# 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 paragraph discussing potential sources of bias in this study's estimate of the effect of abduction on voting. Consider the items listed below and discuss 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. (5 points) Estimate the effect of abduction on "Voted in 2005" using OLS, applying the same control variables and weighting that Blattman uses (see the text and notes for Table 3). The estimate may differ somewhat from Table 3 since Blattman used probit. Present your estimate in a publication-quality table. 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 (in Stata this is simple, in R you could use the `estimatr` package or use `lm` with weights and then the `clubSandwich` package).

3. (10 points) Conduct a sensitivity analysis to examine sensitivity to hidden confounding for your OLS estimate of the effect on voting, along the lines of Figure 1. Discuss the implications for the robustness of the your estimate.

    For implementation, you can either base it on analytical results (along the lines of Frank 2000, *Sociological Methods & Research*), 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.