The Critical Role of Social Leaders in the Spread of Social Movements against Gender-Based Violence

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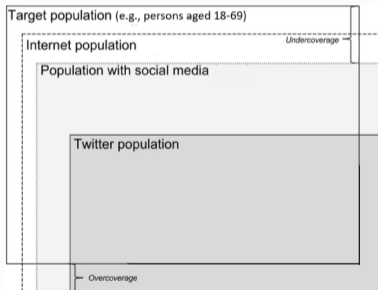Discussant: Ha Luong
University of Barcelona & IEB

► The paper tries to answer a very interesting question about the spread of social movements against gender-based violence (GBV) on social media

► A new dataset focusing on 10 social movements against GBV on Twitter (huge effort!)

► Key results:
  ► Social movements against GBV start suddenly and fade out quickly
  ► Social leaders play an role in driving social change

▶ Instrument variable: verified account
  ▶ Relevance: ✓
  ▶ **Exclusion restriction**: not very clear that the verification status of an account affects the number of likes of a tweet <u>ONLY</u> through the number of followers
▶ Regional differences: what about other countries/regions, beside the US?

▶ What about other popular hashtags? #BeenRapedNeverReported

▶ We need to be more cautious on the implication about social movements online due to self-selection mechanism in Twitter

From target to Twitter population (adapted from Eurostat 2018)

▶ The paper can apply some methods in case of "imperfect instruments", such as: Chan & Tobias (2015)[1], Nikolai et al. (2022)[2]

▶ Another way to go is to apply partial identification to address omitted variable bias (Emily Oster (2019)[3])

[1] Chan, J. C. C., and Tobias, J. L. (2015), Priors and Posterior Computation in Linear Endogenous Variable Models with Imperfect Instruments. *J. Appl. Econ.*, 30, 650– 674.

[2] Miklin, Nikolai, Gachechiladze, Mariami, Moreno, George and Chaves, Rafael. Causal inference with imperfect instrumental variables. *Journal of Causal Inference* vol. 10, no. 1, 2022

[3] Emily Oster (2019). Unobservable Selection and Coefficient Stability: Theory and Evidence. *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics.* 37:2, 187-204.

Thank You