

GOVT 352 Research Methods and Quantitative Analysis

5.2 DCP: Keith Revisit: Adding Controls

DUE Monday 11 Apr 2 PM on Scholar

In the last couple classes, we've begun to explore the idea of control variables, which allow us to look at multivariate relationships. In particular, they allow us to neutralize the effect of third variables that may also cause the DV – variables other than our IV of interest whose effect might be getting tangled up in our IV of interest. We briefly considered one of those in our study of Keith's article, where we looked at whether maybe democracy was causing the improvement in human rights records, and not the ICCPR as Keith hypothesized. Follow the framework of Pollock SPSS Ch 5 Q 3 (the CCP), and we'll take a look at this question.

Proposition 1: Regardless of democracy status, signing the ICCPR will result in higher human rights scores.

Proposition 2: Among democracies, the effect of signing the ICCPR will be smaller than among non-democracies.

→ Theory: Fully democratic states respect their citizens' rights; that's part of the criteria for being called 'fully democratic.' They thus have little reason or room to improve. Non-democratic states, on the other hand, will feel outside pressure to reform; some will respond, and those that do will have more room to improve.

Proposition 3: Among democracies, the effect of signing the ICCPR will be larger than among non-democracies.

→ Theory: States that are democracies are committed to the rule of law. They will try harder to live up to their international obligations, plus better observance of rights is something their citizens want and their citizens' preferences matter to the government. So democracies will get a big boost from signing. Non-democracies signed with little intent to comply, so they won't show major gains.

Note that these propositions (what we might otherwise call hypotheses) are different potential relationships we could find between the same set of variables.

1. In your response document, answer:

- a) What is the DV in these propositions?
- b) What is the IV of interest in these propositions?
- c) What is the control variable (CV) in these propositions?

2. Operationalize democracy using the Regime01 variable you computed in question 5 of the Keith replication assignment. Operationalize human rights performance with the Amnesty International (AI) variable, and use ICCPR for treaty status. Produce a multiple line graph of this relationship. Give the axes appropriate titles and labels, edit for style and appearance, etc. Paste this graph into your response document.

3. Analyze the relationship between ICCPR and AI, controlling for Regime01. Paste just the relevant portions of your results into your response document.

4. Consider the evidence you created in parts 2 and 3. Is Proposition One supported? Why or why not? Use what you've calculated to support your answer. Report and interpret the p value if it is appropriate.

5. Consider the evidence you created in parts 2 and 3. Is Proposition Two supported? Why or why not? Use what you've calculated to support your answer. Report and interpret the p value if it is appropriate.

6. Consider the evidence you created in parts 2 and 3. Is Proposition Three supported? Why or why not? Use what you've calculated to support your answer. Report and interpret the p value if it is appropriate.