Terrorist Pasts & Criminal Futures: The Evolution of Paramilitary Violence in Northern Ireland

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Research Question

• It is more than 20 years since the Good Friday Agreement that paved the way for peace in Northern Ireland (of which President Bill Clinton assisted in).
• The paramilitary groups that formed during the conflict (‘The Troubles’) in Northern Ireland gained and maintained influence in local communities.
• This new wave of paramilitary criminality includes drug dealing, punishment beatings, money laundering and extortion, among other crimes.
• This research project seeks to explore the evolution of past terrorism into the modern organised criminality that we see operating across Northern Ireland today.

Related Literature

• Economic and social effects of the Northern Ireland conflict (Dorsett, 2013)
• Intergenerational transmission of conflict trauma (Singhal, 2019)
• Intergenerational transmission of crime (Junger et al., 2013)
• Long lasting effects of colonialism (Acemoğlu & Robinson, 2017)

Main Spatial Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terrorism</th>
<th>xy coords of terrorism incidents 1969-present, and deaths</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>annual crime in Wards 2001-present</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>xy coords of crime 2011-present</td>
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<td>paramilitary-specific data</td>
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</tbody>
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Figure 1. Conflict Death Rate per 1,000 (1969-2001), in Northern Ireland Wards (582)

Spatial specification coming soon...

Other

• Robustness checks e.g. spatial data of the 16th Century British Plantations in Ireland
• Brexit & rising paramilitary violence
• Policy implications: lessons for other countries with experiences of conflict, and for Northern Ireland law enforcement.