Congressional Committee Demographics and Racially Salient Oversight
Dataverse Description and Table of Contents

This paper creates a new dataset that provides the number of Black and Latinx legislators on all standing committees of the House from the 80th through 114th Congresses.

To gather this data, I relied upon four sources which provide information on committee memberships and race of legislators:

1) The Congressional Research Service's "African American Members of the United States Congress: 1870-2018" provides biographies for each Black member who served in Congress from 1870 through 2018 and notes their committee assignments by member.

2) "Hispanic Americans in Congress 1822-2012," edited by Matthew A. Wasniewski, provides biographies and committee assignment data for individual Latinx members from 1833 through 2012.

3) The U.S. House Office of the Historian and Office of Art and Archives provides a "People Search" online that allows one to filter members by Congress and racial identity. These personal entries generally include committee assignment information.

4) Congressional Directories provide lists of members by committee. Congressional Directories with committee listings are available online via HathiTrust Digital Library and in hard copy form in academic libraries.

Dependent variable

The dependent variable, hearings on racialized issues, were gathered from the Comparative Agendas Project (2017), using their hearing topics.

The following topics were included: general civil rights, minority discrimination, voting rights, migrant labor, immigration, unemployment rate, healthcare reform, health insurance, children's healthcare, employee benefits, labor unions, the minimum wage, education for underprivileged children, outdoor air pollution, indoor environmental hazards, infrastructure and public works, prisons, general social welfare, SNAP, poverty assistance, housing and community development, housing and urban development, rural housing assistance, rural economic development, low-income housing, homelessness, mortgage assistance, and disaster relief.

Program Used

Stata was used to run all statistical analyses.

Files Included/Table of Contents:

1) Codebook.xlsx: provides variable names and brief description of all variables

2) Dataset.txt: complete dataset

3) Analyses Do File.do: executes the main analyses of the paper (logit analysis with committee dummies, logit analysis with committee types, and committee simulations with varied numbers of Black legislators)

Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. 2017. *Comparative Agendas Project.* Distributed by the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin.

Hearings. The Policy Agendas Project at the University of Texas at Austin, 2017. www.comparativeagendas.net. Accessed July 8, 2019.