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# SOCIAL PROTECTION, POVERTY, AND POLITICS: THE ROLE OF RELATIVE DEPRIVATION IN DETERMINING CITIZEN ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT

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## RESEARCH QUESTION

- Why do citizens only selectively increase their support for governments that effectively provide them with private goods, such as cash transfers?

## PREVIEW OF THE RESULTS

- We exploit a fuzzy regression discontinuity design based on household poverty scores to evaluate the effects of a cash transfer program in Pakistan on citizens attitudes
- We overlay this with a randomized priming experiment that made half of survey respondents feel relatively poor and vulnerable
- We find that the program increased support for government, but its effects were largest among individuals who were primed to feel relatively poor and vulnerable.

## MOTIVATION: MIXED FINDINGS IN THE LITERATURE

- Some studies show that the provision of social welfare programs translates to increased voter turnout and increased support for the incumbent delivering the welfare programs (Chen 2013; Linos 2013; Layton and Smith 2015; Marschall, Aydogan, and Bulut 2016).
- Other studies find that welfare programs can decrease the likelihood of voting (Mettler and Stonecash 2008) and the public is unresponsive to federal social spending (Ellis and Faricy 2011).

# REPLICATION

- In the interest of time, we are going to replicate only the regression results related to citizens attitudes toward government
- Thus, we are going to replicate regression Table 2 (panel B) and 3
- To get started:
  - Find a place on your computer to save the .dta file given to you: Kosec\_BISP\_data.dta
  - Save the dofile Tables\_BISP.do in the same place or elsewhere. Open it now.
  - Change lines 1 and 12 so they provides the location where you have placed the .dta file

## SHOW SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR TABLE 1

- Highlight lines 1-19 and run them
- Let's look through these to familiarize ourselves with the data
- Key things to point out:
  - About 2630 individuals
  - 35% are BISP beneficiaries
  - 49.4% were randomly primed to feel poor
  - Overall support for government is about 0.367 on a 0-1 scale

# SUMMARY STATISTICS: TABLE I (P. 22)

Table 1: Summary Statistics

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
dmbenef	2,639	.3539219	.4782759	0	1
min_pmt	2,639	22.81547	12.5611	-.242181	80.66
dmprimepov~y	2,637	.4941221	.5000603	0	1
system_sup~x	2,636	.3666947	.1930627	0	1
courts	2,637	.4123057	.2900625	0	1
trespect_i~t	2,637	.4994312	.2722456	0	1
basicrights	2,636	.3560319	.2592604	0	1
proud	2,636	.353566	.2680674	0	1
support_sy~m	2,637	.3693591	.2668767	0	1
trust	2,637	.3210087	.2615983	0	1
leaders_be~b	2,637	.2550246	.2578406	0	1

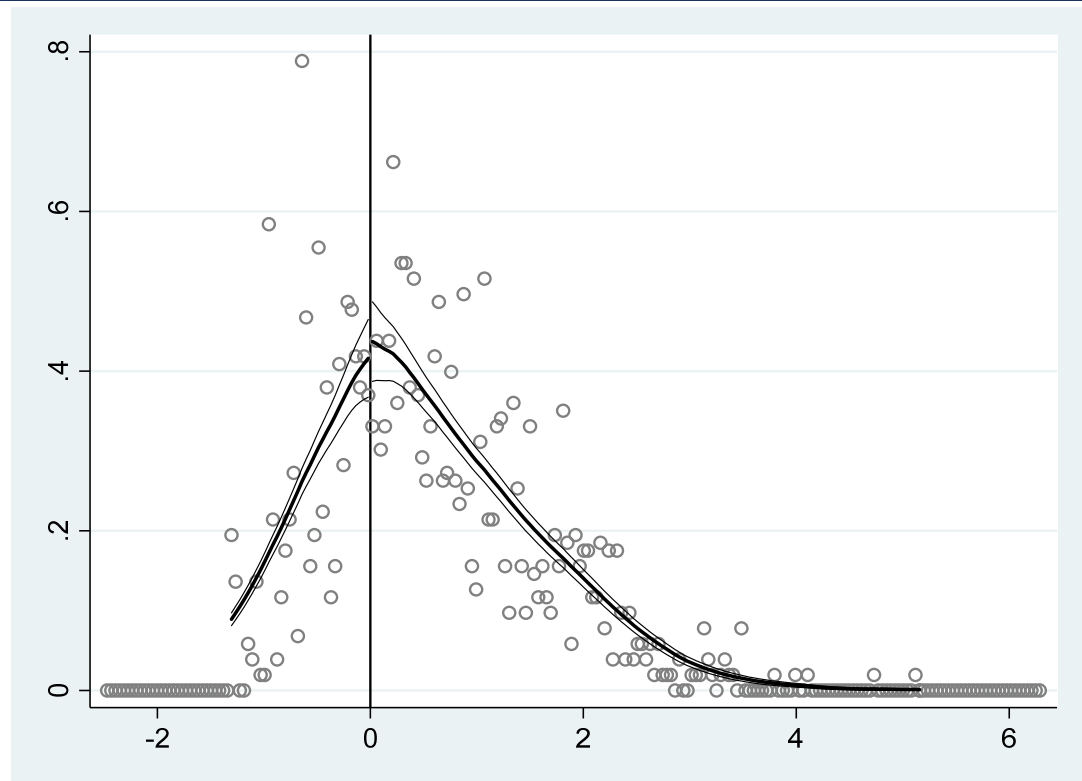
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
BISP Household	2,639	0.354	0.478	0.0	1
Wealth Score	2,639	22.816	12.560	0.0	80.660
Poverty Prime	2,637	0.494	0.500	0.0	1

Panel B: Attitudes Toward Government					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Government Support Index	2,636	0.367	0.193	0.0	1
Courts Ensure Justice	2,637	0.412	0.290	0.0	1
Respect for Political Institutions	2,637	0.499	0.272	0.0	1
Citizens' Basic Rights Protected	2,636	0.356	0.259	0.0	1
Proud of Political System	2,636	0.354	0.268	0.0	1
Support of Political System	2,637	0.369	0.267	0.0	1
Trust Leaders	2,637	0.321	0.262	0.0	1
Leaders Doing Best Job Possible	2,637	0.255	0.258	0.0	1

## MCCRARRY (2007) MANIPULATION CHECK

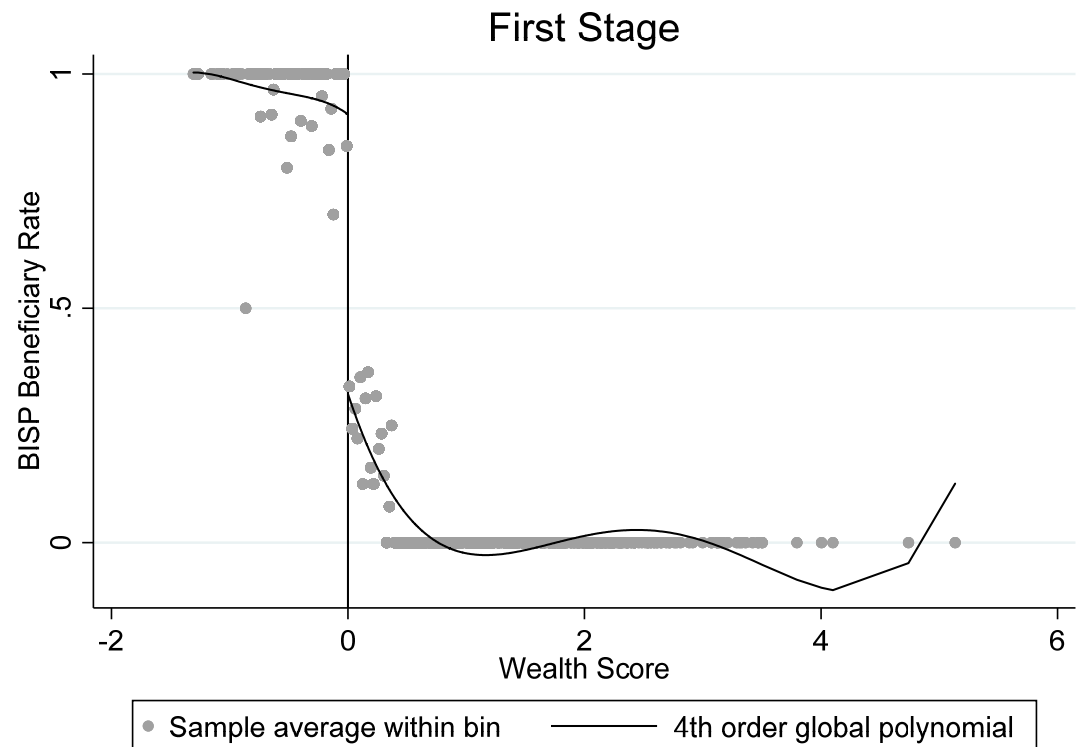
- Run lines 1-24
- The figure at right pops up
- Notice: we see no 'break' in our normal distribution of the poverty index at the cutoff!





## FIRST STAGE: EXAMINING THE CUTOFF

- Run lines 1-29
- We see a clear fuzzy RDD



## TABLE 2 (PANEL B) – OVERALL RESULTS FOR ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES

### Panel B: Attitudes Toward Government

Government Support Index	-0.595*** (0.043)	0.080** (0.044)	2,636
Courts Ensure Justice	-0.595*** (0.043)	0.125* (0.064)	2,637
Respect for Political Institutions	-0.595*** (0.043)	0.104** (0.058)	2,637
Citizens' Basic Rights Protected	-0.596*** (0.044)	0.116** (0.059)	2,636
Proud of Political System	-0.594*** (0.042)	0.008 (0.058)	2,636
Support of Political System	-0.595*** (0.043)	0.038 (0.059)	2,637
Trust Leaders	-0.594*** (0.042)	0.072 (0.059)	2,637
Leaders Doing the Best Job Possible	-0.595*** (0.042)	0.096* (0.058)	2,637

- Run lines 1-43 to reproduce the table at right

## TABLE 3 – OVERALL RESULTS FOR ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES BY WHETHER OR NOT PRIMED TO FEEL POOR

Table 3: Effect of BISP on Attitudes Toward Government by Poverty Prime (2SLS)

	BISP, Poverty Prime			BISP, No Poverty Prime		
	Coefficient	S.E.	Obs.	Coefficient	S.E.	Obs.
Government Support Index	0.155***	(0.065)	1,303	0.015	(0.072)	1,333
Courts Ensure Justice	0.203**	(0.094)	1,303	0.034	(0.095)	1,334
Respect for Political Institutions	0.196**	(0.087)	1,303	-0.002	(0.090)	1,334
Citizens' Basic Rights Protected	0.195**	(0.087)	1,303	0.042	(0.088)	1,333
Proud of Political System	0.117*	(0.087)	1,303	-0.064	(0.094)	1,333
Support of Political System	0.118*	(0.087)	1,303	-0.023	(0.096)	1,334
Trust Political System	0.116*	(0.088)	1,303	0.050	(0.093)	1,334
Leaders Doing the Best Job Possible	0.155*	(0.082)	1,303	0.061	(0.103)	1,334

Notes: Standard errors appear in parentheses. \* p<0.10, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\* p<0.01 (one-tailed tests).

- Run full dofile to reproduce the table at right

## EXAMPLE OUTPUT FROM RED-CIRCLE PORTION OF TABLE 3

Fuzzy RD estimates using local polynomial regression.

Cutoff c = 0	Left of c	Right of c	Number of obs =	1303
Number of obs	448	855	BW type =	mserd
Eff. Number of obs	252	310	Kernel =	Triangular
Order est. (p)	1	1	VCE method =	NN
Order bias (q)	2	2		
BW est. (h)	0.585	0.585		
BW bias (b)	1.020	1.020		
rho (h/b)	0.573	0.573		

First-stage estimates. Outcome: dmbenef. Running variable: cutoff.

Method	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
Conventional	-.56356	.06458	-8.7270	0.000	-.690123    -.436989
Robust	-	-	-7.2857	0.000	-.684593    -.394344

Treatment effect estimates. Outcome: system\_support\_index. Running variable: cutoff. Treatment Status: dmbenef.

Method	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
Conventional	.15495	.0646	2.3985	0.016	.028329    .281573
Robust	-	-	2.3066	0.021	.025742    .316874