CSES Module 5 Planning Committee: Subcommittee report

Macro & District data

Rachel Gibson, Stephen Quinlan, Orit Kedar, Chi Huang

Presentation to CSES Plenary
1. **Macro variables:**
   - Recommend the addition of new variables.
   - Advise on deletions/improvements of existing macro data.

2. Review district-level data collection.

3. **Macro report.**

4. Examine data bridging with other sources.

5. Explore means of promoting the macro & district data.
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Macro variables
Guiding principles in selecting variables for inclusion/deletion

- To ensure collaborator burden where possible is minimized.
- Resources constraints of both collaborators & CSES Secretariat.
- CSES has high reputation for data quality. Exercise caution when adding variables from other sources.
- Caution with indices (black box, judgement call about indicators, etc.). Indices should be included only when we are confident about data sources/indices itself.
- Restraint with expert judgments. Recommend inclusion only if their added value is substantial.
CSES M5 theme macro variables recommended for **definite** inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>POTENTIAL SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net migration rates</td>
<td>World Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population by citizenship (foreigners)</td>
<td>UN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polity Fragmentation Index</td>
<td>Polity IV; QoG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gini coefficient of equalized disposable income</td>
<td>OECD; World Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Democracy: Referendum Mandatory/Optional</td>
<td>ACE; Centre for Democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Democracy: Referendums by citizen initiative</td>
<td>ACE; Centre for Democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of Corruption Index</td>
<td>QoG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOG EJ PS: Firms provide kickbacks to public servants</td>
<td>QoG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOG EJ PS: Public sect employees &amp; how treat society</td>
<td>QoG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOG EJ PS: Treat cases impartially</td>
<td>QoG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOG EJ PS: Strive to implement policies to help citizens</td>
<td>QoG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOG EJ PS: Strive to follow rules</td>
<td>QoG.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Table 1 of report, p.6
CSES general macro variables recommended for **definite** inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>POTENTIAL SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in parliament (%)</td>
<td>IPU; World Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do parties receive direct/indirect public funding?</td>
<td>ACE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting operations: Vote by mail / postal?</td>
<td>Macro report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting operations: Vote online/Internet?</td>
<td>Macro report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter registration: Compulsory or not?</td>
<td>ACE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country subject to IMF conditionality at election?</td>
<td>IMF (MONA); Macro report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rates by age 15-24 years in %</td>
<td>World Bank.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Table 2 of report, p.8.*
CSES general macro variables recommended for deletion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>CSES MODULE 4 VARIABLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Govt. Expend. (%GDP) – T, T-1, T-2.</td>
<td>D5089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Expenditure (% GDP) – T, T-1, T-2.</td>
<td>D5091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Expenditure (% GDP) – T, T-1, T-2.</td>
<td>D5092</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Table 3 of report, p.9.
2

District Data review
CSES District Data: overview

We recommend the retention of the district data for M5.

Other issues:

• Addition of new variables.
• Addition of aggregate level measures of districts.
• Review current conventions of CSES district data.
CSES district variables recommended for **definite** inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>POTENTIAL SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seats won by each party in each district</td>
<td>NECs; CLEA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of electorate (or population) in district</td>
<td>NECs; CLEA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addition of aggregate level district variables?

- Devised a 4 Tier System – categorizing countries according to difficulty of obtaining additional SES data.

- With help of CSES Secretariat, an audit of the Tier 1 countries was conducted on a range of countries across different regions to see how easy/difficult collection of new SES measures at the district level would be (see Appendix B3).

- Tier 1 countries problems:
  - Language issues.
  - Data compatibility.
  - Timing of data collection

- **Recommend not to pursue this at this time.**
Review of CSES conventions on district data collection

“The data should indicate the respondent’s primary electoral district...The goal of this variable, wherever possible, is “the smallest unit for which there is to the national parliament.” (i.e.: the point at which votes are translated into seats).”

For further detail on CSES conventions on district data – see appendix B1.

Issues:

• Multiple elections (e.g.: USA): Which data?
• Should countries that operate a national district be classified (e.g.: Israel, Netherlands, Serbia)?
• Sampling – all districts included or just those where we have respondents?
CSES District Data: recommendations for future data collection

• The CSES district data should be collected for the lower house election unless a compelling reason exists to the contrary.

• In mixed systems current CSES practice is retained that district data correspond to the constituency vote (as opposed to the list-PR vote).

• District data should be collected for countries that operate the electoral district at the national level (for e.g.: Israel, Netherlands, Serbia). However, we suggest that a distinction is made to identify those districts that operate at the subnational level.

• CSES Codebook should specify the type of election which electoral district variables refer to; Unit that electoral district variables refer to; total number of electoral districts in country (e.g.: Britain 650); total number for which CSES has data for.

• The CSES should provide a URL link/source to users where comprehensive district data can be accessed for the country.
3 Macro Report
Macro report recommendations

• We recommend retention of most of existing macro report.

• Clarifications to some questions.

• Some additional questions.

• Dropping requirement for collaborators to provide election results verbatim.

• Suggest that collaborators provide a source for district data.
Proposed new questions

1. Early/Advanced Voting.

2. Mail & Internet Voting.


4. Seek source for district data.
Expert rating of populist parties

As Module 5 focuses in part on populism, please indicate the degree to which each of the parties can be characterized as a populist party? Please use the same parties used in the CSES Module 5 respondent questionnaire and label them the same way (A-I). A definition of populism is provided below.

**DEFINITION:** Populism can be defined as a thin-centered ideology that pits a virtuous and homogeneous people against a set of elites and dangerous ‘others’ who are depicted as depriving “the people” of their rights, values, prosperity, identity, and voice. The emphasis on anti-elite/ anti-establishment rhetoric and the contrast between the “pure people” and the “corrupt elite” are thus indications of the degree to which a party is populist. Populist parties can be found across the left-right ideological spectrum. (Mudde, 2007; Albertazzi and McDonnell, 2007)

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all populist” and 10 is “very populist”, where would you place each of the parties in your country?
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Data bridging

CSES
Comparative Study of Electoral Systems
Data bridging

• Bridging provides more possibilities for users and avoids CSES becoming a repository of everything.

• With help of CSES Secretariat, an audit of the World Bank, CLEA, ACE, UNESCO, and QoG databases (see Appendix D) was conducted.

• We recommend the inclusion of 2 additional polity identifiers:
  o Country name verbatim in English (E.g.: “AUSTRALIA”)
  o Country 3-letter ISO identifier (E.g.: “AUS”).
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Promotion of data

CSES
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS
Promotion of macro/district data

- Promotion of macro & district data through mail lists.
- Greater emphasis given to macro and district data on website.
- A potential special workshop on the macro and district data components of the project.
- Special journal issue targeting papers that make extensive use of the macro/district data.
Summary and points of discussion
Synopsis of recommendations

• Addition of net 15 new macro variables.

• Deletion of variables related to government spending.

• Retention of the district data with additional variables.

• Do not collect aggregate level measures of districts.

• Retention of most of existing macro report with minor clarifications & some additional questions.

• Addition of 2 new polity identifiers to enable data bridging.

• Promote macro/district data with a special issue.
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