Project Proposal, Step 2

EC607

Due *before* midnight (11:59pm) on Wednesday, 27 May 2019

`DUE:` Your **typed** proposal is due *before* 11:59pm on Wednesday, 27 May 2019 on Canvas.

Your grade will depend upon your ability to clearly respond to the assignment—concepts *and* constraints.

`Assignment` Submit a project proposal that

1. Motivates and outlines your ***causal* question** of interest.
2. Explains **potential sources of selection** that could lead to bias.
3. Describes the **ideal experiment** which one could use to answer this question
4. Discusses a **practical research design** through which one could answer the original question—clarifying *how* this research design avoids selection bias.

Note: Your question **must be causal in nature**. If it is not, come up with a new question.

`Sections:` Your proposal requires the following sections/components. **Separate them.**
After each section, state the section's word count (*e.g., 13 words*).

`Title:` (1 ≤ words ≤ 15)
A title that clearly describes your question—and potentially how you would answer it.

`Abstract:` (50 ≤ words ≤ 150)
A brief description of your project. Clearly describe the main question, how you will answer it, and why/for whom the results matter. Be concise and clear. You hook the reader here and elaborate later.

`Question and motivation:` (100 ≤ words ≤ 300)
Explain why this area of research is interesting/important in general (not just to you). Why should your reader care/keep reading? After you **briefly** motivate the general topic, clearly describe your specific **causal question**. If necessary, motivate the specific question too.

`Selection:` (100 ≤ words ≤ 300)
Why is this question challenging to answer empirically? In other words, what sources of selection bias concern you? If we simply run a regression of y on X, why might $\hat{\beta}$ be biased?

`Ideal experiment:` (100 ≤ words ≤ 300)
Describe the ideal experiment that would answer your question. This *ideal* experiment does not need to be practical—*i.e.*, you do not need to be able to run it in real life.

`Practical research design:` (100 ≤ words ≤ 400)
How might you causally answer the your question in *real life*? Which **data** would you need? What sort of **research design** would you apply—selection on observables (regression with many controls, matching, propensity-score methods, *etc.*) or selection on observables (IV, RD, *etc.*)? How does this proposed research design **avoid selection bias**?

`Update:` Now that you've worked through these components, rewrite your abstract and title.