Federalism and American Inequality: Replication Files Codebook

When using these data please cite the "Federalism and American Inequality" paper as well as the dataverse dataset. The original sources for components of the data should also be cited. If using the GSS or NES data, please be sure to cite the original source for those data.

Part A: "replication_state" Datafile

Variable	Description
year	Year of data
statename	Name of state as string
statefip	State fip code
abb	State abbreviation as string
marketgini	Household Gini coefficient pre-tax pre-transfer, as calculated by authors from state-level Current Population Survey data
postgini	Household Gini coefficient post-transfer, as calculated by authors from state-level Current Population Survey data
dempres	0=Republican president 1=Democratic president
cdprop	Proportion of Congressional seats held by Democratic Party
natpolicy	The policy series is taken from Erikson, MacKuen & Stimson (2002), updated through 2006 by the authors. This measure examines important policy change by focusing on the crucial public laws identified by David Mayhew (2005). From this list, laws related to domestic policy with national impact are coded as to whether they were viewed as expanding (liberal) or contracting (conservative) government at the time they were passed. Laws that were ambiguous in their expansion versus contraction of government were coded as neutral and do not contribute to the policy change captured in this measure. Liberal legislation is counted +1, conservative legislation -1, and exceptionally important laws (as defined by Mayhew) are counted +2 or -2. Each year since 1947, a score is produced by summing liberal minus conservative legislation—this is annual policy change. The current level of policy is produced by accumulating annual policy change over time. A net liberal shift in policy produces a positive change in this policy measure. Since the late 1940s, the most important policy changes have usually led to government expansion. In essence, then, the debate in the United States has not been literally about the contraction versus expansion of government, but about whether government should expand in response to the problems that develop in an increasingly complex society. Given this, it is better to examine the accumulation of policy relative to the long-term trend of government expansion. Our variable policy is a detrended version of cumulative policy change.

leftgovpower	Berry et al.'s 1998 measure of government ideology in the American states. The variable is rescaled to range from 0 to 1, with positive values indicating more liberal ideology.
uniondense	Proportion of workers who are members of unions in a state.
unemployment	State unemployment rate.
manufacturing	Proportion of GSP in manufacturing
gsp	Gross State Product, in $trillions
nonwhite	Proportion of population nonwhite
pop65	Proportion of population aged 65+
statemin	State minimum wage
fedminincrease	Years since federal minimum wage increase
fedminchange	0=No federal minimum wage increase 1=Federal minimum wage increase
statewithfedposchange	0=State did not increase minimum wage 1=State increased minimum wage

Part B: "replication_gss" Datafile

Variable	Description
id	GSS identifier
year	year of study
incomeclass	1=Lower 20 Percent of Income Distribution 2=Middle 40 Percent of Income Distribution 3=Top 20 Percent of Income Distribution
incgap	Do you agree or disagree: Differences in income in America are too large. 1=Stongly agree 2=Agree 3=Neither agree nor disagree 4=Disagree 5=Strongly disagree .c=Cannot choose .i=No answer .n=Not applicable
goveqinc	Do you agree or disagree: It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes. 1=Stongly agree 2=Agree 3=Neither agree nor disagree 4=Disagree 5=Strongly disagree
income98	Family income. 1=under $1 000 2=$1 000 to 2 999

	3=$3 000 to 3 999 4=$4 000 to 4 999 5=$5 000 to 5 999 6=$6 000 to 6 999 7=$7 000 to 7 999 8=$8 000 to 9 999 9=$10000 to 12499 10=$12500 to 14999 11=$15000 to 17499 12=$17500 to 19999 13=$20000 to 22499 14=$22500 to 24999 15=$25000 to 29999 16=$30000 to 34999 17=$35000 to 39999 18=$40000 to 49999 19=$50000 to 59999 20=$60000 to 74999 21=75000 to $89999 22=90000 - $109999 23=$110000 or over 24= Refused

Part C: "replication_nes" Datafile

Variable	Description
V080001	NES identifier
V083098x	Party Identification 0=Strong Democrat 1=Weak Democrat 2=Independent-Democrat 3=Independent-Independent 4=Independent-Republican 5=Weak Republican 6=Strong Republican
V083248	Household Income 1=None or less than $2,999 2=$3,000 -$4,999 3=$5,000 -$7,499 4=$7,500 -$9,999 5=$10,000 -$10,999 6=$11,000-$12,499 7=$12,500-$14,999 8=$15,000-$16,999 9=$17,000-$19,999

	10=$20,000-$21,999 11=$22,000-$24,999 12=$25,000-$29,999 13=$30,000-$34,999 14=$35,000-$39,999 15=$40,000-$44,999 16=$45,000-$49,999 17=$50,000-$59,999 18=$60,000-$74,999 19=$75,000-$89,999 20=$90,000-$99,999 21=$100,000-$109,999 22=$110,000-$119,999 23=$120,000-$134,999 24=$135,000-$149,999 25=$150,000 and over
V085044A	Vote for president 1=Barack Obama 3=John McCain 7=Other {SPECIFY}
incomeclass	1=Lower 20 Percent of Income Distribution 2=Middle 40 Percent of Income Distribution 3=Top 20 Percent of Income Distribution