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**Project Proposal**

**Introduction**

In many countries, conscription is implemented, even during the peacetime, with the aim to reduce young men’s subsequent criminal behavior. The reverse has shown to be true for conscription during wartime, and it’s worth exploring this relationship between conscription and crime rate during the peacetime. Our goal is to replicate the paper “Conscription and Crime: Evidence from the Argentine Draft Lottery,” a study by Sebastian Galiani, Martín A. Rossi, and Ernesto Schargrodsky establishing that the mandatory military draft in Argentina from 1958 to 1962 increased crime rates of the young men later on.

**Data**

To answer the question, we will use data on lottery draft results, military service status, and cutoff numbers from the Argentine Army (Oficina de Reclutamiento y Movilización, Estado Mayor del Ejército Argentino). The datasets on criminal participation are provided by the Argentine Ministry of Justice. The data on the participation in the formal economy is provided by the national pension system in Argentina (SIJP), while the data on unemployment and income data is provided by Argentina Permanent Household Survey. The unit of observation is the set of individuals in the same birth cohort who share the same last three digits of their national ID. The instrumental variable we will use is *Draft Eligibility*, a dummy variable indicating whether ID *i* from Birth Cohort *c* was chosen for conscription. The treatment is *Conscription*, the actual proportion of people for each ID *i* who were eventually served in the army. The main effect of interest is *Crime Rate*, the proportion of people for each ID *i* who committed crime later in their life.

**Hypotheses**

1. Conscription leads to higher probability of developing criminal records (same holds when controlling for pre-treatment characteristics).
2. Conscription has negative effects on job market performance (unemployment rates, earnings, etc.).
3. Wartime conscription has more detrimental effects on crime rates and job market performance than peacetime conscription.

**Methodology**

We will first use a two-stage least squares model, where we use *Draft Eligibility* as an instrument and *Conscription* as the treatment variable to examine the effect. Beside examining the impact of *Conscription* on *Crime Rate*, we will also explore impacts on labor market participation, unemployment rates, and future earnings. There are some pre-treatment conditions also accounted for within the study, such as origin (whether somebody is indigenous or a naturalized citizen) and birthplace. In our dataset, conscription is a continuous variable between 0 and 1, since it represents the proportion of people who served within a certain sub-population (same cohort, same draft number, same pre-treatment). We will recover local average treatment effect (LATE) instead of average treatment effect (ATE) since we are not willing to assume a constant treatment effect.

**Discussion**

Subject to the limit of time, we may use different years from the dataset and employ different ML models. For different years, we are considering exploring different peacetime years and seeing if variation in time periods changes our results. For other ML models, we are considering using a Random Forest Regression model.