Conceptual and Measurement Issues in Assessing Democratic Backsliding
ReadMe

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This Dataverse contains all the files necessary to replicate the analyses in "Conceptual and Measurement Issues in Assessing Democratic Backsliding." It contains four files pertaining to different sets of analysis.

1 lm_replication.zip

lm_replication.zip contains R (`lm_analyses.R`) and Stata (`FigD5.do`) code to produce Table 1 and Figures 1, 6, 8 and 9 in the text; as well as Appendix Figures D1-5. `FigD5.do` produces Figure D5, while `lm_analyses.R` produces all other tables and figures. The file uses the datasets **lm_replication.RData**, which was produced by running lines 1-773 in the file `backsliding_replication_code.Rmd` from Little (2023, v2). **lm_backsliding.csv** is identical to **lm_replication.RData**, and can be produced using code in `lm_analyses.R`; the user should convert the variable "oindex" to a string variable when using **lm_backsliding.csv** in `FigD5.do`. `lm_analyses.R` requires the packages **ggplot2**, **showtext**, **dplyr**, **tidyr**, **broom**, **dotwhisker** and **gridExtra**; all available

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on CRAN. Amanda Edgell, Kyle Marquardt, Daniel Pemstein and Jan Teorell are the responsible authors for this file.

2 Figs_2_3_5.zip

Figs_2_3_5.zip contains the data files:

a20230811.rds with pre-processed posterior samples of V-Dem's EDI;
country_ids.rds with a table of country names and text ids;
just_poly_thin_post_2.rds with raw posterior samples of V-Dem's EDI;

and `R` code:

`00_helpers.R` with custom functions used by the other scripts;
`01_dataprep.R` pre-processing the posterior samples;
`02_fig2.R` drawing Figure 2;
`03_fig3.R` drawing Figure 3;
`04_fig5.R` drawing Figure 5;

The scripts require packages **coda** and **entropy**, and optionally also the **extrafont** package with the *News Cycle* (all available from CRAN) typeface installed from `https://fonts.google.com/specimen/News+Cycle`. Juraj Medzihorsky is the responsible author for these files.

3 Fig4AppendixA.zip

Fig4AppendixA.zip contains R code (`ReplicationFig4&AppendixA.R`) to produce Figures 4 and A1-8. The code requires the V–Dem v5, v9 and v13 coder-level datasets; the user must download these datasets from the appropriate sources. The code uses the files `V-Dem Question IDs v5 (2016).xlsx` and `CountryIDs.xlsx` to identify V–Dem questions and countries. It requires the packages **data.table**, **tidyverse**, **extrafont**, **tidyr**, **readxl**, **dotwhisker**, **ggplotify** and **gridExtra**; all available on CRAN. Michael Coppedge is the responsible author for this file.

4 AppendixB.do

AppendixB.do contains Stata code to produce Table B.1. The code requires the V–Dem v13 coder-level dataset; the user must download this dataset from the appropriate source. Brigitte Seim is the responsible author for this file.

Attribution

Users of the replication materials should properly attribute the different data sources used in these analyses. For example, all replication files extensively use different versions of the V–Dem Dataset; Replication File 1 uses Little (2023, v2), which in turn uses sources including NELDA, DPI, and Meng (2020).