Online Supplement

”Stability and change in international policy-making: A punctuated equilibrium approach”

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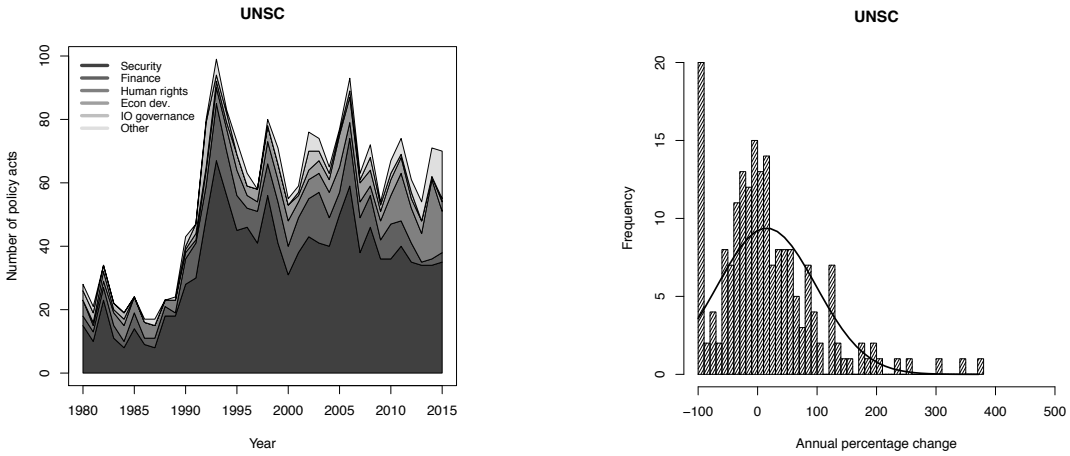
1. Data on the UN Security Council

As described in the article, the UN offers the choice between two key intergovernmental decision-making bodies, the General Assembly and the Security Council. For reasons outlined in the article (Footnote 3), our analysis of the UN is based on data from the General Assembly. Below we report statistics and data for the Security Council. Table A1 contains distributional statistics for the Security Council. Figure A1 illustrates the agenda allocation in the UN Security Council, based on analysis of 1,788 content-coded Security Council Resolutions adopted between 1980 and 2014. Figure A2 displays the distribution of pooled year-on-year agenda changes.

Table A1: *Shape statistics for frequency distributions of year-on-year changes in policy attention, UN Security Council*

Body	N	L-kurtosis	Skew	Mean	SD	S-W test	K-S test
UNSC	195	0.19	1.28	0.15	0.83	0.00	0.03



Figures A1 and A2: *Agenda allocation and year-on-year agenda changes, UN Security Council, 1980-2014*

2. Alternative count methods

We arrive at the statistics at the center of the analysis by studying distributions of pooled annual change scores (percentage changes). We followed the commonly used *percentage-percentage method* (cf. Baumgartner et al. 2009), via the formula:

$$\frac{\text{percentage of agenda at time 2} - \text{percentage of agenda at time 1}}{\text{percentage of agenda at time 1}}$$

An alternative approach is the *percentage-count method*, which is described by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{count at time 2} - \text{count at time 1}}{\text{count at time 1}}$$

Jones and Baumgartner (2005: 201-202) includes a detailed discussion of these two methods.

In Table A2, we report shape statistics for year-on-year change distributions attained via the percentage-count method. While the parameter estimates differ slightly from what is reported in Table 3 in the main article, our results are robust to this alternative method of calculation.

Table A2: *Shape statistics for frequency distributions of year-on-year changes in policy attention, 1980-2015 (percentage-count method)*

IO	N	Kurtosis	L-kurtosis	Skew	Mean	SD	S-W test	K-S test
AU	230	7.7	0.24	2.1	0.23	0.94	0.00	0.00
EU	352	8.0	0.26	2.4	0.22	0.94	0.00	0.00
OAS	365	15.8	0.27	2.9	0.12	0.68	0.00	0.00
OIC	325	20.7	0.31	3.5	0.11	0.67	0.00	0.00
UN	374	21.1	0.26	3.2	0.08	0.43	0.00	0.00

3. Alternative shift points in longitudinal analysis

Table A3 presents L-kurtosis statistics relating to alternative longitudinal shift points mentioned in case illustrations.

Table A3: *Kurtosis statistics for alternative shift points in longitudinal analysis*

IO	Shift point	L-kurtosis before	L-kurtosis after	Change
EU	1987	0.32	0.25	-
EU	2004	0.29	0.21	-
OAS	1991	0.27	0.26	-
OIC	2003	0.28	0.35	+

4. Evaluation of computer classification algorithm

Table A4 reports the overlap of agenda proportion estimates between hand-coding and the computer classification algorithm for the AU, EU, OAS, and OIC. For each IO, a randomly selected sample of policy output (between 247 and 400 documents) was hand-coded by two coders, both of whom participated in coding training. We then compared the proportion of topics assigned by each coder to the classification of the computer algorithm, calculating the precision of proportion estimates. For each IO, we report the average share of estimates that overlapped given two different accuracy thresholds (within 5 and 10 percent), together with the precision scores for the coder with the lowest and highest overlap, respectively.

Table A4: *Overlap between computer classification algorithm and handcoding*

		AU		**EU**		**OAS**		**OIC**	
Accuracy threshold	**Average precision**	*Low*	*High*	*Low*	*High*	*Low*	*High*	*Low*	*High*
Within 10%	**88%**	81%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	94%
Within 5%	**78%**	69%	75%	69%	69%	81%	81%	88%	88%