Bush 631: Final project

Data driven policymaking

Instructions

This document provides you with instructions regarding the final project of this class.

In the project, you will explore a topic or a policy of interest in the context of international affairs. The main objective is to study the relevant topic, present explanations for the events/behavior of the main actors, and derive implications for policymaking. Quantitative methods are a central part of the project. The data analysis will be integrated in a way that support your study of the topic and the proposed implications/recommendations for policy. You may use the empirical results in any appropriate section including evidence for existing conditions, causes for certain outcomes or support for recommendations.

For the final project, you will prepare three products:

1. Research proposal
2. Data report
3. Visual presentation of study and executive summary.

Tips for writing all your documents:

- Follow the 'best practices of writing' as we talked about in class.
- Remember the **Bottom-Line-Up-Front (BLUF)** guidelines for every section of your documents.
- 'Break-down' your arguments into multiple paragraphs.
- Follow the 5Ps (people,purpose,problem,product,process) when preparing your project.
- Follow consistent rules for citations and providing credit for any content that is not originally yours (add cites at the end of your document).
- Situate your study in the real world - what instances of this topic are prominent in global affairs.

Research proposal (due 03.22.2022)

This document presents your plan for the research. It must answer the following questions:

1. What is the topic / policy area that you study?

2. Why it this topic / policy important and interesting? (the "so what?").

3. What does the existing state of knowledge of this issue / topic? (the primary points in the literature)

4. How do you intend to learn of the issue?

5. What quantitative data do you intend to use?

6. The general outline of the visual presentation product.

Few more pointers:

- The research proposal is written as a single document in which you describe your plan to study the issue.

- Document length is 1-2 pages max.

Data report (due 03.28.2022)

This document includes a more extensive presentation of the data used in the project.

- Describe your topic of research and its importance - briefly!

- Which dataset do you intend to use?

- Describe the data - type (experiment/observational), size, type of vars, scope (years/countries covered, sample features).

- Explain why you chose this data? how does it help in your study of the topic of interest?

- Your DV(s): describe the measures used in the data (add a figure that offers more insight about the measure(s) - the distribution of values, the mean and SD, etc.)

- Your IVs - describe the measures you will use from the data (add figures/tables that offer more insight about the measure(s) - the distribution of values, the mean and SD, etc.)

- Briefly describe the type of data analysis you plan to conduct to answer your research questions.

Poster/Infographic

The product would address all aspects of your project.

- Clear and focused description of the topic and its importance.

- Use visual tools to present your theory/expectations.

- Figures/plots should be informative - the audience can learn from them without added text.

- Describe the **primary/most relevant** implications of your work.

- Add contact information.

Executive summary

This document complements the poster/infographic.

- What is the topic? Why is it important?

- What is your explanation/expectation for the topic at-stake?

- Describe the data collected: source, size, type.

- Brief description of the empirical tests.

- Main results (you can add table to summarize some findings).

- Expand on the policy/practical implications of research.

- Document should be 1-1.5 pages long.

The data

You are asked to use *at least* one dataset from the list below:

- There is a total of **7** datasets, spanning several topics in international affairs and foreign policy (leaders, conflict, terrorism, sanctions, political economy, diplomacy, and public opinion polls).

- You are asked to select **at least** one data set and use the information in order to support your analysis of a FP issue.

- Each data set is provided with an attached document (the codebook) in which there are details about the definition and values of the variables in the data set.

- In addition, each data includes a link to a recent research article that uses parts of the data to explore issues in global affairs. You may use these studies to guide your thinking on how to leverage the information in the data set.

Data 1: **Global Leaders** (contains information about leaders of 18 countries between 1949-2014)

File name and type: "Leaders.csv"

Codebook name: "Leaders_codebook.pdf"

Article: Fuhrmann, M. (2020). "When Do Leaders Free-Ride? Business Experience and Contributions to Collective Defense." *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2), 416-431.

Data 2: **External threat and polarization in US public - survey experiment** (contains information from an experiment of 2500 Americans about security threats and political polarization).

File name and type: "Threat_polarization.csv".

Codebook name: "Threat_polarization_codebook.pdf".

Article: Myrick, R. (2019). "Do External Threats Unite or Divide? Security Crises, Rivalries, and Polarization in American Foreign Policy" *International Organization*, First View, 1-38.

Data 3: **UN Sanctions Episodes** (contains information about targeted sanction campaigns by the UN between 1991-2013).

File name and type: "TSC_Sanctions_Data.xlsx"

Codebook name: "TSC_Codebook.pdf".

Article: Biersteker, T.J., Eckert, S. E., Tourinho, M., & Hudakova, Z. (2018). "UN targeted sanctions datasets (1991–2013)." *Journal of peace research*, 55(3), 404-412.

Data 4: **Diplomatic visits** (contains information about diplomatic visits by the US president and secretary of state 1946-2010).

File name and type: "Diplo_visits.dta".

Codebook name: "Diplomatic_core_info.pdf".

Article: Lebovic, J. & Saunders, E. (2016). "The diplomatic core: The determinants of high-level US diplomatic visits, 1946–2010." *International Studies Quarterly*, 60(1), 107-123.

Data 5: **Drones as counter-terrorism tool - survey experiment** (contains information from an experiment of 2400 Americans about using drones and aspects of international law).

File name and type: "Drones_public.dta".

Codebook name: "Drones_codebook.pdf".

Article: Kreps, S. & Wallace, G. (2016). "International law, military effectiveness, and public support for drone strikes." *Journal of Peace Research*, 53(6), 830-844.

Data 6: **Terror/insurgent organizations and policy responses** (contains information about multiple insurgent organizations and various government reactions 1998-2012).

File name and type: "Terrorism_CT_BAAD2.dta"

Codebook name: "InsurgentPolicy_codebook.pdf"; "BAAD2_Codebook.pdf".

Article: Asal, V. Fisher, D., & Young, J. (2020). "Target Them with What? Why States Choose Different COIN Strategies for Different Insurgent Organizations." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1-15.

Data 7: **American troops deployment and hosts' public opinion** (contains information about 14 countries where US troops are deployed and how the local population view relevant issues).

File name and type: "Troops.csv"

Codebook name: "Troops_codebook.pdf".

Article: Allen, M. A., Flynn, M. E., Machain, C. M., & Stravers, A. (2020). "Outside the wire: US military deployments and public opinion in host states." *American Political Science Review*, 114(2), 326-341.