

Working With Political Data

Political Science

Where the data comes from, and what to check.

Sources and checks.

Common sources

Election results and turnout records

Survey series across countries

Expert-coded regime and rights indices

Legislative voting records

Official statistics and budgets

Checks

Who coded it, and against what rules

Whether coders knew the outcome

How missing data was handled

Whether definitions changed over time

Documented inter-coder reliability

Educational reference. Expert-coded indices carry real uncertainty; using them as precise point estimates overstates what they show.