

Machine-Coded Event Data and the Study of Political Violence

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Outline

- Brief discussion of event data
- Machine coding as a data-generating tool
- Our project and findings

What is ‘Event Data’?

- Actors and interactions – Who did what to whom?
- Recently, location data – Where did they do it?
- ‘Event’ as a unit of analysis

Why do we care?

- Potential for fine-grained analysis of political phenomena
 - Event data deals with *what really happens*
 - Less reliance on aggregates and crude coding rules
 - War = 1,000 deaths?
 - More data points = more information (probably)

Why do we care?

- Potential for fine-grained analysis of political phenomena
- Event data is increasingly easy to create
 - LexisNexis, Factiva, Google Books/News, etc
 - Increasingly powerful tools are available to code data

Why do we care?

- Event data is becoming more common
- Potential for fine-grained analysis of political phenomena
- But what do we really know?
 - Event data is extremely high-resolution
 - More data points = more information (probably)

What is ‘Event Data’?

- Actors and interactions – Who did what to whom?
- Recently, location data – Where did they do it?
- Unit of analysis

Our Approach

- A
- B
- C

Thank You!