South African Protest Dataset

Codebook and Coding Procedures

To accompany article: Protest Brokers and the Technology of Mobilization: Evidence from Africa

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2021

Note: the version of the SAPD that accompanies this article is a subset version of the full dataset (subset to include a restricted number of variables, service delivery protests only, and only those which took place between 2004 and 2012). This is the version of the dataset that was used for the case study selection in the article, but the dataset itself is being constantly updated and expanded. For access to the full dataset, please contact the author.

The South African Protest Dataset (SAPD) is a new, author-created dataset of protests in South Africa. It contains information on all community-based protests that occurred between **January 1, 2004** and **December 31, 2012**.[1] Community-based protests are defined here as **protests carried out by members of a geographically defined and identifiable neighborhood.**

All protest incidents are geocoded, and, crucially, the SAPD focuses on the locations from which the protesters come, rather than the locations of the protests themselves. This sets the SAPD apart from any existing dataset.

To be considered a protest for this database, the event:

- Must **involve more than one person**
- Must involve a **public gathering** of some sort. That is, it cannot just involve talk about protests, voicing concerns in a meeting (no matter how explosively), calling for protests, a petition (without a march or gathering to deliver it), people being "up in arms", protest resignations and so on.
- Must be aimed at **protesting a specific issue or set of issues**. It cannot just involve vigilante violence or looting.
- Must **have happened at the time of the newspaper report**, not just be planned.
- And, as the interest here is in the spatial patterns of protest, the **location must be given**.

The primary sources of information for this dataset are the archives of forty-eight South African newspapers, along with the archives of the South African Press Association (SAPA). The full list of sources, in alphabetical order, is:

1. Beeld
2. Business Day
3. Business Times Tanzanie
4. Cape Argus
5. Cape Times
6. Citizen
7. City Press
8. Daily Dispatch
9. Daily News
10. Diamond Fields Advertiser
11. Die Burger

[1] It has since been updated to cover an extended period, but the 2004-2012 dataset was the one used for case study selection.

12. Die Vrye Afrikaan
13. Enterprise
14. Express
15. Farmers Weekly
16. Financial Mail
17. Finweek English
18. Finweek (Fin and Tegniek)
19. Independent on Saturday
20. Joernaal Eietydse Geskied
21. Leadership SA
22. Mail and Guardian
23. New Era
24. Newsweek
25. Ons Stad
26. Padlangs
27. Pretoria News
28. Rapport
29. Saturday Argus
30. Saturday Star
31. Servamus
32. South African Press Association (SAPA)
33. Sowetan
34. Star
35. Sunday Argus
36. Sunday Independent
37. Sunday Times
38. Sunday Tribune
39. The Herald (Ep Herald)
40. The New Age
41. The Times
42. The Weekender
43. This Day
44. Time
45. Volksblad
46. Vrystaat Sake Bulletin
47. Weekend Post
48. Witness
49. Zuid-Afrika

Search Methodology

Search Procedure: Sabinet

The primary search was done using the SA Media database through the Sabinet Reference Platform (http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa_media) as follows:

Using the search interface, enter the search term – "protest"

Select appropriate date ranges (1 January 2004 to 31 December 2012), and click "search".

Sorting Procedure: Sabinet

Sort the results by publication date (ascending). Begin with oldest listed story and proceed chronologically. Discard if not relevant. If relevant, capture data as outlined below. If the headline seems relevant, but the scanned newspaper article is unreadable, record it, including the headline, date and newspaper to be checked in the archives later.

Search Procedure: SAPA

A secondary search was done using the archives of the South African Press Association (SAPA) through the Factiva Database as follows:

Using the search interface, enter the search term – "protest."

Restrict the source to SAPA. Select appropriate date ranges (1 January 2004 to 31 December 2012), and click "search".

Sorting Procedure: SAPA

Sort the results by publication date (ascending). Begin with oldest listed story and proceed chronologically. Discard if not relevant. If relevant, capture data as outlined below.

Coding Procedure

This section describes the variables in the subset version of the SAPD, along with information on how each is to be coded.

Eventid

Each event must be given a unique event ID, made up of the country code (ZA) and then a six digit number beginning with 000001. So the earliest protest coded takes the eventid ZA000001, the next takes ZA000002 and so on. Note that each event ID refers to one protest in one community on one day.

- Where multiple protests happened on the same day in different locations each *location* should be given a separate event ID.
- Where residents travelled from different locations to protest together (and these locations are reported), each *location* should be given a separate event ID to enable accurate spatial analysis.
- Where multiple protests happened in one location over different days – each protest should be given a separate event ID.

Event_date

List the day, month and year for when the event begins (DD/MM/YYYY). If the exact start date cannot be identified, this should be the best approximation of the start date, using the following rules:

- If it says "last week" or "two weeks ago" with no other information put the event on the Wednesday of the week concerned.
- If the report appeared in the newspaper concerned on a Saturday or Sunday, then count "last week" as the week immediately preceding it. If is appeared on a Friday or before, then count "last week" as the previous week.
- If no date at all mentioned but report implies it was recent (eg. "Residents protest service delivery in Langa") or says "this week" with no other information, assume previous day.
- If "last month" with no other date information or "in February" etc, put on the 15 of the month indicated.
- If "last year," with no other date information, do not include the event

Year

Record the start year in this column.

Location

Record the location of the protest as given in the report. Note, where possible the focus here is on the community the protesters come from.

- If the protest is a march from one place to another, record the location *from which the protestors come*
- If the protest occurs in one place but the protesters are noted as coming from a different location, record the location *from which the protestors come*
- If no location at all mentioned do not include event

- If two locations mentioned, record as two separate events – one for each community.

Longitude / Latitude
Record the approximate longitude and latitude of the given location using latlong.net. A central location withing the identified community is preferred for geocoding, unless a more precise location is given in the report. Where latlong.net does not recognize the location, use Google Maps. If a longitude and latitude cannot be obtained, drop the observation.

Province
Record the province in which the protest took place. Note this should be the province the location was in as of the 2011 Census to allow for analysis alongside this census data.

Provcode
Record the province code assigned to the province in the 2011 Census.
Western Cape = 1
Eastern Cape = 2
Northern Cape = 3
Free State = 4
KwaZulu-Natal = 5
North West = 6
Gauteng = 7
Mpumalanga = 8
Limpopo = 9

Municipality
Record the municipality in which the protest took place. The lowest municipal level should be recorded. That is, either Metropolitan or Local (not District). Note this should be the municipality the location was in as of the 2011 Census to allow for analysis alongside this census data.

Municipcode
Record the municipality code assigned to the municipality in the 2011 Census.

mainplace
Record the main place in which the protest took place (that is, the mainplace of the location recorded in the previous column). Note this should be the main place the location was in as of the 2011 Census to allow for analysis alongside this census data.

Mpcode
Record the main place code assigned to the main place in the 2011 Census.

Source 1
List, by name, the first source you come across in which the protest is mentioned.

Source 2 / Source 3 and on
List, by name, any additional sources in which the protest is mentioned.

Note (text)
Provides additional information on the event, including a brief summary.

Service Delivery
Takes a 1 if the event was over service delivery issues, and a 0 otherwise. Service delivery protests are protests focused on the delivery of basic services at a local level. This includes protests over the availability, access, price, and quality of electricity, sanitation, and water services, as well as the provision of public housing, road quality, basic education, basic health services and public transport. It does not include protests over unemployment, HIV/AIDS treatment, wages, government corruption, police activity or violence against foreigners (xenophobic riots), except where these issues are named alongside service delivery concerns by those involved. For more information see Alexander and Pfaffe (2014), Booysen (2009), Nleya (2011), and Langa and Kiguwa (2013).

References

Alexander, Peter, and Peter Pfaffe. 2014. "Social Relationships to the Means and Ends of Protest in South Africa's Ongoing Rebellion of the Poor: The Balfour Insurrections." *Social Movement Studies* 13 (2): 204–21. https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2013.820904.

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Langa, Malose, and Peace Kiguwa. 2013. "Violent Masculinities and Service Delivery Protests in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Case Study of Two Communities in Mpumalanga." *Agenda* 27 (1): 20–31. https://doi.org/10.1080/10130950.2013.793897.

Nleya, Ndodana. 2011. "Linking Service Delivery and Protest in South Africa: An Exploration of Evidence from Khayelitsha." *Africanus* 41 (1): 3–13.