

Ethnic Fractionalization and Political Rights of Participation

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Merkel's Concept of Embedded & Defective Democracies

Internal and external embeddedness

- ▶ External: spheres of enabling conditions that protect from destabilization.
- ▶ Internal: independence and interdependence of five “partial regimes”. We focus on political rights of participation - freedom of speech and opinion + freedom of association, demonstration, and petition.

Paul Collier's Research on Ethnic Fractionalization and Conflict

In developed democracies:

- ▶ higher ethnic fractionalization can play a stabilizing role

In authoritarian regimes:

- ▶ “dominance” increases probability of violent conflict
- ▶ pattern of fractionalization without dominance can also be stabilizing

Research Question and Variables

- Does ethnic fractionalization have an effect on freedom of speech and opinion?
- Hypothesis: the more ethnically fractionalized a country is, the higher its negative impact on political rights if income inequality is high.
- DV - pressfreedom; IV - ethnicfrac + gini + ethnicfrac*gini + GDPpercapita + langfrac + judindep

$$\text{PoliticalRights}_i = B_0 + B_1\text{EthnicFrac}_i + B_2\text{Incomelneq}_i + B_3\text{EthnicFrac}_i\text{Incomelneq}_i + B_4\text{GDPcapita}_i + B_5\text{Judiciaryindependence}_i + B_6\text{Linguisticfrac}_i + \text{Error}_i$$

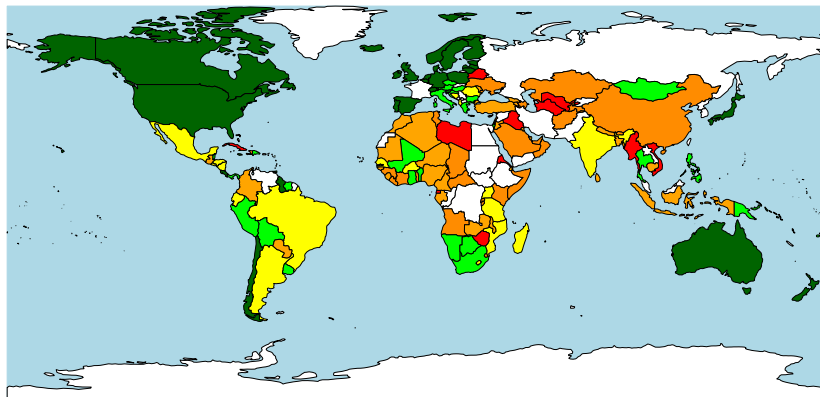
- Descriptive statistics
- Cross-sectional OLS regressions for a couple of years. (Although we have data for the period 2002-2014, we discarded panel data because our main variables of interest do not vary so much over that time)

Preliminary Regression Results

Table 1: Regression Results: Year 2008 (1) and Year 2010 (2)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Freedom of the press	
	(1)	(2)
Ethnic Fractionalization	51.90 (39.75)	13.45 (42.87)
Gini coefficient	0.50 (0.48)	0.39 (0.49)
Ethnicfrac*Gini	-0.0003** (0.0001)	-0.0005*** (0.0001)
GDP per capita	2.26 (10.27)	5.36 (10.48)
Judicial Independence	-5.46*** (1.98)	-3.71* (2.13)
Linguistic Fractionalization	-1.25 (0.94)	-0.35 (1.06)
Intercept	46.48** (20.51)	48.30** (20.54)
Observations	58	62
R ²	0.61	0.59
Adjusted R ²	0.57	0.54
Residual Std. Error	13.71 (df = 51)	14.63 (df = 55)

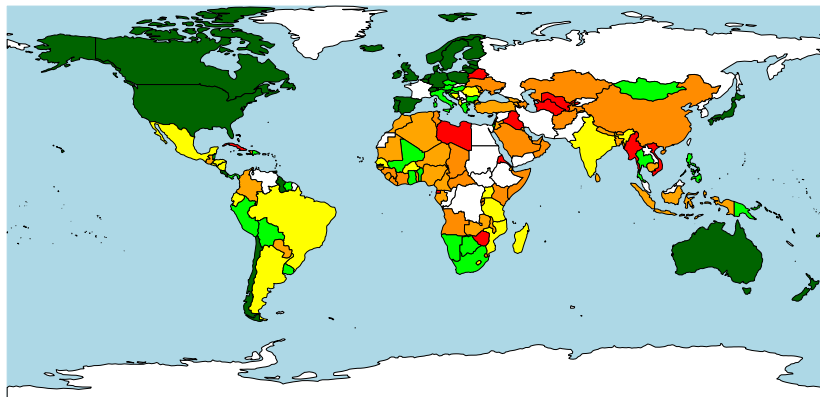
Press Freedom 2002



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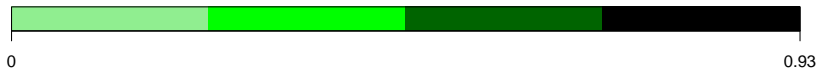
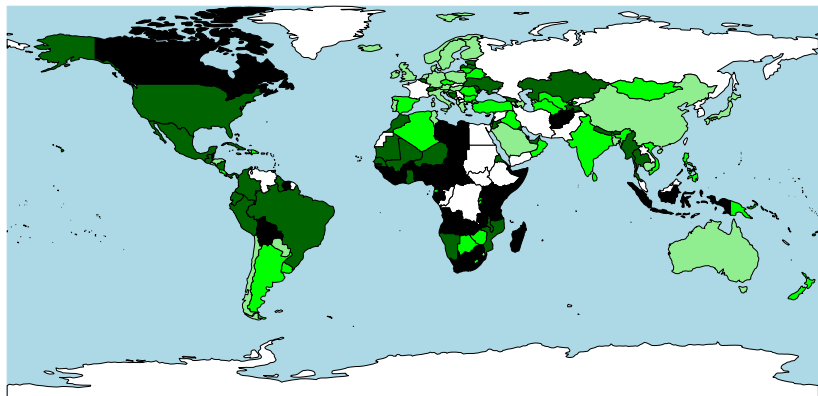
Press Freedom 2014



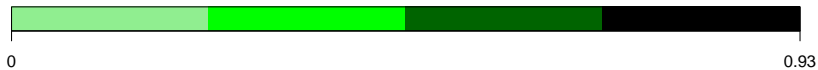
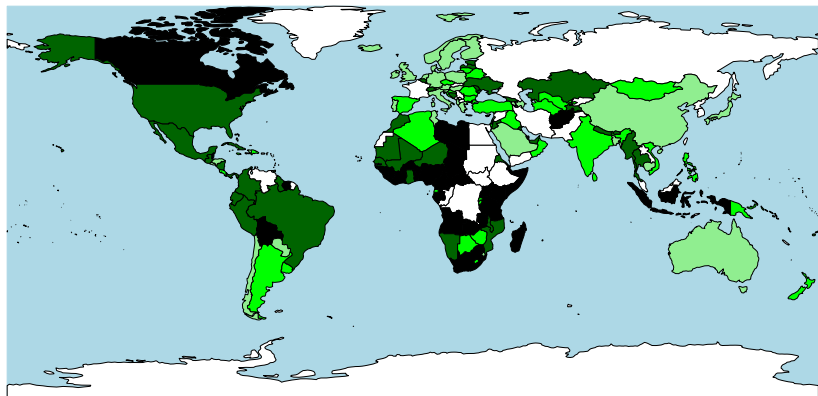
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Ethnic Fractionalization 2002



Ethnic Fractionalization 2014



What's next?

- Finding the best way to deal with variables of interest which are nearly time-invariant
- Multiple imputation
- Including lagged press freedom as independent variable
- Interpretation of interaction term
- different groupings (defective vs. embedded, dropping outliers or non-OECD)