

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTERNATIONALLY SPONSORED POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

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COLLABORATORS WITH DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES



CHANGING FACE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE : NEW METHODS*

Average Rate of Publication*

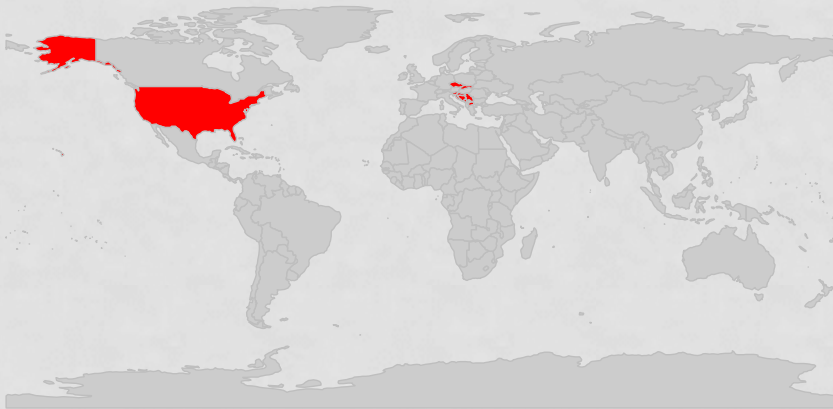
Decade	Laboratory	Survey	Field
1980*	6.0	0.0	0.0
1990s	6.0	0.0	0.0
2000s	5.8	2.9	0.2
2010+	10.5	19.25	5.5

*Desposato, Scott (ed). 2015. *Ethics and Experiments: Problems and Solutions for Social Scientists and Policy Professionals*. Routledge: New York.

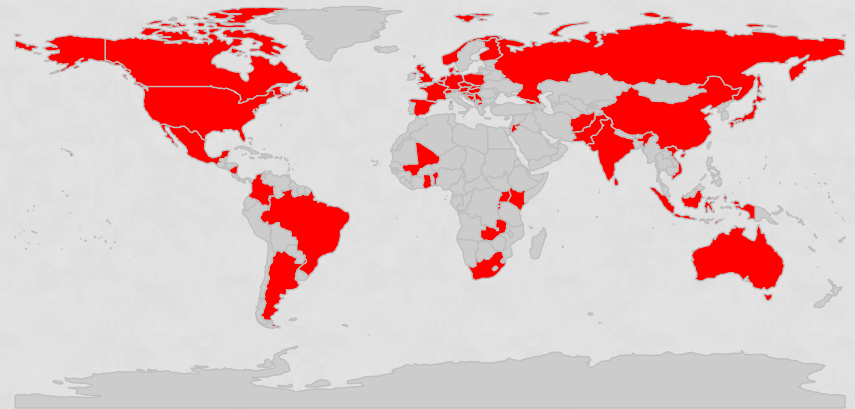
CHANGING FACE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE : NEW CONTEXTS

Geographic Location of Published Political Science Experiments*

1980s



2010s



*Desposato, Scott (ed). 2015. *Ethics and Experiments: Problems and Solutions for Social Scientists and Policy Professionals*. Routledge: New York.

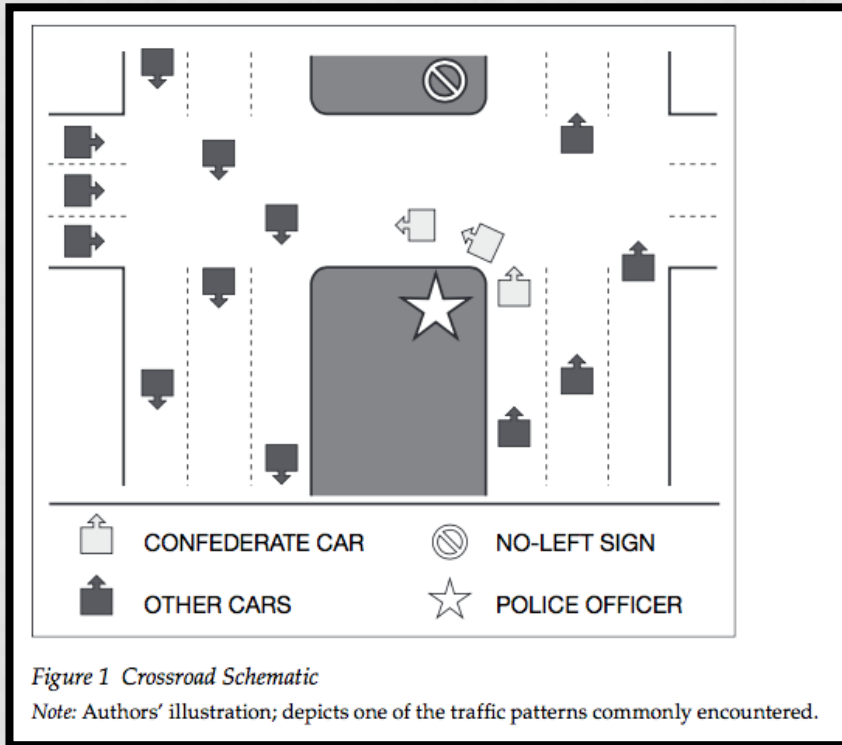
CASE 1: CORRUPTION IN BRAZILIAN ELECTIONS

American researchers, using US research dollars, are conducting illegal research sending illegal campaign messages to unsuspecting subjects in Brazil.



CASE 2: CORRUPTION IN MEXICAN POLICE

US scholars, using US money, are committing crimes and bribing police officers in foreign nations.



CHANGING FACE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE : NEW ETHICAL PROBLEMS

- Informed consent
- Deception
- Harm
- Exploitation
- Third party standing
- Sacred rituals
- **Internationally sponsored studies**
- Regulatory mechanisms
- Risk to researchers and staff
- Professional standards and codes
- RCR education

LOCAL REVIEW AND PERMITS

- Many countries regulate research and require:
 - Local review and approval of studies
 - A permit for the researcher
- National laws that apply to all research
- Anecdotal evidence indicates that political scientists are ignoring these laws



(LACK OF) ACCOUNTABILITY

Compliance with local permit and review laws is not required by:

- Most funding agencies
- Most institutional IRBs
- Most journals in the discipline
- Professional code of ethics (APSA)

(LACK OF) TRANSPARENCY

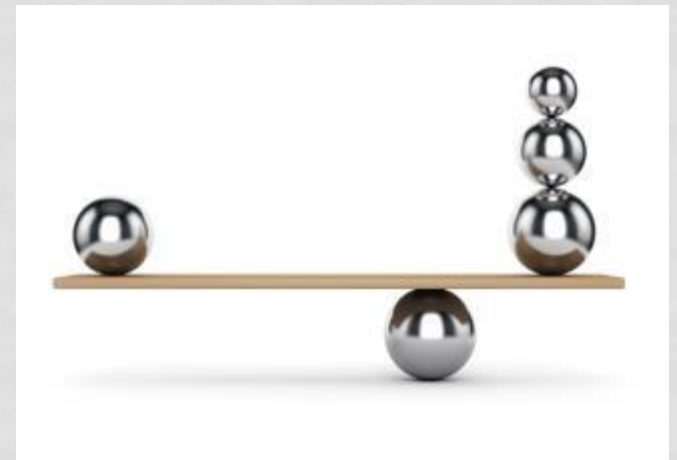
Disclosure of compliance with local review and permit laws:

- Not required by journals
- Not happening voluntarily
- Not discussed

RATIONALE

Many political scientists justify skipping local review and permits because:

- Not required by funding agencies or IRBS
- Foreign IRBs might be corrupt or incompetent
- Permits sometimes appear to be bribes
- Perceptions of peer behavior and leveling the playing field



THREE EXAMPLES



- China
 - May not approve pro-democracy or threatening research
 - Only research that is compatible with the regime's interests is likely to be allowed
- Brazil
 - Clear but very slow IRB procedures
 - Almost no one is following Brazil's rules
- Malawi
 - Clear and straightforward procedures
 - Hire their staff and pay 10% of your research budget

PROBLEMS

Why skipping local review and permits might be problematic:

- Risks to subjects
- Risks to other stakeholders
- Double standards and hypocrisy



MOVING FORWARD

- American political science association ad hoc committee on human subjects research
- Rewriting the human subjects research section of the “code of ethics”
- Phillips and Desposato, chairs
- Very specific charge
- Hoping to start broader conversation



QUESTIONS?

CASE 3: MONTANA STUDY

Stanford and Dartmouth scholars conducted illegal research during an election in Montana.



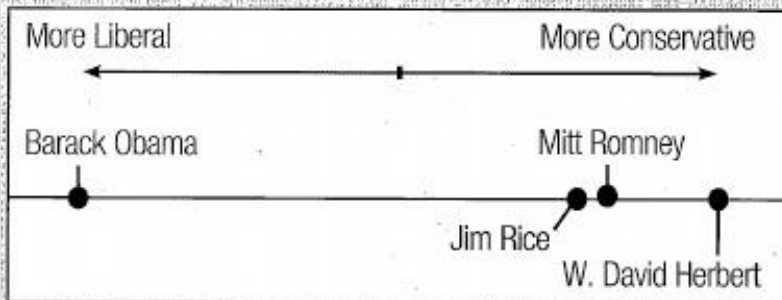


2014 Montana General Election Voter Information Guide

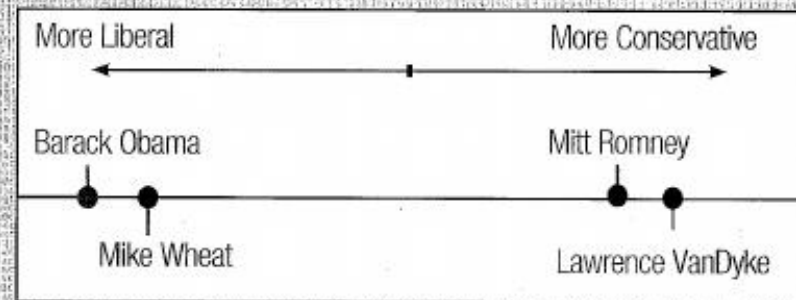
Election Date: November 4, 2014



Nonpartisan Supreme Court Justice #1 Race



Nonpartisan Supreme Court Justice #2 Race



For more information on how these figures were created, please see <http://data.stanford.edu/dime>. Please note that this guide is non-partisan and does not endorse any candidate or party. This guide was created as part of a joint research project at Stanford and Dartmouth.

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Take this to the polls!

