Alex Eble's research idea template

Example of a filled-in version (blank version for you to fill in on next page)

Name: No pun like the present: Alex's super cool research idea.

Motivation: Issue X is an open question in economics and an 800 giga-zillion dollar industry annually, yet no one understands how it works.

Questions to answer/main hypotheses: In this research project, I set out to identify one potential causal mechanism for the effect of issue Y on issue X: overconsumption of moon toads.

Identification strategy: I will use the staggered rollout of the moon toad import tariff for exogenous variation in the price of moon toads. I will match it to administrative data and use a difference-in-differences-in-RD-in-differences strategy to identify the effect of restricted moon toad consumption on issue X.

Concerns: the DiDiRDiD I use is new and any econometrician with a pulse will think it silly. Administrative data on moon toads is also top secret. I will conduct extensive simulations to test whether my identification strategy generates an unbiased estimate of the relationship between moon toad consumption and issue X, and I will join the CIA to get access to moon toad data.

Estimation: I will estimate the following equation: $Y_i = B_0 + B_1$*moon toads$_i$ + B_2*post + ….. + epsilon$_i$. My main coefficient of interest is B_{273}.

Data to use: administrative moon toad data, national records of when tariff was rolled out.

Interpretation of results: if B_{273} is positive, that tells us that moon toads have a major impact on issue X. If B_{273} is negative, then … I will also estimate B_{271} as the cross-price elasticity of moon toads on issue Y.

References:

Gary Becker, "The Economics of Moon Toads". *Forthcoming, Econometrica*

New York Times, May 7 2011: "Moon toads are the future"

Wall Street Journal, May 8 2012: "Moon toads are so yesterday"

Kenneth Train, "Discrete Simulations with Moon Toad Data", unpublished.

Steps to execute:

- Get CIA job
- Get data
- Run simulations
- Estimate equation
- Present at the micro lunch
- Do work suggested by feedback to talk
- Write paper

Thanks to Kaivan Munshi for teaching me this template. He is not responsible for the example.

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Steps:

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