

Preeti Nambiar

Natural hazards and elite behavior

Discussion

EPSA 2025

Summary

- ▶ **RQ:** How does government functioning evolve over the long term after a natural disaster?
- ▶ **Result:** Natural disaster leads to the bureaucrats facing an increase in pressure from citizens and politicians to perform. This increase in pressure leads to better government performance levels.
- ▶ **Case:** 3 Indian states, district level

Strength

- ▶ Clear research gap
- ▶ Detailed theoretical mechanisms
- ▶ Rigorous study design using a mixed-methods

Feedback on theory: pressure from citizens and politicians improves bureaucratic performance

- ▶ Why should pressure remain sustained over a “long term” period? What prevents this pressure from dissipating over time?
- ▶ Could the constant, high pressure lead to bureaucratic fatigue, or a shift towards short-term, visible solutions rather than genuinely sustained improvements?
- ▶ Is it an inherent quality of democratic systems – so this kind of pressure would always increase bureaucratic performance – or is it specific to the type of disaster?
- ▶ There are additional, more complex paths – also in your initial model (Figure 1) that you do not address later on, and would be worthwhile pursuing

Feedback on ITSA

- ▶ What does 'person-days' ?
 - Increased need for immediate disaster management / more people who lost their jobs after the disaster.
 - Alternatives: infrastructure investments, public health spending, administrative efficiency, e.g. are wages paid on time
- ▶ How long should effect hold? (> 2 years)
 - model more years to see when the effect levels again in.
 - How long do regions need to recover from the flood? The whole two years or shorter?
 - This is not the first disaster regions are exposed to: do you see these spikes at different points in time or only 2021?
 - Is this a flood related trend or general time trend also observable in non-affected states?
 - In the Appendix you show that there is a sudden increase in slopes in 2021 at the country level.

Feedback on qualitative approach

- ▶ Absence of detailed qualitative data analysis protocol
 - How were themes identified, coded, and analyzed?
 - Were there procedures for inter-coder reliability, etc.?
- ▶ You chose a deductive approach: why? Did you also receive inductive/exploratory findings you did not expect beforehand?

Thank you!