News Sources and Hopelessness: A Bipartisan Divide

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Abstract Statisticians, political scientists, sociologists and economist have studied the relationship between socioeconomic status and political leaning since these professions first began. This paper delves even deeper, and tries to show how socioeconomic status, political leaning and source of political and economic news influence the level of trust in both government and society.

Introduction

The R language (R Core Team 2021) is used, in addition to a variety of packages and scholarly sources. Please refer to the Bibliography section or the "references.bib" file in the Git repository for more information. The dataset from (Democracy and Assistance 2021) is used. The (Francois 2020) package is used to assist in citing external resources.

Data

Obtaining the Data

The (Democracy and Assistance 2021) dataset includes multiple compressed folders. All of them have been extract in the data subdirectory of the inputs folder. Within this, exists a folder for the data in the Stata file format, which further contains subdirectories which contain the data and relevant utility files for specific time periods, primarily divided into 3 phases. Each phase has subdirectories for various time periods. However, in the parent folder with the directories for all the phases, a directory which includes all the parallel studies exists. Only the parallel surveys will be used for the purposes of this paper since they were are conducted concurrently, so we can eliminate any speculation that can be attributed to differences regarding time-specific situations.

Preparing the Data

The (Wickham and Miller 2021) package is used to read and parse these Stata files. Within the selected directory specified in the previous subsection, we individually select each parallel study, assigning them to a seperate variable //check , and then merge them using (Wickham et al. 2021) for cumulative results. The (Wickham 2021) package is also exclusively used for the purposes of data extraction and manipulation.

Democracy, International Institute for, and Electoral Assistance. 2021. *The State of Democracy in the Americas 2021: Democracy in Times of Crisis.* International Institute for Democracy; Electoral Assistance. https://doi.org/10.31752/idea.2021.93.

Francois, Romain. 2020. *Bibtex: Bibtex Parser.* https://github.com/romainfrancois/bibtex.

R Core Team. 2021. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing.* Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. https://www.R-project.org/.

Wickham, Hadley. 2021. *Tidyverse: Easily Install and Load the Tidyverse.* https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tidyverse.

Wickham, Hadley, Romain François, Lionel Henry, and Kirill Müller. 2021. *Dplyr: A Grammar of Data Manipulation.* https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dplyr.

Wickham, Hadley, and Evan Miller. 2021. *Haven: Import and Export SPSS, Stata and SAS Files.* https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=haven.