1. Title

Changes in preferences due to Covid-19: a longitudinal study from the Northern Finland Birth Cohorts

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3. Abstract:
Remarkable events such as large pandemics (Covid-19) can presumably cause changes in people’s preferences, e.g. in their attitudes towards risk-taking and trust. These effects can be permanent, or at least persist for a long time. We explore the effects of the Covid-19 on preferences especially in risk taking. We utilize the questionnaire to be sent to living members of the Northern Finland Birth Cohorts (NFBC). In addition to health and medical questions, the questionnaire includes survey questions related to risk, time and social preferences. This set of questions will be sent out this May, i.e. in the middle of the pandemic. Given the longitudinal nature of the data we will be able to find out if such a remarkable event has a profound effect on preferences.

4. Data description:
The Northern Finland Birth Cohorts center (www.oulu.fi/nfbc) is preparing new complementary questionnaires on Covid-19 issues with intention to study how individuals’ biological and psycho-emotional status will influence individual responses to the viral and stress exposures. Concise questionnaires will gather information on previous experiences, lifestyles and health behaviors, and social status. The questionnaires will be sent to all the living members (n=38,200) of the Northern Finland Birth Cohorts 1966 (NFBC1966; 54y) and 1986 (NFBC1986; 34y), the Oulu1945 (71y) and 1935 (81y) and the parents of the NFBC1966. Questionnaires include survey questions related to economic preferences, such as risk, time and social preferences. Importantly, the NFBC1966 participants (n = 11,500) have answered the exactly same economic preference questions in previous 2012 survey. The tentative timing is as follow: Questionnaires approval – By 17.04.2020; Ethical approval – by 14.05.2020 Questionnaires sent by 20.05.2020; data ready for research and policy planning by October 2020.

5. JEL codes:
D1, D91, E71

6. Keywords:
birth cohort, COVID-19, economic preferences, longitudinal data