Codebook for Replication Data for:

'Why Change a Winning Team? Explaining Post-Election Cabinet Reshuffles in Four Westminster Democracies',

Political Studies. Forthcoming.

Thomas G. Fleming

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tom.fleming@ucl.ac.uk

Summary

This codebook explains the structure and variables for the data set included in this replication folder.

Citation

Users of the data are requested to cite the following paper, which contains the research for which this data was collected.

- Fleming, Thomas G. Forthcoming. 'Why Change a Winning Team? Explaining Post-Election Cabinet Reshuffles in Four Westminster Democracies'. *Political Studies*.

Dataset ("reshuffles_data.csv")

This dataset contains information about sixty-three post-election cabinet reshuffles in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, between 1945 and 2020. Each row represents an individual post-election reshuffle. For detail on the criteria for including reshuffles, and the data sources used to compile this information, please see the paper itself.

Variables

Name	*Description*
country	Country
election.date	Date of general election after which reshuffle took place.
cabinet.date	Date on which government was formed after the election.
cabinet	Cabinet label.
party	Party forming the cabinet.
entered	The number of ministers who newly entered the cabinet at the reshuffle.
left	The number of ministers who left the cabinet at the reshuffle.
moved	The number of ministers who remained in the cabinet at the reshuffle, but who changed portfolio(s).
unmoved	The number of ministers who remained in the cabinet at the reshuffle and retained the exact same portfolio(s).
preelection.total	The total number of ministers in the pre-election cabinet.

finance.moved	A binary indicator of whether the pre-election finance minister was moved in the reshuffle. (Takes the value of zero in cases where the pre-election finance minister was also the prime minister, or where they left parliament at the election.)
finance.available	A binary indicator of whether the pre-election finance minister was still in parliament, and therefore eligible for ministerial office, after the election. (Takes the value of zero if the pre-election finance minister was also the prime minister.)
finance.tenure	The number of continuous days since the pre-election finance minister took that role (regardless of what other portfolios they might have also held during that period).
foreign.moved	A binary indicator of whether the pre-election foreign minister was moved in the reshuffle. (Takes the value of zero in cases where the pre-election foreign minister was also the prime minister, or where they left parliament at the election.)
foreign.available	A binary indicator of whether the pre-election foreign minister was still in parliament, and therefore eligible for ministerial office, after the election. (Takes the value of zero if the pre-election foreign minister was also the prime minister.)
foreign.tenure	The number of continuous days since the pre-election foreign minister took that role (regardless of what other portfolios they might have also held during that period).
postelection.total	The total number of ministers in the post-election cabinet.
median.cabinet.tenure	The median number of continuous days that the pre-election cabinet ministers had spent in cabinet.
median.post.tenure	The median number of continuous days that the pre-election cabinet ministers had held their current cabinet portfolio(s).
unavailable	The number of pre-election cabinet ministers no longer in parliament after the election.
selection.rule	A categorical variable indicating situations where the prime minister's party allows the parliamentary caucus to elect cabinet members ("caucus") rather than the prime minister having full discretion ("pm").
voteshare	The national vote share secured by the re-elected governing party at the election.
voteshare.change	The change in the governing party's vote share, relative to the last general election.
seatshare	The share of parliamentary seats secured by the re-elected governing party at the election. (Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral settings).
seatshare.change	The change in the governing party's seat share, relative to the last general election.
new.PM	A binary indicator of situations where a new prime minister had taken office since the last general election.
pm.departure	A categorical variable indicating whether – and if so, why – the prime minister left that office during the subsequent parliamentary term.