

Emotional-Belief Analysis Codeform
Coding Emotions and Beliefs in Public Discourse (GAC)
DNA and Excel Codebook | August 2023
Allegra H. Fullerton & Christopher M. Weible

Emotions are a pivotal component of political discourse and are an essential aspect of policy process research. The Advocacy Coalition Framework analyzes emotional expressions (emotions that are within language) through their conjunction with beliefs. Expressed emotions and beliefs are the foundation of the Emotional Belief Analysis (EBA) a coding and data analysis method that allows researchers to reliably identify, classify, and interpret emotional belief expressions in political discourse. This document outlines the methods used to analyze various documents, including news media, legislative testimony, amicus briefs, legislative testimony, social media, interviews, and more. This method is inspired by and built upon past applications of coding beliefs within the ACF.

Intended Application

These methods have been developed for the analysis of emotion and belief expressions found in written discourse. This includes but is not limited to, legislative testimony, news media, social media, interviews, and amicus briefs. They were not developed to measure the experienced emotion, or the emotion that is felt, but rather the expressed emotion, which is observable through language. This method is applicable to identifying both explicit and implicit emotional expressions.

Discrete vs Dimensional

Early scholarship on the study of emotions included debates on if emotions are best understood as points along a continuous dimension of meaning (and it is unclear how many dimensions) or if it is more useful to think of emotions as discrete experiences which correspond with specific labels. This method is a discrete method, meaning that the identified emotions fit within one category.

Coding Unit #	Coded Name (abbreviation)	Definitions and Descriptions
1	n_actor (n_actor)	The narrating actor is the individual speaking. Use the full name (first and last) if known. Use the individual's full name (if known) in the first statement attributable to the narrating actor using "first" "last" format. In subsequent statements utilize DNA's drop-down list function for the same actor to ensure consistency. If a journalist is paraphrasing for another person, the person being paraphrased is the narrating actor. Look for words such as "said, cited, expressed" to find paraphrased phrases.
2	n_actor affiliation (n_actor_aff)	Affiliation is the informal or formal organization or group connected to the narrating actor. Be as specific as possible and include the full name of the organization. If the coded statement is from a journalist, include the name of their outlet as the affiliation. If a narrating actor is not clearly speaking on behalf of the organization they belong to or if their profession rather than their organization identifies them, code their title or profession instead (e.g., "emergency physician"). If a narrating actor is a member of the public or has no affiliation mentioned, list "public" as their affiliation.
3	N-actor position (nar_pos)	The narrating actor's position (supportive (pro) against (anti) neutral (neutral)) concerning the central focal point of interest, such as a policy, project, process, or situation. The focal point of interest will vary by the research project. Use the compilation of statements for the narrating actor from the document(s) to inform this code. If against the focal point, code as anti. If for the focal point, code as pro. If both against and for or if unclear or undisclosed code as unidentified.
4	EB_actor (eb_actor)	The individual, entity, or organization that feels the emotion as expressed. When coding statements, use the individual's full name (if known) in the first statement attributable to the actor using the "first" and "last" format. In subsequent statements, utilize DNA's drop-down list function for the same actor to ensure consistency. If a statement involves a group – code the statement once for each group member if every member is named. If a group is cited, but every member is not named, code the statement once and list the group as the actor (e.g., protesters, State Assembly members, etc.)

5	EB_actor_affiliation (eb_actor_aff)	Similar to the narrating actor's affiliation, the emotion-belief actor's affiliation is the informal or formal organization or group connected to the narrating actor. Be as specific as possible with the name code. Use the full organization name (if known) in the first instance that the organization is coded. In subsequent statements, use DNA's dropdown list function to ensure consistency. If an emotion-belief actor is not clearly speaking on behalf of the organization they belong to or if their profession rather than their organization identifies them, code their title or profession instead (e.g., "emergency physician"). If an emotion-belief actor is a member of the public or has no affiliation mentioned, list "public" as their affiliation.
6	EB_actor position (eb_actor_pos)	The emotion-belief actor's position (supportive (pro) against (anti) neutral (neutral) concerning the central focal point of interest, in this case, gender affirming care. The focal point of interest will vary by the research project. Use the compilation of statements for the narrating actor from the documents(s) to inform this code. If against the focal point, code as anti. If for the focal point, code as pro. If both against and for or if unclear or undisclosed code as unidentified.
7	self narrator (self_nar)	Self_narrator refers to whether the narrating actor is describing their emotion. If so, code as yes. If they are narrating for others, code no.
8	emotion (emot)	<p>Emotion refers to the expressed emotion. When coding emotions, code both explicit and implicit emotions (see Coding Unit #9).</p> <p>Explicit emotions are directly mentioned in the statement (e.g., "He was concerned about the policy.") Concerned is the explicit emotion. For explicit emotions, write the emotion word, and then in parentheses, write one of the 8 categories that this emotion fits. The 8 categories include affinity, dismay, anger, content, fear, confidence, careless, & compassion.</p> <p>The thesaurus with listed examples for the 8 categories is a separate document available for use from the authors' git (link removed for peer review).</p> <p>Review the thesaurus before coding and use the search feature for the explicit emotion word, (e.g. concern), within it while coding. Many emotion words have previously been identified.</p> <p>The word in parentheses needs to be one of the 8 parent categories from the thesaurus, e.g., "demand (anger), concern (fear), hurt (dismay), need (affinity)."</p>

		<p>If there is no word or phrase that directly implies an emotion, but the statement as a whole conveys emotion, then code the implicit emotion (one of the 8 parent categories) in parentheses without any emotive words/phrases out of the parentheses. Implicit emotions are not directly mentioned, but the statement can still convey a feeling. For example, “Who knows why they are proposing this policy” would be an implicit emotion where “who knows” coded as the emotion of uncertainty in the category of fear.</p> <p>If there are multiple emotions, code each one as a separate line of code. If the same emotion is used more than once, code it multiple times (in separate lines).</p>
9	explicit or Implicit (exp)	<p>For emotional expressions with an explicit expressed emotion (see Coding Unit #8), code as explicit; otherwise, code as implicit. Explicit emotions are included in the thesaurus. If it is not in the thesaurus, it is most likely an implicit emotion. Additionally, adverbs are often implicit and look for negative modifiers, often signifying implicit disapproval or suffering emotion.</p>
10	emotional tense: (emot_tense)	<p>Emotional tense refers to the expressed timing of the emotion: past, current, future, or ongoing. Code only one category. Code text as written (e.g., do not interpret the present tense as ongoing because of outside information).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past: The subject of the emotion has already happened • Future: The subject of the emotion is in the future. There is an explicit mention that the actor thinks something will or might happen (residents are concerned about a proposed.” • Current: The subject of the emotion is immediate but not without an enduring or lasting characteristic. • Ongoing: The subject of the emotion is something in the present with an enduring or lasting characteristic.
11	belief (blf)	<p>Belief is coded as one of the ACF’s belief system components and levels. It is the “object” of the emotional expression. The belief could be deep core belief, policy core belief, or secondary belief. We build from the 1999 Jenkins-Smith conceptualization of belief systems. See a full explanation here.</p> <p>1. Deep Core Beliefs - fundamental normative axioms, the priority of values, distributive justice (whose welfare counts), sociocultural identity, race/gender/ethnicity/religion. Examples in GAC include gender diversity, gender dysphoria, inclusivity, and discrimination code as dcb_discrimination, etc. ASK: Is this a blanket value across policies?</p>

		<p>2. Policy Core Beliefs - we loosely look for beliefs in three categories “policy core policy preference,” “overall seriousness of the problem,” and “basic causes of the problem.” In this study about GAC identified categories include: gender affirming care, lack of gender affirming care, health and safety of kids, health and safety of trans kids, disinformation, and the bill. ASK: What is this policy about?</p> <p>3. Secondary Belief – the belief is about the implementation, the formal and informal policy process. Note, in the Arkansas case of GAC, sb were absent from the discourse, however one should still look for these in their discourse and code if applicable. Code the statement sb_xxx. ASK: How will this be implemented?</p>
12	context (ctx)	<p>Enter other relevant information about the context of this statement if it is not clear from the statement itself, particularly as it relates to the emotion being expressed (e.g. what/who caused the emotion, what/who is the target of the emotion) Include hat tipping (if the narrator acknowledges the emotions of one or more actors with a conflicting point of view while also stating their own point of view), or devil’s shift or inanimate for objects.</p>