ERF TRAINING WORKSHOP ON

Opinion Poll Data Analysis Using Multilevel Models

August 22-23, 2016
Issam Fares Institute Conference Room, the American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

Introduction

This workshop will address the use of opinion poll data to test theories related to attitudes to gender equality, civic action, democracy and human security and economic policies preferences, in Middle East and North African countries. The purpose is to link norm changes to underlying circumstances, at the individual level, such as family background, ethnicity, gender, generation and place of origin, as well as at the national level, such as GDP per capita, economic structure, political variables, etc.

The workshop will focus on the multilevel modeling. Participants will also be introduced to various types of graphical analysis. Lectures on econometric methods will be combined with a select review of the economic, political science, and sociological literatures that use opinion polls to test theories empirically.

Under the direction of instructors, Ishac Diwan, Irina Vartanova and Eduard Ponarin, the two-day workshop will cover the following themes:

1. Introduction to multilevel modelling. Random intercept and random slope models. Model specification and group level predicators.
2. Model diagnostics and selection.
3. Random effects visualization.
4. Multilevel logistic regression.

The workshop is part of the capacity building activities carried out by ERF under its Arab Spring Development Initiative (ASDI).

About the Trainers

Ishac Diwan holds the chair of Socio-economics of the Arab World, Paris Sciences et Lettres. He is also an invited Researcher at Paris School of Economics, and a Research Affiliate at the Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy University and Research Fellow at ERF. He previously taught at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and at New York University. He held several positions at the World Bank, in the Research Complex, the Middle East department, and the World Bank Institute and in Addis Ababa and then in Accra, as the East Africa Country Director, and then in West Africa. His current research interests include growth strategies, the political economy of private sector development, and the analysis of public opinions, with a special interest in Africa and the Middle East. He directs the Economic and Political Transformation program of ERF.

Irina Vartanova has PhD in psychology from St. Petersburg State University. Her research interest focused on the application of advanced statistical and computational methods in social science. She acquired extensive knowledge of analyzing big survey data at the Laboratory for Comparative Social Research at the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersbrug under the scientific supervision of Ronald Inglehart. She is currently an associated researcher at the Institute for Future Studies.

Eduard Ponarin is the Director of Laboratory for Comparative Social Research at the Higher School of Economics, Russia. He got an M.A. in Psychology from the Leningrad State University in 1986 and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1996. He is Russia's representative at the World Values Survey Association and a member of the Executive Council of that organization. Before joining the Higher School of Economics in 2009, he taught at the European University at St. Petersburg.

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Agenda

Day 1 (August 22)

09:00 - 09:30	**Introduction** • ERF and the teaching team, presentation of the participants
09:30 - 11:00	**Session #1** • The purpose of the course. Why we need multilevel analysis. Pre-requisites for mlm. Alternatives to mlm. • A basic multilevel model and an example. • Empty model. Inter-class correlation coefficient. • Individual- level predictors. Group-level predictors.
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 01:00	**Session #2** • Varying intercepts and varying slopes models. • Model selection
01:00 - 02:00	Lunch Break
02:00 - 03:30	**Session #3** • Practical session. Multilevel models of patriarchal values
03:30 - 04:00	Coffee Break
04:00 - 05:00	**Session #4** • Practical session (continue).
05:00 - 06:00	**Evening consultations**[1] • Discussion of participants' work in progress projects

Readings of Day 1:

- Gelman, A., & Hill, J. (2006). *Data analysis using regression and multilevel/hierarchical models*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, 11, 12, 13.
- Inglehart, R., Foa, R., Peterson, C., & Welzel, C. (2008). Development, freedom, and rising happiness: A global perspective (1981–2007). Perspectives on psychological science, 3(4), 264-285.

[1] *Evening consultations are optional all through the workshop.*

Day 2 (August 23)

09:00 - 10:30	**Session #5** • Multilevel binary logistic regression.
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	**Session #6** • Presentation of multilevel models. • Random effects visualization.
12:30 - 01:30	Lunch Break
01:30 - 03:00	**Session #7** • Practical session. Multilevel models of protest behavior.
03:00 - 03:30	Coffee Break
04:00 - 05:00	**Session #4** • Practical session (continue).
05:00 - 06:00	**Evening consultations** Discussion of participants' work in progress projects

Readings of Day 2:

- Gelman & Hill (2006). Chapter 14.
- Dalton, R., Van Sickle, A., & Weldon, S. (2009). The individual–institutional nexus of protest behavior. British Journal of Political Science, 40(1), 51.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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LOGISTICS SHEET

Travel Arrangements

- In case of any delay in your departure, please send us a message on (+002010) 8844995 or reservations department +9611371888 (res.gefinor@rotana.com) to be able to rebook your hotel reservation and arrange for your airport pickup.
- Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants (about 30-minute trip) (9 KM)
- Upon your arrival in Beirut, "Airport pick up" service will be provided by a representative from the hotel. Rotana Ahlan desk
- Your name will be displayed on a screen at Rotana Ahlan desk.
- Airport transportation will be three hours before your departure time. Kindly check out and wait in the lobby area for your transportation.

Workshop Venues

- The Training workshop for "Opinion Poll Data Analysis Using Multilevel Models" will be held at the Conference Room (4th Floor) of Issam Fares Institute, AUB.

Hotel Accommodation

- Participants will be residing at: **Gefinor Rotana Hotel |** P.O. Box 113-5202 Beirut Lebanon | T: 00 961 (1) 371888 | F: 00 961 (1) 360831
- Free internet available for all guests.
- The Gefinor Rotana hotel is 2 minutes walking from the AUB.
- Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, alcoholic beverages, phone calls both local and international, room service or use of the mini-bar& internet.

Meals

- Daily breakfast will be in the Olive Garden restaurant
- Group lunches will be served at AUB
- For participants arriving on the 21th and departing on the 26th, please take your meals (lunch/dinner) at the Olive Garden. ERF will not cover any meals taken outside this restaurant.