Milestone 5

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Contents

1 Overview of "Can Violent Protest Change Local Policy Support? Evidence from the Aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles Riot" by Ryan D. Enos

This paper seeks to answer a longstanding question in political science: though violent protests are undoubtedly eye-catching and dramatic, do they actually have an effect on political behavior? Focusing on the 1992 LA "Race Riots" (also commonly called the "Rodney King Riots"), one of the most high profile events of political violence in recent years, Enos and his colleagues found that the riot caused a significant liberal shift in policy support at the polls for issues said to have motivated the riots themselves. Throughout the paper, the researchers use geocoded data analysis to ivestigate the source of this shift and trace it back to the mobilization of African American and Liberal White voters following the LA Riots. The "policy shifts" referenced here are actually local shifts in referendum voting on public goods targeted at urban dwelling racial minorities after the 1992 riots. These policies were put on the ballot before the riots erupted. Though the riot itself was a nonrandom event, the release of the video of police officers brutalizing an unarmed Black man (Rodney King) that ultimately triggered the riot was considered by the researchers to be unrelated to the election timeline. The researchers conducted a difference-in-difference analysis of pre and post riot policy voting to control for secular trends in policy support. They further explored the validity of this causal claim by examining the spatial correlation between how much support for a certain policy changed based on how far from the epicenter of those voters were. Ultimately, they found that the closer voters were to the epicenter of the riots, the more likely they were to vote for policies that provided liberal relief to minority urban communities.[1]
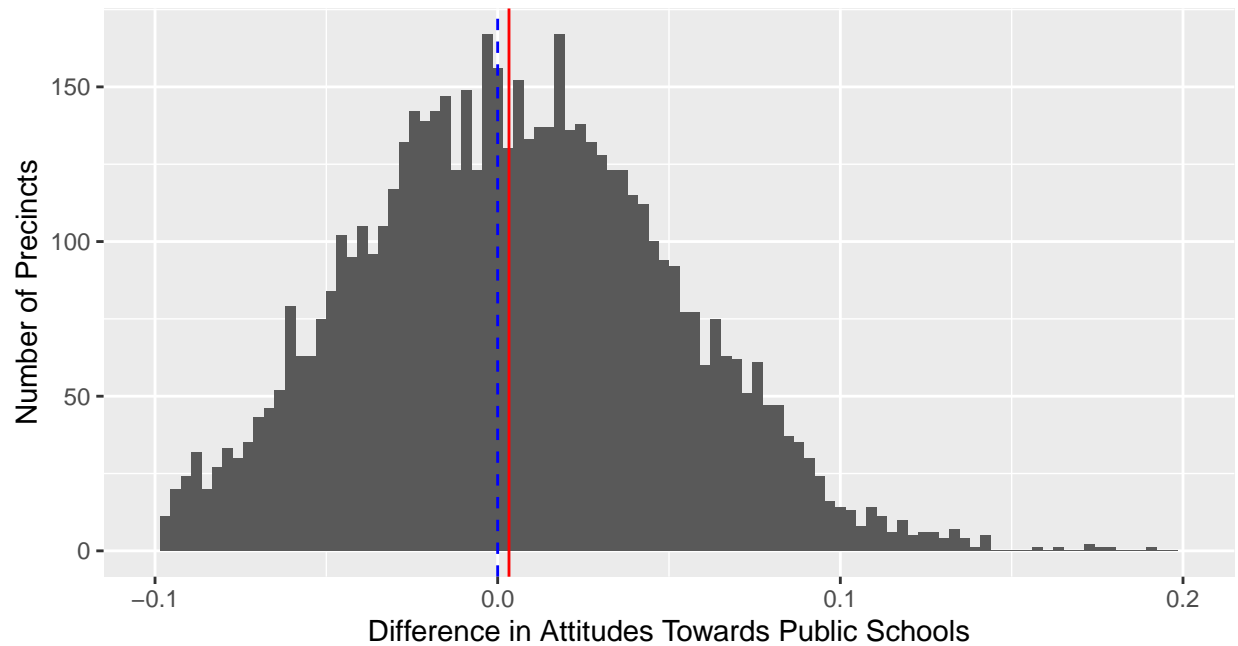
The datasets and supporting materials were gathered from dataverse.harvard.edu and http://ryandenos.com/papers

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[1] All replication analysis available at: https://github.com/prachiknaik/violent_protest_and_policy_change

2 Graphic

Difference in Differences for All Voters:
Some Evidence that the Riot Influenced Political Opinions

The change in support for public schools across precincts between 1990 and 1992, net the change in support for universities

Data Source: Ryan Enos from Harvard Dataverse

3 Appendix

3.1 My Reproduced Table

Table 1: TABLE 2: Demographics of Registrants Immediately Before and After the Riot

	Before Riot	After Riot
African-American	0.14	0.28
White	0.66	0.54
Age (years)	35.23	34.26
Distance from Florence/ Normandie	14649.86	12387.51
N	5579.00	24587.00

3.2 Original Table

TABLE 2. Demographics of Registrants Immediately Before and After the Riot. The "Before Riot" Column Includes New Registrants on the Five Weekdays Before the Riot (4/22–24 and 4/27–28) and the "After Riot" Column Includes the Five Weekdays After the Riots (5/4–8). All Variables are Proportions, Except for Age (years) and Distance (meters). Race Proportions are Calculated by Drawing From Registrants' Imputed Posterior Race Probabilities

	Before riot	After riot
African American	0.14	0.26
White	0.66	0.55
Age (years)	35.23	34.26
Distance from Florence/ Normandie	14,650	12,388
N	5,579	24,587

4 References

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