

ICPSR BULLETIN

Volume XXVIII, No. 2

Spring 2008



Terrorism and Preparedness Data Resource Center Offers Insight on World Flashpoints

Launched in August 2007, ICPSR's Terrorism and Preparedness Data Resource Center (TPDRC) archives and distributes data collected by government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and researchers about the nature of domestic and international terrorism incidents, organizations, perpetrators, and victims. TPDRC data also cover governmental and nongovernmental responses to terror and citizen attitudes towards terrorism.

TPDRC is jointly managed by researchers at the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) and the University of Michigan's National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).

TPDRC Director Christopher Maxwell, associate professor at Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice, initiated the project with students at MSU by identifying the initial 398 datasets within ICPSR data holdings. "Our goal is to make these research data available to the world. And, in the long-term, we aim to include international data in many languages," says Maxwell.

The project's codirectors, Richard Legault and Onaje Johnson, are both post-doctoral fellows in the Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Legault solicits data from researchers and oversees the archiving process. He is also developing an external data resources catalog, or union catalog, for TPDRC. Dr. Johnson, who manages the project at the University of Michigan, noted that the project has responded to many requests for data. The most popular have been requests for data about the public's attitudes towards terrorism and law enforcement responses.

TPDRC strives to provide answers to urgent as well as long-term research questions. A high school lesson plan on Emergency Preparedness and Terrorism that was developed by Cambridge University, Institute for Criminology graduate assistant, Stuart J. Lee, will be available at www.icpsr.umich.edu/tpdrc.

Goals of TPDRC:

- Provide a one-stop data resource for researchers, practitioners, academics, educators, and policymakers
- Encourage the diversity of analysis and opinions through reproduction and extension of an original investigator's work
- Promote additional research that can test new or alternative hypotheses, or use methods of analysis not envisioned by or available to the original investigator
- Facilitate education of new researchers and develop new datasets by combining data currently held in the archive

In this issue

Terrorism and Preparedness Data Resource Center	1
International Data Resource Center	3
Announcements	4

See TPDRC, p. 2

INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

Myron Gutmann, Director
George Alter, Associate Director
Mary Vardigan, Assistant Director

COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2008–2010

Aletha C. Huston, Chair
University of Texas at Austin

Francine Berman
University of California, San Diego

Michael F. Goodchild
University of California, Santa Barbara

Michael R. Haines
Colgate University

Kathleen Mullan Harris
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill

Thomas LaVeist
Johns Hopkins University

Jeffrey Moon
Queen's University

Samuel L. Myers Jr.
University of Minnesota

C. Matthew Snipp
Stanford University

Lori M. Weber
California State University, Chico

Ann Wolpert
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Christopher Zorn
Pennsylvania State University

Ruth Peterson, Past Chair
The Ohio State University

BULLETIN STAFF

Editor: Ruth Shamraj
Assistant Editor: Nagma Husain

TPDRC (*cont.*
from page 1)

Featured Data

The **Global Terrorism Database** (GTD) is the premier open-source database of information on terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 1997. The GTD1.1 (with additional data for 1970–1997) and GTD2 (1998–2004) will be released to ICPSR in May of this year. Students, researchers, policymakers, and the public can examine the details of terror attacks worldwide. Gary LaFree, director of the START Center, states “The GTD can especially help counterterrorism experts and researchers improve their understanding of violent radical groups and movements, and to predict the nature of future incidents.” The GTD includes systematic data on international as well as domestic terrorist incidents that have occurred during this time period and now includes almost 80,000 cases. Information is available

TPDRC Profiles

TPDRC Director Dr. Christopher Maxwell is associate professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University and associate research scientist at ICPSR, where he directs the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.

TPDRC Codirector Dr. Onaje Johnson is a postdoctoral scientist in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Research Opportunity Program. She is based at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, under the direction of Dr. Kathleen Smarick, at the START Center, University of Maryland.

TPDRC Codirector Dr. Richard L. Legault also codirects the Terrorism and Preparedness Survey Archive (TaPSA) project at START, and is a DHS postdoctoral research fellow.

on the date and location of the incident, the weapons used and nature of the target, the number of casualties, and — when identifiable — the identity of the perpetrator.

The American Terrorism Study, 1980–2002 (by Brent L. Smith and Kelly R. Damphousse) examines acts of American terrorism. A primary goal of the study was to create an empirical database from which criminological theories and governmental policies could be effectively evaluated. The study began in 1989 when the FBI's Terrorist Research and Analytical

TPDRC Sponsors

- The National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, through an interagency cooperative agreement with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data
- The Directorate for Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Research Opportunity Program, through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
- The National Science Foundation. Small Grant for Exploratory Research: DHS and NSF Collaboration: Creating an Archive of Preparedness and Homeland Security Survey Data, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



Center released a list of persons indicted as a result of investigation under the FBI's Counterterrorism Program.

Looking for More Data

TPDRC is reaching out to ICPSR users for assistance in identifying datasets concerning emergency preparedness or terrorism. Information about possible datasets for archiving at TPDRC can be sent to tpdrc@start.umd.edu or nacjd@icpsr.umich.edu.

Access to data in the new online archive is available at www.icpsr.umich.edu/TPDRC to anyone affiliated with an ICPSR member university or institution. See www.icpsr.umich.edu/membership/ors.html for a list of members. ■

DeGarmo, Associate Professor of Political Science at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, developed the site while in residence at ICPSR as an ICPSR Official Representative Sabbatical Fellow.

IDRC covers a wide array of subjects including conflict, economics, electoral systems and political behavior, the environment, health, human dimensions of international relations, public opinion, and international organizations. Particularly noteworthy are the conflict data holdings, which include important foundational international relations datasets. Researchers and scholars can find datasets pertaining to assassinations, coups d'état, demonstrations and protests, international and civil wars, international security, military indicators, peacemaking, political aggression, international stability and instability, and terrorism.

Additionally, IDRC provides a variety of search tools to help researchers and scholars easily access the data they are interested in. Data can be browsed using subject terms, series listings, or geography; IDRC has an interactive map interface that can help researchers and scholars explore data holdings by country, region, and continent.

On the Foundational Datasets page, researchers can find links to pivotal studies in the field of international studies by J.D. Singer and Melvin Small, A.F.K. Organski, Ted Gurr, Bruce Russett, and Harold K. Jacobson, among other notable scholars. The Instructional Resources page is designed to help instructors introduce quantitative analyses into the classroom. Students can explore international phenomena by accessing the Suggested Research Topics and Associated Datasets and the ICPSR Learning Packages.

In an effort to facilitate research and instruction in the social sciences and related areas, ICPSR continues to work to acquire and distribute additional international data. Visit IDRC to explore the site and data holdings at www.icpsr.umich.edu/IDRC. ■

International Data Resource Center Answers Demand for More Data

In November 2007, ICPSR launched the International Data Resource Center (IDRC). As the international community is drawn closer together through the phenomenon of globalization, access to international data has become critical for scholars and researchers around the world. Finding reliable data sources that reflect international dimensions can be difficult. In an effort to meet the growing demands for international data, IDRC was created to serve as an entry point into ICPSR's international data holdings. Dr. Denise

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2008 Summer Program

The 2008 ICPSR Summer Program will hold two four-week sessions at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor: June 23–July 18 and July 21–August 15.

Three- and five-day courses will be offered from the beginning of June through the end of August, in Ann Arbor and other locations across the country.

Go to www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog to see what courses are offered and to apply.

Online Learning Center Offers Resources for Using Data in the Classroom

In January, ICPSR announced the beta launch of the Online Learning Center (OLC). The site is located at: www.icpsr.umich.edu/OLC and can be found under the Courses & Learning Tools tab on the ICPSR home page.

The OLC resulted from discussions with faculty about the challenges of using data in the classroom. The OLC allows users to:

- Quickly locate relevant data that are easy to work with and work reliably to demonstrate concepts in the classroom or as supplemental exercises
- Customize materials to a specific teaching approach and syllabus

More topics, guides, and tools will be added over time. ICPSR is launching the beta site to allow instructors to use the site and offer feedback. A full launch is expected in summer 2008.

Please send comments and suggestions to OLC@icpsr.umich.edu.

ICPSR Broadens Participation in the Digital Preservation Community

Our new Digital Preservation site (www.icpsr.umich.edu/dp) provides a means for us to be transparent about our digital preservation policies and practices, in accordance with prevailing standards and practices of the digital preservation community.

ICPSR is now hosting the Digital Preservation Management tutorial (www.icpsr.umich.edu/dpm), which provides an overview and a starting point for anyone who is interested in digital preservation. Highlights of the tutorial include: a digital preservation timeline, a “chamber of horrors” that features examples of technology obsolescence, digital preservation program development basics, community standards and documents, terms and concepts, and resources.

The tutorial was developed by Nancy Y. McGovern, ICPSR Digital Preservation Officer, and Anne R. Kenney, Interim University Librarian at Cornell University Library. The tutorial won the 2004 Society of American Archivists Preservation Publication award. ■

Moving? Please send us your new address along with your old mailing label.



100% post-consumer recycled fiber content

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

ICPSR
INTER-UNIVERSITY
CONSORTIUM FOR
POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL RESEARCH

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Permit No. 144