

**Local Queens and Princesses: The Impact of Female Dynasts on Provision of Public Goods**

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## Background and Motivation

- Female representation in politics is still dismal despite the positive impacts due to higher cost for women to run
- Female politicians are more dynastic than male politicians (e.g., Folke et al (2021); Geys and Smith (2017)) → Dynasty as a way to decrease cost
- Dynasties tend to have negative economic and political impact (Asako et al. (2015); Bragança et al (2015); Dar (2019); George (2020))
- Two opposing forces:
  - Female politicians tend to have positive impacts on their constituents
  - Dynastic politicians tend to have negative impacts on their constituents
- What is the net impact of female dynasts on public goods?

## Objectives

- Exploit Indonesia's recent changes in local government structure and election system to evaluate the impacts of female dynastson the provisions of public goods
- Use difference-in-difference and event studies design to empirically evaluate this at the district level

## Data

- Dynasty data: District-level election data from 2015, 2017, 2018 with dynasty status variable (Kenawas, 2020)
- Public goods data: Indonesian Village Potential Survey (PODES) 2011, 2014, 2018, 2020, 2021
  - Education, health, household, electricity infrastructure
  - Also aggregated into index

## Empirical Strategy

- TWFE specification:

$$y_{it} = \alpha_{it} + \sum_{s \neq 2014} 1[s=t] \times D_i \times \beta_s + X_i \delta + \varepsilon_{it}$$

- Event studies specification:

$$y_{ict} = \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \sum_{k=7}^6 D_{k(ct)} \times \beta_k + X_i \delta + \varepsilon_{ict}$$

## Results: Contemporaneous TWFE

VARIABLES	(1) Education	(2) Health	(3) Infrastructure	(4) Electricity	(5) Agg. Index
Treat × Post	-0.00689 (0.0133)	0.0106 (0.0184)	0.0839* (0.0452)	0.0190 (0.0144)	0.0433*** (0.0161)
Log population	0.000752 (0.00175)	0.00153 (0.00276)	0.0231*** (0.00828)	0.00191*** (0.000693)	0.00492 (0.00369)
Constant	-0.0319 (0.0218)	-0.0289 (0.0337)	-0.335*** (0.109)	-0.0463*** (0.00732)	-0.0912* (0.0458)
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	408,890	326,372	408,890	409,377	409,377
R-squared	0.936	0.664	0.765	0.948	0.916

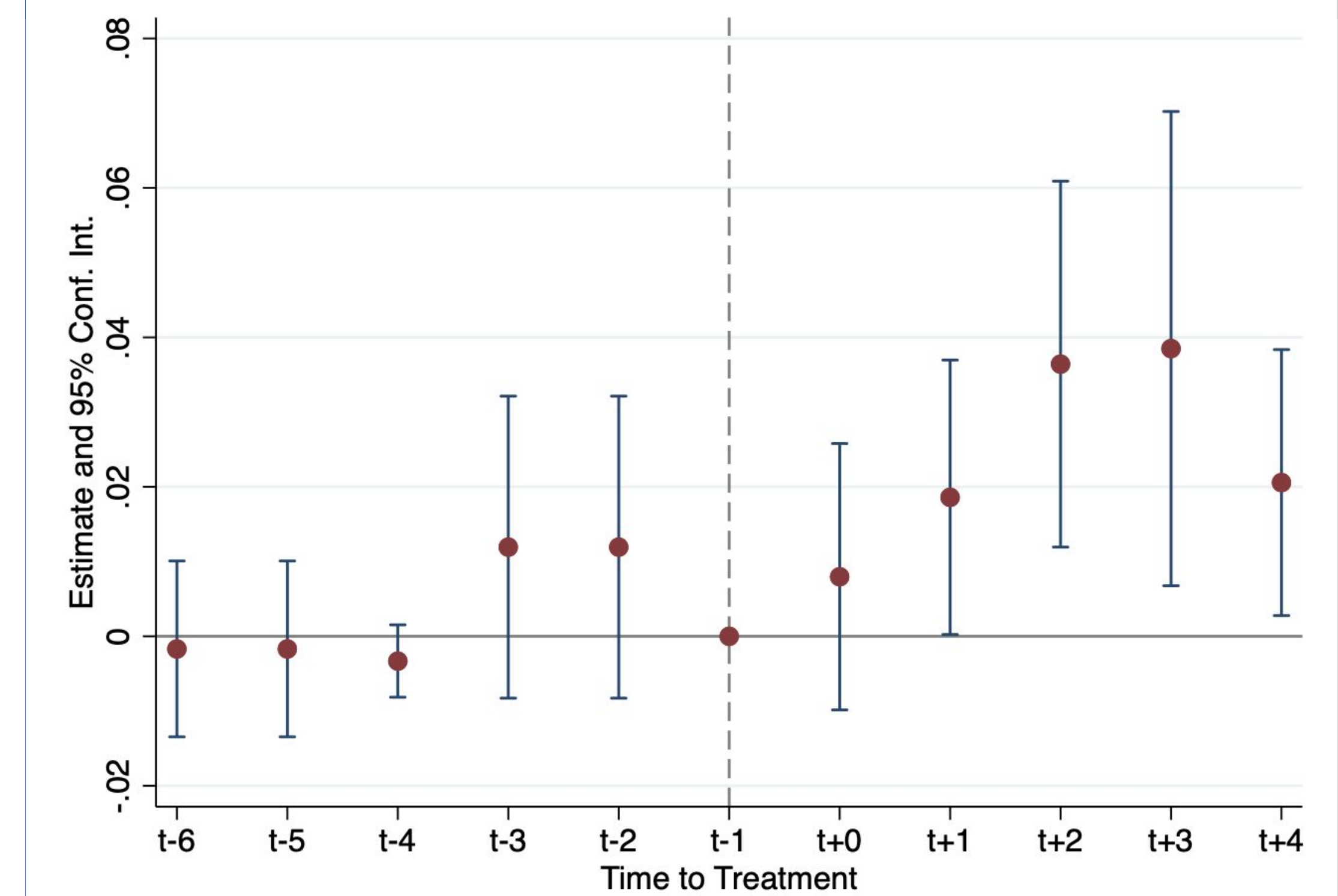
Robust standard errors in parentheses. Significance:\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Errors are clustered the district level.

## Results: Heterogeneous TWFE

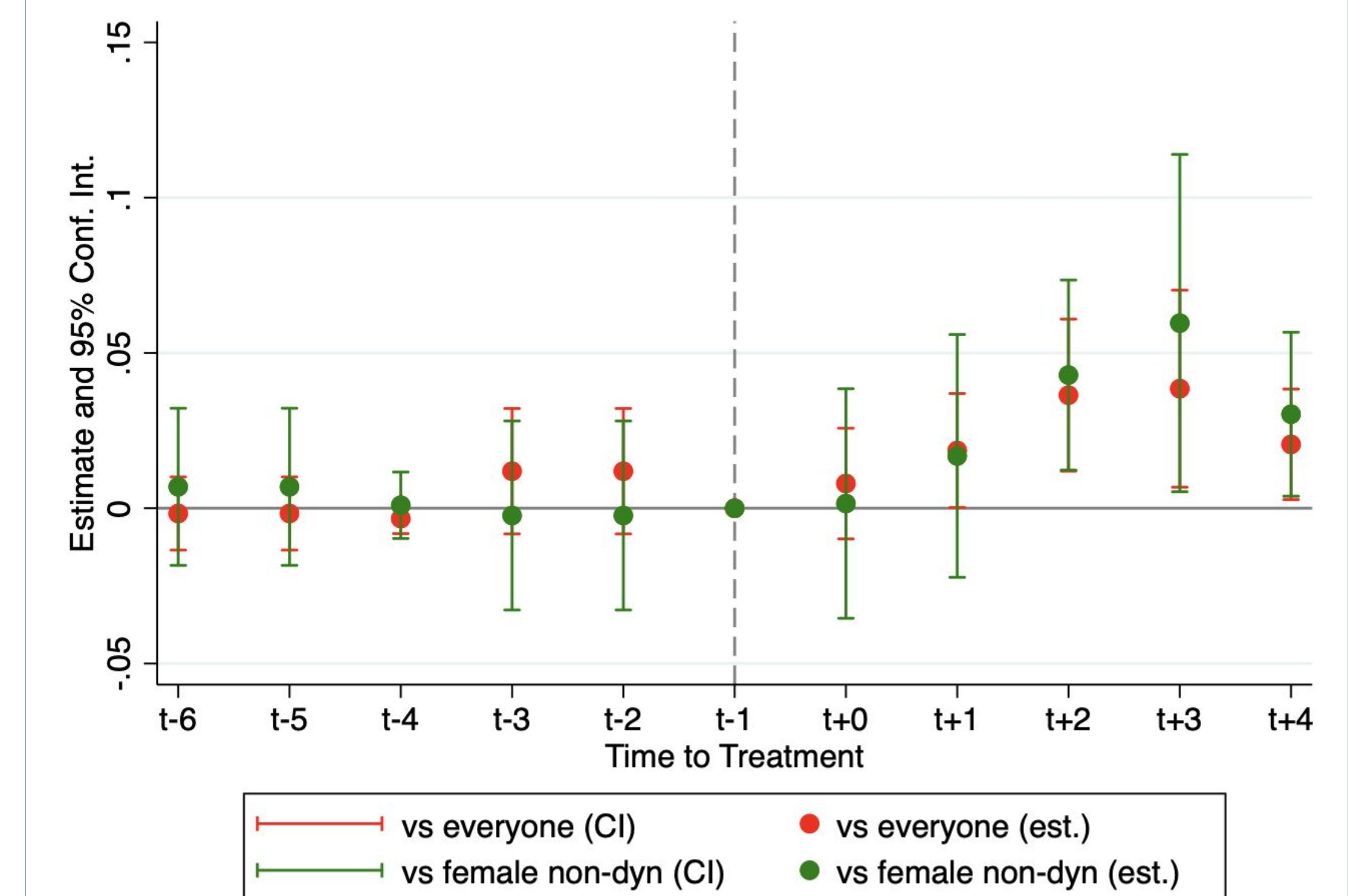
VARIABLES	(1) Education	(2) Health	(3) Household	(4) Electricity	(5) Agg. Index
SY 2011	-0.0109 (0.0129)	0.0231 (0.0187)	-0.0270 (0.0270)	0.0166 (0.0119)	0.00637 (0.0126)
SY 2018	-0.00847 (0.00892)	0.0188 (0.0190)	0.0581 (0.0376)	0.0299* (0.0175)	0.0243* (0.0128)
SY 2020	-0.0143 (0.0148)		0.0800* (0.0421)	0.0309* (0.0170)	0.0897*** (0.0195)
SY 2021	-0.0153 (0.0157)	0.0237 (0.0248)	0.0857* (0.0471)	0.0197 (0.0150)	0.0267 (0.0164)
Observations	408,890	326,372	408,890	409,377	409,377
R-squared	0.936	0.664	0.765	0.948	0.917

Robust standard errors in parentheses. Significance:\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Errors are clustered the district level.

## Results: Event Studies



## Results: Potential channels



## Conclusion

- Suggestive evidence that female dynasts are better in providing infrastructure prioritized by central government and those whose decision are within their jurisdiction
  - Female dynasts may be more efficient due to the strength of their network (clientelism)
- Potentially good short term, can be very bad in the long term