Replication files for Panel et al. (2023)
Codebook

This document lists the variables included in the file "TechnocratsData.dta." These are the main variables used for analysis in Panel et al. (2023), "The lure of technocrats: a conjoint experiment on preferences for technocratic ministers in six European countries," *Political Behavior* (forthcoming).

Respondent-level variables:

ResponseId is a unique identifier for each respondent.

Country indicates respondents' country of residence (string variable):

- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Poland
- Spain
- UK

countrynum is a numeric country identifier:

- 1: France
- 2: Germany
- 3: Italy
- 4: Poland
- 5: Spain
- 6: UK

Q33_IssuePriority_1 indicates whether respondents attach importance to Foreign Affairs. This is a string variable that can take on following values:

- Not at all important
- Not very important
- Somewhat important
- Very important

Q33_IssuePriority_2, Q33_IssuePriority_3 and *Q33_IssuePriority_4* are the same question asked for the following domains: Education (2), Agriculture (3), and Finance (4). Response categories are the same.

Q17_AttentionCheck is an attention check question (respondents failed the attention check if they chose the following response: "Minister of Sport"). String variable.

ALL_weights assigns sampling weights to respondents based on sex, age, region, and educational attainment.

vignette is a numeric identifier (values: 1 to 10) for each profile viewed by a respondent, where odd numbers indicate the profile that appeared on the left of the screen and even numbers indicate the profile that appeared on the right of the screen.

- 1-2: Prime Minister

- 3-4: Minister of Finance
- 5-6: Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 7-8: Minister of Agriculture
- 9-10: Minister of Education

Q34_PolicyPref_1 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: “Fight against inequality.” Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q34_PolicyPref_2 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: “Enhance the country's global competitiveness.” Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q34_PolicyPref_3 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: “Increase taxes on profits and high incomes.” Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q34_PolicyPref_4 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: “Lower public spending to pay off the debt.” Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q34_PolicyPref_5 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: “Increase foreign aid.” Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q35_PolicyPref_6 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: “Coordinate

with neighboring countries to increase border control." Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q35_PolicyPref_7 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: "Restrict the use of herbicide and pesticide in agriculture." Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q35_PolicyPref_8 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: "Develop genetically modified crop production." Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q35_PolicyPref_9 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: "Increase the number of teachers in underprivileged areas." Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q35_PolicyPref_10 measures respondent's position toward the following policy option: "Increase subsidies for private schools." Response categories are:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Minister-level variables (conjoint experiment):

task is a string variable indicating the task (ministry):

- Agriculture
- Education
- Finance

- Foreign (for Foreign Affairs)
- PM (for the Prime minister)

selected indicates whether a profile was chosen as the respondent's preferred profile (the analysis' dependent variable):
- 1 if the profile was selected
- 0 otherwise

minage is the minister's age. Values:
- 40
- 65

gendernum is the minister's gender:
- 1 if the minister is female
- 2 if the minister is male

party indicates whether the minister is affiliated to a political party:
- 1: no
- 2: yes

occupation is the minister's prior occupation:
- 0: Member of Parliament
- 1: minister
- 2: high-ranking civil servant
- 3: academic
- 4: businessperson

class is the minister's social background:
- 0: working-class origins
- 1: upper-class origins

expertise indicates whether the minister:
- 1: is an expert in the ministry's domain
- 0: is not an expert

Note: this variable does not exist for the Prime Minister.

minpol indicates the ministers' policy positions (string variable; two possible positions for each task).

match is a dummy indicating whether, for each profile/task, the policy position endorsed by the minister corresponds with the respondent's views:
- 0 if the respondent disagrees with the minister's position
- 1 if the respondent agrees with the minister's position

account2 indicates whether the minister:
- 0: would act following his/her own expertise
- 1: would act following the parliamentary majority
- 2: would act following the wishes of citizens