POL-GA 1251
Quantitative Political Analysis II
Homework 3

In this assignment, you work with the following paper,

> Blattman, Christopher (2009) "From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda." *American Political Science Review.* 103(2): 231–247.

Replication materials are available here:

http://chrisblattman.com/projects/sway/

These replication materials include the data, replication code (for Stata only), and codebooks needed to replicate Blattman's results.

1. (10 points) Write a few paragraphs discussing potential sources of bias for this study as listed below, as well as the merits and drawbacks of the study's design and analysis methods for addressing them:

   (a) Sample selection, non-response, and missing data;

   (b) Confounding & non-random assignment; and

   (c) Measurement error.

2. (10 points) Reproduce the treatment effect estimates in Table 3 using OLS making a publication-quality table based on the results, and discuss briefly. Be sure to use robust standard errors. Note that the Stata survey ("svy") commands used in Blattman's replication file produce results that are equivalent to what you would get by performing a weighted regression with cluster robust standard errors. So, you can either use survey commands (in R it would be with the survey package) or you use weighted regression with cluster robust standard errors. (We will be discussing cluster robust standard errors soon, by the way.)

3. (10 points) Conduct a sensitivity analysis along the lines of Figure 1 for your OLS estimate of the effect on voting. Do the same for your estimate of the effect on being a community mobilizer. Discuss the implications for the robustness of the estimates.

   For implementation, you can either base it on analytical results (along the lines of Frank 2000), code an implementation in Stata or R yourself (using Imbens 2003 as a guide), or try out some available pre-programmed routines.

   For pre-programmed routines. Masataka Harada and Joel Middleton have .ado files for Stata:

   http://www3.grips.ac.jp/~m-harada/docs/research.html

   http://www.joelmiddleton.com/research.html

   Beber et al. have a simulation-based approach similar to Imbens that they use in their 2014 *JOP* paper, for which the replication code is here:

   https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/24017

Finally, Matt Blackwell has a function for R that uses a slightly different approach:

`http://www.mattblackwell.org/software/`

It is okay to use the Blackwell approach instead but be sure to provide a proper interpretation.