

**Re: Replication files**

Olle Folke <olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se>

Wed 3/27/2024 12:21 PM

To: Riccardo Ciacci <rciacci@icade.comillas.edu>

Dear Riccardo,

we are going to write a thread based on what is in the report, which you know does not claim that what happened 2018 is affecting your results. However, it is important for understanding the time trends in the Figure, which is why we have it highlighted.

all the best,

Olle

Den 2024-03-27 kl. 12:14, skrev Riccardo Ciacci:

Dear Olle,

If the tweets are respectful, as the ones written by Joop Adema for instance, for me it is not a problem to be tagged. If the tweets are not of that sort and the idea is to write whatever thing against the paper (e.g., claiming that something that happened in 2018 may invalidate my results, when 2018 is not even in my sample period), then I prefer to be not tagged.

Thanks for your email, best regards.

Riccardo

**Riccardo Ciacci**

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**From:** Olle Folke <olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 12:03 PM

**To:** Riccardo Ciacci <rciacci@icade.comillas.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Replication files

Dear Riccardo,

thanks for the reply. As I understand it the journal has a careful and thorough process for reviewing this so you will get a chance to respond to them. A quick question about posting our document publicly. Do you prefer to be tagged or not when we post it on Twitter?

all the best,

Olle

Den 2024-03-27 kl. 11:52, skrev Riccardo Ciacci:

Dear Olle,

Thanks for your email. If you believe the validity of the results are at stake, then I totally understand that you opt to send the document to the journal. I do not agree with the points raised and I will follow the journal procedure for such cases.

Come what may, it is a great opportunity to raise awareness about such important topics.

Thanks for reviewing my work.  
All the best,  
Riccardo



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**From:** Olle Folke <[olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se](mailto:olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 12:04 PM  
**To:** Riccardo Ciacci <[rciacci@icade.comillas.edu](mailto:rciacci@icade.comillas.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Replication files

Dear Riccardo,  
we have now written up the comment on the paper and send it to the handling editor. We will also publish it publicly later in the week. As promised I am sending you the comment beforehand, but do not feel obliged to respond.

all the best,  
Olle

Den 2024-03-22 kl. 17:46, skrev Riccardo Ciacci:

Dear Olle,

If you want to proceed by sending the journal a document because you think the results are not valid go ahead. I do not agree with your claim, but I believe that sending such a document is a fair and proper way to carry out research and enhance knowledge on this important issue. I do not understand whether this is what you meant since you wrote "We will write up a your text of ", I am sorry I do not understand the part "a your text of".

In any case thanks for letting me know. Last but not least, I would like to mention two other important issues in this correspondence.

First, from the contents of the threads on Twitter it appears clear to me that, for whatever reason I ignore, you have ideological issues with the results. This explains your erratic and frantic messages across Twitter and emails. I am sorry to observe this situation, I would like you to know that my only purpose is to carry out research on these topics to further knowledge. Often, I am the first one who does not like the results I get. To this extent, I understand some of them

might be sorrowful. I only would like scholars, and economists in particular, to keep carrying out research on these topics. For too long researchers and economists forgot them and it was to the benefit of nobody. In other words, if our aim is to design proper policies for whatever market, activity, sector or crime we should conduct research on those topics. Clearly it is useless to write in your previous email that your "issues are not ideological but methodological" because nobody who has ideological issues would write it down. Only third parties, after carefully reading our correspondence, might judge it.

Second, this is not a secondary point, and it might be that for whatever reason it is unclear to you: in social relationships both content and form matter. I am sorry if you do not see this, and I would be prone to explain my position in further emails if you consider it necessary. The way in which you approached me and wrote to me is totally inappropriate. A way of proceeding to illustrate a case is giving examples and I will proceed in this way, but I could also proceed speaking broadly if you think it is better. Check out [this tweet](#) you wrote, in here you state you read the RDiT section, and you understood it and there is a mistake (you consider the observations have an issue). By stating so, you are implicitly claiming that you read it and understood it while nobody else who read the paper or attended the presentations I gave did understand it. That is, you are implicitly saying that: I did not understand it, the editor did not understand it, the referees did not understand it, etc. Besides the fact that as far as I understand you do not believe this is the case anymore and you did not apologize for this, even if you were right this would not be the way to convey respectfully your message. Respect is extremely important in social relationships and even more in formal social relationships (as it is in our case).

I can give you another example as well: in the second email you sent me (20<sup>th</sup> of March at around 8:30 am), you asked me to reply to your email otherwise you would post something on Twitter. That message is not appropriate either. During that morning, I had to teach and to hold a meeting. I did not have time to answer you and I understand you could not know. However, you could expect it since you do know the timings of academia (referee reports take months, papers take years to be written, presented and published). The reason of those timings is exactly because of the activities we professors might have, as I just described it happened to me that morning. Bypassing abruptly those timings and threatening a colleague are two actions that are not proper.

An important problem we have in academia, and in our field, is arrogance. I have learnt that being arrogant does not help anyone, it does not help neither the person being arrogant, nor the person receiving it, and it does not help at all the matter of the argument. I think that as human beings, one of our aims should be to leave a better and gentler world than the one we found. To this effect, wording does matter. Once

we are professors and we start working it matters even more since we take care of other human beings, sometimes even hierarchically. If you do not agree with this reasoning please let me know.

I hope all this correspondence might help us to have a better knowledge of the economics of prostitution and sex workers. I also spent a considerable amount of time writing down this email, I do hope it might also help us to have a better research community and environment.

All the best,  
Riccardo



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**From:** Olle Folke <[olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se](mailto:olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 9:02 AM

**To:** Riccardo Ciacci <[rciacci@icade.comillas.edu](mailto:rciacci@icade.comillas.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Replication files

Dear Riccardo,

We (I and some people who have helped me to double check the analysis to make sure things are in order) have figured out what happens with your year fixed effects. As the fixed effects are after the treatment in the regression and you do not use any of Stata's FE commands Stata will give priority to your treatment variable by assigning a "reference year" in both the control and treatment period. These reference years are 1997 and 2001 when you use the 27 month window. So you are no longer estimating the effect of the discontinuity but instead the difference between 1997 and 2001. This is very unfortunate and in my mind invalidates the design. We will write up a your text of this issue and how it creates your results and send it to the journal. I personally think that these errors are grounds for a retraction. If you agree it would be great if you wrote the journal yourself as well.

Again, I want to stress that my issues with the paper are not ideological but methodological.

all the best,  
Olle

Den 2024-03-21 kl. 17:15, skrev Olle Folke:

Dear Riccardo,  
the topic of poorly executed research does cause a bad reaction for me so thanks for the concern.

Naturally, you can see that the impossibility to replicate your findings does not inspire confidence for a collaboration. Neither does the claim that all objection to your paper being based on ideology. So the door is shut on any collaboration.

The Brå data is publically available, so there is no protection on the crime data and I look forward to you sharing it. The extra line of code is not used for the analysis but is rather there as me double checking that I could replicate your running variable and treatment variable with my own code. Since the data sharing policy of the journal does require that the results can be replicated by other researchers I expect that you can help sort this out.

all the best,  
Olle

Den 2024-03-21 kl. 16:39, skrev Riccardo Ciacci:

Dear Olle,

I am sorry this topic might cause this reaction in you. I am also sorry currently I do not have the time to address faster all your comments. I've seen you sent me two emails earlier.

As for the first one, I have double-checked the code and I use January 1999 as the treatment date.

As for the second one, I am checking whether I can share data with you. Back during my PhD dissertation, I remember I signed a document to get the datasets (crimes and police data). I have checked your log file as well and I think the difference might be in the added lines you wrote to classify the treatment and timing.

I genuinely would like to further knowledge on this topic and originally, I wanted to get both Norwegian and Swedish data. I think this might be a great opportunity to pursue this work together (maybe with a third coauthor affiliated to a Norwegian university as well). We would update the data and possibly get it at a finer level and contribute further to this topic. This would allow us to support/reject the findings of this paper as well as it appears to me you are interested in. Depending on the best data available we might proceed using either causal

inference methods or descriptive statistics (as I understand you would prefer in this setting). I am the first one who often does not like my research results but this does not imply I have to hide them, on the contrary, I would like to contribute to this literature in the most rigorous way possible.

Finally, I've read the tweet by Professor Gabriel Lenz and can confirm you that RDIT results are robust to weight the regressions by population.

All the best,  
Riccardo

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**comillas.edu****From:** Olle Folke[<olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se>](mailto:olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se)**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 2:24 PM**To:** Riccardo Ciacci[<rciacci@icade.comillas.edu>](mailto:rciacci@icade.comillas.edu)**Subject:** Re: Replication files

Dear Riccardo,

I applied the code to the county level data and ran the analysis. I am not even close to replicating your result, which you can see in the attached log file. In fact, when I include the year and month fixed effects I do not even get any estimates. Without your data it is impossible to figure out what is happening and this will have to be the analysis I use in the replication analysis I write up. At a minimum it would be great if you could explain how you can get any estimates.

all the best,

Olle

Den 2024-03-21 kl. 12:04, skrev

Riccardo Ciacci:

Dear Olle,

After your last tweet of around 1 hour ago, please find attached my code to run the RDIT. This is the last time I will answer you on Twitter since as I stated yesterday, and the day before yesterday as well, this is not the way to carry out research and it is not the way either to contact other scholars. As you may know, research is not conducted exchanging tweets frenetically but by thoughtful and careful analysis. If you want to pursue further this correspondence please contact me via email and please wait for my response.

Disaggregated analysis is necessary to have better estimates in this setting. Indeed, there is evidence that even if the treatment timing was the same for every region the law was enforced differently, and even with different budgets and resources, by different police departments. As I told you yesterday, writing a paper on this issue collecting new data (possibly for both Sweden and Norway for instance) would allow us to further knowledge on these topics.

Best regards,  
Riccardo



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**From:** Riccardo Ciacci  
<[rciacci@icade.comillas.edu](mailto:rciacci@icade.comillas.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 3:31 PM  
**To:** Olle Folke  
<[olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se](mailto:olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se)>  
**Subject:** Re: Replication files

Dear Olle,

Thanks for your email. I would love to have time to answer these emails faster, but this is not the case due to my present teaching load. I have seen you have posted this picture on Twitter in the meanwhile, so I understand I arrive late.

Yet as you wrote in your thread today, these topics are very important, this is exactly why I devoted my entire PhD dissertation to them. Currently, I want to study them further and I see you are interested too; hence, I suggest writing a paper together making use of finer data. Indeed, since you are affiliated to a Swedish university this would allow us to get data faster and maybe even at more disaggregated level.

Best regards,



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**From:** Olle Folke  
<[olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se](mailto:olle.folke@statsvet.uu.se)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 8:26 AM  
**To:** Riccardo Ciacci  
<[rciacci@icade.comillas.edu](mailto:rciacci@icade.comillas.edu)>

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**Subject:** Re: Replication files

Dear Riccardo,

I downloaded the data at the national level and made a plot of the number of reported rates per year and it is really hard for me to figure out how you can find an effect in the analysis that relies on only national variation in the timing. It would be great if you could explain it to me, as well as send the replication files.

I will post this figure on Twitter later today, so it would be great if you responded relatively quickly.

all the best,

Olle

Den 2024-03-19 kl. 19:58,  
skrev Olle Folke:  
> Dear Riccardo,  
>  
> as you noticed on Twitter I  
would like to replicate your  
analysis and  
> do some sensitivity  
checks that are not in the  
paper. If I understand  
> the data policy of the  
Journal of Population  
Economics all data should  
> be share by authors unless  
there is some restriction.  
>  
> all the best,  
>  
> Olle  
>

När du har kontakt med oss  
på Uppsala universitet med  
e-post så innebär det att vi  
behandlar dina

personuppgifter. För att läsa mer om hur vi gör det kan du läsa här:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uu.se%2Fom-uu%2Fdataskydd-personuppgifter%2F&data=05%7C02%7Crciaci%40icade.comillas.edu%7C71ed1b3a003741ed869708dc48af1117%7Cbcd2701caa9b4d12ba20f3e3b83070c1%7C0%7C0%7C638465163978050252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E80uS9vcXDVcemrD Gv3vx9TPuBkdZooH%2F0gDkcXeuRs%3D&reserved=0>

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