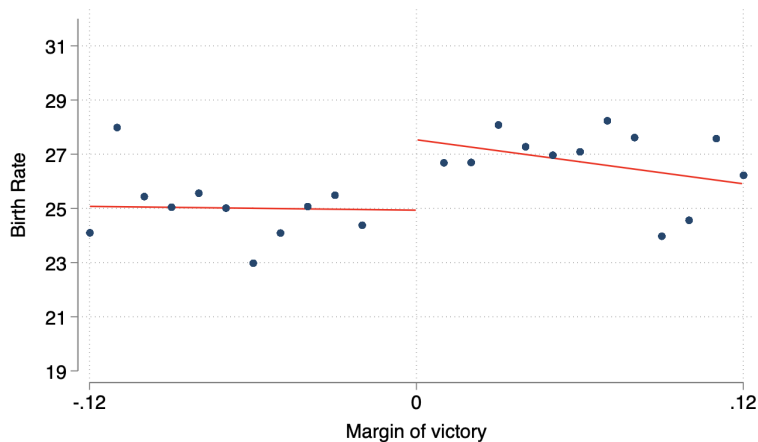
Positioning and Background

- Religious conservative movements in Brazil are increasingly important in politics.
- Promote strong views on sexual morals and the role of sexual education.
- We do not know how religious politics affects youth sexual behavior.

Research Question

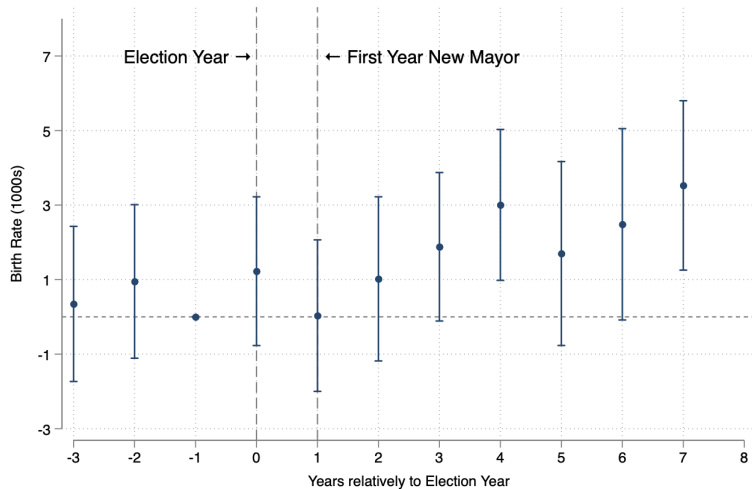
- I investigate the impact of local Pentecostal politicians on teenage pregnancy rates
- Close race mayoral election between Pentecostals and non-Pentecostal parties
- Possible mechanism: removal of sexual education from municipal schools

Results: Teenage Pregnancy (13-17 years-old)



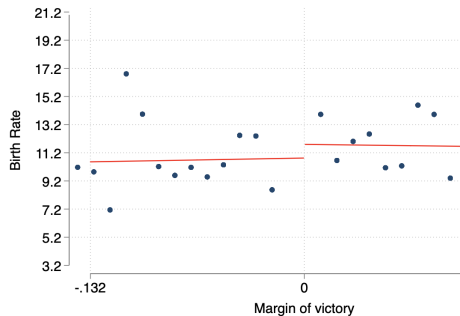
RD estimate: 2.784
Robust p-value: 0.029

Results: Teenage Pregnancy (13-17 years-old)



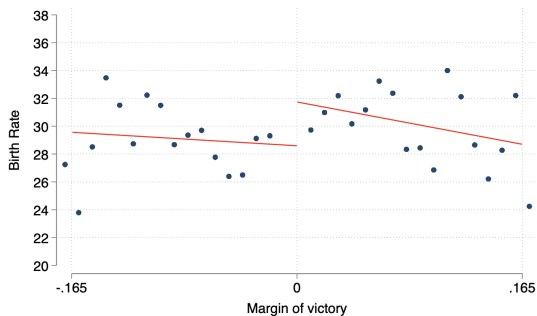
Results: Teenage Pregnancy

(a) White



RD estimate: 1.041
Robust p-value: 0.523

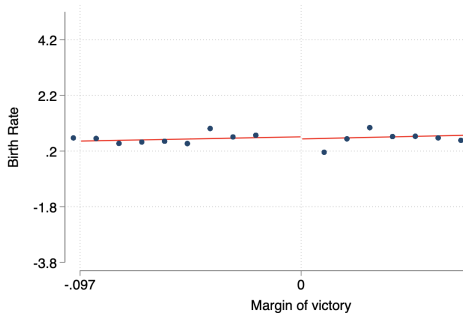
(b) Non-white



RD estimate: 3.362
Robust p-value: 0.045

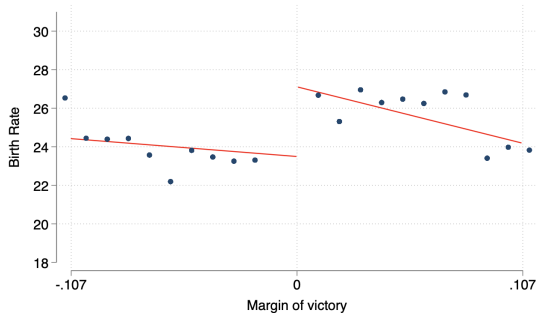
Results: Teenage Pregnancy

(a) 3 or less years of education



RD estimate: -0.085
Robust p-value: 0.461

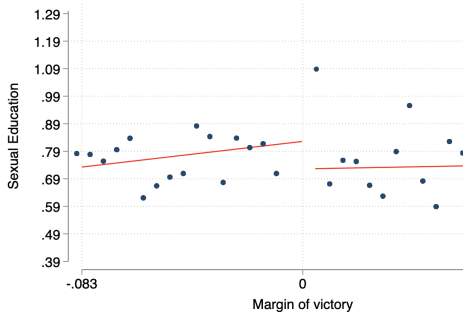
(b) 4 or more years of education



RD estimate: 3.935
Robust p-value: 0.003

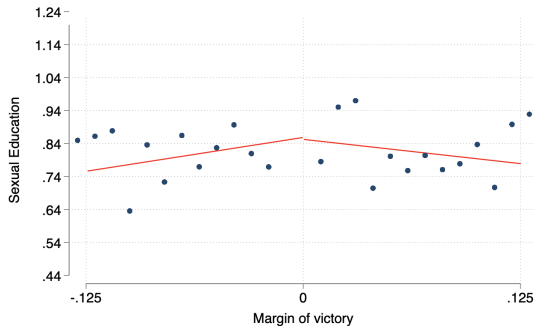
Results: Sexual Education

(a) Municipal Schools



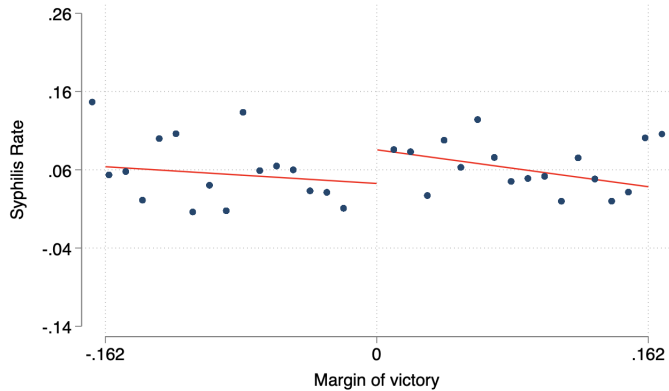
RD estimate: -0.118
Robust p-value: 0.026

(b) State Schools



RD estimate: -0.000
Robust p-value: 0.850

Results: STD



RD estimate: 0.046
Robust p-value: 0.047

Next Steps

- Parties platform: provide examples
- Polish paper
- Goal: Submit to conferences