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# **Research Reproducibility in Political Science**

**Dr Nicole Janz** School of Politics and IR

ESRC Research Methods Festival 5 July 2018 | University of Bath



#### Dr Nicole Janz Assist. Prof. in International Relations

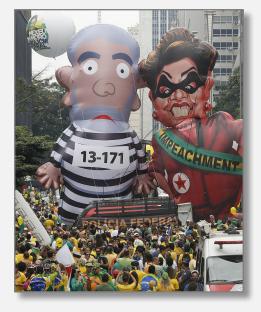


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## Replication



## Corruption



# Human Rights



Political Science Replication Blog

©polscireplicate

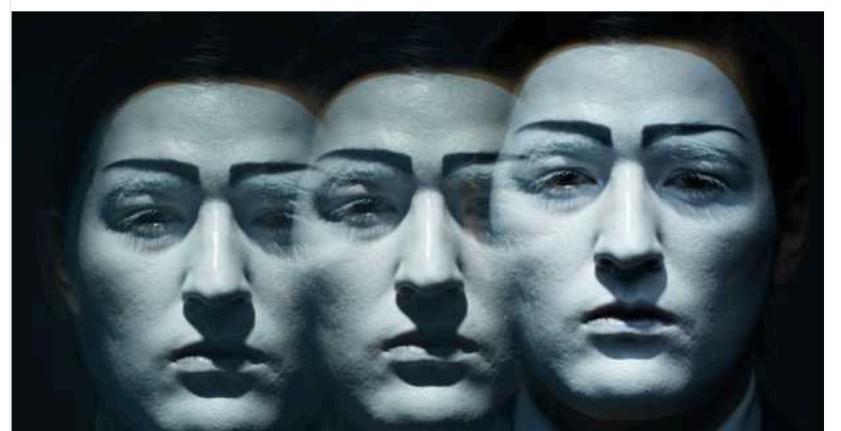
# More than half of psychology papers are not reproducible

Initiative to replicate findings of 100 prominent studies raises further questions about health of discipline

August 27, 2015

By Paul Jump Twitter: @PaulJump





May 29, 2015 12:34 p.m.

# The Case of the Amazing Gay-Marriage Data: How a Graduate Student Reluctantly Uncovered a Huge Scientific Fraud By Jesse Singal



# How can we establish trust in science?

Data Access & Research Transparency (DA-RT)

Data	Analytic	Production		
transparency	transparency	transparency		
Providing full access to data itself	Information about data analysis	Process of data collection		

www.dartstatement.org

Data	Analytic	Production		
transparency	transparency	transparency		
Providing full access to data itself	Information about data analysis	Process of data collection		

# **Quantitative research**

Upload datasets used for analysis

Code for models (SPSS, STATA, R)

Good methods section in paper

Provide or describe raw data & variable codings

(see Lupia/Elman 2014; Moravcsik 2014)

# **University training**



# Replication exercises

International Studies Perspectives

International Studies Perspectives (2015), 1–16.

# Bringing the Gold Standard into the Classroom: Replication in University Teaching<sup>1</sup>

NICOLE JANZ University of Cambridge

Reproducibility is held to be the gold standard for scientific research. The credibility of published work depends on being able to replicate the results. However, there are few incentives to conduct replication studies in political science. Replications are difficult to conduct, time-consuming, and hard to publish because of a presumed lack of originality. This article sees a solution in a profound change in graduate teaching. Universities should introduce replications as class assignments in methods training or invest in new stand-alone replication workshops to establish a culture of replication and reproducibility. This article will

# Why should you replicate?

## Learn Statistics

# Reproducibility routine



- Real life data
- Author decisions
- Bugs included
- More fun than textbook
- When are published results really reproducible?

- Add value
- Publish faster

# Use terminology accepted in **your** field

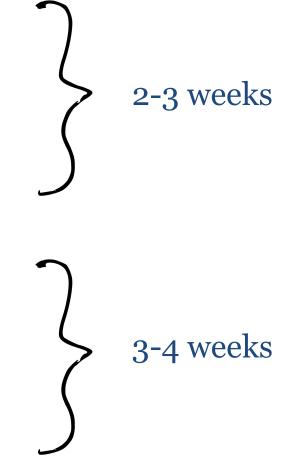
Political Science (see King 2003)

Duplication	Replication
Verify research results	Test the robustness of the original research results
exact same data set exact same methods	new data new models

# Practical steps in a replication study

- 1 Select paper
- 2 Access data & code
- 3 Identify each variable
- 4 Reproduce tables, figures
- 5 Compare

If you got to this point, you completed a **duplication.** 

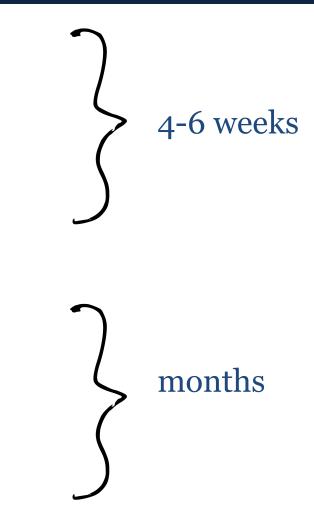


# Practical steps in a replication study (II)

- 6 Add value
  - new data
  - new variables
  - new model specifications
  - theoretical contributions

- 7 Compare
- 8 Get feedback from peers
- 9 Journal submission

You now completed a full **replication!** 



Comparing your results with the original study

**Clarify with precision the extent to which you were able to replicate the author's results.** Gary King (2006)

- Exact same data and methods: results cannot be **duplicated**
- New data, experiments, models, methods: describe exactly at which step the results changed and why
- **Different measures** of a concept can naturally yield different results
- **Different lab conditions** may lead to different results

# **Communicating failed replications**



# **Be professional!**

# What replicators write



"We ... find that coding errors, selective exclusion of available data, and unconventional weighting of summary statistics lead to **serious errors**" (Herndon et al. 2013)

"If we cannot even reproduce the original results using the same publicly available data, there is **no need for further commentary**." (Miller et al, 2001)

# How original authors often respond

"less realistic", "inconsistent with the substantive literature," and "**of limited utility**" (Mansfield, Milner, and Rosendorff 2002)

"fundamentally **flawed**" (Peffley, Knigge, and Hurwitz 2001)

"statistical, computational, and reporting errors that **invalidate its conclusions**" (Gerber and Green 2005:301).

### Voting Costs and Voter Turnout in Competitive Elections

Bernard Fraga<sup>1</sup> and Eitan Hersh<sup>2,\*</sup>

Our estimation approach builds off of the methodology and data used by Gomez et al. (2007) ..., adding measures of electoral closeness in order to focus on how the randomly assigned cost (rain) has a different impact depending on the electoral environment.

same way even to rain then serious doubt should meet claims that voters will react

### Questioning the Effect of Nuclear Weapons on Conflict

Journal of Conflict Resolution 00(0) 1-19 © The Author(s) 2013 Reprints and permission: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0022002713499718 jcr.sagepub.com



Mark S. Bell<sup>1</sup> and Nicholas L. Miller<sup>1</sup>

we analyze a dyad-year data set (used by Rauchhaus 2009) to examine whether existing findings on the effect of symmetric nuclear weapons possession on conflict are robust to the improvements noted above. We find that once prenuclear dyadic conflict is controlled for, symmetric nuclear dyads are not more likely to experience lowlevel conflict.



**Information Spillovers: Another Look at Experimental** Estimates of Legislator Responsiveness Alexander Coppock\* Abstract A field experiment carried out by Butler and Nickerson (Butler, D. M., and Nickerson, D. W. (2011). Can learning constituency opinion affect how legislators vote? Results from a field experiment, Ouarterly Journal of Political Science 6, 55-83) shows that New Mexico legislators changed their voting decisions upon receiving reports of their constituents' preferences. The analysis of the experiment did not account for the possibility that legislators may share information, poten proposed by Bowe and indirect treatm Article to be twice as larg Keywords: Field exper INTRODUCTIO Butler and Nickers testing the response previous studies of opinion and legisl similarity of prefer other possible expla the effect of learnin providing some legi The headline finding behavior upon acqu

doi:10.1017/xps.2014.9

#### The estimates of on an assumption of

Dolan, Albert Fang, an Butler and David Nicke \*Columbia University

C The Experimental Re

#### **Questioning the Effect** of Nuclear Weapons on Conflict

Journal of Conflict Resolution 00(0) 1-19 © The Author(s) 2013 Reprints and permission: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0022002713499718 jcr.sagepub.com (\$)SAGE

Mark S. Bell<sup>1</sup> and Nicholas L. Miller<sup>1</sup>

#### Abstract

Journal of Experimental Political Science 1 (2014) 159-169

We examine the effect of nuclear weapons on interstate conflict. Using more appropriate methodologies than have previously been used, we find that dyads in which both states possess nuclear weapons are not significantly less likely to fight wars, nor are they significantly more or less belligerent at low levels of conflict. This stands in contrast to previous work, which suggests nuclear dyads are some 2.7 million times less likely to fight wars. We additionally find that dyads in which one state possesses nuclear weapons are more prone to low-level conflict (but not more prone to war). This appears to be because nuclear-armed states expand their interests after nuclear acquisition rather than because nuclear weapons provide a shield behind which states can aggress against more powerful conventional-armed states. This calls into question conventional wisdom on the impact of nuclear weapons and has policy implications for the impact of nuclear proliferation.

#### Keywords

nuclear weapons, nuclear proliferation, international conflict

What effect do nuclear weapons have on interstate conflict behavior? Do nuclear weapons bolster the defense, deterring aggression and making states more secure? Or do nuclear weapons embolden the states that possess them, leading to conflicts that

<sup>1</sup> Department of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA

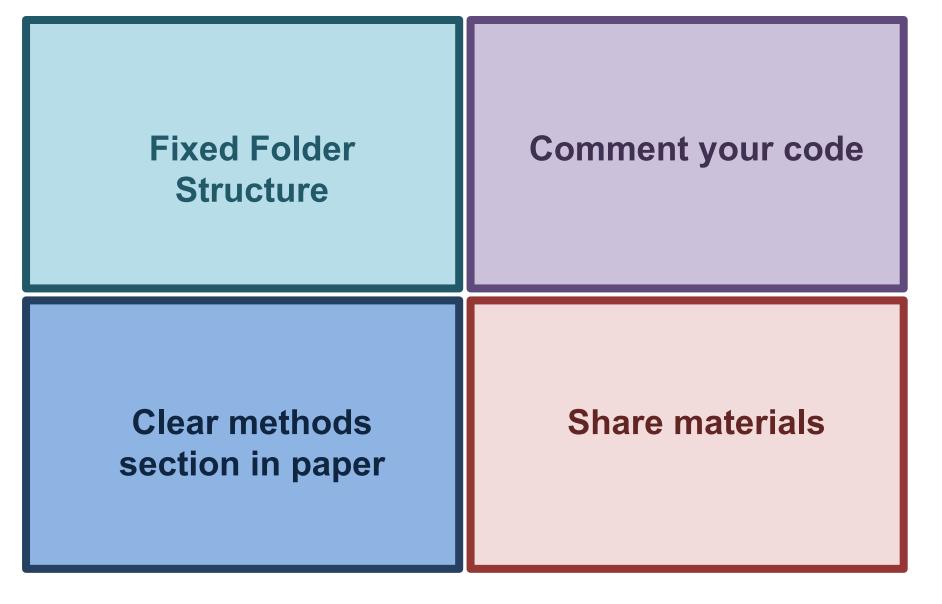
#### **Corresponding Author:**

Mark S. Bell, Department of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139 USA Email: markbell@mit.edu

The author is grateful

# Transparent workflows

# **4 Steps to Transparency**



### **Fixed folder structure**

Decide on a template structure for each project

Never alter raw data

**Project TIER** Teaching Integrity in Empirical Research

### Main

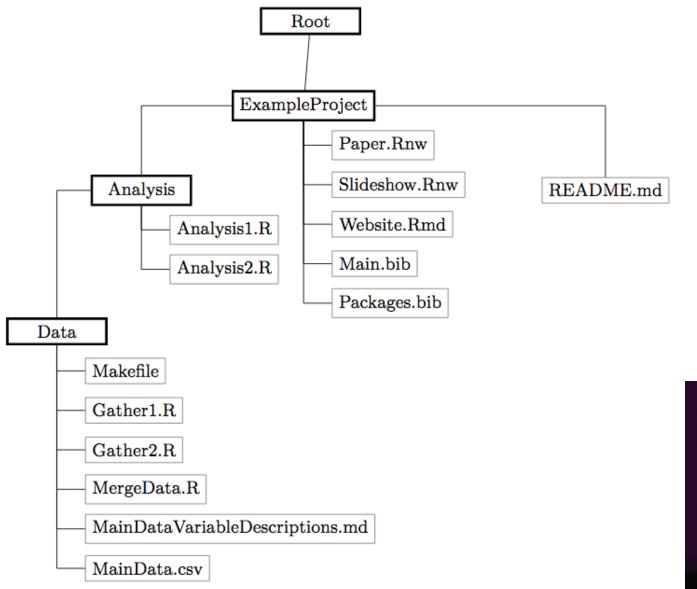
Readme.txt Paper

/Data

/Code

On the fly.... /Results /Materials

#### FIGURE 4.1: Example Research Project File Tree



The R Series

Reproducible Research with R and RStudio Second Edition



CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group A CHAPMAN & HALL BOO **Comment your code** 

# loading data

# variable transformation

# merging tables

# models for table 1

#### Output

doedit "Z:\M14160\assessment\self data\data\stata operation-day 2-binary\EQ-I > Q-command-LR.do"

. do "C:\Users\Ipxwh\AppData\Local\Temp\STD0200000.tmp"

. use EQIQbinaryLR.dta,clear

end of do-file

. do "C:\Users\lpxwh\AppData\Local\Temp\STD0200000.tmp"

. logit BEQ2 gender representative age IQ

- Iteration 0: log likelihood = -157.28934
- Iteration 1: log likelihood = -155.59433
- Iteration 2: log likelihood = -155.59392
- Iteration 3: log likelihood = -155.59392

Logistic regression	Number of obs	=		227
	LR chi2(4)		=	3.39
	Prob > chi2		=	0.4947
Log likelihood = -155.59392	Pseudo R2	=		0.0108

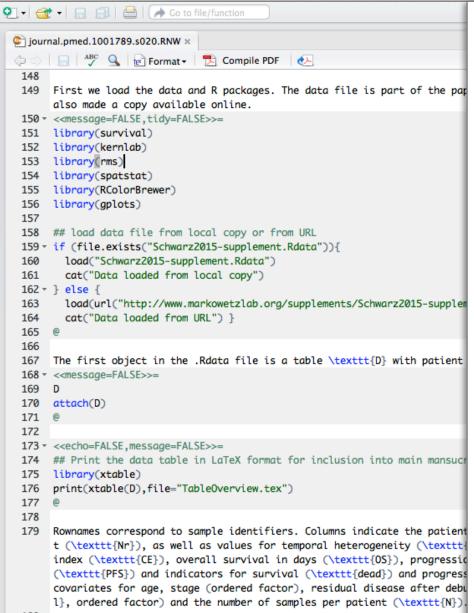
load("replicationdata.Rdata") # this data file needs to be in the folder of your working directory
t.nono <- replicationdata[replicationdata\$oecd==0, ] # select developing nations only (non-OECD)
t.nono <- droplevels(t.nono) # drop the unused levels (http://stackoverflow.com/questions/17217951/how-can-i-dropunused-levels-from-a-data-frame)</pre>

# Creating table "Total FDI and Personal Integrity Rights Protection (1983-2010)" in the main part of the paper ####
# US FDI ologit with robust standard errors clustered by country
CIRI.logit.LDV <- lrm(CIRI\_PHYSINT ~ Lag\_lognonnegUS\_fdi\_totalpGDP + Lag\_logtrade + Lag\_logGDPpc + Lag\_logpopulation +
Lag\_polity2 + Lag\_confl + Lag\_CIRI\_PHYSINT,data=data.CIRI.PHY.LDV,x=TRUE, y=TRUE)</pre>

CIRI.logit.LDV.corr <- robcov(CIRI.logit.LDV,data.CIRI.PHY.LDV\$country) #robust errors clustered by country

```
PTS.logit.LDV <- lrm(PTS_ai_reversed ~ Lag_lognonnegUS_fdi_totalpGDP + Lag_logtrade + Lag_logGDPpc + Lag_logpopulation
+ Lag_polity2 + Lag_confl + Lag_PTS_ai_reversed,data=data.PTS.LDV,x=TRUE, y=TRUE)
PTS.logit.LDV.corr <- robcov(PTS.logit.LDV,data.PTS.LDV$country)</pre>
```

#### $\Theta \Theta \Theta$



#### 1 Clinical data

#### 1.1 Data overview

First we load the data and R packages. The data file is part of the paper supplement, and we have also made a copy available online.

library(survival)
library(kernlab)
library(rms)
library(spatstat)
library(RCOlorBrewer)
library(gplots)

} else {

load(url("http://www.markowetzlab.org/supplements/Schwarz2015-supplement.Rdata"))
cat("Data loaded from URL") }

## Data loaded from URL

The first object in the .Rdata file is a table D with patient information:

D												
##		Nr	TU	CE	09	DEG	dond		Utat	100	Ctaco.	roatdual
	0000 04							• · ·		<u> </u>	~	
##	OV03-01	_		1.2605274	511	271	1		HGSOC	47	IV	<1cm
##	0V03-02	2	NA	0.7105901	977	363	1	1	HGSOC	62	IV	<1cm
##	0V03-04	3	3.735366	1.2432629	209	153	1	1	HGS	69	IV	>1cm
##	0V03-07	4	NA	NA	625	616	1	1	HGSOC	48	IIIC	N11
##	0003-08	5	3.801712	1.4705531	547	303	1	1	HGSOC	63	IV	<1cm
##	OV03-10	6	6.588895	0.7298828	744	298	1	1	HGSOC	59	IV	<na></na>
##	OV03-13	7	3.000290	0.6836961	1587	358	1	1	HGSOC	61	IV	>1cm
##	OV03-17	8	3.423112	2.2357817	889	373	1	1	HGSOC	51	IIIC	<1cm
##	0V03-20	9	4.487828	0.6494353	1278	563	1	1	HGSOC	71	IV	>1cm
##	OV03-21	10	4.719848	0.8686309	1139	303	1	1	HGSOC	60	IIIC	>1cm
##	0V03-22	11	5.702720	0.4834086	1556	382	1	1	HGSOC	58	IIIC	<1cm
##	0V03-23	12	NA	NA	1565	534	1	1	HGSOC	60	IIIC	N11
##	0V03-24	NA	NA	NA	376	375	1	1	HGSOC	53	IIIC	>1cm
##	0V03-25	13	NA	0.6215297	1166	776	1	1	HGSOC	57	IIIC	>1cm
##	0V04-20	14	4.621984	0.6083119	1513	601	0	1	HGSOC	63	IIIC	N11
##	0V04-21	15	NA	0.7412773	706	332	1	1	HGSOC	54	IV	N11
##	0V04-27	16	NA	NA	1408	1408	0	0	HGSOC	58	IIIC	N11
##	0V04-30	17	NA	0.8591205	849	293	1	1	HGSOC	60	IIIC	>1cm
##		N										

**Methods section in paper** 

Describe methods clearly

Name exact models with citations for statistical choices

Footnote should contain software versions

If space is restricted: Appendix

#### Models

For the ordered categorical outcome variables, CIRI and PTS, I estimate an ordered logit model with robust standard errors clustered on country to correct for heteroskedasticity. For the continuous outcome variable, the Latent Human Rights Scores by Fariss, I employ ordinary least squares (OLS) with panel-corrected standard errors (PC(E).<sup>17</sup> Ir both models, I include a lagged dependent variable ("Past") since countries that repressed their citizens in the past are more likely to use repressive acts in the future (Gurr 1988). A lagged dependent variable also corrects the serial correlation (Beck and Katz 1995, 2009).

I include a one-year lag between the outcome and predictors to allow the effect of FDI stock to spread in the country. This means that the accumulated FDI in a country in a given year is expected to correlate with rights protection in the following year, which establishes a time order and suggests a direction of causality from FDI(t-1) to rights protection(t).

The data set ranges from 1983 to 2010 and includes up to 121 non-OECD countries. The selection of these cases is limited to countries with available data on personal integrity rights and FDI measures (see a list of all countries in the online appendix). Two main sets of models are estimated: The first set of models includes total FDI to compare my results with previous work, while the second set of models replaces total FDI with investment in 10 industry sectors.

17. For the ordered logit models, I use the functions lrm() and robcov() from the R package "rms" Version 4.3–0, which produces the same results as the corresponding STATA command ologit with the cluster() modification (STATA Version 13.0). For OLS with PCSE, I use the functions plm() and vcovBK() from the R package "plm" Version 1.3.1, which produces the same results as the STATA command xtpcse with the pairwise specification.

Share your materials

Readme file

Data, code, variable codebook

Information to reconstruct data from original sources

# Data sharing platforms



Dataverse

**UK Data Service** 







Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research





### https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/NicoleJanz

Metrics

50 Downloads

Contact C Share

#### Replication Data for: "Foreign Direct Investment and Repression: An Analysis Across Industry

Sectors"	Version 1.0
----------	-------------

Janz, Nicole, 2017, "Replication Data for: "Foreign Direct Investment and Repression: An Analysis Across Industry Sectors", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TT7NZJ, Harvard Dataverse, V1, UNF:6:HfNaxyecbqKGLOf0hD3cDw==

🔳 Cite Dataset 🗸

Learn about Data Citation Standards.

Description	The impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) on repression in developing nations is still disputed. Some argue that FDI improves economic development and exports human rights values. Others criticize the exploitation of cheap labor and resources, which may lead to tensions and government oppression. Previous studies have employed aggregate FDI data with conflicting results. Alternatively, I propose that the effects depend on what kind of FDI enters a country. I build a sectoral framework to discuss how
	skills and technology levels, as well as the motivation for FDI, can mediate the impact. I then examine the link in a panel data analysis (1983–2010) in 121 countries, integrating sectoral FDI in several resource, manufacturing, and service industries. The results show that investment in high-skilled and high-tech sectors has positive effects. The results are robust across several measures for repression, and when accounting for sector size, regional and time effects.
Subject	Social Sciences
Keyword	human rights, foreign direct investment, repression, sectors
Files Metadata Terms Versions	

#### 4 Files

Data

Variables

		JHR_Replication.R R Syntax - 316.3 KB - Jun 5, 2017 - 7 Downloads MD5: b38d4241da685f4d3c42b7bbfde8a486
	Marca Marc Marca Marca Marc	JHR_Replication_Notes.pdf Adobe PDF - 70.0 KB - Jun 5, 2017 - 6 Downloads MD5: 10e97b3ebad5ea825e70559bb58e6c01
		replicationdata.tab Tabular Data - 1.8 MB - Jun 5, 2017 - 20 Downloads 49 Variables, 5568 Observations - UNF:6:HfNaxyecbqKGLOf0hD3cDw==
		Variable_Codebook.xlsx MS Excel (XLSX) - 38.0 KB - Jun 5, 2017 - 17 Downloads MD5: 60199b9b4e380bd8b9c647eeaac9daf1

Replication Notes for Foreign Direct Investment and Repression: An Analysis Across Industry Sectors

> Nicole Janz University of Nottingham School of Politics and International Relations University Park Nottingham, NG7 2RD Email: nicole.janz@nottingham.ac.uk September 14, 2016

### **Instructions for Replication**

- First, load the data. This is a panel data set with country-years. Each table or figure is identified by its header as in the article or online appendix. If you are looking for a specific table, search the (admittedly long) Rscript for that particular heading.
- Run the code chunk by chunk. Many variables are created 'on the go' and re-used at a later point. Make sure to run the code in the same order, and run all the code even if you only want to replicate e.g. the last table.
- In order to preserve the largest possible sample size, I have created data sets for each model separately (based on the original table that you have loaded in R). This way, depending on the particular model, slightly different country-years are included. Make sure to create all these data sets (again, in order of the code) to run the models.

### Citation

If you work with the data for your own study (replication or original work based on these data), please cite my article as well as the data set. It would be great if you could let me know about your results. A suitable citation of the data is provided by Dataverse where you downloaded the data.

#### Contact

Please contact me if you have any questions about the study or replication files at: nicole.janz@nottingham.ac.uk or nicolejanz@gmail.com. Any feedback on your replication attempts is more than welcome.

### Acknowledgements

Gu Li and Sergio Cuesta have verified that the provided Rscript produces the tables and figures for the study. All errors remain my own.

Data	Analytic	Production
transparency	transparency	transparency
Providing full access to data itself	Information about data analysis	Process of data collection

## **Quantitative research**

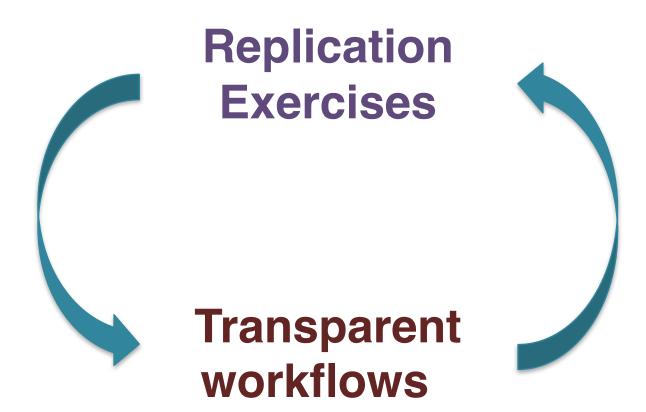
Upload datasets used for analysis

Code for models (SPSS, STATA, R)

Good methods section in paper

Provide or describe raw data & variable codings

(see Lupia/Elman 2014; Moravcsik 2014)



# Five Selfish Reasons to Share Data

QualityEstablish trust & credibility in yourwork

ReputationBe known as a transparentresearcher in your field

**Citation** Your data will be cited

**Consistency** Transparent workflow makes it easier to re-use your own data later

**Practicality** Meet journal & funder standards

(Markowetz 2015)



Thank

you!





@polscireplicate



**Political Science Replication Blog** 

Data	Analytic	Production
transparency	transparency	transparency
Providing full access to data itself	Information about data analysis	Process of data collection

# **Qualitative research**

Provide (partial)

- Interview transcripts
- Field notes
- Videos...

Describe <u>which</u> evidence supports <u>which</u> claims

Discursive footnotes / supplement Explain how data were collected:

- Interviewee selection
- Participants
- Documents...

## Literature on Replication

- King, Gary. (2006). How to Write a Publishable Paper as a Class Project, copy at: <u>http://gking.harvard.edu/papers</u>
- Janz, N. (2015) Bringing the Gold Standard Into the Class Room: Replication in University Teaching, International Studies Perspectives, Article first published online: 9 March 2015. Copy at: <u>http://tinyurl.com/q2qnrvn</u>
- Brandt et al. (2014) The Replication Recipe: What makes for a convincing replication? Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Vol 50, pp. 217-224. Copy at: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/poe474k">http://tinyurl.com/poe474k</a>
- Markowetz, Florian (2015), Five selfish reasons to work reproducibly. Genome Biology 16:274.

## Literature on Transparent Workflow

- Christensen, Garret (2016). Manual of Best Practices in Transparent Social Science Research <a href="https://github.com/garretchristensen/BestPracticesManual">https://github.com/garretchristensen/BestPracticesManual</a>
- Open Science Framework. Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines. <u>https://cos.io/top/</u>
- TIER Documentation Protocol
   <u>https://www.haverford.edu/project-tier/protocol-v2</u>
- Janz, Nicole & Figueiredo, Dalson (2017, March 13).
   Workshop: The Gold Standard of Reproducible Research. Retrieved from <u>https://osf.io/2fqnw/</u> (slides, handouts)

## Literature on Political Science Debate

Moravcsik, A. (2014). **Transparency: The Revolution in Qualitative Research.** *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 47(1), 48-53. doi:10.1017/S1049096513001789

Lupia, A., & Elman, C. (2014). **Openness in political science: Data access and research transparency.** PS - Political Science and Politics, 47(1), 19-42. doi: 10.1017/S1049096513001716