Trust, Internet and Nation Building in Africa

Preliminary and incomplete

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Research question

How does the diffusion of mobile internet affect political accountability in remote areas?

Hypothesis

1. Living in remote areas is associated with higher levels of institutional trust.

2. Increased internet access mitigates spatial disparities in the levels of institutional trust.

3. Increased internet access strengthens ethnic over national identity in remote areas

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Table 1: H1

	Trust in institutions					
	OLS		BDD: 50km		BDD: 40km	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Distance to the capital	0.224***	0.322***	0.403***	0.361**	0.444***	0.362**
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.13)	(0.15)	(0.14)	(0.17)
Standard controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Murdock's area FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	83,877	83,877	18,129	18,129	16,744	16,744
Adjusted-R^2	0.021	0.052	0.135	0.181	0.137	0.184

Notes:

Table 2: H2

	OLS	First Stage		2SLS
	Trust in institutions	Internet use	Distance × Internet use	Trust in institutions
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Distance to the capital	0.353***			0.533***
	(0.03)			(0.117)
Internet use	-0.012**			-0.316
	(0.01)			(0.24)
Distance to the capital × Internet use	-0.054***			-0.437***
	(0.01)			(0.14)
Internet coverage		0.179***	-0.184***	
		(0.06)	(0.03)	
Distance to the capital city × Internet coverage		0.063	0.733***	
		(0.10)	(0.07)	
SW F - Internet coverage	-	-	16.12	-	-
SW F - Distance × Internet coverage	-	-	90.80	-	-
Standard controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	83,877	83,877	83,877	83,877
Adjusted-R^2	0.164	0.358	0.262	-
Endogeneity test p-value	-	-	-	-	0.00

Notes:

Table 3: H2 : National outcomes

| | 2SLS | | |
| | Satisfaction in democracy | Democracy extent | Trust in ruling party |
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Distance to the capital	0.316***	0.342***	0.444***
	(0.10)	(0.09)	(0.13)
Internet use	-0.251	-0.148	-0.574**
	(0.19)	(0.17)	(0.26)
Distance to the capital × Internet use	-0.229*	-0.315***	-0.356**
	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.16)
Standard controls	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	85,017	83,786	86,489
Endogeneity test *p*-value	0.03	0.01	0.00

Notes:

Table 4: Corruption perception

| | 2SLS | | |
| | President | Parliament | Judiciary |
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Distance to the capital	-0.286***	-0.302***	-0.296***
	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.08)
Internet use	0.242	0.057	0.089
	(0.17)	(0.15)	(0.17)
Distance to the capital × Internet use	0.277***	0.321***	0.336***
	(0.10)	(0.09)	(0.10)
Standard controls	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	80,370	81,590	81,705
Endogeneity test *p*-value	0.01	0.00	0.00

Notes:

Table 5: Local

	2SLS	
	Local corruption	National identity
	(1)	(2)
Distance to the capital	-0.202**	0.182
	(0.08)	(0.12)
Internet use	0.160	0.167
	(0.16)	(0.25)
Distance to the capital × Internet use	0.129	-0.406***
	(0.09)	(0.15)
Standard controls	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes
Observations	79,545	88,078
Endogeneity test p-value	0.16	0.06

Notes:

Table 6: Heterogeneity

	2SLS			
	Institutions		Medias	
	Democratic	Autocratic	Free	Captured
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Distance to the capital	0.363	0.683***	0.364**	0.719***
	(0.25)	(0.15)	(0.17)	(0.13)
Internet use	-0.643	-0.065	-0.498*	0.080
	(0.48)	(0.31)	(0.27)	(0.27)
Distance to the capital × Internet use	-0.217	-0.638***	-0.303	-0.581***
	(0.28)	(0.20)	(0.22)	(0.17)
Standard controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country X Round FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	44,434	39,443	36,872	47,005
Endogeneity test p-value	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.00

Notes: