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The Cost of Repression: Bribery, Competence, and Informational Autocrats

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4th May 2022

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Background

▶ Unpacking corruption into constituent parts

▶ Two dimensions: nature of corruption, and level of corruption

▶ Focusing on low-level bribery

▶ Relationship with "competence of government" aspect of informational autocracy

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Research Question

▶ What accounts for the varying levels of corruption across
authoritarian regimes?

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Hypotheses

Two hypotheses:

H_1: Personalistic dictatorships will foster higher levels of executive corruption relative to party regimes.

H_2: Regime duration is expected to have a higher effect on regime corruption in personalistic dictatorships compared to party regimes.

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Research Design

Linear regression models to predict four different types of corruption.

▶ Executive bribery
▶ Executive theft
▶ Public sector bribery
▶ Public sector theft

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Variables

▶ Corruption type as dependent variable.

▶ Regime type is the independent variable: Party, or personalistic?

▶ Regime duration, natural resource rents, public sector impartiality as controls.

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Data

Data drawn from the Varieties of Democracy Project (**vdem2022?**) and (**geddes_wright_frantz_2014?**). Data from the former available until 2022, but latter provides data only up until 2010; this is a limitation.

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Summary Statistics

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