Evidence for the Irrelevance of Irrelevant Events

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Political Science Research and Methods

Description of Data and Scripts, and Instructions to Reproduce Analysis

This document describes the R scripts and all variables that are included in the replication datasets. You can execute the scrips in three ways: (a) create an RProj file in the folder that contains the data and scripts and run the files in this RProj environment; (b) set the working directory manually using `setwd()`, or (3) use the **here** package.

The package versions used to successfully run all analyses are listed at the beginning of each script, and the html log files contain the output of `sessionInfo()` which provides details on the environment and all loaded packages. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the authors.

R Scripts and Required Datasets

- `00_run_files_and_create_logs.R`: after setting the working directory, this file executes all scripts below, produces and saves the output (tables and graphs), and also creates .html files based on each script. These .html files embed the output of tables and graphs to show that the results have been reproduced correctly. The .html output files have the same filenames as the replication scripts and are also stored in this Dataverse.
- `01a_regressions_local_general.R`: run the regression models for the paper and appendix relying on candidate-level data from local and general elections. This script loads *data_elections_general_full.rds* and *data_elections_local_full.rds*.
- `01b_unexpected_events_ines.R`: run the "unexpected events during survey design" analysis using the 2002 and 2007 Irish National Election Studies. The script loads *data_ines_subset.rds* which contains the relevant variables from the election studies and information on GAA games, a respondent's county of residence, and the outcome of match results.
- `02a_all_model_specifications_general.R`: script to produce the sensitivity curves on general election results for incumbent candidates, reported in SI Section E (Figure A15). This script loads *data_elections_general_full.rds*.

- `02b_all_model_specifications_local.R`: script to produce the sensitivity curves on local election results for incumbent candidates, reported in SI Section E (Figure A16). This script loads data_elections_local_full.rds.
- `02c_all_model_specifications_incumbent_party.R`: script to produce the sensitivity curves on general election results for candidates from government/opposition parties, reported in SI Section E (Figure A17). This script loads data_elections_general_full.rds.
- `03_equivalence_and_permutation_tests.R`: runs the equivalence tests (SI Section F) and permutation tests (SI Section G). This script takes a while to run given that each permutation test relies on 1,000 random draws for each of the three scenarios.
- `04_analyse_issp.R`: analyze data from the ISSP survey on favorite sports and pride when country does well at an international sporting competition.[1] This script loads *data_issp_2009_sports.*rds which contains a subset from the variables included in the ISSP survey. The script produces Figure A1 and A2 (SI Section A).
- `05_analyse_irish_voters.R`: This script loads *data_ess_2014_knowledge.rds*, a subset of variables from 2014 European Election Study (variables on political knowledge and the country of residence of each respondent).[2] Figures A30 and A31 (SI Section J) rely on this dataset. The script also loads *data_ines_subset.rds*, a subset of variables from the 2002 and 2007 Irish National Election Studies (variables on contact with politicians). This dataset is used to produce Figures A32 and A33 (SI Section K).
- `function_theme_base.R`: R script containing the custom ggplot2 scheme used for all plots.

Note

```
> sessionInfo()
R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin17.0 (64-bit)
Running under: macOS  10.16

Matrix products: default
LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.0/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib

locale:
[1] en_IE.UTF-8/en_IE.UTF-8/en_IE.UTF-8/C/en_IE.UTF-8/en_IE.UTF-8

attached base packages:
[1] grid      stats     graphics  grDevices utils     datasets  methods   base

other attached packages:
```

[1] **ISSP Research Group** (2009) International Social Survey Programme: Leisure Time and Sports – ISSP 2007. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA4850 Data file Version 2.0.0. doi: 10.4232/1.10079.

[2] **Schmitt H, Hobolt SB, Popa SA and Teperoglou E** (2016) European Parliament Election Study 2014, Voter Study, First Post-Election Survey. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5160 Data file Version 4.0.0. doi: 10.4232/1.12628.

```
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lubridate_1.7.10
[13] broom.mixed_0.2.6  broom_0.7.4        survey_4.0         survival_3.2-7     Matrix_1.3-2
WeightIt_0.11.0
[19] cobalt_4.2.4       pwr_1.3-0          car_3.0-10         carData_3.0-4      cowplot_1.1.1      here_1.0.1
[25] modelsummary_0.8.0 ggeffects_1.0.1    estimatr_0.30.2    ggplot2_3.3.3      stringr_1.4.0      tidyr_1.1.3
[31] dplyr_1.0.5        knitr_1.31

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
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```