Title
Hate Crime in Time of the Corona

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Abstract
The news of the novel virus first reached the world when the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed the first case in China on December 31, 2019. As the danger it posed to the public grew and the virus spread first across China, then to Europe and the rest of the world, so did the public fear of the virus. Along with this global health and economic threat, there have been media reports of an increase in hate crimes committed against those perceived to be Chinese and/or East Asian, where the attacker explicitly mentioned the Coronavirus as a motive. Our objective is to evaluate whether the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in anti-Chinese and/or anti-East Asian (AC/AEA) hate crimes in the United Kingdom (UK) and what are the mechanisms behind it.

Data
The project requires several datasets. (1) Hate crime counts by type (racial, religious, homophobic, transphobic, and disability), by frequency (weekly or monthly), and by perceived ethnicity of the victim in the period from January 2015 until present, compiled using the Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from all 43 UK police forces. (2) Covid-19 cases for the UK, as well as area-level controls, collected from the UK government, Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). (3) Weekly and monthly counts of the newspaper articles in English-speaking national outlets covering the Coronavirus, AC/AEA hate crimes, and the panic grocery shopping which ensued, obtained from the LexisNexis database and Twitter.

JEL Codes
I19, J71, K42

Keywords
Coronavirus, Hate Crime, FOI data