Appendix  Supplementary Materials


Appendix.1  2011 Survey Questions on International Political Knowledge and Socioeconomic Information

Notes: The letter at the end of each question indicates the correct answer. The footnotes did not appear in the actual surveys.

Part I: Political Knowledge

1. In which of the following countries was a major health care reform signed into law in March 2010 to increase its citizens’ access to health insurance? [d]
   (a) Canada
   (b) Italy
   (c) Japan
   (d) United States
   (e) France

2. The presidential plane of Poland crashed in Russia in April 2010, killing all 96 passengers aboard including the Polish president and his wife. According to investigations, which of the following was the cause of the crash? [c]
   (a) The plane was old and had mechanical failures
   (b) Intentional sabotage
   (c) Bad weather
   (d) No cause was found

3. Which party won majority seats in the House of Representatives in the U.S. midterm election in November 2010? [a]
   (a) The Republican Party
(b) The Democratic Party
(c) The Tea Party
(d) No party won majority seats

4. The current British prime minister is [d]
   (a) Angela Merkel
   (b) Gordon Brown
   (c) Tony Blair
   (d) David Cameron
   (e) Nicolas Sarkozy

5. Who is the founder of Wikileaks? [b]
   (a) Ben Ali
   (b) Julian Assange
   (c) Aung San Suu Kyi
   (d) Julia Gillard
   (e) Robert Gibbs

6. The social and political unrest that brought down some governments in the Middle East and North Africa since the start of 2011 began in which country? [b]
   (a) Egypt
   (b) Tunisia
   (c) Libya
   (d) Iran
   (e) Yemen
   (f) Bahrain

7. Hugo Chavez is the president of which country? [d]
   (a) Brazil
(b) Argentina
(c) Cuba
(d) Venezuela
(e) Colombia

8. Where was Bin Laden’s last residence? [e]

(a) Yemen
(b) Iraq
(c) Afghanistan
(d) Saudi Arabia
(e) Pakistan

9. Which of the following European countries did not experience a sovereign debt crisis recently? [d]

(a) Ireland
(b) Greece
(c) Portugal
(d) Germany

10. International nuclear and radiological events are rated on a scale from 1 to 7 by severity. What is the final and formal rating of the recent Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan?[^1] [e]

(a) 3
(b) 4
(c) 5
(d) 6
(e) 7

[^1]: This question was about an important international event in 2011 but was not political per se. Excluding it from the analysis does not affect the results.
Part II: Socioeconomic Information

1. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the annual per capita personal income in the U.S.? [b]
   (a) 15,000 USD
   (b) 40,000 USD
   (c) 65,000 USD
   (d) 90,000 USD

2. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the unemployment rate in the U.S. in the last two years? [c]
   (a) 2%
   (b) 5%
   (c) 10%
   (d) 15%

3. According to the 2010 Human Development Report of the United nations, life expectancy is currently 73.5 in China. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the life expectancy in Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries? [c]
   (a) 72.3
   (b) 76.3
   (c) 80.3
   (d) 84.3

4. According to the 2010 Human Development Report, the average number of years of schooling in China is currently 7.5 in China. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the average number of years of schooling in OECD countries? [c]
   (a) 7.4
   (b) 9.4
5. The Gini coefficient is internationally used to measure a country’s income inequality. It is a number between 0 and 1, the higher the number, the more unequal is a country's income distribution. According to the 2010 Human Development Report, China’s Gini coefficient between 2000 and 2010 is 0.415. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the Gini coefficient of the U.S. between 2000 and 2010? [b]

(a) 0.34  
(b) 0.41  
(c) 0.48  
(d) 0.55

6. Home-ownership rate refers to the proportion of all occupied housing units that are occupied by owners. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the homeownership rate in the U.S.? (In China it is about 80%). [b]

(a) 53%  
(b) 67%  
(c) 81%  
(d) 95%

7. According to the 2010 Human Development Report, between 2003 and 2008 there were 1.2 homicides for every 100,000 people in China. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the homicide rate in the U.S.? [c]

(a) 0.9  
(b) 3.1  
(c) 5.2

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Various Chinese government statistics have put China’s homeownership at or above 80%. The influential 2013 China Family Panel Studies conducted by Beijing University with support from the University of Michigan found that 78% of Chinese families own a home, and 12% own a second or third home. See http://www.isss.edu.cn/cfps/xinwen/News/2013/248.html and http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2013/07/26/survey-casts-doubt-on-chinas-jobless-data/.
(d) 7.4

8. According to the 2010 Human Development Report, China has about 693 deaths due to air and water pollution per million people. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the number of deaths due to air and water pollution per million people in the U.S.? [b]

(a) 55
(b) 135
(c) 375
(d) 695
Appendix.2  April 2014 Survey Questions on International Political Knowledge and Socioeconomic Information

Part I: Socioeconomic Information

1. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the annual per capita personal income in the U.S.? [b]
   (a) 21,000 USD
   (b) 44,000 USD
   (c) 67,000 USD
   (d) 90,000 USD

2. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the average unemployment rate in the U.S. in the last 12 months? [b]
   (a) 4.1%
   (b) 7.1%
   (c) 10.1%
   (d) 13.1%

3. According to the Human Development Report of the United Nations, life expectancy is currently about 74.8 in China. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the life expectancy in Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries? [c]
   (a) 72.1
   (b) 76.1
   (c) 80.1
   (d) 84.1

4. According to the United Nations Human Development Report, the average expected years of schooling is currently 12.5 in China. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the average expected years of schooling in OECD countries? [c]
5. The Gini coefficient is internationally used to measure a country’s income inequality. The higher the number, the more unequal is a country’s income distribution (so 0 represents perfect equality and 1 represents perfect inequality). According to data from the most recent year available, China’s current Gini coefficient is about 0.47. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the Gini coefficient of the U.S.? [c]³

(a) 0.31  
(b) 0.39  
(c) 0.47  
(d) 0.55

6. Home-ownership rate refers to the proportion of all occupied housing units that are occupied by owners. Most surveys show that the homeownership rate in China is about 80%. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the homeownership rate in the U.S.? [b]

(a) 51%  
(b) 65%  
(c) 81%  
(d) 95%

7. According to data from the United Nations, the homicide rate in China is about 1.0 per 100,000 people. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the homicide rate in the U.S.? [c]

³The most recent Human Development Report at the time of the survey did not have updated statistics on income inequality. The Chinese data for this question came from the January 2014 official news release of the China National Statistics Bureau, which put China’s Gini coefficient at 0.473. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Gini coefficient in 2012 (the latest year data available) was 0.477. See the report “Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012” issued in September 2013.
8. According to data from the United Nations, every year about 694 per million people died of water and air (both indoor and outdoor) pollution in China. Which of the following numbers do you think is closest to the number of deaths per million people in the U.S. due to water and air pollution? [b]

(a) 58
(b) 138
(c) 378
(d) 698

Part II: Political Knowledge

1. The current French president is [e]

(a) Angela Merkel
(b) Nicolas Sarkozy
(c) Jacques Chirac
(d) David Cameron
(e) Francois Hollande

2. In October 2013 a developed country shut down nonessential operations of its national government for over two weeks due to the failure to reach an agreement on government budget for the next fiscal year. This country is [d]

(a) Canada
(b) Italy
(c) Japan
(d) United States
3. The current Pope of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, was originally from which country? [a]

(a) Argentina  
(b) Germany  
(c) Brazil  
(d) Mexico  
(e) Poland

4. Who of the following was the Egyptian President that was deposed from power in July 2013 by the Egyptian military? [b]

(a) Mubarak  
(b) Morsi  
(c) ElBaradei  
(d) Musharraf  
(e) Ahmadinejad

5. In 2013 which of the following political figures tried to push through the country’s parliament an amnesty bill that had implications for his or her family members, which led to political crisis in the country including street protests, anti-corruption investigation, and the opposition calling for him/her to stepping down? [d]

(a) Thaksin Shinawatra  
(b) Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
(c) Silvio Berlusconi  
(d) Yingluck Shinawatra  
(e) Park Geun-hye

6. Edward Snowden disclosed to the media classified documents about secret surveillance programs of which of the following U.S. entities? [c]

(a) Central Intelligence Agency
7. Which of the following countries was involved in a civil war in 2013 and the government forces were accused of using chemical weapons against civilians, which then led to a UN Security Council Resolution that demanded destruction of the country’s chemical weapons? [e]

(a) Iraq
(b) Egypt
(c) Libya
(d) Iran
(e) Syria

8. A wave of street protests occurred in which of the following countries since late November of 2013, following the government’s decision to suspend preparations for signing an association agreement with the European Union, which eventually led to the ouster of the country’s president? [c]

(a) Turkey
(b) Georgia
(c) Ukraine
(d) Albania
(e) Croatia

9. Nelson Mandela, who passed away in December 2013, was a leader of which of the following political parties in South Africa? [d]

(a) Democratic Alliance
(b) Inkatha Freedom Party
(c) Communist Party
(d) African National Congress
(e) Congress of the People

10. Who of the following was once considered the second most powerful individual in North Korea but was purged and executed in December 2013? [b]

(a) Kim Yong-nam
(b) Jang Sung-taek
(c) Kim Kyong-hui
(d) Pak Pong-ju
(e) Kim Jong-nam
Appendix.3 Sociodemographic Information of the April 2014 Survey Experiment Participants and Chinese Internet Users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociodemographics</th>
<th>Online Experiment</th>
<th>Chinese Internet Users*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern China</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
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<td>Central China</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
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<td>Western China</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
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<td>Corporate office worker</td>
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<td>11.4%</td>
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<td>Corporate management</td>
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<td>2.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government employee</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing worker</td>
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<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service worker</td>
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<td>3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migrant worker</td>
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<td>4.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
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<td>6.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
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<td>10.2%</td>
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<td>Retired and other</td>
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<td>2.4%</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>36.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior high school</td>
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<td>2-year college</td>
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<td>10.1%</td>
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<td>4-year college</td>
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<td>10.8%</td>
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<td>Graduate school</td>
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<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤ 19</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
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<td>20-29</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
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<td>30-39</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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<td>≥ 40</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Appendix.4 Results from the September 2012 and October 2014 Survey Experiments

Figure S1: Predicted Aggregate Regime Evaluations (September 2012)

Figure S2: Effects of Overestimation and Correction (September 2012)
Figure S3: Predicted Aggregate Regime Evaluations (October 2014)

Figure S4: Effects of Overestimation and Correction (October 2014)