

**Codebook for:** Look Over There. Where? A Compositional Approach to the Modeling of Public Opinion on the Most Important Problem

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### **Issue Importance.dta**

Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)

- tsm: year-month
- code: topic category code
- cap: percentage of respondents saying that category is the “most important problem”
- topic: topic category

### **II.dta**

- year: year
- month: month
- numsurveys: Number of surveys conducted that month, asking the Most Important Problem question. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- numrespondents: Total number of respondents in that month. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- icb\_total: Occurrence of international crises (includes minor clashes). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- icb34\_total: Occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data

### **ssq-replicationdata-pid.dta**

- counter: time counter
- tsm: year-month
- icb34\_total: Occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- code1\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Democrats saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Democrats saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Democrats saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)

- code14\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Democrats saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Democrats saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Democrats saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code1\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of Republicans saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of Republicans saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of Republicans saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of Republicans saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of Republicans saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of Republicans saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code6\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code14\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code19\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code21\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code11\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code6\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code14\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code19\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code21\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- lpost911: Lagged dummy variable equal to 1 in post 9/11 period, 0 otherwise.
- lch\_gasprice: Lagged percentage change per gallon of gas from the previous month. Source: Energy Information Administration.
- lunemployment: Lagged monthly unemployment. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

- linflation: Lagged monthly inflation. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
- licb\_total: Lagged occurrence of international crises (includes minor clashes). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- lgdp\_growth
- lbj: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Johnson presidency, 0 otherwise
- nixon: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Nixon presidency, 0 otherwise
- ford: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Ford presidency, 0 otherwise
- carter: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Carter presidency, 0 otherwise
- reagan: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Reagan presidency, 0 otherwise
- hwbush: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Bush I presidency, 0 otherwise
- clinton: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Clinton presidency, 0 otherwise
- gwobush: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Bush II presidency, 0 otherwise
- obama: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Obama presidency, 0 otherwise
- nytmacrol3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to macroeconomy. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytlawcrimel3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to law and crime. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytintlaffl3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to international affairs. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytmacrol1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to macroeconomy. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytlawcrimel1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to law and crime. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytintlaffl1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to international affairs. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- dec60: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1960s, 0 otherwise
- dec70: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1970s, 0 otherwise
- dec80: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1980s, 0 otherwise
- dec90: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1990s, 0 otherwise
- dec00: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 2000s, 0 otherwise
- dec10: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 2010s, 0 otherwise
- licb34\_total: Lagged occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data

#### **ssq-replicationdata-gender.dta**

- counter: time counter

- tsm: year-month
- icb34\_total: Occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- code1\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Men saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Men saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Men saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Men saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Men saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of Men saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code1\_0\_perc\_i: percentage of Women saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_0\_perc\_i: percentage of Women saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_0\_perc\_i: percentage of Women saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_0\_perc\_i: percentage of Women saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_0\_perc\_i: percentage of Women saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_0\_perc\_i: percentage of Women saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code6\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code14\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code19\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code21\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code11\_0\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_0\_perc\_i/ code1\_0\_perc\_i
- code6\_0\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_0\_perc\_i/ code1\_0\_perc\_i
- code14\_0\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_0\_perc\_i/ code1\_0\_perc\_i
- code19\_0\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_0\_perc\_i/ code1\_0\_perc\_i

- code21\_0\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_0\_perc\_i/ code1\_0\_perc\_i
- lpost911: Lagged dummy variable equal to 1 in post 9/11 period, 0 otherwise.
- lch\_gasprice: Lagged percentage change per gallon of gas from the previous month. Source: Energy Information Administration.
- lunemployment: Lagged monthly unemployment. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
- linflation: Lagged monthly inflation. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
- licb\_total: Lagged occurrence of international crises (includes minor clashes). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- lgdp\_growth
- lbj: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Johnson presidency, 0 otherwise
- nixon: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Nixon presidency, 0 otherwise
- ford: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Ford presidency, 0 otherwise
- carter: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Carter presidency, 0 otherwise
- reagan: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Reagan presidency, 0 otherwise
- hwbush: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Bush I presidency, 0 otherwise
- clinton: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Clinton presidency, 0 otherwise
- gw bush: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Bush II presidency, 0 otherwise
- obama: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Obama presidency, 0 otherwise
- nytmacrol3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to macroeconomy. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytlawcrimel3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to law and crime. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytintlaffl3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to international affairs. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytmacrol1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to macroeconomy. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytlawcrimel1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to law and crime. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytintlaffl1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to international affairs. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- dec60: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1960s, 0 otherwise
- dec70: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1970s, 0 otherwise
- dec80: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1980s, 0 otherwise
- dec90: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1990s, 0 otherwise
- dec00: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 2000s, 0 otherwise

- dec10: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 2010s, 0 otherwise
- licb34\_total: Lagged occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data

### **ssq-replicationdata-income.dta**

- counter: time counter
- tsm: year-month
- icb34\_total: Occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- code1\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the bottom 25% of incomes saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the bottom 25% of incomes saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the bottom 25% of incomes saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the bottom 25% of incomes saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the bottom 25% of incomes saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_1\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the bottom 25% of incomes saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code1\_2\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the second 25% of incomes saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_2\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the second 25% of incomes saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_2\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the second 25% of incomes saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_2\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the second 25% of incomes saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_2\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the second 25% of incomes saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)

- code21\_2\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the second 25% of incomes saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code1\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the third 25% of incomes saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the third 25% of incomes saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the third 25% of incomes saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the third 25% of incomes saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the third 25% of incomes saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_3\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the third 25% of incomes saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code1\_4\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the top 25% of incomes saying macroeconomy is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code6\_4\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the top 25% of incomes saying social welfare is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_4\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the top 25% of incomes saying crime is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code14\_4\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the top 25% of incomes saying international affairs is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code19\_4\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the top 25% of incomes saying culture is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code21\_4\_perc\_i: percentage of respondents in the top 25% of incomes saying 'other' is Most Important Problem. Source: Most Important Problem Dataset (see manuscript and SI for details)
- code11\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code6\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code14\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code19\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i

- code21\_1\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_1\_perc\_i/ code1\_1\_perc\_i
- code11\_2\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_2\_perc\_i/ code1\_2\_perc\_i
- code6\_2\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_2\_perc\_i/ code1\_2\_perc\_i
- code14\_2\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_2\_perc\_i/ code1\_2\_perc\_i
- code19\_2\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_2\_perc\_i/ code1\_2\_perc\_i
- code21\_2\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_2\_perc\_i/ code1\_2\_perc\_i
- code11\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code6\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code14\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code19\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code21\_3\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_3\_perc\_i/ code1\_3\_perc\_i
- code11\_4\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code11\_4\_perc\_i/ code1\_4\_perc\_i
- code6\_4\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code6\_4\_perc\_i/ code1\_4\_perc\_i
- code14\_4\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code14\_4\_perc\_i/ code1\_4\_perc\_i
- code19\_4\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code19\_4\_perc\_i/ code1\_4\_perc\_i
- code21\_4\_perc\_i\_code1: logged ratio of code21\_4\_perc\_i/ code1\_4\_perc\_i
- lpost911: Lagged dummy variable equal to 1 in post 9/11 period, 0 otherwise.
- lch\_gasprice: Lagged percentage change per gallon of gas from the previous month.  
Source: Energy Information Administration.
- lunemployment: Lagged monthly unemployment. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
- linflation: Lagged monthly inflation. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
- licb\_total: Lagged occurrence of international crises (includes minor clashes).  
Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
- lgdp\_growth
- lbj: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Johnson presidency, 0 otherwise
- nixon: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Nixon presidency, 0 otherwise
- ford: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Ford presidency, 0 otherwise
- carter: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Carter presidency, 0 otherwise
- reagan: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Reagan presidency, 0 otherwise
- hwbush: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Bush I presidency, 0 otherwise
- clinton: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Clinton presidency, 0 otherwise
- gwobush: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Bush II presidency, 0 otherwise
- obama: Dummy variable equal to 1 during Obama presidency, 0 otherwise
- nytmacrol3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to macroeconomy.  
Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytlawcrimel3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to law and crime.  
Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.

- nytintlaffl3: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to international affairs. Lagged 3 months. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytmacrol1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to macroeconomy. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytlawcrimel1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to law and crime. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
- nytintlaffl1: Percentage of New York Times articles devoted to international affairs. Lagged 1 month. Source: Baumgartner, Frank R and Bryan D Jones. 2002. *Policy dynamics*. University of Chicago Press.
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- dec70: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1970s, 0 otherwise
- dec80: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1980s, 0 otherwise
- dec90: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 1990s, 0 otherwise
- dec00: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 2000s, 0 otherwise
- dec10: Decadal dummy variable equal to 1 in the 2010s, 0 otherwise
- licb34\_total: Lagged occurrence of serious international crises (serious clashes and full-scale wars). Source: International Crisis Behavior Data
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