The National Science Foundation Political Science Awards Dataset Codebook

Constructing the Universe of Cases

The NSF Political Science Awards Dataset was constructed using the NSF Award Search web API system (https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/) in conjunction with official NSF print publications.

Entries from August 1987-December 2020 were retrieved from the NSF Awards Database. These database entries include the names of principal investigators, project titles, abstracts, funding levels, and other pertinent information. Awards with a start date of 1973 through July 1987 are also from the NSF database, but because the NSF database does not include abstracts for these awards, the research output associated with the awards was coded in lieu of the award abstracts. In most cases, the research output was easily identified by searching for the NSF award number and/or author name in Google Scholar. Awards with a start date prior to 1973 are available through the NSF awards database, but they are not searchable by NSF program code. Awards with start dates prior to 1973 were therefore gathered manually by way of National Science Foundation print publications, such as the *Division of Social Sciences Grant List*, which was published annually by the NSF through this period. These print publications list NSF awards by program, with basic information on project type, title, principal investigator, and funding level. Because these awards do not have abstracts, they were coded according to research output when available. Finally, the dataset includes a few projects awarded to political scientists from 1961 to 1964 through the Sociology Program, before the establishment of the Political Science Program. These awards were retroactively associated with the Political Science Program by Program administrators.

Coding Scheme

Transfer (Transfer)

Transfer refers to redundant award entries that resulted from the relocation of the Principal Investigator to a new institution. These entries were retained for the completeness of the record, but they were excluded from the analysis.

No (Not a Transfer)
Yes (Transfer)

Collaborative Research (Repeat)

Each PI in a collaborative research project receives a unique award number from the NSF. To prevent double counting of the same research projects, each award is recorded as either a collaborative project or not. This allows the dollar totals to be added for each part of the collaborative endeavor, while counting the project only once for other tabulations.

No (Unique project, or first instance of a collaborative project)
Yes (Repeat entry for a collaborative project)

Award Number (Award)
The unique award number assigned by the NSF

Start (Start)
Start date for the Award

Dollar Support (Support)
Dollar amount of funding support from the NSF

2021 Dollar Support (Support_2021)
2021 Inflation-adjusted level of support

Type of NSF Project (Type)
1. Substantive research project
2. Research infrastructure (includes support for the development of research tools or software; cleaning or archiving of data; and equipment for research)
3. Professional development with a primary focus on augmenting diversity in the discipline
4. Conference, workshop, or institute (inclusive of methods focus or substantive focus)
5. Dissertation improvement award
6. Fellowship (exclusive of diversity fellowships)
7. Other/not applicable

Research Method Employed (Method)
1. Quantitative methods that entail the collection, coding, or statistical treatment of large-N datasets
2. Qualitative methods that rely on techniques that include process tracing, ethnography, historical/archival work, or context-rich small-N studies; includes interpretive approaches and work that is primarily descriptive in nature
3. Quantitative and qualitative
4. Experimental methods, whether in a laboratory or field setting
5. Formal theory, including studies that incorporate game theory, social choice theory, or other theoretical model construction based on deductive reasoning
6. Not apparent in abstract
7. Not applicable (e.g., no empirical treatment)
8. Quantitative and experimental
9. Quantitative and formal modeling
10. Experimental and formal modeling
11. Qualitative and experimental
12. Unknown (for proposals without abstracts when the published research from the project cannot be identified)
13. Qualitative and formal modeling

Note: Mixed method designation is coded only for projects where the secondary method constitutes a substantial aspect (1/3 or more) of the study.

When the research methodology is ambiguous or unclear, the coders may identify the published research output to clarify research methodology.

Disciplinary Subfield (Subfield)

1. American Politics
2. Comparative Politics (including treatments where the United States is a comparative case)
3. International Relations
4. Political Theory/Philosophy

6. Not apparent in abstract
7. Not applicable
8. Methodology

12. Unknown (for proposals without abstracts when published research from the project cannot be found)