ReadMe File for Replication for:

Disguised Repression: Targeting Opponents with Non-Political Crimes to Undermine Dissent[1]

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Computational platforms:
We tested our code on a 2021 MacBook Pro with an M1 10-core processor and 64G RAM. The operation system is MacOS 14.4.1 (Sonoma). The R version is 4.1.2. The Stata version is Stata/MP 18.0 for Mac (Apple Silicon).

R package version requirements
haven (>=2.5.4), ggplot2 (>=3.5.1), interflex (>=1.2.6), dplyr (>=1.1.4), lubridate (>=1.9.3), scales (>=1.3.0)
** Stata packages will be automatically updated.

Folder structure and functionalities

code	Stores code files required to plot data and generate results
data	Stores data files required for replicating the results
graphs	Intended for storing graphs generated from code files
output	Intended for storing tables (xls files) and results for plotting (txt.file)

Notes
1. Please make sure to set path to the root replication folder in R and Stata do files.
2. All the data files are saved in the "data" folder.
3. All the code files are saved in the "code" folder. The required packages in each script will be automatically installed.
4. Please execute the code files sequentially based on the name order.
5. All the output files are saved in the "output" folder. When you run the R and Stata do files, existing files in the "output" folder will be overwritten.
6. All graphics are saved in the "graphs" folder. When you run the scripts, existing files in this folder will be overwritten.
7. Table 1, 3, A10, A13 and Figure 1 involve no estimation and do not require replication.

[1] Please email Xu Xu (xx2728@princeton.edu) if you have any questions related to replication.

Code files

Please execute scripts in the following order.

Filename	Description	Output	Execution Time
1_reg.do	Run regressions using experimental data, produce regression tables, and prepare results for plotting	• Tables 2 • Tables A1-A9, A11-A12 • Figure A2 • Estimation results for plotting Figure 2	< 5 Minutes
2_plots.do	Produce plots for experimental findings.	• Figures 2, 3 • Figures A1, A3-A10	< 10 Minutes
3_weibo.R	Produce results related to analysis of Weibo data	• Figures 4-7 • Figures A11-A12	< 5 Minute

Note: Table 1, 3, A10, A13 and Figure 1 provide auxiliary information (on measurement and case universe) and do not require replication.

Table and graphic file names

Table	Filename	Figure	Filename
Table 1	*No need to replicate*	Figure 1	*No need to replicate*
Table 2	outbeh.xls	Figure 2(a)	fg_main_stdsupportdis.pdf
Table 3	*No need to replicate*	Figure 2(b)	fg_main_stdsupportrep.pdf
Table A1	bal.xls	Figure 2(c)	fg_main_stddissent.pdf
Table A2	anonymity.xls	Figure 3	fg_main_stdmorality.pdf
Table A3	mainread.xls	Figure 4(a)	fg_ttlposts.pdf
Table A4	mainstd.xls	Figure 4(b)	fg_ttlpostsday.pdf
Table A5	outbeh.xls	Figure 5	fg_rlsprop.pdf
Table A6	streisand.xls	Figure 6	fg_pctpostsbw.pdf
Table A7	stdmorality	Figure 7(a)	fg_stance_moral.pdf
Table A8	committed.xls	Figure 7(b)	fg_stance_political.pdf
Table A9	confession.xls	Figure A1(a)	fg_main_supportdis.pdf
Table A10	*No need to replicate*	Figure A1(b)	fg_main_supportrep.pdf
Table A11	tb_manipulation.txt	Figure A1(c)	fg_main_dissent.pdf
Table A12	manipulation.xls	Figure A2	fg_supportjud.png
Table A13	*No need to replicate*	Figure A3	fg_me_sup_poltax.pdf fg_me_sup_polpros.pdf
		Figure A4(a)	fg_me_me_sup_poltax.pdf fg_me_me_sup_polpros.pdf
		Figure A4(b)	fg_me_ms_sup_poltax.pdf fg_me_ms_sup_polpros.pdf
		Figure A4(c)	fg_me_mv_sup_poltax.pdf fg_me_mv_sup_polpros.pdf
		Figure A5	fg_me_income_poltax.pdf fg_me_income_polpros.pdf
		Figure A6	fg_me_edu_poltax.pdf fg_me_edu_polpros.pdf
		Figure A7	fg_me_liberal_poltax.pdf fg_me_liberal_polpros.pdf
		Figure A8	fg_me_trgovt_poltax.pdf fg_me_trgovt_polpros.pdf
		Figure A9	fg_me_polkn_poltax.pdf fg_me_polkn_polpros.pdf
		Figure A10	fg_me_risk_poltax.pdf fg_me_risk_polpros.pdf
		Figure A11	fg_snownlp.pdf
		Figure A12(a)	fg_xmzodds.pdf
		Figure A12(b)	fg_wgqodds.pdf

Data files (stored in the "data" folder)

disguise.dta	Survey experiment data
wvs_jud.dta	2018 World Value Survey data on public support for the judicial branch in China
weibo_counts.rds	Weibo posts citing dissidents' names and posts calls for critics' release (for Figures 4 & 5)
weibo_dissent.rds	Online dissent for individual critics (for Figure 6)
weibo_stance_morality.rds	Stance toward critics charged with non-political crimes (for Figure 7a)
weibo_stance_political.rds	Stance toward critics charged with political crimes (for Figure 7b)
weibo_snownlp.rds	Overall sentiment of Weibo posts (for Figure A11)
xuewangtext.RData	Text data for word frequency analysis regarding critics Xue Manzi and Wang Gongquan

Keybooks

Datafile: disguise.dta

Variable	Definition
female	Female: 1 = Yes, 2 = No
sprov_1	Province Indicator
dsocritic	Online Criticism: 1 = Never, …, 4 = Very frequently
readmore	Seeking information on the critic: 1 = Yes, 2 = No
crimecmt	Crime committed: 0 = Certainly no, …, 10 = Certainly yes
anonymity	Treatment variable, reminder of survey anonymity: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
confession	Treatment variable, critic's confession of crime: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
edulv	Years of education: 6 – 21 years
age	Age
eng	English proficiency: 1 = Not at all, …, 5 = fluency
class	Self-reported social class: 0 = bottom, …, 10 = top
minority	Minority status: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
married	Married: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
religious	Religious: 1= Yes, 0 = No
ccp	Communist Party Member: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
work	Work experience: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
work_public	Public sector work: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
work_report	Leadership in work: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
income	Income level: 1= Low, …, 10 = High
political	Treatment dummy, political crime: 1= Yes, 0 = No
taxevasion	Treatment dummy, tax evasion crime: 1= Yes, 0 = No
prostitution	Treatment dummy, prostitution crime: 1= Yes, 0 = No
control	Treatment dummy, control: 1= Yes, 0 = No
moral	Morality (16 items aggregated): 0 (low) – 160 (high)
moraleco	Morality, Self-Interest (5 items aggregated): 0 (low) – 50 (high)
moralsex	Morality, Personal-Sexual (6 items aggregated): 0 (low) – 60 (high)
moralvio	Morality, Violence (5 items aggregated): 0 (low) – 50 (high)
liberal	Liberal values (aggregated): -10 (low) – 5 (high)
knowledge	Political knowledge (aggregated): 0 (low) – 5 (high)
riskaverse	Risk aversion (aggregated): 6 (low) – 12 (high)
socialmedia	Social media usage: 1 = Never, …, 4 = Everyday
trustcentral	Trust central government: 0 = Low, …, 10 = High

manipulation	Treatment manipulation test: 0 = Control, 1= Political, 2 = Tax Evasion, 3 = Prostitution
dissent	Dissent on behalf of the critic: 1 = Yes, 0 = No
supportdis	Support for the critic: 1 = Low, …, 5 = High
supportrep	Support for repression: 0 = Low, …, 10 = High
streisand	Seeking information on the critic ("readmore" recoded): 1 = Yes, 0 = No
streisandpol	Seeking information on the critic's political activity (if readmore = 1): 1 = Yes, 0 = No
morality	Perceived morality of the critic: 0 = Low, …, 10 = High
attitude	Attitude toward the KOL (aggregated): 4 = very negative, …, 17 = very positive
action	Online activism (aggregated): 7 = not active at all, …, 28 = very active
selfcensor	Self-censorship (no negative answers to sensitive questions): 0 = Low, …, 5 = High
selfcensorship	Self-censorship (refusal to answer sensitive questions): 0 = Low, …, 5 = High
treatment	Treatment indicator: 1 = Control, 2= Political, 3 = Tax Evasion, 4 = Prostitution
treattax	Treatment indicator, Tax evasion vs. Control & Political: 1 = Control, 2= Political, 3 = Tax Evasion
treatpros	Treatment indicator, Prostitution vs. Control & Political: 1 = Control, 2= Political, 3 = Prostitution

Datafile: wvs_jud.dta

B_COUNTRY_ALPHA	ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 country code: CHN = China
A_YEAR	Year of survey
E_RESPINT	Respondent interested during the interview: -5 No answer or Missing, 1 = Respondent was very interested, 2= Respondent was somewhat interested, 3 = Respondent was not interested
Q70	Confidence in Justice System/Courts: 1 = A great deal, 2 = Quite a lot, 3 = Not very much, 4 = None at all, -1 = Don´t know, -2 = No answer

Datafile: weibo_counts.rds

date1	Date of the Weibo post
polct	Indicator of the Weibo post mentioning critics charged with political crimes: TRUE or FALSE
releasettln	Indicator of the Weibo post calling for the release of the critic: 1 = Yes, 2 = No

Data Table: weibo_dissent.rds

Column Name	Name of the critic
dissent	Number of Weibo posts calling for the release of the critic
mentions	Number of Weibo posts mentioning the critic
proportion	Proportion of posts calling for the release of the critic (dissent/mentions)
group	Indicator of groups for critics: Political or Non-Political

Data Table: weibo_stance_morality.rds

condition	Indicator of the time period of posts: Before or After Arrest
target	Indicator of Pro or Against stance
mean	Proportion of posts contain Pro or Against stance
ci_l	Lower value of 95% Confidence Interval
ci_h	Upper value of 95% Confidence Interval

Data Table: weibo_stance_ political.rds

condition	Indicator of the time period of posts: Before or After Arrest
target	Indicator of Pro or Against stance
mean	Proportion of posts contain Pro or Against stance
ci_l	Lower value of 95% Confidence Interval

ci_h	Upper value of 95% Confidence Interval

Data Table: weibo_snownlp.rds

condition	Indicator of the time period of posts: Before or After Arrest
target	Indicator of Moral or Political crimes
mean	Average sentiment value (0-1)
ci_l	Lower value of 95% Confidence Interval
ci_h	Upper value of 95% Confidence Interval

Data Table: xuewangtext.RData

arwgqbfdata	Tokenized characters associated with Wang Gongquan before his arrest
arwgqdata	Tokenized characters associated with Wang Gongquan after his arrest
arxmzbfdata	Tokenized characters associated with Xue Manzi before his arrest
arxmzdata	Tokenized characters associated with Xue Manzi after his arrest