

POLAT Project

Spanish Political Attitudes

Panel Dataset

Data Management Plan (Waves 1-6)



**Universitat Autònoma
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A DMP created using Research Data Management Plan / Pla de Gestió de Dades de Recerca
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Project: POLAT Spanish Political Attitudes Panel Dataset



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1. SUMMARY OF DATA

The objective of the database “POLAT, Spanish Political Attitudes Panel Dataset” is to measure and explain changes in attitudes and political behaviors of individuals, in order to advance the understanding of social and political changes. To this end, we use a panel structure that allows measuring the intra-individual attitudinal change over time. Managed collection and publication of the data will help to establish a durable library that can help analyzing the evolution of Spanish citizens' political attitudes over several years. No such panel data on public opinion exist in Spain. The data will be suitable for use by researchers from the following disciplines: political science, sociology, economics, psychology, and interdisciplinary research with a behavioral approach.

The dataset includes 376 variables (not all of them are present in the six waves). The main variables are grouped in nine categories:

- Socio-demographic
- Crisis
- Economic and retrospective evaluations
- News consumption and digital media use
- Attitudes on social issues
- Attitudes towards the political system and knowledge
- Ideology, partisan identification and vote
- Political participation
- General attitudes

The online panel survey POLAT (observational data) is still ongoing and has produced a total of 12 waves up to date (2020), which are not yet accessible to the public. We now present the database of the first six waves. The fieldwork of these six waves was carried out between 2010 and 2014. The population under investigation is made up of Internet users of both sexes residing in Spain, aged between 16 and 44 years old, of Spanish nationality. The surveys were collected from original questionnaires developed by the research group Democracy, Elections and Citizenship, coordinated by Professor Eva Anduiza at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (DEC-UAB).

The waves 1 to 4 of the POLAT project resulted from a collaboration agreement between the Spanish Sociological Research Center (CIS) and the research group Democracy, Elections and Citizenship at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (DEC-UAB). Waves 5 and 6 were carried out by the DEC research group with funding from the project: “Stability and Change in Political Attitudes (POLAT) CSO2010-18534”.

In all six waves, the fieldwork was carried out through CAWI (Computed Assisted Web Interview) by Netquest. The sampling frame is the database of Internet users with which Netquest usually works, out of which 107,497 met the selection requirements at the time of the first study. This database is made up of people recruited by selective invitation from registered databases (web portals, websites, etc.). Potential respondents receive a personal invitation to a survey on topics related to their own interests. When the candidate completes the survey, they receive an individual and unique invitation to become a member of the database. “Passive” self-registration is not allowed, so it is impossible for any Internet user to register in the database without having been previously invited. According to Netquest, this prevents the professionalization of panelists and minimizes the effects of self-selection. Panelists receive point incentives that are exchangeable for gifts, allocated according to the duration of the survey. The selection of the sample is made in proportion to the population parameters of the classification variables commonly used in the sample designs of the Spanish Center for Sociological Research (CIS), applying quotas based on intersecting sex and age (three categories: 16-24, 25-34 and 35-44 years-old), the size of the municipality (three categories: up to 50,000, from 50,001 to 500,000 and more than 500,000 inhabitants) and the autonomous community where they live (including Ceuta and Melilla).

The data file is in STATA 16 (.dta) and .csv. There is a readme.txt file with basic information, a detailed methodological report (English and Spanish versions) and the questionnaires of the six waves (in Spanish).

2. FAIR DATA

2.1 Findable data (including metadata)

The Project dataset identification follows the naming: “POLAT-dataset-1-6-v1”. All open project results deposited in the repository provide search keywords together with their metadata.

The institutional repository of the UAB (DDD Dipòsit Digital de Documents) provides a unique URL to access the document with the format. Besides, the DDD assigns a DOI for persistent identification and to cite the dataset. The six-waves panel dataset that we present is a final version that has been revisited and adjusted. It follows the semantic versioning schema (<<https://ddd.uab.cat/record/xxxx>>). The DOI number and the persistent repository URL allow identifying different versions of the dataset in a unique record. Therefore, if further waves are added to this dataset in the future or if this six-waves panel dataset needs any modification, we will control the different versions of the data.

2.2. Accessible data

The data is accessible in the DDD (Dipòsit Digital de Documents), the institutional open access repository of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and complies with its requirements. The storage system of this repository offers web browser and/or application programming interfaces (API). In addition, the data can be found through the OpenAIRE collector. In order to make the data easily accessible the register will include keywords.

The panel survey questionnaires for the six waves (.PDF in Spanish), the methodological report that explains the dataset in detail (both .PDF documents in English) that are attached to the dataset are openly available.

The data is accessible using the following software: STATA 16, MS Excel, OpenOffice or any other spreadsheet software for the dataset. For the attached documentation: MS Word, OpenOffice or any other free text software for the ReadMe file; and Adobe Reader or any other similar free software for the methodology report and the publication.

The data has been anonymized before making use available. There are no restrictions on the use of the deposited dataset, but users will be required to acknowledge the research group Democracy, Elections and Citizenship at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (DEC-UAB) and the source of the data in any resulting publications, as follows: Hernández, E., Galais, C., Rico, G., Muñoz, J., Hierro, M.J., Pannico, R., Barbet, B., Marinova, D., Anduiza, E. (2020) *POLAT Panel. Spanish Political Attitudes Dataset (6 waves)*. Barcelona: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

We use the CC0 Creative Commons license for the dataset.

2.3. Interoperable data

The dataset adheres to standardized formats and is interoperable (.csv). Similarly, the attached documentation may be accessed with free software (.txt, PDF). The datasets are stocked both as .dta (Stata 16) and .csv (open code) formats.

The DDD (Dipòsit Digital de Documents) institutional repository of the Autonomous University of Barcelona follows the Open Archives Initiative model, which allows interoperability with the OAI-PMH metadata transmission protocol (Open Archive Initiative - Protocol for Metadata Harvesting). This protocol allows visibility of the documents from different platforms and collectors: Google Scholar, BASE, CORE, etc. In order to fulfill the European mandates, the DDD is OpenAIRE compliant and meets all the requirements of metadata required by the European Union, which allows to review the projects. Persistent IDs are provided for each document and author identifiers (ORCID) are included in the metadata.

The metadata standard used to describe the dataset is the Dublin Core Schema, a flexible and commonly used standard that is also adopted by the European OpenAIRE repository.

2.4. Reusable data

The deliverables associated to the dataset are licensed through a CC BY-NC-ND license as they are working papers not intended to be re-used. The dataset is under a CC0 license, which allows copying, modifying, distributing and performing the work, even for commercial purposes.

The data is currently findable and reusable through the DDD-UAB repository, which is recognized data repository for OpenAIRE. Therefore, the data is also findable through the OpenAIRE collector as well as through other research collectors as GoogleScholar, CORE, BASE, and so on. The data will remain re-usable by anyone interested in it, with no access or time restrictions, until the DDD-UAB repository discontinues the dataset. However, we highlight that the DDD preservation policy aims to ease and guarantee access to its digital content in the medium and long term. As a matter of principle, the dataset is indefinitely available. The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona is committed to devote efforts and allocate resources in order to preserve University documents created or managed in a digital support and archived in the institutional repository, to guarantee access to them in the future, and entrusts the management of this goal to the Library Service and the IT Service.

3. RESOURCE ALLOCATION

There are no costs associated to the described mechanisms making the database FAIR and long-term preserved. The cost of preserving the dataset is covered at the local hosting institute as a part of the standard network system maintenance (DDD at the Autonomous University of Barcelona).

The principal researcher has the ultimate responsibility for the data management in the project. However, other team members are in charge of specific steps of data management. Quality control of the dataset has been performed by the firm in charge of producing the data. Backing up data for sharing through open access repositories and collectors is the responsibility of the institutional repository (Autonomous University of Barcelona, OpenAIRE).

4. DATA SECURITY

The data collected by the DEC (Democracy, Elections & Citizenship) research group for the POLAT project will be digitized and stored on Dropbox, accessible only by the researchers, and on a hard copy in a local computer protected by lock and password of the principal investigator. The Dropbox Agreement includes Terms and Conditions that are compliant with EU Data Protection Law and the National Bioethics Committee rules and regulations.

Only researchers working for the Project will have access to the data, using their username and passwords to access the files. The Autonomous University of Barcelona has a Security Service. Note that these data have already been anonymized.

5. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Survey participants agreed to an informed consent by the company Netquest. The data have already been anonymized by the firm when delivered to the research team. There are no variables that allow for the direct identification of individuals in the POLAT dataset. Zipcode variables have been removed to impede identification of individuals. Therefore, all data that are transferred to the POLAT project repository are completely anonymized.

6. ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

As part of the Autonomous University of Barcelona's commitment to ensuring FAIR and Open data, the POLAT project partners and all research active staff (postdoctoral fellows, PhD students) adhere to the University's institutional policies and procedures for data management, which align with the European Commission's policies on open data management.

The Autonomous University of Barcelona's data management policy defines research data as "the evidence that underpins the answer to the research question and can be used to validate findings regardless of its form." Thus, data covers quantitative and qualitative statements, raw data from measurements and derived data, either cleaned or extracted from a researcher's primary dataset.

7. OTHER SUPPORTS USED TO DEVELOP THE DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

This DMP has been created with the tool "eiNa DMP" (<https://dmp.csuc.cat>). The researchers at the Democracy, Elections & Citizenship group follow the national and institutional procedures for data management, in addition to this POLAT DMP.