

MA Thesis  
Fact-insensitiveness and Electoral Alignment in WEIRD Societies  
Codebook

Mauricio Mandujano Manriquez

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**Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Territorialization of Seats</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Variables Information</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Country Wide Variables . . . . .	3
3.2	Political Party Variables . . . . .	4
3.3	Constituency Wide Variables . . . . .	5
3.4	Control Variables . . . . .	6
3.5	Target Variables . . . . .	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Technical Information of Variables</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>9</b>

# 1 Coverage

As part of any research project, this thesis demanded to make pragmatic decisions on which countries to include and not others, these decisions were informed by data availability, goodness of fit of for the subject of analysis, or temporal constraints. One of the main criteria for country selection was the cultural proximity between the countries to account for cultural and psychological patterns that are usually not taken into account. For instance, in many studies of democracy or democratic performance, many researchers include countries such as Mexico or Peru without giving much consideration to the existing cultural and psychological differences (see Chapter 1 for complete argument). Even in studies of advanced democracies, researchers are prompt to include Japan or Taiwan to draw inferences despite their known cultural and psychological distance.

Moreover, the table below includes all the studied countries and the periods being analyzed. The study period does not refer to a comprehensive time series analysis of the given time frame, instead, it indicates the boundaries of data employed for each country regarding election results, COVID-19 vaccinations, and other relevant variables. For instance, in the case of the Netherlands the studied period is less than a year (from March, 2021) because elections happen to take place during the relevant period of the pandemic, and these election results were used for measuring misalignment. By the same token, countries like the Czech Republic or France, indicate much longer periods of analysis because elections results relevant for the vaccination periods took place in 2017.

**Studied Country List (WEIRD Nations)**

Country	ISO3 Alpha	ISO3 Numeric	Studied Period
Australia	AUS	36	2019-2021
Austria	AUT	40	2019-2021
Belgium	BEL	56	2019-2021
Canada	CAN	124	2019-2022
Czech Republic	CZE	203	2017-2021
Denmark	DNK	208	2019-2021
France	FRA	250	2017-2021
Germany	DEU	276	2017-2021 <sup>a</sup>
Netherlands	NLD	528	2021-2021 <sup>b</sup>
New Zealand	NZL	554	2020-2021
Norway	NOR	578	2017-2021 <sup>c</sup>
Poland	POL	616	2019-2021
Slovenia	SVN	705	2018-2021
Switzerland	CHE	756	2019-2021
United Kingdom	GBR	826	2019-2021
United States	USA	840	2020-2021

Table 1: <sup>a</sup>before September 24 elections, <sup>b</sup> after the 15–17 March election, <sup>c</sup> before the 13 September 2021 election

At last these pragmatic choices resulted into four main units of analysis, constituencies, upper 1, upper 2 and state level. These were defined in increasing terms for each country; the precise equivalences are found in the chart below. For detailed description of the convertibility and the selection of the units of analysis of each country see the country notes notes section.

Units of Analysis						
Country	ISO3	Region	State	Upper 2	Upper 1	Constituency
Australia	AUS	<i>State</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>SA4</i>	<i>SA3</i>	<i>Electorate</i>
Austria	AUT	<i>Länd</i>	<i>Länd</i>	<i>Regionalwahlkreis</i>	<i>Regionalwahlkreis</i>	<i>Regionalwahlkreis</i>
Belgium	BEL	<i>Communauté</i>	<i>Communauté</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Province</i>
Canada	CAN	<i>Province</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Electoral District</i>
Czech Republic	CZE	<i>Region</i>	<i>Kraj</i>	<i>Kraj</i>	<i>Kraj</i>	<i>Kraj</i>
Denmark	DNK	<i>Region</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Kommune</i>	<i>Kommune</i>	<i>Kommune</i>
France	FRA	<i>Régions</i>	<i>Régions</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Circonscription</i>
Germany	DEU	<i>Land</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>Wahlkreise (Combined)</i>	<i>Wahlkreise</i>
Netherlands	NLD		<i>Provincie</i>	<i>Provincie</i>	<i>Provincie</i>	<i>Gemeente (Parent Region)</i>
New Zealand	NZL		<i>Region</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Geographical Constituency</i>
Norway	NOR	<i>Landsdel</i>	<i>Valgkretser (Fylker)</i>	<i>Valgkretser (Fylker)</i>	<i>Valgkretser (Fylker)</i>	<i>Valgkretser (Fylker)</i>
Poland	POL		<i>Dolnośląskie</i>	<i>Okręg wyborczy</i>	<i>Okręg wyborczy</i>	<i>Okręg wyborczy</i>
Slovenia	SVN	<i>NUT2</i>	<i>Mesto</i>	<i>Mesto</i>	<i>Mesto</i>	<i>Mesto</i>
Switzerland	CHE	<i>Region</i>	<i>Canton</i>	<i>Canton</i>	<i>Canton</i>	<i>Canton</i>
United Kingdom	GBR	<i>Nation</i>	<i>Nation</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Upper Authority Region</i>	<i>Parliamentary Constituencie</i>
United States	USA	<i>Division</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Congresional District</i>

Table 2: Standardization of Units of Analysis

## 2 Territorialization of Seats

## 3 Variables Information

### 3.1 Country Wide Variables

<i>crt</i>		Three-digit country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.
<i>crt_n</i>		Country name (in English).
<i>crt_iso3</i>		Three-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.
<i>rg</i>		Region in the World
<i>wvax_d</i>		Date when when vaccines became universally available.
<i>wvax2_d</i>		Two month mark after vaccines became universally available.
<i>sdex</i>		Government Response Stringency Index: composite measure based on 9 response indicators including school closures, workplace closures, and travel bans, re-scaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100 = strictest response) at date one
<i>sdex2</i>		Government Response Stringency Index: composite measure based on 9 response indicators including school closures, workplace closures, and travel bans, re-scaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100 = strictest response) at date two
<i>vaxm_d</i>		Date of enforcement of vaccination mandate for general public. If 9999 there is no vaccination mandate in place. Country-specific and multiple sources for details, see country note.
<i>nelect_n</i>		Electoral System Name
<i>nelect</i>		Electoral System Name Coding: 1. Plurality/majority systems 2. Proportional representation (PR) systems 3. Mixed systems

<i>last_electorate</i>		Total electorate of last election.
<i>last_elect_turn</i>		Last election turnout.
<i>valid_votes</i>		Total valid votes of the last election period.
<i>last_elect_d</i>		Last election date for the study period

### 3.2 Political Party Variables

The variables below were gathered or constructed based off the CLEA, Manifesto, PPEG datasets (Kollman et al. 2020; PPEG 2022; Volkens et al. 2021). In the case that the variable below was identical to the ones found on the previously mentioned datasets the definitions were maintained as presented on their codebooks.

<i>prty</i>		Alphanumeric party code code consists of the iso2c country code and the database-specific party code (see PPEG 2022 for full reference)
<i>prty_n</i>		Name of party in English (string variable)
<i>prty_ab</i>		Original language party abbreviation
<i>prty_n_or</i>		Party name in original language.
<i>cmp_prty</i>		The party identification code consists of five or six digits; the first two or three digits resemble the country code and the last three digits are running numbers.
<i>cmp_prty_fam</i>		Manifesto Project party family coding
<i>alliance_bool</i>		Boolean indicator for electoral alliances Electoral alliance: Entry is an electoral alliance electoral alliance member
<i>alliance_ab</i>		Party alliance abbreviation.
<i>alliance_cmp</i>		Party Alliance name from Manifesto dataset
<i>prty_d</i>		Manifesto Project alliance code
<i>rile</i>		Right-left position of party as given in Michael Laver/Ian Budge (eds.): Party Policy and Government Coalitions, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: The MacMillan Press 1992: (per104 + per201 + per203 + per305 + per401 + per402 + per407 + per414 + per505 + per601 + per603 + per605 + per606) - (per103 + per105 + per106 + per107 + per403 + per404 + per406 + per412 + per413 + per504 + per506 + per701 + per202). . Missing information (eg. if progtype = 99)
<i>rile_d</i>		Day, month, and year of national election. In the case of multi-day elections, the last election day is reported. For elections in two-round electoral systems, e.g. France, this variable gives the day of the first round.

### 3.3 Constituency Wide Variables

Most of the variable definitions presented here were extracted directly from the CLEA Codebook. For further reference on coding schemes look at the [CLEA Codebook](#).

<i>low_cst_n</i>	Unique Constituency ID based on country ISO3.
<i>cst</i>	A unique numeric code assigned to each constituency in each election in a country. In general, all constituencies in a country are sorted alphabetically, according to their names, and then assigned a constituency code. This code assignment is repeated in each election in the country. Thus, the same code may or may not belong to the same constituency across elections, depending upon whether redistricting occurs between elections or if constituency names change. In the event of special districts for minority populations (e.g., the Maori districts in New Zealand prior to the electoral reform in 1996) or semi-autonomous regions (e.g., Greenland for Danish parliamentary elections) these districts receive the first numeric code following the last alphabetically sorted geographical district. In a case where a country uses a multi-tier or mixed electoral system, the CLEA dataset uses the following coding scheme: 001-900. Lower-tier electoral districts (in multi-tier PR) or electoral districts where a majoritarian formula is used (in a mixed electoral system)
<i>cst_n</i>	Name of geographical area that a particular elected representative or group of elected representatives represents.
<i>mag</i>	Number of seats allocated in a given constituency.
<i>prty</i>	Name of a party or electoral alliance. If possible, the official name in the original language is used. If this name is not available, the transliterated or English-translated party name is used. For more information, refer to CLEA Codebook Appendix II.
<i>prty_n</i>	Name of a party or electoral alliance. If possible, the official name in the original language is used. If this name is not available, the transliterated or English-translated party name is used. For more information, refer to CLEA Codebook Appendix II.
<i>pev1</i>	The number of eligible voters in a given constituency. If there is a runoff election, this indicates the number of eligible voters in the first-round election.
<i>vot1</i>	The total number of votes cast for all candidates in a given constituency. If there is a runoff election, this indicates the number of total votes cast in the first-round election.
<i>vv1</i>	The total number of invalid and spoilt votes in a given constituency. If there is a runoff election, it indicates the total number of invalid and spoilt votes in the first-round election
<i>ivv1</i>	The total number of votes cast for all candidates in a given constituency. If there is a runoff election, this indicates the number of total votes cast in the first-round election.

<i>to1</i>	The total number of votes cast for all candidates in a given constituency. If there is a runoff election, this indicates the number of total votes cast in the first-round election.
<i>pv1</i>	The total number of votes received by the party in a given constituency. If there is a runoff election, it indicates the number of votes received by the party in the first-round election.
<i>pvs1</i>	The fraction of votes received by a particular party.
<i>pev2</i>	The number of eligible voters in a constituency in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>vot2</i>	The total number of votes cast for all candidates in a constituency in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>vv2</i>	The total number of valid votes in a constituency in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>ivv2</i>	The total number of invalid and spoilt votes in a constituency in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>to2</i>	The fraction of eligible voters who vote in a constituency in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>pv2</i>	Total number of votes received by the party in a constituency in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>pvs2</i>	The fraction of the total votes received by a party in the second-round election. If there is no runoff election, this variable is set to Missing Data.
<i>seat</i>	Either the number of seats won by a party (under PR), or whether a party won or not (under SMP or MMP)

### 3.4 Control Variables

<i>pop</i>	Regional population after aggregating by constituency in 2019
<i>depen_ratio</i>	The dependency ratio relates the number of children (0-14 years old) and older persons (65 years or over) to the working-age population (15- 64 years old).
<i>life_expect</i>	The average number of years that a newborn could expect to live, if he or she were to pass through life exposed to the sex- and age-specific death rates prevailing at the time of his or her birth, for a specific year, in a given country, territory, or geographic area.
<i>gdp_percapita2019</i>	GDP per capita in 2019 (or latest available) at USD per head, constant prices, constant PPP, base year 2015
<i>prim_inc_2019</i>	Primary Income per Capita in 2019 (or latest available) at USD per head, constant prices, constant PPP, base year 2015..

<i>disp_income2019</i>	Per capita income is a measure of the amount of money earned per person in a nation or geographic region.
<i>crude_death2020</i>	Crude death rate indicates the number of deaths occurring during the year, per 1,000 population.
<i>crude_death2021</i>	Crude death rate indicates the number of deaths occurring during the year, per 1,000 population.
<i>excess_death</i>	Excess death based on Crude Death Rates.
<i>below_uppersecond</i>	Share of population 25 to 64 year-olds by educational attainment (ISCED2011 levels less than 5 )
<i>tertiary_edu</i>	Share of population 25 to 64 year-olds by educational attainment (ISCED2011 levels 5 to 8).

### 3.5 Target Variables

<i>pro_n</i>	ACLED derived number of COVID-19 disorder events.
<i>pro_r</i>	ACLED derived rate of COVID-19 disorder events per 1000 inhabitants.
<i>vax_d</i>	Date when vaccines became universally available.
<i>uvax_r</i>	COVID-19 vaccination rates of at least one dose.
<i>alignment</i>	RILE based ideological congruence between the median voter and the median representative of the unit of analysis in question.
<i>dmisalignment</i>	Degree of ideological congruence between median voter and median representative.
<i>fact_in3</i>	Weighted indicator of two proxies: COVID-19 vaccination rates and direct COVID-19 disorder events.
<i>abs_dmisalignment</i>	Absolute value of misalignment in terms of ideology following the RILE measurement.
<i>direction</i>	Direction of misalignment Left or Right.

## 4 Technical Information of Variables

Variable Name	Variable Type	Python Type	Original Variable Code	Variable Code	Source
<b>Country Wide Variables</b>					
1 WEIRD Nations	Nominal	integer	N/A	N/A	Muthukrishna et al. 2020; Schulz et al. 2019
2 Country Name	Nominal	str	CTR_N	CTR_N	Kollman et al. 2020
3 Country Code	Nominal	integer	CTR	CTR	Bank 2010
4 Country ISO3	Nominal	str	CTR_ISO3	CTR_ISO3	Bank 2010
5 Region	Nominal	str	RG	RG	Kollman et al. 2020
6 Universal Vaccination Availability Date	Date	Datetime	UVAX_D	UVAX_D	Hale et al. 2021
7 Two Months After Universal Vaccination Availability Date	Date	Datetime	UVAX2_D	UVAX2_D	Hale et al. 2021
8 Stringency Index at Universal Availability	Numeric	float	STRINGENCY_INDEX	SDEX	Hale et al. 2021
9 Stringency Index Two Months After Universal	Numeric	float	STRINGENCY_INDEX	SDEX2	Hale et al. 2021
10 Date Vaccination Mandate	Date	Date	VAXM_D	VAXM_D	Author
11 Cumulative Excess Death per million at Universal	Numeric	float	cum_excess_per_million_proj_all_ages	CUM_EXCESS_PER	Ritchie et al. 2020
12 Cumulative Excess Death per million After Universal	Numeric	float	cum_excess_per_million_proj_all_ages	CUM_EXCESS2_PER	Ritchie et al. 2020
13 Total Cases per million at Universal	Numeric	float	total_cases_per_million	TOTAL_CASES	Ritchie et al. 2020
14 Total Cases per million two months after Universal	Numeric	float	total_cases_per_million	TOTAL_CASES2	Ritchie et al. 2020
15 Total Deaths per million after Universal	Numeric	float	total_deaths_per_million	TOTAL_DEATHS	Ritchie et al. 2020
16 Total Deaths per million after Universal	Numeric	float	total_deaths_per_million	TOTAL_DEATHS2	Ritchie et al. 2020
17 National Electoral System Name	Nominal	str	Electoral system family	NELECT_N	IDEA 2022
18 National Electoral System Code	Nominal	integer	N/A	NELECT	Author
19 Last National Election Electorate	Continuous	integer	electorate	LAST_ELECTORATE	PPEG 2022
20 Last National Election Total Vote	Continuous	integer	Voter Turnout	LAST_ELECT_TURN	PPEG 2022
21 Last National Election Valid Vote	Continuous	integer	valid_votes	VALID_VOTES	PPEG 2022
22 Last National Election Date	Date	integer	year	LAST_ELECT_D	PPEG 2022
<b>Political Parties</b>					
23 Party ID (from PPGE)	Nominal	str	pparty_id	PRTY	PPEG 2022
24 Party Name	Nominal	str	party	PRTY_N	Volgens et al. 2021
25 Party Abbreviation	Nominal	str	PARTYABBREV	PRTY_AB	Volgens et al. 2021
26 Party Name Original	Nominal	str	pname_or	PRTY_N_OR	PPEG 2022
27 Party Code (from manifesto)	Nominal	integer	PARTY	CMP_PRTY	Volgens et al. 2021
28 Party Family (from manifesto)	Nominal	str	parfam	CMP_PRTY_FAM	Volgens et al. 2021
29 Electoral Alliance Categorical (from PPGE)	Nominal	str	alliance	ALLIANCE_BOOL	PPEG 2022
30 Electoral Alliance Initials (from PPGE)	Nominal	str	alliance_initials	ALLIANCE_AB	PPEG 2022
31 Electoral Alliance Code (from Manifesto)	Nominal	integer	alliance_CMP	ALLIANCE_CMP	Volgens et al. 2021
32 Election Participation Date	Date	integer	date	PRTY_D	Volgens et al. 2021
33 Ideological Position	Continuous	float	RILE	RILE	Volgens et al. 2021
34 Ideological Position Calculated	Date	Datetime	CODERYEAR	RILE_D	Volgens et al. 2021
<b>Constituency wide (lower)</b>					
35 Election Year	Continuous	Date/Time	yr	LOW_ELECT_D	Kollman et al. 2020
36 Region	Nominal	str	SUB	SUB	Kollman et al. 2020
37 Constituency ID	Nominal	str	CST	LOW_CST	Kollman et al. 2020
38 Constituency Name	Nominal	str	CST_N	LOW_CST_N	Kollman et al. 2020
39 Constituency Code	Nominal	integer	CST	LOW_CST_CLEA	Kollman et al. 2020
40 District Magnitude	Nominal	str	MAG	MAG	Kollman et al. 2020
41 Party Code	Nominal	integer	PTY	PTY_CLEA	Kollman et al. 2020
42 Party Name	Nominal	str	PTY_N	PTY_N_CLEA	Kollman et al. 2020
43 Number of Eligible Voters (First Round)	Continuous	integer	PEV1	PEV1	Kollman et al. 2020
44 Votes Cast (First Round)	Continuous	integer	VOT1	VOT1	Kollman et al. 2020
45 Valid Votes (First Round)	Continuous	integer	VV1	VOT2	Kollman et al. 2020
46 Invalid Votes (First Round)	Continuous	integer	IV1	IV1	Kollman et al. 2020
47 Turnout (First Round)	Continuous	float	TO1	TO1	Kollman et al. 2020
48 Party Votes (First Round)	Continuous	integer	PV1	PV1	Kollman et al. 2020
49 Party Vote Share (First Round)	Continuous	float	PVS1	PVS1	Kollman et al. 2020
50 Number of Eligible Voters (Second Round)	Continuous	integer	PEV2	PEV2	Kollman et al. 2020
51 Votes Cast (Second Round)	Continuous	integer	VOT2	VOT2	Kollman et al. 2020
52 Valid Votes (Second Round)	Continuous	integer	VV2	VV2	Kollman et al. 2020
53 Invalid Votes (Second Round)	Continuous	integer	IV2	IV2	Kollman et al. 2020
54 Turnout (Second Round)	Continuous	float	TO2	TO2	Kollman et al. 2020
55 Party Votes (Second Round)	Continuous	integer	PV2	PV2	Kollman et al. 2020
56 Party Vote Share (Second Round)	Continuous	float	PVS2	PVS2	Kollman et al. 2020
57 Seat	Numeric	integer	SEAT	SEAT	Kollman et al. 2020
<b>Control Variables (lower)</b>					
58 OECD Territorial Region Code	Nominal	integer	code	OECD_CODE	Fadic et al. 2019
59 Regional Population by Constituency	Numeric	integer	population	POP	OECD 2022
60 Dependency Ratio 65+	Continuous	float	dependency_ratio_65+	DEPEN_RATIO	OECD 2022
61 Life Expectancy at Birth	Numeric	float	life_expect	LIFE_EXPECT	OECD 2022
62 GDP Per Capita	Numeric	float	gdp_percapita2019	GDP_PERCAPITA2019	OECD 2022
63 Primary Income Per Capita	Numeric	float	primary_income_percapita2019	PRIMARY_INCOME_PERCAPITA2019	OECD 2022
64 Disposable Income Per Capita	Numeric	float	disposable_income2019	DISPOSABLE_INCOME2019	OECD 2022
65 Crude Death Rate 2020	Continuous	float	Crude_Death_Rate_2020	CRUDE_DEATH_RATE_2020	OECD 2022
66 Crude Death Rate 2021	Continuous	float	Crude_Death_Rate_2021	CRUDE_DEATH_RATE_2021	OECD 2022
67 Excess Death	Continuous	float	Excess_Death	EXCESS_DEATH	OECD 2022
68 Total tertiary education	Continuous	float	tertiary_edu	TERTIARY_EDU	OECD 2022
69 Below upper secondary education	Continuous	float	below_uppersecondary_edu	BELOW_UPPERSECOND	OECD 2022
<b>Target Variables</b>					
70 Number of Protests	Numeric	integer	pro_n	PRO_N	Raleigh et al. 2010
71 Number of Protests per 1000	Continuous	float	pro_r	PRO_R	Raleigh et al. 2010
72 Universal Vaccination Availability Date	Date	Datetime	vax_d	VAX_D	Author (Multiple Sources)
73 Vaccination Rate	Continuous	float	vax_r	UVAX_R	Author (Multiple Sources)
74 Median Voter Alignment	Numeric	boolean	alignment	ALIGNMENT	Author
75 Degree of Misalignment	Continuous	float	dmisalignment	DMISALIGNMENT	Author
76 Degree of Fact-Insensitiveness	Continuous	float	fact_in3	FACT_IN3	Author
77 Absolute Value of Misalignment	Continuous	float	abs_dmisalignment	ABS_DMISALIGNMENT	Author
78 Direction of Misalignment Direction	Nominal	nominal	direction	DIRECTION	Author

Table 3: Technical information of all variables



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