Ethnic Fractionalization and Political Rights of Participation

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2 May 2016

Merkel's Concept of Embedded & Defective Democracies
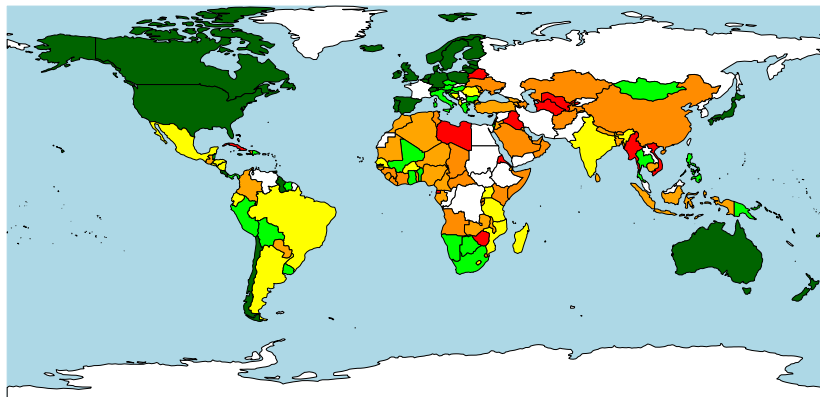
Internal and external embeddedness

- ► 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.

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

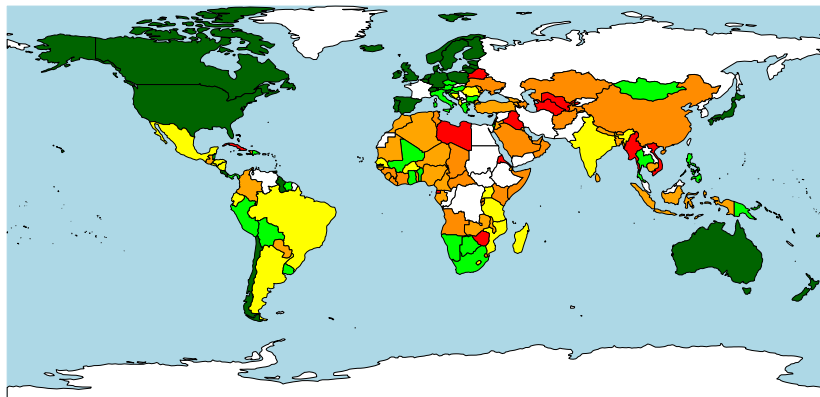**PoliticalRightsi= B0 + B1EthnicFraci + B2IncomeIneqi + B3EthnicFracxIncomeIneqi + B4GDPcapitai + B5Judiciaryindependencei + +B6Linguisticfraci + Errori**

Press Freedom 2002

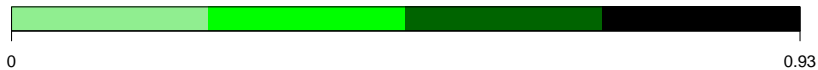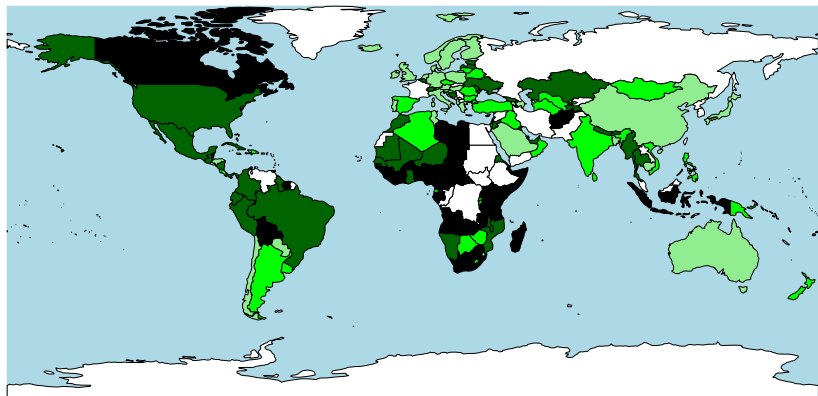# Press Freedom 2014

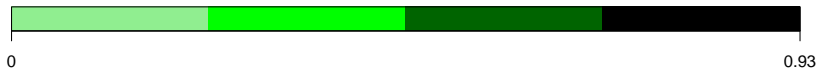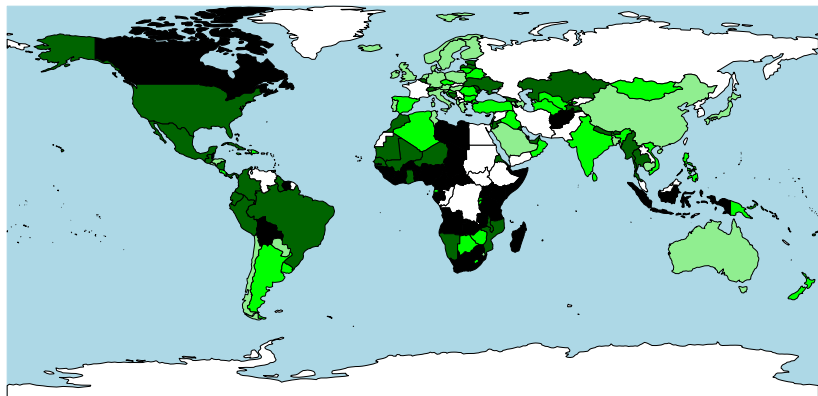8   95

Ethnic Fractionalization 2002

0   0.93

Ethnic Fractionalization 2014

0   0.93

Methods / Model

-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)

	Dependent variable:	
	Freedom of the press	
	(1)	(2)
Ethnic Fractionalization	51.90	13.45
	(39.75)	(42.87)
Gini coefficient	0.50	0.39
	(0.48)	(0.49)
Ethnicfrac*Gini	-0.0003^{**}	-0.0005^{***}
	(0.0001)	(0.0001)
GDP per capita	2.26	5.36
	(10.27)	(10.48)
Judicial Independence	-5.46^{***}	-3.71^{*}
	(1.98)	(2.13)
Linguistic Fractionalization	-1.25	-0.35
	(0.94)	(1.06)
Intercept	46.48^{**}	48.30^{**}
	(20.51)	(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)

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