Online appendix

Introducing HiSCoD: A New Gateway for the Study of Historical Social Conflict

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A Additional information on HiSCoD

In this section, we provide additional information on the construction of the database. Section A.1 describes the procedure used to attribute geographic coordinates to events. In Section A.2, we detail how we coded information on the participation of women. In Table A.1, we summarize the variables contained in the database.

A.1 Geographic coordinates and administrative units

Attributing geographic coordinates to thousands of historical locations is obviously a challenging exercise. Over centuries, many locations merged with neighbouring ones, changed their spelling, or simply disappeared because of war and plagues. This makes automatic geocoding with services such as *Geonames* very inaccurate.[1] Douglass and Harkness (2018) and Hammond and Weidmann (2014) both discuss the spatial accuracy of machine-coded data sets at the sub-national level and how it could create additional sources of bias in empirical analyses. For instance, Füglister (2020) uses data from Clodfelter (2017) on historical battles and shows that 20 per cent of the machine-coded battles in Europe have a spatial error of more than 22.5 km– a number rising to 88 km after the 85th percentile (p. 48).

We therefore relied on historical and contemporary records of places to identify locations where events occurred as precisely as possible.[2] We then manually matched it with its current municipality and retrieve data on coordinates through either Wikipedia, Google Maps, or data sets from national statistical offices, such as *Admin Express* from the French National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information (IGN) and *GeoBasis-DE* from the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG).[3]

As a rule of thumb, we tried to attribute to locations coordinates that corresponded to the centre of the present-day municipality, usually near the city hall, market place, historical church or similar.[4] This means that there could be few hundred meters or, in the case of merger

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[1] http://www.geonames.org

[2] For instance, the Gazetteer of British Place Names (https://gazetteer.org.uk) and the French Topographic Dictionnary (https://dicotopo.cths.fr).

[3] https://geoservices.ign.fr/adminexpress.
https://gdz.bkg.bund.de/index.php/default/verwaltungsgebiete-1-250-000-ebenen-stand-01-01-vg250-ebenen-01-01.html.

[4] The only exception is Great Britain for which the Index of Place Names, produced by Office for National Statistics, sometimes allow for geo-coding at a finer level. https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/otherproducts/indexofplacenamesipn.

between two municipalities, a few kilometres difference between the coordinates and the exact historical location. In most cases, we have been able to identify a precise location.[5]

However, in a few instances, the sources did not record a specific location, but rather the area or the administrative unit (county, district, etc.). In such cases, we placed the coordinates at the capital city or the largest city of the administrative unit. We flagged these points by attributing the value "2" to the variable *geo_precision*.

In a smaller number of cases, the sources only provide broad geographic information, such proximity to the coast, a river or provinces.[6] Whenever possible, we used the coordinates of the capital/main city of the administrative unit and flagged it by attributing the value "3" to the variable *geo_precision*. These entries typically do not have a contemporary record of location. We use these coordinates only for mapping purposes and extreme caution should be exercised before undertaking any spatial analysis with them.

Finally, we could not retrieve the location of a small proportion of events because the place name corresponded to nothing or the description was too vague. We included these events in the database but left the coordinates fields empty.

To document contemporary administrative units, we matched our data points with vector data for administrative boundaries provided by the relevant national institute for geographic information (German BGK, French IGN, Italian ISTAT, British ONS, Swisstopo, etc.). Where necessary, we retrieved additional information from the Wikipedia page for the municipality. We also made use of the historical administrative boundaries provided by Chambru (2019) and Satchell et al. (2018) to add information on the historical administrative divisions of France and England.

A.2   Participation of women

Identifying the exact composition of a crowd is often a difficult exercise, even if the information would be particularly useful for researchers. For instance, how should one interpret the omission of women from the summary of the course of events. Did women actually not

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[5]   When needed, we noted additional information about the location and geocoding procure in the variable *comments*.
[6]   This is particularly the case for many social conflicts during Medieval times, which were large-scale events encompassing entire regions. It should be noted that we did not include event that were reported as nationwide.

take part into the conflict or did the witness omit them? To circumvent this issue, we used a three-level variable to indicate the participation of women: "Yes" means that the sources or the researcher clearly state that women took part in the event; "No" means that they clearly did not; "Unknown" means we cannot claim that they did or they did not on the basis of the available information.

Table A.1: List of variables included in the HiSCoD database

Variable name	Type	Description	Values
id	Numeric	Numerical identifier	1 to 99999
id riot hiscod	Character	Unique identifier	
id riot original database	Character	Unique identifier from previously existing data set	
title	Character	Title of the event based on the location where it occurred and its date	
riot date	Date	Date of the event	1734-05-22, etc.
year	Numeric	Year	1000 to 1900
month num	Numeric	Month	1 to 12
month	Character	Month	January, February, etc.
day	Numeric	Day	1 to 31
day week	Character	Day of the week	Monday, Tuesday, etc.
riot type hiscod num	Numeric	Numeric ID for classification	1 to 10
			1. Food riot
			2. Tax riot
			3. Religious conflict
			4. Conflict with local or national authorities
riot type hiscod	Character	HiSCoD classification	5. Feudal conflict
			6. Slave revolt
			7. Political conflict
			8. Labour conflict
			9. Banditry
			10. Other forms of conflict
riot type original database 1	Character	Original classification used by researchers	
riot type original database 2	Character	Original classification used by researchers	
riot type original database 3	Character	Original classification used by researchers	

Table A.1: List of variables included in the HiSCoD database (cont'd)

Variable name	Type	Description	Values
nb participants	Character	Number of participants involved in the event	
women participation	Character	Indicate whether women were mentioned among the participants	Yes, No, Unknown
city source	Character	Name of the location mentioned in the sources	
city name	Character	Name of the current municipality	
city code	Character	Codes used by national statistical office to identify municipality	
city latitude	Numeric	Latitude	
city longitude	Numeric	Longitude	
geo precision	Numeric	Code to indicate the precision of coordinates	1: exact 2: nearest location 3: imprecise
country name	Character	Name of the present-day country where the event occurred	France, Italy, etc.
admin level 1 type	Character	Type of the highest-level administrative division	Region, Land, State, Province, etc.
admin level 1	Character	Name of the highest-level administrative division	
admin level 2 type	Character	Type of the secondary administrative division	Department, County, Powiat, etc.
admin level 2	Character	Name of the secondary administrative division	
historical political entity	Character	Name of the political entity in existence when the event occurred	Holy Roman Empire, etc.
historical admin level 1 type	Character	Type of the historical highest-level administrative division	
historical admin level 1	Character	Name of the historical highest-level administrative division	
historical admin level 2 type	Character	Type of the historical secondary administrative division	
historical admin level 2	Character	Name of the historical secondary administrative division	
description event english	Character	Summary of the course of events in English	
description event original	Character	Summary of the course of events in language used by researchers or the archival sources	

Table A.1: List of variables included in the HiSCoD database (cont'd)

Variable name	Type	Description	Values
primary sources	Character	Archive signatures	
url	Character	Link to the archival repository, catalogues, and search aids	
bibliography	Character	Bibliographical references	
pages	Character	Pages where the event is mentioned	
comments	Character		
author	Character	Name of the author(s) of the form	
contributor	Character	Name of the contributor(s)	
date creation	Date	Date to indicate the creation of the form	
date edition	Date	Date to indicate the most recent modification	

Notes: For all variables related to municipality and administrative unit, we used 2021 as year of reference. Information on city code are derived from official classification by national statistical offices such as INSEE code for France, ISTAT code for Italy, OFS number for Switzerland.

B Existing databases included in the HiSCoD project

The HiSCoD project aggregates data on historical social conflict from various databases and other collection in the historiography and archival sources. This means that years of coverage vary across countries and regions, but also by type of social conflict. In this section, we provide an overview of existing databases included in the HiSCoD project. For each set of data, we list the type of conflicts included; the definition and threshold of participants, if any, used by the researchers to identify episodes of social conflict; and the main references of the data set. Please always refer to the original reference to understand in details the scope and limits of each data set. We will periodically update this list as we continue working to expand the scope of the HiSCoD project.

(A) **Main references**: Nicolas (2002), Chambru (2019)

   Area: France

   Year(s): January 1661–March 1789

   Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local or national authorities; feudal conflict; labour conflict; other forms of conflict

   Participants: Minimum of 4 individuals

   Definition: "[...] the threshold of collective violence is met when a group of at least four individuals, not belonging to the same family, directly perpetuate violence against one or more representatives of a political, religious, economic power, etc., or attacks property, buildings, furniture, papers, various signs symbolising these powers." [authors' translation] (Nicolas 2002, p. 75)[7]

(B) **Main references**: Lignereux (2008)

   Area: France

   Year(s): 1800–59

   Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; political conflict; labour conflict; other forms of conflict

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[7] Original definition: « [...] le seuil de la violence collective est franchie dès lors qu'un groupe d'au moins quatre individus n'appartenant pas à la même famille s'en prend directement (violences diverses, gestes, mots) à un ou plusieurs représentants d'un pouvoir politique, religieux, économique, etc., ou encore s'attaque aux biens, aux bâtiments, aux meubles, aux papiers, aux signes divers symbolisant ces pouvoirs. »

Participants: Minimum of 3 individuals

Definition: "Only collective and violent confrontations against gendarmes were re-trieved. The threshold was set at least three individuals involved in the assault, beyond the possible spectators. Although not very high, it nevertheless represents the number that can be ascertained by excluding turbulent arrests. It is also in line with the legislation, whether this concerns unauthorised gatherings or the levels of incrimination under the penal code. Violence is another required condition. Finally, assaults against police officers, soldiers, national guards or customs officers are excluded from the data set, unless they were accompanied by gendarmes." [authors' translation] (Lignereux 2008, p. 19)[8]

(C) **Main references**: Maneuvrier-Hervieu (2020)

Area: Normandy (France)

Year(s): 1709–1817

Typology: Food riot

Participants: Minimum of 4 individuals

Definition: "[...] the threshold of collective violence is met when a group of at least four individuals, not belonging to the same family, directly perpetuate violence against one or more representatives of a political, religious, economic power, etc., or attacks property, buildings, furniture, papers, various signs symbolising these powers." [authors' translation] (Nicolas 2002, p. 75)

(D) **Main references**: Bohstedt (2010)

Area: England, Scotland and Wales

Year(s): 1740–1, 1756–7, 1766–7, 1791–6, 1810–9[9]

Typology: Food riot; labour conflict

Participants: Minimum of 50 individuals

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[8] Original definition: « Seuls les affrontements collectifs et violents contre des gendarmes ont été retenus. Le seuil a été fixé à trois individus au moins impliqués dans les voies de fait, au-delà de l'éventuel cercle de spectateurs. Peu élevé, il délimite néanmoins un corpus qui reste appréhendable en excluant les simples arrestations mouvementées. Il respecte la législation en vigueur, qu'il s'agisse des rassemblements non autorisés ou des paliers d'incrimination du code pénal. La violence est une seconde condition impérative. Enfin, les agressions contre des policiers, des soldats, des gardes nationaux ou des douaniers sont exclus du décompte, à moins qu'ils aient été accompagnés par des gendarmes. »

[9] Bohstedt's data also include events for various years between 1347 and 1739.

Definition: "By riot I mean an incident in which a crowd of fifty or more people acted in hostile fashion to damage or seize property, to attack persons physically, or to coerce individuals to perform or desist from some immediate action." (Bohstedt 1983, p. 4)

"For this census, my definition of a riot is: an episode of crowd force or violence, meaning a collective assault on persons or property, illegal seizure of property, and/or coercion of a person to do something he/she would not otherwise do. By a crowd I mean at least several dozen rioters, on the assumption that such an assemblage does social politics, acting on widely-held values, interests, and consequences, that transcend the more 'private' interests that might animate a brawl or family feud. [...] For each riot I have recorded where possible the following parameters: date; place; characteristics and actions of the crowd; identities and actions of the forces of order; and both criminal trials and relief measures. Duration and location also define riots in my censuses. I consider a riot to be bounded by rough 'dramatic unity', meaning a set of actions that involved more or less the same group of actors. Hence I treat as one event all riotous violence within contiguous territory (parishes, etc.), within a week's time, because the actors in a riot are not so much individuals as communities." (Bohstedt 2010, p. 16)

(E) **Main references**: Holland (2005) [see also Hobsbawm and Rudé (1968)]

Area: England, Scotland, Wales (*Swing riots*)

Year(s): 1830–2

Typology: Food riot; tax riot; conflict with local and/or national authorities; labour conflict; other forms of conflict[10]

Participants: No threshold given by the authors

Definition: No definition given by the authors

(F) **Main references**: Tiratelli (2019)

Area: Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester (United Kingdom)

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[10] It should be noted that we excluded several cases from the original data set as they do not fit our definition of a social conflict. These were events such as 'creating an atmosphere of fear', 'petition', 'robbery', 'sending anonymous threat' or 'seditious notice'.

Year(s): 1800–1890[11]

Typology: Food riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; labour conflict; other forms conflict[12]

Participants: Minimum of 20 individuals

Definition: 'Riot was defined as collective violence against people/property involving more than 20 participants.' (Tiratelli 2019) [see also Tiratelli (2018, pp. 24-41)].

(G) **Main references**: Cohn (2006).

Area: Italy, France[13]

Year(s): 1090–1435

Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; feudal conflict; political conflict; labour conflict; other forms conflict

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: "[...] this study defines popular protest as collective action (violent or non-violent) against those of higher social status, whether they were wool bosses, landlords, or representatives of the state." (Cohn 2006, p. 8)

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[11] Tiratelli collected information on riots until 1939. We excluded these from the database because they go beyond the time span of the HiSCoD project.

[12] It should be noted that we excluded several cases from the original data set as they do not fit our definition of a social conflict. These were events such as 'creating an atmosphere of fear', 'petition', 'robbery', 'sending anonymous threat' or 'seditious notice'.

[13] Cohn also includes events for Flanders and Liégeois but without any information on their exact locations.

C   Additional samples included in the HiSCoD project

The HiSCoD project aggregates data on historical social conflict from various databases and other collection in the historiography and archival sources. Although scholars did not always create a proper database, in many cases, they assembled a consistent set of data on social conflict for a given geographical entity/time span. In this section, we further provide a list of such instances, which contain at least a few hundreds events. We would like here to remind the user that historical data are inherently incomplete. Please always refer to the original reference to understand in details the scope and limits of each data aggregation. We will periodically update this list as we continue working to expand the scope of the HiSCoD project.

1. **France**

    (a) **Main references**: Pillorget (1975)

    Area: Provence

    Year(s): 1579–1660[14]

    Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; labour conflict; other forms of conflict

    Participants: No threshold given by the author

    Definition: "It is precisely these insurrectionary events, defined as 'breakaway' conflicts, which pit parts of the population either against a legitimate authority, or against its agent, that constitute the topic of our study." [authors' translation] (Pillorget 1975, p. 146)[15]

    (b) **Main references**: Beik (1990, 1997, 2007)

    Area: Provincial cities

    Year(s): 1590s–1660[16]

    Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; political conflict; labour conflict; other forms of conflict

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[14] For instances of social conflict occurring after 1660, see data set (A) in online Appendix Section B.

[15] Original definition: « Ce sont précisément tous ces mouvements insurrectionnels, définis comme les conflits 'de rupture' qui opposent une partie d'une population soit à une autorité légitime, soit à son représentant ou à son agent, qui constituent l'objet de notre étude. »

[16] For instances of social conflict occurring after 1660, see data set (A) in online Appendix Section B.

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: No definition given by the author[17]

(c) **Main references**: Bercé (1974)

Area: South-West France

Year(s): 1600–60[18]

Typology: Food riot; tax riot; conflict with local and/or national authorities; other forms of conflict

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: "[...] I propose that the term popular revolt should be given to the formation of an armed group of the populace, involving participants from separate households and lasting for more than one day." [authors' translation] (Bercé 1974, p. 674)[19]

(d) **Main references**: Porchnev (1963)

Area: Provincial cities

Year(s): 1623–1648

Typology: Food riot; tax riot

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: No definition given by the author[20]

(e) **Main references**: Nicolas (1973, 1974, 2002)

Area: Duchy of Savoy

Year(s): January 1661-August 1792

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[17] "[...] a wide range of well-documented cases without following any rigorous principle of selection. It was more important to find well-documented cases which provided narratives from several perspectives than it was to achieve an ideal chronological or geographical balance. [...] a collection of carefully read instances of popular protest, ranging from the most spontaneous incident to the most complex political struggle" (Beik 1997, pp. 9, 11).

[18] For instances of social conflict occurring after 1660, see data set (A) in online Appendix Section B.

[19] Original definition: « je propose d'appeler révolte populaire la formation d'une troupe populaire armée, qui réunisse dans son sein des participants venus de plusieurs distinctes communautés d'habitants et qui se maintiennent sur pied pendant plus d'un jour. »

[20] "[...] a wide range of well-documented cases without following any rigorous principle of selection. It was more important to find well-documented cases which provided narratives from several perspectives than it was to achieve an ideal chronological or geographical balance. [...] a collection of carefully read instances of popular protest, ranging from the most spontaneous incident to the most complex political struggle" (Beik 1997, pp. 9, 11).

Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; feudal conflict; other forms of conflict

Participants: Minimum of 4 individuals

Definition: see data set (A) in online Appendix Section B.

(f) **Main references**: Lefebvre (1973)

Area: France

Year(s): 1789

Typology: Food riot; tax riot; feudal conflict

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: No definition given by the author

(g) **Main references**: Ado (1996)

Area: France

Year(s): 1789-94

Typology: Food riot; tax riot; religious conflict; conflict with local and/or national authorities; feudal conflict; political conflict; labour conflict; other forms of conflict

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: No definition given by the author

2. **Germany**

(a) **Main references**: Gailus (1994)

Area: Germany, Poland

Year(s): 1847

Typology: Food riot

Participants: No threshold given by the author

Definition: No definition given by the author

3. **Netherlands**

(a) **Main references**: Dekker ([1987](#), [1990](#))

    Area: Netherlands

    Year(s): 1600–1776

    Typology: Labour conflict

    Definition: No definition given by the author

    Participants: No threshold given by the author

4. **Spain**

(a) **Main references**: Rodríguez ([1973](#))

    Area: Spain

    Year(s): 1766

    Typology: Food riot

    Definition: No definition given by the author

    Participants: No threshold given by the author

D How to contribute?

The Historical Social Conflict Database (HiSCoD) is a project designed to provide academic researcher and general public with a set of resources for analysing social conflict from c. 1000 to c. 1870. To this end, we draw on existing, but sometimes hardly accessible, data sets and historical research to collect and harmonise information on the occurrence of social conflict in the past. Considering the quantity and scope of archival materials available across countries, this effort is necessarily limited without the enlistment of international scholars.

We therefore open up HiSCoD to volunteer contributions from external scholars who collected information on social conflict in the course of their own archival research. We seek and encourage contributions of original data in one of two forms: newly collected data on historical social conflict, and updates and corrections concerning data on existing events. Contributions could involved both single or few events at a time, or collection of hundreds of episodes of social conflict drawn from large databases (e.g. Tiratelli 2019). There is no restriction on the geographical areas as long as the event happened within the time boundaries of the project (c. 1000-c. 1870).

There are three ways to share data with the HiSCoD project:

1. Using the online survey (https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/online-form-hiscod). We recommend using this channel to share information on a single or small number events, or to provide corrections on existing entries.

2. Accessing the template file of the database on the project's Github page (https://github.com/hiscod/hiscod-project/tree/main/templates) and filling in observations using a spreadsheet software (Microsoft Excel, LibreOffice Calc, etc.).

3. Sharing an original database in any format (csv, Microsoft Access, FileMaker, etc.), which we will clean and harmonise to match the structure of the HiSCoD database.

We will carefully review and curate all contributions, and encode them using the XML-EAD standard before integrating them into the HiSCoD database. Contributors are acknowledged on every entry as well as on the dedicated page on the HiSCoD website.

Any contribution should include at least three pieces of information: the timing (year),

the location (commune), and references (primary sources and/or bibliographic citation).[21]
As reminder, we defined a social conflict to be any event involving a group of at least
three individuals belonging to different families and which either perpetuates violence or
threatens violence against one or more members of a different group or against representatives
of political, religious, and economic power; or any event involving an attack on property,
buildings, furniture, papers or other signs symbolising such powers.

If one needs any further information on how to contribute, please do not hesitate to contact
us by email hiscod@protonmail.com.

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[21] If one wish to appear as author/contributor on the entry form, she can also fill in the dedicated field with her
surname and family name. For more information on variables and their definition, see Table A.1.

E   Example of archival evidence used to retrieve social conflict

Source: Arch. dép. Seine-Maritime, C 109, n° 27, 4 May 1775.

Figure A.1: Archival records reporting a food riot at Étrépagny on 2 May 1775

Original text:

"Lettre reçue le 4 may 1775,

Monseigneur,

La halle d'Etrepagny a été pillée aujourd'huy comme celle de Gisors hier, la populace ameutée a été ensuite chés les laboureurs du lieu et s'est fait livrer le bled au prix qu'elle a taxé elle même, les uns ont païé à raison de trois livres le boësseau les autres ont emporté sans rien païer : cette populace dit que si les halles ne sont pas fournies comme à l'ordinaire, ils iront chés les laboureurs dans les campagnes.

J'ay l'honneur d'être avec respect,

Monseigneur,

Votre très humble et très obeisant serviteur,

Courtoin, le 2 may 1775."

Translation:

"Letter received on 4 May 1775,

My Lord,

The market at Etrepagny was looted today as the one in Gisors was yesterday. The crowd assembled then went to the local farmers and had the wheat delivered at the price they had set themselves. Some paid three livres per bushel, others took it away without paying anything. The populace says that if markets are not supplied as usual, they will go to ploughmen in the countryside.

I remain, my Lord, your most humble and obedient servant.

Courtoin, 2 May 1775."

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