

State-to-State Visits 1.0: Codebook

Introduction

The aim of this dataset is to code all state-to-state visits between country 1 and country 2 over a specific period of time. A state-to-state visit is defined as a physical meeting between a representative of country 1 and country 2. Usually this takes place in one of the two respective countries. Please note that we are primarily interested in bilateral visits. Under certain circumstances, described further below, bilateral meetings during or at the sidelines of multilateral conferences are also coded.

With regard to scope there are four restrictions defined for this version of the dataset relating to: a) time, b) country 1, c) the direction of visits, and d) representatives of country 1 and country 2.

For version 1.0 of the dataset we concentrate on the following:

a) Time period

January 2005 – December 2017

b) Countries defined as country 1

Saudi Arabia

Venezuela

Add other countries

c) Directions of visits

In principle, state visits are a relational phenomenon and therefore necessitate a dyadic dataset. For this version of the dataset we concentrate upon one dimension of state-visits dyads only. The visits we code are defined as visits by representatives of country 1 with representatives of all other countries (country 2) taking place in the respective other country (country 2) and meetings by representatives of country 1 with representatives of all other countries (country 2) taking place in third countries.

d) Representatives

In addition to the three previous restrictions we limit ourselves to the following representatives of governments in country 1 and country 2:

- i. Head of State
- ii. Head of Executive
- iii. Foreign Minister

Due to specific country related reasons, which are explained further below, a fourth option “Other representative” is provided. When selected the coder is forced to enter details of the other representative.

On the side of country 2 the similar four categories of government representatives are used.

Data Entry

A Drupal based website has been created that provides an interface to enter data gathered from LexisNexis and other sources. The Drupal website is the central repository for all collected data as well as a tool through which research assistants (RA) can analyze collected data and update relevant data entries easily.

The data entry workflow will operate as follows:

1. RA will login to the Drupal site and click “*Enter Data*”. A page with various data entry options (variables) will be shown. The RA will then enter all the relevant data. A list of the data entry points is listed below. The RA will then select “*Save*”.
2. A table listing the entered data can be accessed via the “*View Database*” link. A list of filters at the top can be selected then click “*Apply*”. The “*Reset*” button will reset all the filters. Entries can also be edited and deleted via this page.

List of Variables

The following Table contains all variables in the order as shown at the “*Enter Data*” side of the Drupal website.

Variable	Explanation	Required
Visit date	Enter single date, start date and end date, or leave empty if unknown. If no date of the visit is available use the publication date of the article or source.	Yes
Only indicates source publication date	Select if the visit data is not traceable from the source and you entered the publication data of the article or source.	
Announced visit	Select if the source just reports the announcement of the visit.	
Country 1	The country of the visiting representative. Please select from the list.	Yes
Type of representative (Country 1)	If the representative is not one of the available options then select "other". If the source mentions that a representative participated <i>on behalf</i> of one of the three options mentioned below (head of state, head of executive and foreign minister) don't select "other" but select the option on which behalf the other representative participated. In this case it is mandatory to add the functional title of the representative and add "on behalf of" which of the three options she/he was acting.	Yes
Head of State	Please select if the representative of country 1 is the official or de-facto head of state. Usually this is a president. In the case of Germany this is the Bundespräsident. In monarchies this is the king, the sultan or the emir. Also in constitutional monarchies this is usually the king or the queen.	
Head of Executive	Please select if the representative of country 1 is the official or de-facto head of the executive. Typically this is the prime minister.	

Foreign Minister	Please select if the representative of country 1 is the official or de-facto minister of foreign affairs.	
Other representative	Please select if the representative of country 1 holds de-facto political power of one of the three functions mentioned above, but does hold a different functional description. A prominent example is, the deputy crown-prince or the crown-prince in Saudi Arabia. Potential other cases could be deriving from representatives of military dictatorships or communist regimes.	
Country 2	The country that either hosts the visit of the representative of country 1 or with which the representative meets in a third country.	Yes
Type of representative (Country 2)	If the representative of country 2 is not one of the available options then select "other" If the source mentions that a representative participated <i>on behalf</i> of one of the three options mentioned below (head of state, head of executive and foreign minister) don't select "other" but select the option on which behalf the other representative participated. In this case it is mandatory to add the functional title of the representative and add "on behalf of" which of the three options she/he was acting.	Yes
Head of State	Please select if the representative of country 2 is the official or de-facto head of state. Usually this is a president. In the case of Germany this is the Bundespräsident. In monarchies this is the king, the sultan or the emir. Also in constitutional monarchies this is usually the king or the queen.	
Head of Executive	Please select if the representative of country 2 is the official or de-facto head of the executive. Typically this is the prime minister.	
Foreign Minister	Please select if the representative of country 2 is the official or de-facto minister of foreign affairs.	

Other representative	Please select if the representative of country 2 holds de-facto political power of one of the three functions mentioned above, but does hold a different title or functional description. Examples are, the deputy crown-prince or the crown-prince in Saudi Arabia. Or select if the representative of country 2 holds another government position.	
Unknown	Please select if it is unknown with whom representative of country 1 has meet with regard to country 2.	No
Conference visit in country 2	Select if the visit was in the context of a conference taking place in country 2	No
Conference visit in third country	Select if the visit was in the context of a conference taking place in a third country.	No
Visit in third country	Select if the meeting (visit) between country 1 and country 2 took place in a third country.	No
General comments	Any data difficulties or other relevant commentary with relate to the coded event can be entered here.	No
Source	The name of the most general source. If the source of the text relates to a newspaper website or the website of an official government unit, add the name of the newspaper or website here.	Yes
News Agency or Newspaper	The name of the news provider (if different to the source). For instance if LexisNexis is used as Source please specify here the name of the news agency like for instance AFP, Reuters etc. If the source of the text is a newspaper website or the website of an official government unit, please add again the name of the newspaper or website.	No
Article date	The date of the article.	Yes
Headline	Please store a copy of the headline of the article.	Yes

Article	Please store the full text of the article.	Yes
Source link	A link to the original article source (if possible).	No
Additional coding notes	Add additional coding notes here, for instance if additional evidence points to the recoding of an already existing entry in the database.	