



The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES): An Overview of the Project

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Project Description



The Origins of the CSES

The project was founded in 1994:

- To promote international collaboration among national election studies
- Micro-macro design, to study variations in electoral systems (and other political institutions)
- Foremost a comparative project, but serves other purposes also

Rationale for the CSES

- *There is wide variations across countries on...*
 - Electoral rules
 - Presidential or parliamentary system
 - Federalism vs. unitary government
 - Lines of political conflict
 - ...and more
- *How do these variations impact individual attitudes and behaviors, especially in regards to voting and turnout?*

The CSES Project in Brief

- A CSES Module is a 10-15 minute respondent questionnaire with a specific substantive theme
- The CSES Module is included in high quality national post-election surveys around the world
- A new theme and questionnaire every five years
- The data from all countries are merged into a single dataset along with administrative, demographic, district, and macro variables

Module Timing

- Module 1 (1996-2001)
- Module 2 (2001-2006)
- Module 3 (2006-2011)
- Module 4 (2011-2016)

Funding and Support

- CSES Secretariat
 - Housed in the United States and Germany
 - Funded by American National Science Foundation, German governments, and the University of Michigan
- Data Collections
 - Collaborators fund their own election studies
 - CSES offers letters of support, text for proposals, ideas, networking

Organization



Process

1. A Planning Committee, comprised of, selected by, and informed by collaborators, designs and oversees each Module
2. Collaborators raise funds locally and collect data for their country in a post-election study
3. Collaborators deposit data, documentation and reports with the CSES Secretariat
4. Secretariat processes and merges the items into a single data file for comparative study

Module 4 Planning Committee

André Blais (chair)	Canada	Chi Huang	Taiwan
Bernt Aardal	Norway	Ken'ichi Ikeda	Japan
Kees Aarts	Netherlands	Pedro Magalhaes	Portugal
John Aldrich	USA	Radoslaw Markowski	Poland
Ulises Beltrán	Mexico	Rachel Meneguello	Brazil
Goran Cular	Croatia	David Sanders	UK
Rachel Gibson	UK	Nicolas Sauger	France
Elisabeth Gidengil	Canada	Michal Shamir	Israel
Sara Hobolt	UK	Jack Vowles	UK
David A. Howell	USA	Bernhard Weßels	Germany

Planning Committee Meetings

One or more times per year, to:

- Develop the questionnaire and related materials
- Oversee the study
- Ensure broad participation
- Work on fundraising
- Encourage presentations and publications

Planning Committee Meetings

- 2012: Paris, France
- 2010: Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2009: Budapest, Hungary
- 2008: Warsaw, Poland
- 2008: Manchester, UK
- 2006: Bangalore, India
- 2006: Seville, Spain
- 2005: Taipei, Taiwan

Module 3 Collaborators



Collaborator Meetings

Approximately twice per Module, to:

- Vote on the Planning Committee membership
- Review the proposed theme and questionnaire
- Convey experiences in running the study
- Present results
- Network with peers
- Share ideas and methodologies

Collaborator (Plenary) Meetings

- 2014: ?
- 2011: Mexico City, Mexico
- 2009: Toronto, Canada
- 2005: Washington DC, United States
- 2003: Stockholm, Sweden
- 1998: Berlin, Germany
- 1995: Budapest, Hungary

Regional Representation in CSES

- Data Collections
 - Albania: Module 3, maybe Module 4
 - Bulgaria: Modules 1 and 2
 - Croatia: Modules 3 and 4
 - Greece: Modules 3 and 4
 - Serbia: Module 4
 - Slovenia: Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4
- CSES Module 4 Planning Committee
 - Goran Cular, Croatia

Collaborator Benefits



Collaborator Benefits

- Appearing in the CSES dataset and documentation (more use of your data)
- The ability to include your country-specific data in comparative analyses
- International profile for your country
- Acknowledgment on the CSES website of yourself, your organization, and funders

Collaborator Benefits

- Participation in the network of CSES scholars
- Knowledge transfer: cutting edge issues, methodological and substantive
- Assistance and advice in raising funding – letters of support, advice, proposal text

Event Invitations

- Stockholm Plenary
- 80 persons, 47 countries
- Planning for Module 3
- 27 substantive papers



Presentation Opportunities

Electoral Systems and Electoral Politics

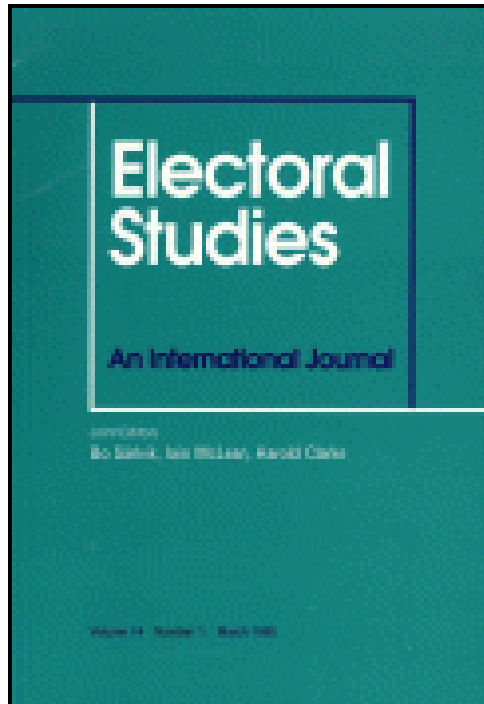
- Bangalore, India
- 11 substantive papers
- 41 participants, 9 countries



Panel Participation

- **IPSA (Japan)**
*Political Behavior within Institutions:
Comparative Perspectives using CSES data*
- **WAPOR (Israel)**
Issues and Non-Issues in Campaigns and Voting
- **APSA (Chicago)**
*Is Democracy Working? Satisfaction,
Accountability and Participation in Electoral
Democracies*

Publication Opportunities



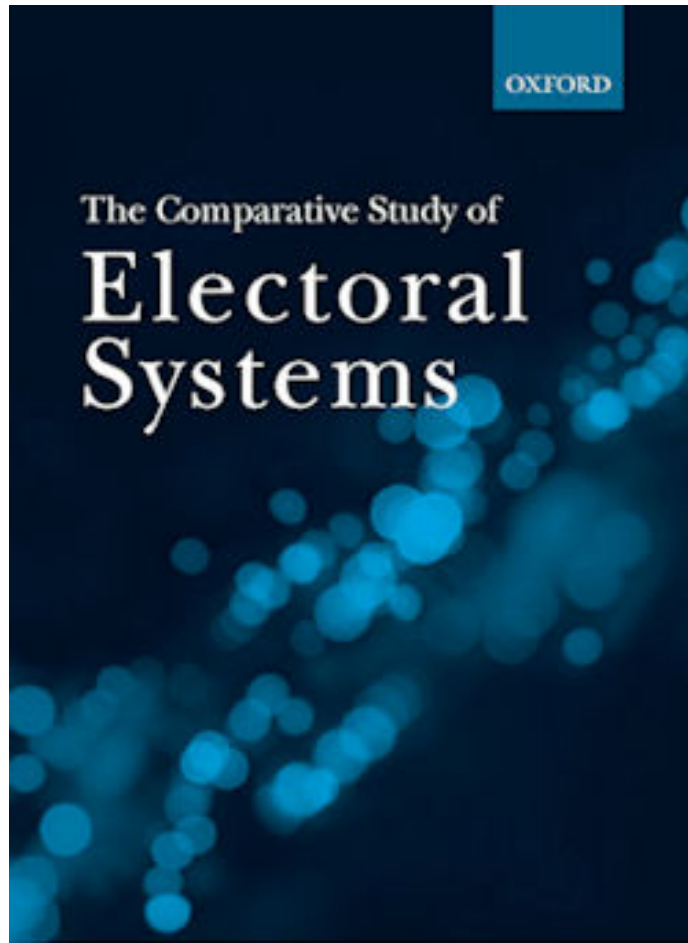
Electoral Studies

Special Symposium:

*Evaluating Democracy:
Satisfaction,
Accountability and
Participation in Electoral
Democracies*

Guest Editor: Ian McAllister

Publication Opportunities



Edited by Hans-Dieter Klingemann



A CSES book series,
published by Oxford
University Press

Collaborator Requirements



Collaborator Requirements

- Raise own funding for data collection
- Meet data collection quality guidelines
- Deposit data and documentation
- Answer questions during CSES processing

Mode of Interviewing

...face-to-face preferred

...other methods only if quality warrants it

	Module 1	Module 2
Face-to-face	70%	71%
Mail/self-completion	15%	7%
Telephone	10%	10%
Mixed	5%	12%

Timing of Interviewing

...as soon as possible after the election

Module 1:

- 82% of data collections completed within three months after election day

Module 2:

- 71% of data collections completed within three months after election day

Placement of Module

- ...CSES Module must be entirely in post-election
- ... prefer single, uninterrupted block of questions

Module 1:

- 24 of 34 election studies (for which such information is available) administered CSES Module 1 as an uninterrupted block of questions

Sampling Procedures

...national sample from all age-eligible citizens

—With adequate coverage

...random sampling procedures at all stages

Sample Size

...recommend no fewer than 1,000 interviews

Module 1:

- Average of 1,600 interviews per election study

Module 2:

- Average of 1,567 interviews per election study

Field Practices

- ...collaborators should pre-test their instrument
- ...well-trained interviewers
- ...make every effort to achieve high response rate
- ...practice refusal conversion

Translation

...careful translation of concepts

...collaborate on translation with others

Deliverables

- Data file, cleaned and documented to local standards
- Macro Report
- Design Report
- Questionnaire, respondent booklet

Collaborator Application Process

- No formal application process
 - identify through existing networks
 - by word-of-mouth and recommendation
- To apply
 - speak to a Planning Committee member, or
 - email the CSES Secretariat: cses@umich.edu

Datasets and Dissemination



Data Availability

— Public access, without embargo

— Free (no cost)

— Download from CSES website:

www.cses.org

— Also archived at ICPSR, GESIS, and elsewhere

Current Data Releases

- Module 1 Full Release
39 election studies, 33 countries
- Module 2 Full Release
41 election studies, 38 countries
- Module 3 Advance Release
May 2012: 37 election studies so far
... final release hoped for by end of 2012
- Module 4 Advance Release
... expected to be early in 2013

Website

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The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) is a collaborative program of research among election study teams from around the world. Participating countries include a common module of survey questions in their post-election studies. The resulting data are deposited along with voting, demographic, district and macro variables. The studies are then merged into a single, free, public dataset for use in comparative study and cross-level analysis.

The research agenda, questionnaires, and study design are developed by an international committee of leading scholars of electoral politics and political science. The design is implemented in each country by their foremost social scientists.



CSES Plenary in Washington, DC, USA

Usage

- Nearly 3,000 persons are on our email list
- Tens of thousands have downloaded the data
 - from over 130 countries
- Hundreds of presentations and publications
 - book series
 - special issues of journals
 - ... list maintained in an online bibliography

Journal Articles using CSES...

American Journal of Political Science

American Political Science Review

British Journal of Political Science

Comparative Political Studies

East Asia: An International Quarterly

Electoral Studies

European Journal of Political Research

Global Environmental Politics

International Journal of Public Opinion Research

International Political Science Review

International Social Science Journal

Japanese Journal of Political Science

Journal of Politics

Opinião Pública

Party Politics

Political Analysis

Political Behavior

Political Research Quarterly

Political Studies

Presidential Studies Quarterly

Problems of Post-Communism

PS: Political Science & Politics

Public Opinion Pros

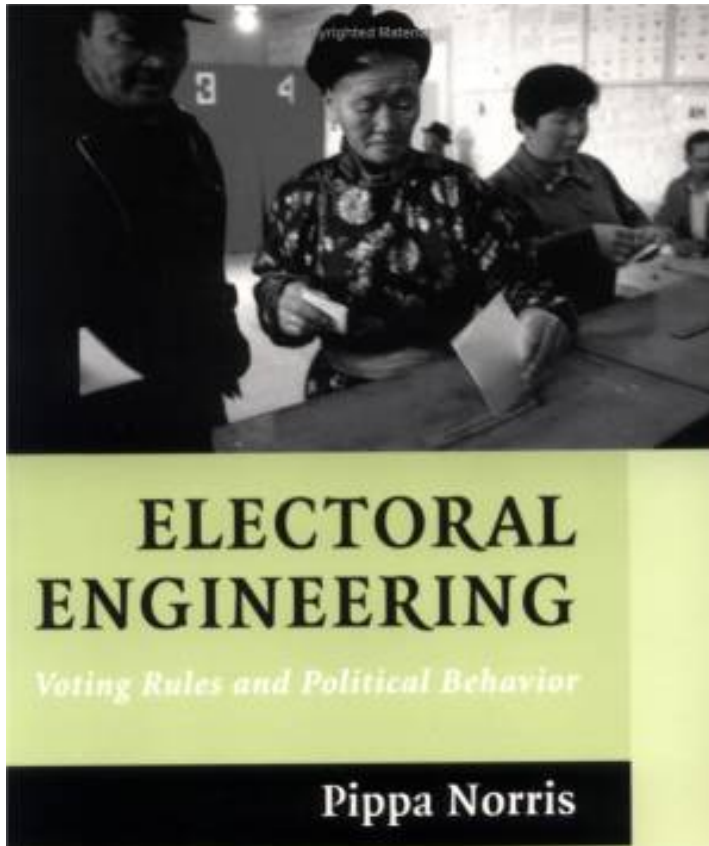
Scandinavian Political Studies

South European Society & Politics

West European Politics

World Politics

Book Example



Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior

Author: Pippa Norris

Thank you for your time!

To learn more, or to download data, visit us at:

www.cses.org

...or email your questions to:

cses@umich.edu

