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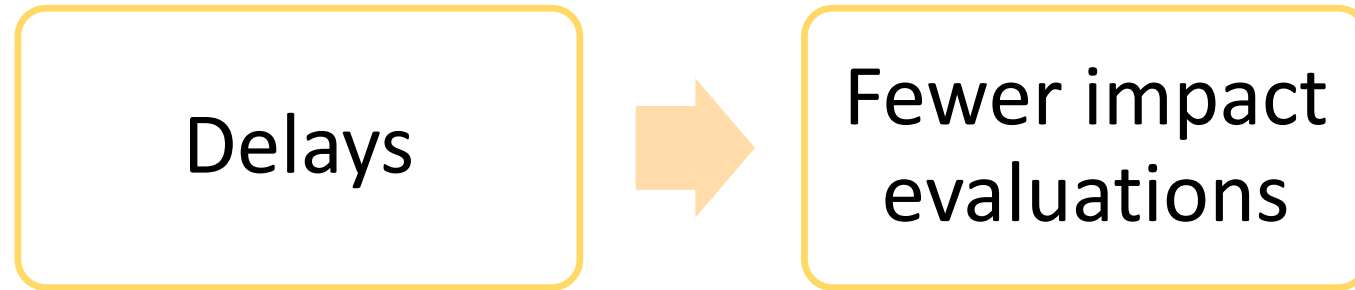


# Impact of COVID-19 on impact evaluation studies

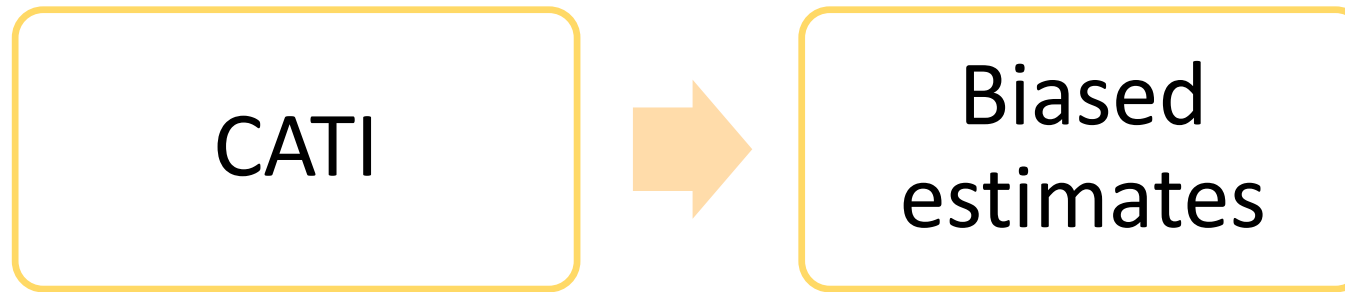
Edoardo Masset

19 May 2020

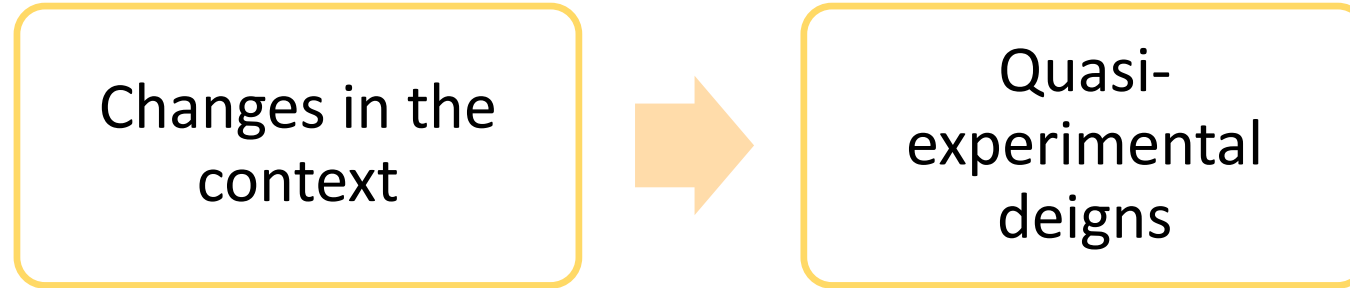




- Portfolio of 25 CEDIL-funded studies: mix of impact evaluations, evidence syntheses and methods paper
- Secondary data analysis only unaffected study
- 3 studies added COVID modules
- All studies are delayed, more obvious in the case of impact evaluations conducting fieldwork



- All studies to rely on computer assisted phone interviews
- Not a perfect substitute. Several issues:
  - Switching through survey rounds
  - Short surveys and aggregations
  - Difficult to monitor
  - Response rates (<50%)
- Measurement error: less likely to find impact when project has an effect
- Systematic bias: more likely to estimate the wrong effect



- Changes in project implementation and in the context: mobility, economic activity, school attendance
- Difficult to conduct qualitative work
- “Uncontrolled” randomised trials, not clear what is evaluated:
  - Results are internally valid but null
  - Results are affected by COVID
  - Interaction with other policies

# Opportunities

- Alternative study designs: predictive studies, descriptive surveys, monitoring and surveillance studies (more about process than impact)
- New data collection methods: non-survey data, satellite images.
- Quasi-experimental methods:
  - Time series analysis (interrupted design and discontinuities)
  - COVID and policies are not random: quasi-experimental designs once COVID is better understood (matching methods)
  - Exploit existing baseline data
  - Explore heterogeneity (policy relevance)



## **CONTACT CEDIL**

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