

# Comparative Politics

Week 11

05/07/2020

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# Logistics I

- Final Exam next week
- Review session next Monday (try to attend the live session)
- Please fill out the survey on review session:
  - Specific topics or logistics questions
  - <https://bit.ly/3dIX0bd>

# Logistics II

- Email: [jlzhou@nyu.edu](mailto:jlzhou@nyu.edu)
- Please email me any questions if you cannot make it to office hour (ASAP)
- Office hour: Mon: 11:00-13:00; Tue 09:30-11:30 (For the final week)
- Book my office hour here: <https://calendly.com/jlzhou/15min>
  - Join meeting via: <https://nyu.zoom.us/j/7478991306>
  - You will be in a waiting room upon entering to avoid interruption to the ongoing meeting.

# Today

- Comments on Essay
- Electoral malpractice

Essays

# Common Problems

- Not follow the prompt. 🥲
- Not make the logic clear
  - In this essay, you should assume the reader knows nothing about electoral system.
- Misunderstand the concepts
- Lack Citation

# Some answer key:

- Size and number of party:
  - Rethink Cox's theory, Duverger's Law, or simply applying the logic of strategic voting from scratch.
- Strategic voting v.s. sincere voting:
  - easy, right?
- Corruption:
  - Personal vote logic from Chang and Golden
- Turnout:
  - pivotality? Cognitive burden (What I have in mind; Simplicity?)?

# Common Problems

- Email me if you have any question regarding your grading or the essay itself
- By Friday (May 8<sup>th</sup> ) 17:00



Electoral malpractice

# Types of violations of electoral integrity

- Can you give any examples?

# Types of violations of electoral integrity

- Ballot-stuffing
- Altering electoral tallies
- Having people vote multiple times
- Having un-registered voters cast ballots
- Intimidating voters with violence or threats of violence
- De-registering candidates
- Interfering with media coverage
- Vote buying
- Failing to disclose the location(s) of polling station(s)
- Closing polling stations too early, or opening too late

# Empirics: Asunka et al. 2017

- Background:
  - The study randomly assigned observers to polling stations in first round of 2012 presidential election in Ghana

# Empirics: Asunka et al. 2017

- What's their research question?
- What's their argument/theory?
- How do the authors measure electoral fraud and intimidation across space?

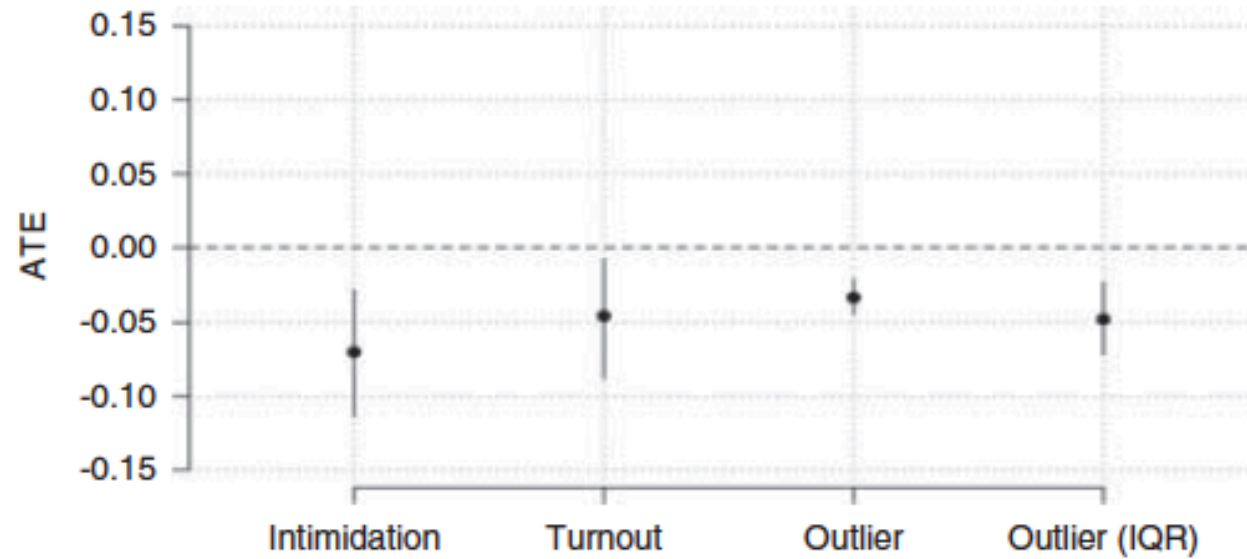
# Empirics: Asunka et al. 2017

- What are their research questions?
  - Is electoral fraud less likely under conditions of greater scrutiny?
  - Under what condition do electoral fraud shift under scrutiny (spillover effect)?
- What's their argument/theory?
  - Greater scrutiny increases the cost of electoral fraud in monitored polling station
  - Single-party dominant constituency is able to conduct electoral fraud
  - Competitive constituency is incentivized to engage in violence and intimidation
- How do the authors measure electoral fraud and intimidation across space?
  - Turnout
  - Whether rate of turnout was an outlier in the constituency
  - Intimidation (through observer/party activist survey)

# Empirics: Asunka et al. 2017

- What kinds of evidence do the authors present?

# Empirics: Asunka et al. 2017

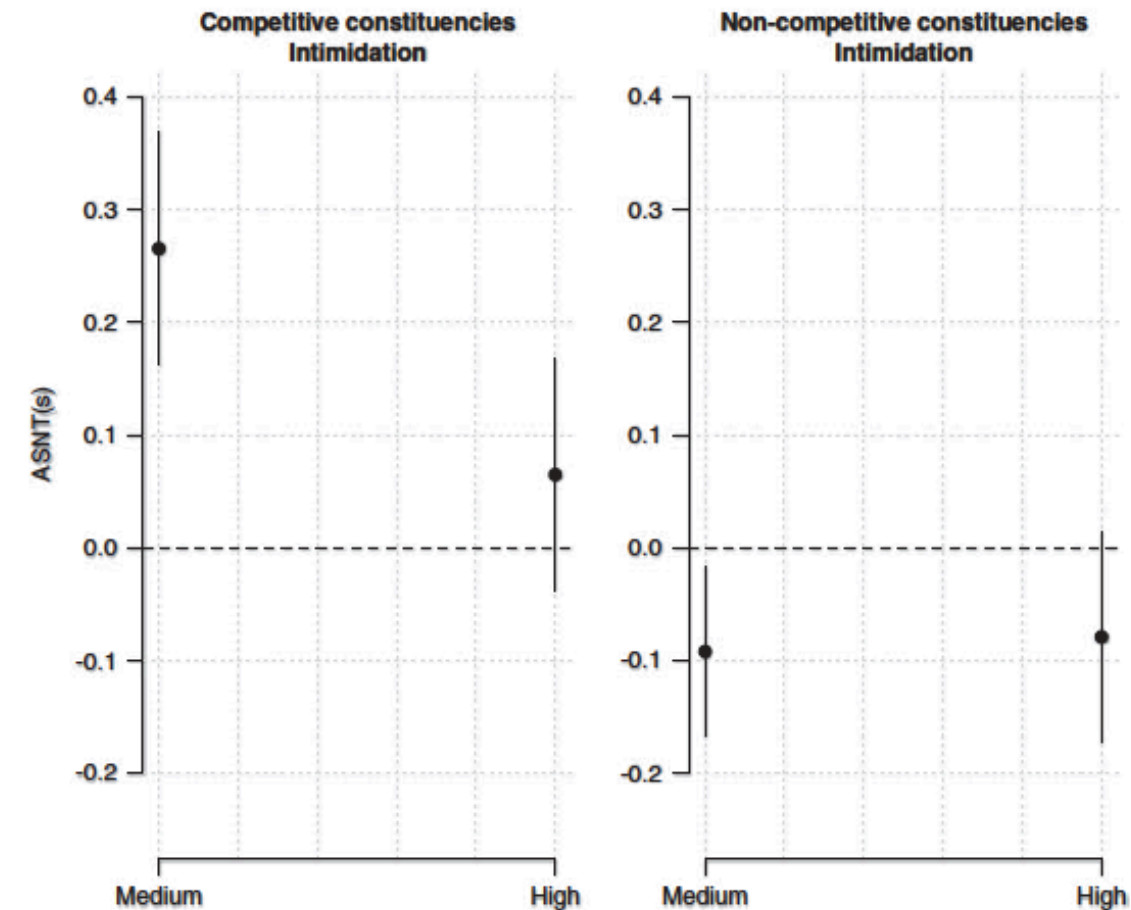


*Fig. 1. Direct effect of observers in full sample*

Having an observer present lowered electoral malpractice in that polling station.



# Empirics: Asunka et al. 2017



*Average spillover effect on non-treated stations: intimidation*

Having an observer DISPLACED electoral malpractice to other polling stations in competitive constituencies.

# Discussion:

- For one of the following electoral malpractice:
  - Having people vote multiple times / Having un-registered voters cast ballots
  - Intimidating voters with violence or threats of violence
  - De-registering candidates
  - Vote buying
  - Failing to disclose the location(s) of polling station(s)/ Closing polling stations too early, or opening too late
- If you were a member of Ghana's Electoral Commission and wanted to commission a study of where that form of electoral malpractice had occurred/been more prevalent, how would you want to see it measured?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of those strategies?

Final words

# What you could do for final

- Disclaimer:
  - I, Aaron, didn't know the final exam contents and all suggestions below are based on my experience in taking exams and grading exams
- Review your paper and midterm
  - Not just for the concept you misunderstand
  - But for **why** you lose some point
    - Misunderstand the question?
    - Misunderstand the concept?
    - Not follow the instruction?
    - Not make your logic clear?

# What you could do for final

- Review notes, slides, and other material (readings, recordings, etc)
- Complemented with study guide
  - All slides are on NYU class website
- Make sure you understand all the key concepts.
- Try to answer the questions on study guide, and ask yourself:
  - Is the logic clear enough?
  - Is the answer readable?
  - Is it correct?
  - Does it answer the question?

Thank you for the semester!