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omparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)

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First released in February 1999, the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) is a new dataset that offers exciting research possibilities. CSES is a collaborative research project involving about 50 national election studies around the world. Each participating country provides information from both a nationally representative post-election survey module and a module of system-level institutional data designed to answer questions about how electoral institutions affect citizens' political behavior and their satisfaction with democracy. Given the wide variations in countries with regard to electoral rules, presidential or parliamentary government, systems of federalism/central control, and lines of political conflict, among other things, the combination of institutional data and mass-level survey data provided by CSES offers the first really good opportunity to examine a number of classic, critical questions about democratic design.

A few examples of the kinds of questions that guided the original development of the project, and that form the core of current research, are:

- Does satisfaction with democracy vary with the degree to which power is located in the regions of a country, as compared with the capital? And does this relationship depend on the structure of social divisions in the country?
- Do citizens vote more "strategically" under parliamentary or presidential electoral systems? And what is the impact of electoral rules, such as representative, majority, and plurality representation, on voters' choices?

THE CSES IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF CROSSNATIONAL RESEARCH DESIGNED to advance the understanding of electoral behavior across polities. Social scientists from around the world have collaborated to specify the research agenda, the study design, and the data to be collected. This article describes the CSES's organizational structure, survey content, and data products.

W. Phillips Shively is Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. His research deals with electoral behavior in North America and Europe, especially with the history of political behavior in earlier eras. He has also worked extensively on the methodological problem of using geographically aggregated data to infer the behavior of individuals.

 Are voters more likely to judge the government on the basis of the economy's performance in a presidential system (where responsibility focuses on a single individual) than in a parliamentary system based on coalitions?

Survey Design and Content

CSES participants include almost all of North America and Western Europe, several Latin American countries, most of the electoral democracies of Asia, several democracies in Africa and the Mideast, and 11 East European and former Soviet states. The dataset constructed for these countries includes a set of commonly-coded demographic background variables, a module of survey questions designed to occupy about ten minutes' worth of a national survey, and a rather detailed mass of information about each country's democratic institutions.

The constraint of a ten-minute module presented a formidable challenge in developing a set of questions. It was decided that each concept regarded as central to the study would be represented by at least one question. When it made sense to do so, question formats employed in existing election studies were adopted. However, since some questions developed in one context do not travel well to other political cultures or settings, the CSES was seen as an opportunity to make a fresh start—to write questions de novo and to modify old questions as needed.

Survey collaborators translated the questionnaire module into their native languages and then, to ensure the equivalence of the translation, they performed independent re-translations of the questionnaire back into English.

The project enforces thresholds of survey quality and uniformity of mode. However, in as widespread and decentralized a project as this, there will obviously be differences in the mode of conducting surveys from one country to another. Users of the data will be well-advised to read all footnotes.

The first module ran for the period 1996–2000 — a window this large is required in order to accommodate the varying schedules of national elections across so many countries.

The first release of data for Module 1 includes information on 12 countries:

- Australia
- Czech Republic
- Israel
- Lithuania
- New Zealand
- Poland
- Romania
- Spain
- Taiwan
- Ukraine
- United States
- United Kingdom

The common set of individual-level variables in Module 1 covers the following topics:

- Respondent's satisfaction with the democratic process in general
- Satisfaction with the conduct of the last election
- Closeness to each political party
- Whether political parties care about what people think
- Whether political parties are necessary
- Recall of candidates from the last election
- Liking for each political party
- Liking for various political leaders of the country
- How the respondent evaluates the state of the economy
- Whether the economy had improved in the last 12 months
- Whether politicians know what people think
- Whether the respondent had contact with a politician in the past year
- Whether persons in power can make a difference
- Whether people's choice of whom to vote for makes a difference

- Whether people express their political opinions freely
- Left-right placement of self
- Left-right placement of each party
- Placement of self and each party on another scale of special significance in the country (optional)
- Three country-specific informational questions
- Vote choice
- Twenty-two commonly-coded demographic background variables

A second module is about to be initiated for the period 2000–2003. The key theoretical question to be addressed by Module 2 is the contrast between the view that elections are a mechanism to hold government accountable and the view that they are a means to ensure that citizens' views and interests are properly represented in the democratic process. It is intended to explore how far this contrast and its embodiment in institutional structures influence vote choice and satisfaction with democracy.

Data Availability

All data are freely available. They can be downloaded from the CSES website at http://www.umich.edu/~nes/cses/cses.htm or obtained from ICPSR (see ICPSR 2683).

Many countries deposited one or more weights together with CSES variables. These weights are available in a mergeable "Supplementary Weight File" that contains respondent ID numbers and the individual weight variables received.

A second release of the CSES Module 1 data, which will add another nine countries, will occur early this spring.

Organization of the Project

The CSES was initiated by the International Committee for Research into Elections and Representative Democracy (ICORE) in 1995, under the leadership of Steven Rosenstone (University of

Minnesota). The collaborators are loosely organized and constitute something of a floating pool. Plenary sessions are held as often as possible — most recently in Berlin in 1998; between meetings the collaborators correspond by e-mail. A stable core of policy leadership between plenary sessions rests with an international planning committee. The committee's members are:

- Yun-han Chu (Taiwan)
- Gary Cox (USA)
- John Curtice (UK)
- Juan Diez-Nicolas (Spain)
- Yilmaz Esmer (Turkey)
- Ashley Grosse (USA), Director of Studies
- Soren Holmberg (Sweden)
- Hans-Dieter Klingemann (Germany)
- Marta Lagos (Chile)
- Radoslaw Markowski (Poland)
- Ekkehard Mochmann (Germany)
- Yoshitaka Nishizawa (Japan)

- Virginia Sapiro (USA)
- Hermann Schmidt (Germany)
- W. Phillips Shively (USA), Convener
- Jacques Thomassen (Netherlands)
- Gabor Toka (Hungary)
- Bernhard Wessels (Germany)

Experience to Date

This project is obviously based on huge voluntary contributions of survey time from the national organizations. Since all contributors are volunteers and there are few selective benefits available for leaders of the project to allocate, a loose, decentralized organization of decision-making has seemed appropriate for the project. Consequently, Ashley Grosse's role as Director of Studies has proved to be critical to the success of the project, since she is the center of communications.

Problems that have arisen are of the sort that one might expect. The Di-

rector of Studies and the planning committee often have to make decisions about whether a candidate study has met threshold levels of survey quality, and some studies have had to be rejected. Since CSES is producing a public good, there is also some problem with "free riders," studies that delay adding their results to the common dataset.

But there have also been unexpected indirect benefits. A number of fledgling survey organizations in emerging democracies have benefited from the mentoring and lines of communication of the project. Also, some participants in various regions of the world have been brought together by the project in ways they would not otherwise have been, and have begun to develop regional consortia for the study of democratic elections; an Asian group has been particularly active.

All in all, it has been an exciting and satisfying experience.



fficial Representatives Elect New Council Members

Six new members were elected to the ICPSR Council at the end of 1999. New Council members, who will serve four-year terms, are Ann Green (Social Science Computing and Data Library), Yale University; John Korey (Political Science), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Scott Long (Sociology), Indiana University; Steven Ruggles (History), University of Minnesota; James Sweet (Sociology), University of Wisconsin; and **Bo Wandschneider** (Data Library), University of Guelph. Margo Anderson (History), University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, was elected to serve as Council Chair for 2000-2002.

As in recent years, an attempt was made to identify the best available individuals for Council, to take into account the loss of expertise of outgoing Council members and the developing needs of ICPSR, and to choose individuals who reflect the interests, disciplines, and types of institutions within the Consortium.

Completing their terms in early 2000 are Carole Shammas (History), University of California, Los Angeles (Past Chair); Kenneth Bollen (Sociology), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Gary King (Government), Harvard University; Edward Nelson (Sociology), California State University, Fresno; Elizabeth Stephenson (Data Archive), University of California, Los Angeles; and Wendy Watkins (Data Archive), Carleton University.

The following Council members have two years left in their terms:

Margo Anderson (History), University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Charles Betsey (Economics), Howard University; Stephen Fienberg (Statistics), Carnegie Mellon University; Diane Geraci (Data Library), Binghamton University, State University of New York; Paula McClain (Government), University of Virginia; and Huey Perry (Political Science), Southern University, Baton Rouge. Past Chair Halliman Winsborough (Sociology), University of Wisconsin, Madison, will continue on Council for an additional year.

ICPSR thanks the outgoing Council members for their years of excellent service and welcomes the incoming members, who will meet with the full Council for the first time March 17–19, 2000.

Newly Elected Council Members

Biographical sketches of the new Council members follow:

Ann Green

Ann Green is director of the Social Science Statistical Laboratory at Yale University. She has a B.A. from Colgate University and a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Michigan (1975). She currently serves as vice president of the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST), and as a member of the Data Documentation Initiative Committee, an international group of professionals developing digitized codebook metadata standards. She is the author of a number of articles on data archiving and preservation, in journals such as Public Opinion Quarterly, Database Magazine, and the IASSIST Quarterly. She has made numerous presentations over the last decade at ICPSR, IASSIST, and APDU conferences.

John Korey

John Korey has been the ICPSR Official Representative for the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, campus of the California State University Federation since 1972. He twice served as chair of the CSU's Federation Council. Professor Korey, who received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida, has been actively involved in promoting the use of quantitative data in undergraduate instruction. He is a member of the team that developed the Social Sciences Teaching Resources Depository and has taught in a number of workshops aimed at developing computer-based instructional materials. He is a member of the Subcommittee on Instructional Materials and Information (SIMI) of the Archival **Development Committee of the ICPSR** Council. He was also a presenter at the 1997 ICPSR Biennial Meeting for ORs ("Using ICPSR Datasets to Teach SPSS for Windows"). He is the coauthor of

SPSS for Windows: A Basic Tutorial (1997), and California Government (1999) (forthcoming).

J. Scott Long

J. Scott Long is Chancellor's Professor of Sociology at Indiana University. He received a B.A. from Juniata College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. (1977) from Cornell University. His substantive research has focused on group and gender differences in career outcomes in science. He has also made significant contributions to the development of quantitative research methodology, specifically in areas such as measurement, categorical analysis, and structural equation modeling. Journals he has published in include American Sociological Review, Social Forces, and Sociological Methods and Research (of which he was an editor, 1987-1994). His most recent book is Regression Models for Categorical and Limited Dependent Variables (1997). He has taught an ICPSR Summer Program course on this topic for the past three years, and he also serves on the Summer Program National Advisory Committee.

Steven Ruggles

Steven Ruggles is Professor of History at the University of Minnesota where he specializes in the study of marriage, the family, and migration. He is the principal investigator for the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), for which he has received grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. (1984) from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of numerous publications, papers, and articles in journals such as Historical Methods, Journal of Family History, and Demography. He has a forthcoming book entitled The Fragmentation of American Family Structure, 1850-1990. He was co-editor of the journal Social Science History from 1992–1997.

James Sweet

James Sweet is a sociologist specializing in social demography, family sociology, and survey research. He is the William H. Sewell Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he has been on the sociology faculty since 1967. After receiving a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University, he obtained an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in sociology (1968) from the University of Michigan. Since its founding in 1987, he has directed the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. He is a past director of Wisconsin's Center for Demography and Ecology, a past chair of the sociology department, and a former chair of the university's Social Science Computing Cooperative. He serves as co-director of the National Survey of Families and Households, a large longitudinal survey of American family life that was fielded in 1987 and 1993 with another interview planned for 2000. He coauthored a 1980 census monograph, American Families and Households, and a book on postwar fertility patterns. More recently, he has written on family and household structure; the labor force behavior of American women; patterns of marriage, divorce, and cohabitation; housing; and a variety of other areas of social demography.

Bo Wandschneider

Bo Wandschneider is a systems analyst in Computing and Communications Services at the Data Resource Centre at the University of Guelph. He is an active participant in the Canadian OCUL/CREQUO federated membership in ICPSR. He has a B.A. from Queen's University and an M.A. (1987) in economics from the University of Guelph. In addition, he serves as a lecturer in the economics department at Guelph. He has produced a number of articles and papers on wages, pricing, and labor markets in the Canadian economy, as well as on topics such as data warehousing and the use of census data.

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nnouncements

NACDA Develops Acquisition and Processing Policy

NACDA has served the gerontological research community for over a decade by making valued datasets available to researchers and facilitating their use through workshops and summer courses. Potential users often contact NACDA about the availability of certain datasets, hoping that NACDA can provide access in a timely fashion. In answering such requests, there are two important questions to consider. First, when, if ever, does NACDA obtain access to the data? Second, what priority should NACDA assign to acquiring and processing the requested data?

NACDA seeks to acquire data, but has no mechanism to compel principal investigators to make the data available. If social science data are archived, they benefit the scientific community by the replication and extension of published findings. Richard Rockwell and Ronald Abeles made a strong case for why scientists should archive their data in an article entitled "Sharing and Archiving Data Is Fundamental to Scientific Progress" (Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, January 1998).

Rather than reiterate those ideas, I would like to express my appreciation to the many scientists who have archived their data for secondary analysis. Thank you for setting the precedent. Let me encourage you to thank investigators such as Gary Andrews, Alan Booth, Gordon DeFriese, Robert Hauser, James House, James Jackson, George Kaplan, Kyriakos Markides, and Ethel Shanas for helping set the standard. There are dozens of others who deserve our appreciation. I cannot list them all here, but a few clicks on the Web can give

you a list of these heroes and heroines. Thank them; they are helping the science of aging in many ways.

If NACDA obtains access to the data, there are many decisions it faces about archiving and processing the data to make them more conveniently available to the research community. Which datasets should receive the most valueadded processing? Should longitudinal datasets have higher priority than cross-sectional ones? Should datasets that help the field of minority aging be assigned higher priority? What priority should be assigned to crossnational data? To this end, NACDA invites your comments on these critical decisions.

With approval of the NACDA Council and after a period of public comment, we have posted an Acquisition and Processing Policy to address these questions. We specify high and low priority areas, along with a brief rationale, but acknowledge that a flexible policy is best. To that end, please take a few minutes to read this policy (http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACDA/apolicy.html) and share your comments with us. Please send responses to me (ferraro@icpsr.umich.edu) or to NACDA project manager Jim McNally (jmcnally@icpsr.umich.edu).

—Kenneth F. Ferraro, NACDA Resident Scientist

IASSIST Conference 2000 to Take Place in June

The International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) announces its 26th annual conference, to be held in the Chicago metropolitan area at

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, on June 7–10, 2000.

IASSIST conferences bring together data professionals, data producers, and data analysts from around the world who are engaged in the creation, acquisition, processing, maintenance, distribution, preservation, and use of numeric social science data for research and instruction.

Conference Theme

Over the last four decades, data archives and data libraries have managed, preserved, and provided access to "digital collections" of numeric data. We are at a historic crossroads in the development of standards, technological capability, and innovation in data delivery. This year's theme emphasizes this rich past and looks at innovation in data services operations and current digital library and archive initiatives that will shape access and services in the 21st century. The conference is an opportunity to explore service models for data, government information, and mapping.

Invited plenary speakers include: Kenneth Prewitt, Director, U.S. Bureau of the Census; Ron Dekker, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; Paul Bernard, University of Montreal; Patrick Collins, Census Research Data Center, University of California, Berkeley; and a plenary panel organized by Diane Garner, Librarian for the Social Sciences, Harvard University.

Papers and poster/demonstration sessions will address the following topics:

Innovative Services and the Effective Use of Technology:

 Administering and providing data services in an academic library

- Innovations in data delivery and access methods
- Implications of Web-based data distribution and access models
- Integrating GIS and spatial data in the digital library
- Bringing numeric and spatial data into the classroom
- Expanding and preserving multimedia resources
- Developing support services for qualitative analysis
- Promoting statistical literacy
- Data warehousing

Promoting Preservation and Standards:

- Preserving our (numeric) digital heritage
- Archival challenges of the digital government
- Promoting metadata and documentation standards for data
- Exploring XML, RDF, GILS, FGDC, and Dublin Core applications for data
- Data quality and authentication

International Outreach

The IASSIST International Outreach Action Group provides support for data professionals from developing economies to attend the annual IASSIST conference. Full application information is available from the conference website.

Additional Information

Three days of plenaries, concurrent sessions, poster/demonstration sessions, and social events on June 7–9, 2000, will be followed by a full day of workshops on Saturday, June 10, 2000. For more information, visit the IASSIST website at: http://datalib.library.ualberta.ca/iassist/.

For the most current conference information check the IASSIST 2000 conference website at: http://www.src.

uchicago.edu/DATALIB/ia2000 or contact:

Fay Booker, Data Librarian, Social Science Research Computing, University of Chicago; E-mail: booke@src.uchicago.edu; (773) 834-0150; Fax (773) 702-2101

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Ann Janda, Data Consultant, University Library, Northwestern University; E-mail: a-janda@nwu.edu; (847) 491-4090; Fax (847) 491-8306

Important IASSIST Dates

- January 15, 2000 Deadline for conference proposals
- February 1, 2000 Notification of proposal acceptance
- May 8, 2000 Registration deadline
- June 7–10, 2000 IASSIST 2000

ICPSR to Attend Professional Meetings

ICPSR staff will be in attendance at the following upcoming conferences in Spring 2000:

- International Studies Association Los Angeles, CA March 14–18, 2000
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences New Orleans, LA March 21–25, 2000
- Population Association of America Los Angeles, CA March 23–25, 2000

- American Educational Research Association
 New Orleans, LA April 24–28, 2000
- Midwest Political Science
 Association
 Chicago, IL
 April 27–30, 2000

New Members Join ICPSR

Since Fall 1999, ICPSR has welcomed several institutions into the membership:

- Japanese National Membership (formed from five existing members):
 - University of Toyko (Hub) Aoyama Gakuin University Keio University Kobe University Ritsumeikan University
- Italian Regional Federated Membership:

Universita Degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (Hub) Universita Degli Studi di Siena Universita Degli Studi di Milano Universita Degli Studi di Pavia Universita Degli Studi del Molise

- Universita Degli Studi di Firenze Universita Degli Studi di Trento
- State University of New York, Brockport
- Grand Valley State University
- University of Toledo
- Davidson College (Associated Colleges of the South)
- Mount Holyoke College (Massachusetts Federation)
- Fort Valley State University
- York University (Ontario College of University Libraries Federation)
- Northeastern University
- Georgia Southwestern State University



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The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), located at the Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor, is the world's largest repository of computer-readable social science data. For over 35 years, the Consortium has served the social science community by acquiring, processing, and distributing data collections on a broad range of topics. Researchers at the Consortium's member institutions may obtain any of these data collections at no charge; researchers at nonmember institutions may also use the data, after paying an access fee. To find out more about ICPSR's holdings or about a specific data collection, access the ICPSR Website at the URL: http://www.icpsr.umich.edu.

The *ICPSR Bulletin* is published four times during each academic year to inform Official Representatives at the member campuses, ICPSR Council members, and other interested scholars of activities occurring at ICPSR and at other member institutions and to list the data collections most recently released or updated by ICPSR. For subscription information, contact the Editor.

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