

ICPSR: Resources for the Study of Conflict Resolution

THE INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

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When the first issue of the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (JCR) was published in 1957, the behavioral revolution in political science was still in its infancy. Nevertheless, JCR adopted many of the characteristics of the founding as its own. Indeed, the initial editorial called for an interdisciplinary effort, suggested research at many levels of analysis and stated, "Our main concern is to stimulate a new approach, especially in the direction of the formulation and testing of theoretical models related to the central problem. We are also interested in the improvement of the information processes in the area through quantification, index numbers and any other means."

Building on suggestions in the first issue, JCR became a pioneer in social science by publishing data-based research articles from a number of disciplinary perspectives. In fact, the study of conflict resolution, as presented through the pages of JCR, has been perhaps the focus of inquiry which followed the tenets of the behavioral method most closely. Scholars have sought explanation for conflict at various levels of analysis and have tested hypotheses using data gathered from survey research, content analysis, event coding, public records, participation observation, gaming, and computer simulation.

During these same early years the study of electoral behavior also experienced a marked growth in data-based research. The proliferation of data in this area led to the establishment in 1962 of the Inter-university Consortium for Political Research. Twenty-one universities joined together to further the development of computer-readable data resources, to provide training in methodology for graduate students and

faculty, to stimulate and facilitate new research, and to operate a clearinghouse for improved communication of information about ongoing research. Later the task of improving computing for social science was added to the organization's goals. The staff and headquarters were located at the Institute for Social Research of The University of Michigan.

Since 1962 the organization has grown rapidly. The holdings in the first year consisted of the computer-readable data from some nine surveys and one census data file. During the first year of data distribution about one million IBM cards were distributed to 35 universities. By the 1977-1978 fiscal year membership had grown to over 250, the archive included some 600 data files, and 120.5 million card-images of data were distributed to 307 institutions around the world.¹

The substantive content of the holdings also broadened. The first major deviation from political attitude surveys was American historical data—in particular, machine-readable files of the United States Census reports back to 1790, House and Senate voting records back to 1789, and county-level election returns dating to 1824. The second stage in the broadening of the data base was the addition of international relations data. Following shortly thereafter, non-United States surveys were added to the archival holdings as well as data relevant to such areas as organizational behavior, public policy, undergraduate instruction, economic behavior, and sociology.

The present collection consists of data at various levels of analysis, generated by a variety of techniques, from a number of disciplines, and covering most countries of the world. The expansion of the holdings into most disciplines of the social sciences was recognized in 1975 by a change in the name of the organization to the Inter-university Consortium for Political and *Social* Research (ICPSR). The substantial increase in the holdings has produced a data bank much of which is relevant to the study of conflict resolution. Many large-scale conflict analysis projects have deposited their materials in the ICPSR archive; numerous scholars have made their own personally collected data on conflict available to the academic community through the ICPSR; and, moreover, studies are included in the archive which were initiated for other purposes but which are also of direct interest to conflict resolution scholars.

1. The ICPSR *Guide to Resources and Services* contains descriptions of all the data in the holdings; the *Annual Report* gives information on each year's activities; and a brochure describes the Summer Training Program. All of these documents are available from the Executive Director, ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL DATA ON CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

The generation of events data represents an attempt by international relations scholars to ascertain behavioral patterns in the international system, to move away from examining only the structured attributes of nations and to move toward analyzing what nations actually do. A pioneering effort in this field is Charles McClelland's World Event/International Survey (WEIS) Project. These data bear upon actions of all nations of the world as reported in the daily *New York Times*. Besides quantified scores for actor, target, data, action type, and arena for each event, the file contains a textual description of the event. The ICPSR has WEIS data for some 95,000 events from 1966 to December 1978.

Besides the WEIS data, the data holdings include other event compilations, all of which are smaller in terms of the number of events but often have more variables coded for each event. These studies include Charles Hermann et al., *Comparative Research on the Events of Nations (CREON) Project*—11,961 foreign policy events for 36 countries for the years 1959-1968 for 167 variables coded from the unabridged *Deadline Data on World Affairs*; Barry Hughes and P. Terrence Hopmann, *Dyadic and Multilateral Events, 1948-1970*—data for 10,000 action events involving NATO and WTP nations plus the communist countries coded for actor, target, and date; the Moses/Brody Conflict-Cooperation Scale from *Keesing's Contemporary Archives*; research in Japan—data for 3,674 events taken from newspapers of four Asian countries for 1962, 1966, 1970, and 1972; Patrick McGowan, *African Foreign Relations and Internal Conflict Analysis, 1964-1966*—15,000 foreign policy acts for 32 sub-Saharan African nations collected on a daily basis from regional sources; Barry Blechman, *Middle East Event/Interaction Data, 1949-1969*—10,000 events which have Middle East nations as actors; and Rudolph Rummel, *Foreign Conflict Behavior*—13,000 events in 82 nations coded for 30 variables for 1950, 1960, 1962-1968.

For the most part events data concern daily occurrences in the international system. Another category of data bears upon conflict "events" which last longer than a day. The use of these data, like the use of events data, is an attempt to move away from the nation as a unit of analysis. One of the earliest attempts to quantify conflict behavior was Lewis Fry Richardson's *Statistics of Deadly Quarrels, 1809-1949*.

Rudolph Rummel supplied the ICPSR with a machine-readable file of these data which cover 779 dyadic quarrels from some 300 conflicts. Building on the work of Richardson and Quincy Wright, the Correlates of War Project under the direction of J. David Singer and Melvin Small has created an impressive data base on war. *The Wages of War* collection includes six files of data on casualties and duration of 93 international wars from 1816 to 1965.

Other conflict data sets are Robert Butterworth, *International Security Conflicts, 1945-1974*—data on 310 cases of interstate conflict which have a political-security focus; Richard Cady and William Prince, *Political Conflicts, 1944-1966*—323 interstate and domestic conflicts; Lincoln Bloomfield and Robert Beattie, *CASCON Project: Local Conflict Data, 1945-1970*—52 local conflicts coded for over 500 factors which might influence the course of the conflict; Ernst Haas et al., *Conflict Management by International Organizations*—data for 132 disputes in which the UN, OAS, Arab League, or the Council of Europe played some part in attempting to settle; Edward Mickolus, *Attributes of Terrorist Events, 1968-1972*—data on 539 international terrorism incidents; and Charles Lewis Taylor et al., *World Handbook II: Intervention Data*—data for interventions by one country into another between 1948 and 1967 coded for 31 variables.

Still at the international system level are the ICPSR holdings on international organizations (IO). This collection is eclectic, including United Nations' roll calls, survey of IO delegates, characteristics of various IOs, and national participation in IO's. The largest file is the machine-readable United Nations Roll Call collection which was begun by Charles Wrigley and has been continued by the ICPSR. Data are available for both plenary sessions and committees from the first session to the present. A computer-readable codebook contains a synopsis of each roll call.

NATIONAL DATA ON VIOLENT AND NONVIOLENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION

When considering data resources appropriate for studying conflict resolution at the nation level, it is customary to think only of studies concerned with violent conflict resolution—riots, demonstrations, coups, assassinations, and the like. More attention might also be paid to nonviolent conflict resolution. Legislative and electoral behavior

are two areas of politics which might usefully be approached from such a "conflict resolution" perspective.

Politics in the legislative arena is one clear cut example of peaceful, routinized conflict resolution (if we ignore the few "canings" and fisticuffs which sometimes marked heated debate), and the study of roll call voting, over time, can provide great insight into the resolution of conflict. Such analysis is further improved when data on the characteristics of the legislator's constituencies are also available. Moreover, data on behavior within the legislature can be complemented by data on the popular vote for legislators. Popular election returns combined with ecological data provide a powerful resource for examination of peaceful resolutions of societal conflict.

House of Representatives and Senate roll call votes are available from ICPSR, from the first Congress (1778-1791) to the most recent session, including equivalent data for the Continental Congress, the Congresses of Confederation, 1777-1789, and the Confederate States Congress. Limited data are available for other nations, including the British House of Commons, 1841-1847; the French National Assembly, 1946-1958; and the Prussian National Assembly of 1848. Other data holdings are also useful for examining conflict resolution through legislative processes. A number of these are surveys, but they deal directly with legislative problems. Wayne Francis, *Legislative Issues in Fifty States*, for example, questioned state legislators about areas of conflict, and effect of conflict on policy formation. John Wahlke and Heinz Eulau collected data on the 1957 sessions of the California, New Jersey, Ohio, and Tennessee state legislatures. More recently, in 1966, L. Harmon Ziegler and Michael Baer examined both lobbyists and legislators in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, and Utah. A further data set useful for studying legislative behavior is the *Daily Operation of the Senate* which describes activity in the U.S. Senate during the First Session of the Ninety-fourth Congress (1975). The files include information on committee activities, bills and resolutions considered, committee assignments of all senators, the floor sessions of the Senate during this period, and detailed information about every committee meeting held, the purpose of each bill or resolution considered, the factors influencing committee assignments, and statistics on each day the Senate was in session (times of convening and adjourning, number of record and quorum votes taken).

As with legislative voting data, ICPSR holdings of popular election returns are most extensive for the United States. The largest file includes

county-level returns for 90% of all elections to the offices of president, governor, U.S. senator, and representative from 1788 to 1978. The file contains returns for all parties and candidates (as well as the scattering vote) and for special as well as regularly scheduled contests. Electoral data are also available for Germany (1871-1912), Italy (1963), Netherlands (1888-1968), Denmark (1947-1966), France—two regions, west and central—(1956-1967), Japan (1949-1968), Poland (1952-1965), Sweden (1948-1960), and Federal Republic of Germany (1948-1969). Many of these data files are merged with ecological data, thus allowing researchers to examine relationships between constituency characteristics and voting behavior.

The ICPSR archive also includes most of the "classic" data bases used in domestic violence research. Among these resources are the data used by Rudolph Rummel and Raymond Tanter in their study of conflict behavior within and between nations (1955-1969) as well as similar domestic data coded by Arthur Banks for the period 1919-1966. Also available are the files created by Ivo Feierabend, Rosalind Feierabend, Betty Nesvold, and their colleagues at San Diego State College, including the *Systemic Conditions of Political Aggression (SCOPA) Project*. The SCOPA file contains some 35,000 domestic conflict events which were reported in the *New York Times* during the period 1955-1964.

Ted Gurr has deposited all of the data which he has used over the past decade in his studies of civil strife. The combined codebook for Professor Gurr's four most recent data files, *Comparative Studies of Political Conflict and Change*, contains an original essay by the principal investigator which explains the interrelationship of the four files and shows how all four fit into his design for the analysis of civil strife. An additional large-scale file of domestic data is provided by the *World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators, II* and consists of information for 57,200 daily occurrences of seventeen types of violent and nonviolent domestic political events for 136 countries during the period 1948-1967. These data have been aggregated in a second file to provide annual scores for each country.

In seeking to explain the development and intensity of domestic violence, scholars often use aggregate data measuring the social, political, economic, and cultural attributes of nations. Probably the most well-known collections of cross-national indicators are the data from the two *World Handbooks*, Rudolph Rummel's *Dimensions of Nations* cross-national data files and Arthur Banks' *Cross Polity Time-Series*. To augment these collections, the ICPSR has begun to obtain

data directly from international organizations such as the UN Statistical Office, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. All of these data bases provide a vast resource of variables concerning agriculture, demographics, education, energy, ethnicity, finances, industrialization, military posture, mass communication, public health, regime characteristics, religion, transportation, and urbanization. In addition, the ICPSR receives on an annual basis a data set prepared by the United States Arms Control Agency and another by Ruth Sivard, both concerned with the military and social expenditures of nations.

ATTITUDINAL STUDIES OF VIOLENCE, CRIME, ALIENATION, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

If framers of the UNESCO Charter were correct that "wars begin in the minds of men," it might well be the case that the search for an understanding of conflict in general should begin with individuals. As noted above, the bulk of the initial holdings were attitudinal surveys, and data of this sort remain a central concern of ICPSR. Many of these data collections deal explicitly with war, violence, or crime, whereas others contain components of utility for inquiry into the genesis of conflictive behavior.

An example of data holdings that relate explicitly to attitudes toward violence is Monica D. Blumenthal et al., *Justifying Violence: Attitudes of American Men*. These data were derived from interviews conducted in 1969 with a national sample of men which sought opinions on the levels of violence which could be viewed as justified to bring about social control and social change, the role of the respondents' personal values, their definitions of violence. A similar study by Sheldon Levy and Sandra Ball-Rokeach, *A Study of Political Violence Attitudes*, focused on respondents' opinions about violence in the United States in 1968 as well as their personal experiences with violence. Additional examples of data files directly related to the topic of attitudes towards violence are: Eugene Havens and Arron Lipman, *Personality Disorganization Among Refugees of Violence: Colombia*; a subset of the SRC 1968 American Election Study prepared by Robert Boynton relating to public reactions to violence; the 1967 Detroit Area Study; Citizens in Search of Justice; and Angus Campbell and Howard Schuman, *Racial Attitudes in Fifteen American Cities*. The archive is presently in the process of adding a massive amount of data on criminal justice. Of particular interest here are the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration crime victimization surveys, which attempt to ascertain the

incidence and characteristics of crime and violence in the United States.

Besides the violence and crime surveys, the data holdings also include a number of surveys measuring attitudes toward international affairs, including war. One study in this category is Sidney Verba et al., *Public Opinion and the War in Vietnam* (1966), which was designed to elicit opinions from a cross section of the adult population about the involvement of the United States in Vietnam. A study of a more general nature was sponsored by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, *American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 1975, which consists of both a mass and an elite survey. Much of the data concerns views of the conditions under which the United States should resort to war. *Interest and Ideology: The Foreign Policy Beliefs of American Businessmen*, by Bruce Russett and Elizabeth Hanson, consists of surveys of 567 leaders of business and 621 military officers on the extent and nature of American involvement in foreign affairs. The long-term series of Survey Research Center/Center for Political Studies, American National Election Surveys also contains data relevant to the study of conflict resolution. These fourteen studies are national surveys based on multi-stage, representative cross-section samples of voting-age citizens living in private households. The samples are representative of the four major regions of the nation as well as the nation as a whole. Besides dealing with political attitudes and participation, the surveys assess attitudes toward foreign affairs, domestic issues, social change, personal alienation, and other matters of potential interest to researchers examining societal conflict.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ICPSR

In addition to providing a central repository and dissemination service for machine-readable social science data, the ICPSR also serves social scientists by providing training in basic and advanced techniques of quantitative social analysis, and resources for facilitating use by social scientists of advanced computer technology. The growth of the ICPSR since 1962 from a handful of universities to its present size demonstrates the widespread awareness of the advantages to be gained from such a cooperative venture. Scholars from a score of countries share common data resources, interact and study together in the ICPSR training program, and utilize a common set of technical aids.

An annual Summer Program provides basic and advanced methodological and technical training for social scientists of all disciplines.

Experience in data processing and the analysis of data in individual or small groups projects complement formal lectures and discussions. In addition to core work in methodology and research techniques, the Summer Program usually includes several research seminars on selected topics as well as seminars in such areas as data librarianship, mini-computers, and data base management.

The ICPSR is based on a structure of institutional membership made up of colleges and universities. An annual institutional fee provides faculty and students with access to the full range of services provided by the ICPSR. Resources are also available to individuals at nonmember institutions. Each member institution designates a local representative, formally called the "Official Representative," who serves as liaison between the home campus and the ICPSR. Official Representatives meet biennially and elect a Council of ten members who serve four-year terms. The Council is the executive committee of the members and is authorized to act on their behalf to oversee administrative, budgetary, and organizational policies and procedures. The Council is supplemented by a set of advisory committees, each of which is chaired by a member of the Council. These committees aid the staff and Council in evaluating data resources and in determining priorities for organizational activities, and also consult regarding matters of organizational concern.

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research exists to aid students and researchers in understanding social, political, historical, and economic phenomena; to provide resources essential for analysis of these phenomena; and to transmit and disseminate the knowledge, data, and techniques essential to these endeavors.²

2. Readers who wish to share their data through the ICPSR may send information on the data to the Executive Director.