Title
Trust in the State and Citizen Cooperation: Evidence from Pakistan

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Abstract
In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are conducting a randomized controlled trial in Pakistan. We aim to test the effectiveness of different information treatments designed to increase citizens’ trust in the government, specifically the government’s response to the pandemic. The information treatments emphasize either past state effectiveness in addressing a public health emergency or the importance of citizen cooperation in enabling the successful handling of a past public health crisis, or appeal to religious authority. Moreover, by tracking citizens’ intentions, beliefs, perceived norms and self-reported behaviors over time, we aim to better understand the role played by trust in government and state institutions in the emergence of citizens’ cooperation with the state.

Data description
We will conduct two phone surveys (1 to 2 weeks apart) with approximately 5,000 respondents recruited from a sample of urban tax payers in Lahore and Faisalabad. The information treatments will be administered during the first phone survey. We will collect short-term outcome data as part of the first phone survey. The second phone survey will then enable us to collect longer term follow-up outcomes.

JEL codes for the project
O12, D7, D9, H75, I12

Key-words
Trust in government and state institutions, citizen cooperation, social norms, state effectiveness