Abstract:
This project examines the potential relationship between lynching and migration. We build on extant research that observes increased levels of historical out-migration from local communities that experienced a lynching. We use machine learning, supplemented with a hand-matching process, to identify the 1920 and 1930 place of residence of family members for more than 200 black people who were killed by lynch mobs between 1920 and 1929. Our analyses find that these surviving family members are more likely to have moved to a different city or county by 1930 than were their same race neighbors. This suggests that the surviving family members of lynch victims may have been heavily represented in the early stages of the Great Migration.