



**Figure 1: Countries and Years with the Most Observations in the Immigration Opinions Source Data**

In this letter, we present the Immigration dataset, which is based on the host of survey data available and recent advances in latent variable modeling of public opinion that allow us to make use of this sparse and incomparable data. It provides comparable estimates of the public’s attitudes on immigration across countries and over time. We show that these scores are strongly correlated with responses to single survey items as well as with measures XXX. We expect that the PGE data will become an invaluable source for broadly cross-national and longitudinal research on the causes and effects of collective attitudes toward immigrants and immigration.

### Examining the Source Data on Immigration Attitudes

National and cross-national surveys have often included questions tapping attitudes toward immigration over the past four decades, but the resulting data are both sparse, that is, unavailable for many countries and years, and incomparable, generated by many different survey items. In all, we identified 115 such survey items that were asked in no fewer than five country-years in countries surveyed at least twice; these items were drawn from 135 different survey datasets.<sup>1</sup> Together, the

<sup>1</sup>The complete list of immigration survey items is included in online Appendix A.

survey items in the source data were asked in 117 different countries in at least two time points over 39 years, from 1981 to 2020, yielding a total of 6,087 country-year-item observations. Observations for every year in each country surveyed would number 4,563, and a complete set of country-year-items would encompass 524,745 observations. Viewed from this complete-data perspective, the available data can be seen to be very, very sparse. From a more optimistic standpoint, we note there there are 1,355 country-years in which we have at least *some* information about the immigration attitudes of the population, that is, some 50% of the 2,707 country-years spanned by the data we collected.