

Re-Evaluating the Effect of Jesuit Missions on Present-Day Human Capital

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Missions and Human Capital

In his paper, Valencia Caicedo (2019) finds

**persistent effects
on present-day human capital**

in localities where

**Jesuits had established
a mission** 300 years earlier.

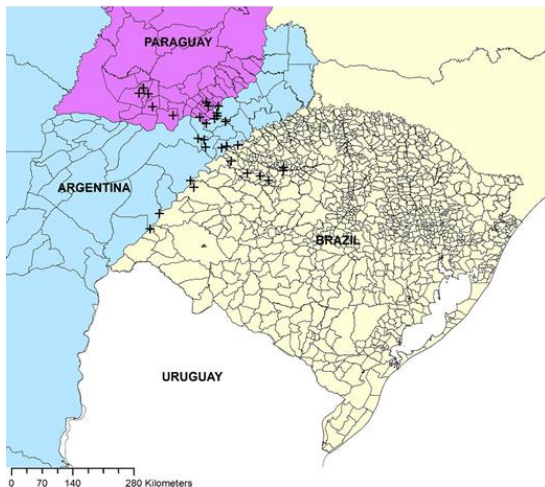


Figure I from Valencia Caicedo (2019)

(A Third of) Table II from Valencia Caicedo (2019)

	Illiteracy	
	(1)	(2)
Mission distance	0.0105*** (0.004) {0.004}	0.0112** (0.005) {0.005}
Geo controls	No	Yes
State fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Observations	547	548
Within R^2	0.037	0.068
R^2	0.042	0.073

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses and Conley standard errors in curly brackets.

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$.

What Do I Want to Investigate?

Variables

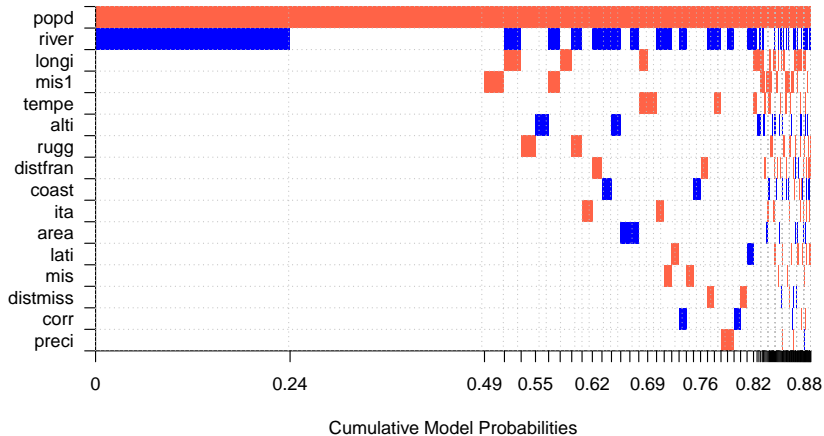
- In his main specification(s), FVC only includes **geographic controls**.
- However, **population density** is most consistently associated with illiteracy.
- The **mission distance** coef. is not consistently positive.

Space (geographic, not model)

- Distance is accounted for **linearly**.
- The mission distance coefficient **becomes insignificant** when changing that. [show table](#)
- It might also make sense to consider, e.g., spatial autocorrelation.

A First Exploratory Analysis

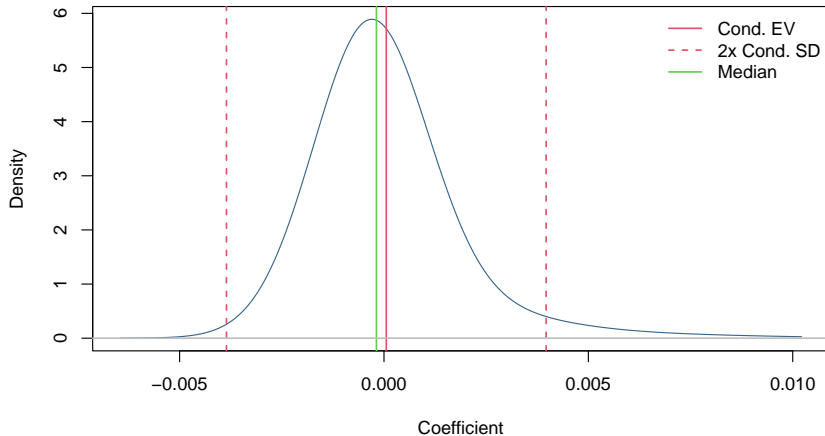
Model Inclusion Based on Best 100 Models



show without population density

The Mission Distance Coefficient

Marginal Density: distmiss (PIP 2.27 %)



show without population density

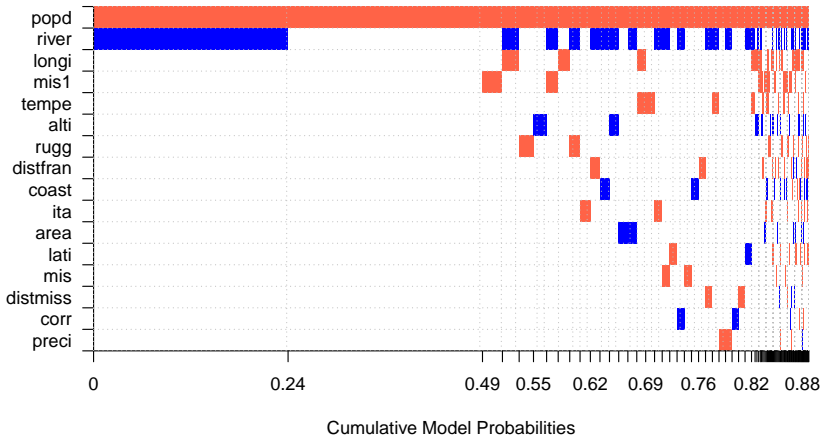
References (1)

Valencia Caicedo, F. (2019). The Mission: Human Capital Transmission, Economic Persistence, and Culture in South America*. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 134(1), 507–556.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjy024>

Appendix

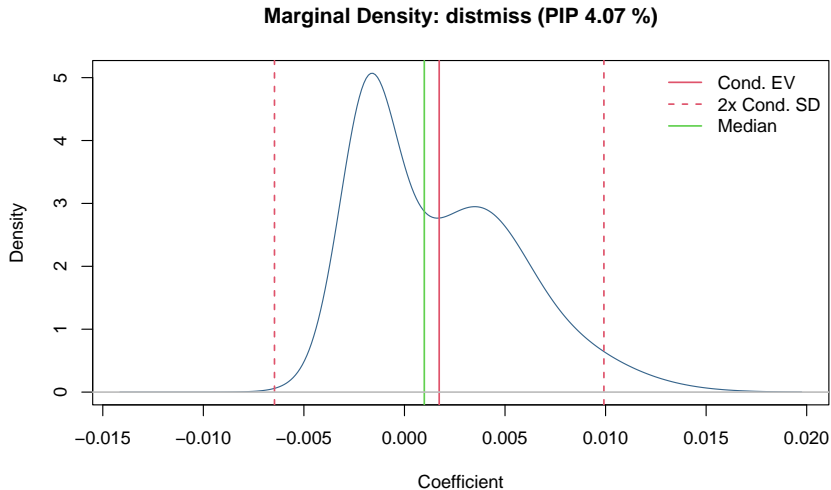
Appendix Exploratory Analysis Without Population Density

Model Inclusion Based on Best 100 Models



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Appendix Miss. Dist. Coef. Without Population Density



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Appendix Varying the Distance Measure

	Illiteracy			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
distmiss	0.011** (0.005)			
distmiss_log		0.078 (0.289)		
distmiss_exp			-3.293 (2.082)	
distmiss_gauss				-1.631 (1.246)
Geo Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	548	548	548	548
R ²	0.073	0.063	0.067	0.066
Adjusted R ²	0.049	0.038	0.043	0.041
Residual Std. Error (df = 533)	3.912	3.934	3.924	3.927

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

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