

Section #7

Operational codes, personality, & ideology

March 23, 2023

All the readings!

Topic

Op Codes & Personality

Ideology

Methodology

Meta-analysis

Caprara & Vecchione 2013

Jost 2017

Observational study

Harden 2021

Bertoli, Dafoe, & Trager 2019

Text-as-data

Renshon 2009; Walker,
Shafer, & Smith 2020

Text-as-data

- Public statements
- Publications
- Transcripts of interviews
- Transcripts of private conversations
- Diary entries

When Public Statements Reveal Private Beliefs: Assessing Operational Codes at a Distance

Jonathan Renshon
Harvard University

This article uses both public and private documents to measure the operational code of John F. Kennedy in the summer of 1962. Previous operational code research (and indeed, much of content analysis more generally) has relied exclusively on the analysis of public speeches and is thus open to charges that the speeches represent attempts at deception, persuasion, or impression management. This article tests the validity of using public speech data in operational code analysis by comparing the output to the results one gets by analyzing private statements from the same period. The results strongly indicate that one obtains the same results using either the public or the private data, thus providing tentative confirmation of the validity of using public speeches for assessing the operational codes of leaders.

KEY WORDS: Operational Code, Assessment at a distance, John F. Kennedy

Assignment #2

Measuring leader cognition feat. text-as-data

1. Select a leader of your choice
2. Select a method to measure leader cognition
 - Any option on ProfilerPlus is fine
3. Automated content analysis
 - Corpus: select at least 5 writing or speech acts of at least 1,500 words
 - Processing: upload txt files to ProfilerPlus & await email with results
 - Explain: walk us through the ProfilerPlus results
4. Discussion
 - Implications for how we understand the leader's foreign policy

Assignment #2

Tips

Writing Element	Necessities	“Weight”
Argument	Identifiable & supported argument about leader’s approach to foreign policy	Cantaloupe
Method	Define & defend methodological approach; include methods appendix	Cantaloupe
Organization	Elements: intro, methods overview, results, discussion, conclusion	Grapefruit
Writing skills	Limited drafting language; formality	Grapefruit
Sources	Cite appropriate outside sources where relevant	Apple

Tutorial: Joe Biden x LTA

What do the results from the content analysis reveal about President Biden's leadership style?



Observational data (1)

Narcissism x Conflict (Harden 2021)

- *Narcissism*: personality trait feat. high assertiveness and excitement-seeking but low modesty and compliance
- *Theory*: + narcissism → status management → selection into great power conflicts

How does Harden (2021) measure narcissism and test his hypotheses on conflict initiation?

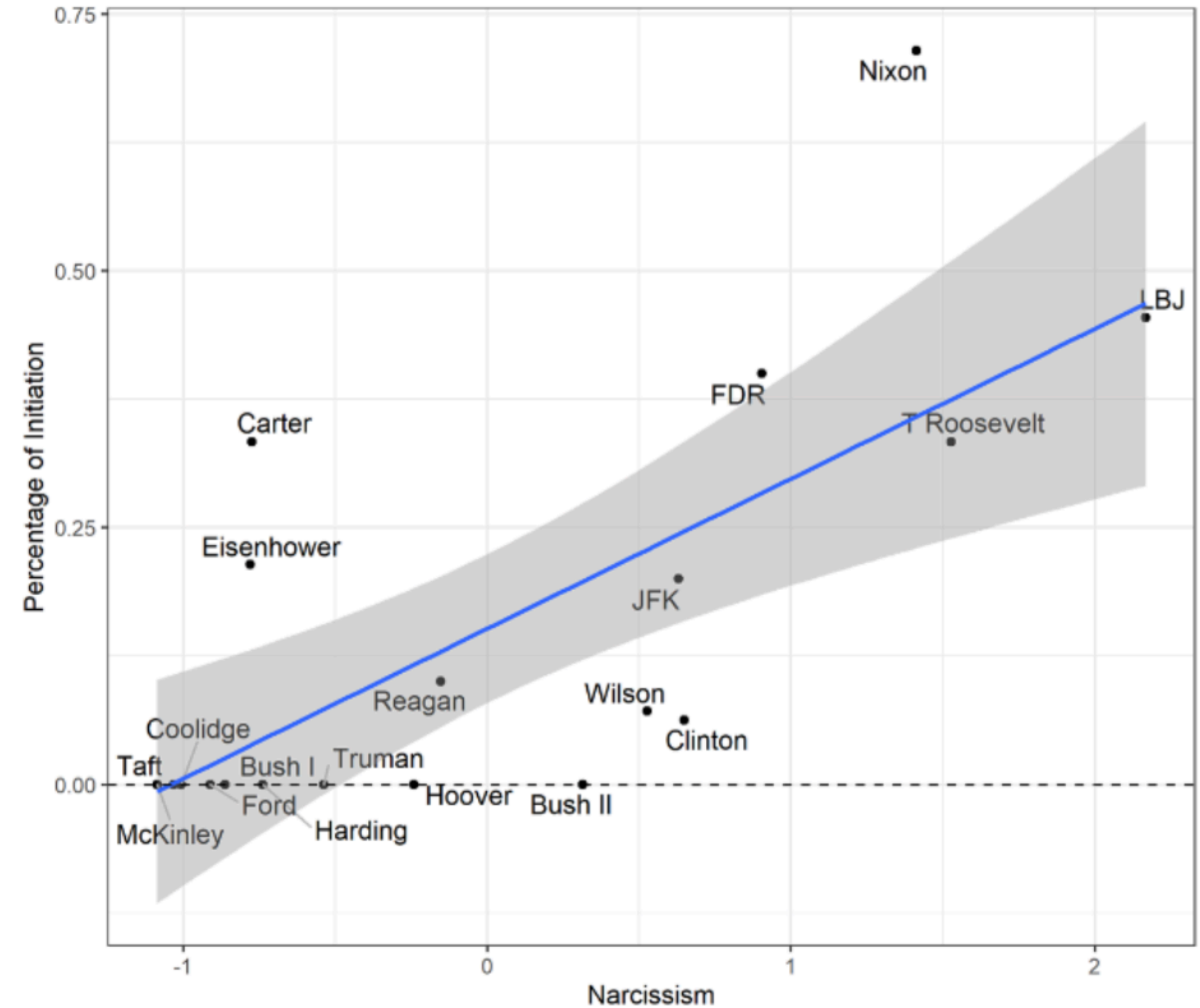


Figure 1.1. % of Initiation by Presidential Administration.

Observational data (2)

Ideology x conflict (Bertoli, Dafoe, & Trager 2021)

- Why might ideological position influence $\text{pr}(\text{conflict initiation})$?
- Challenge of selection bias: are RW parties generally more inclined to fight, or is ideology indeed at work?
- Solution: regression discontinuity design (quasi-experimental conditions)

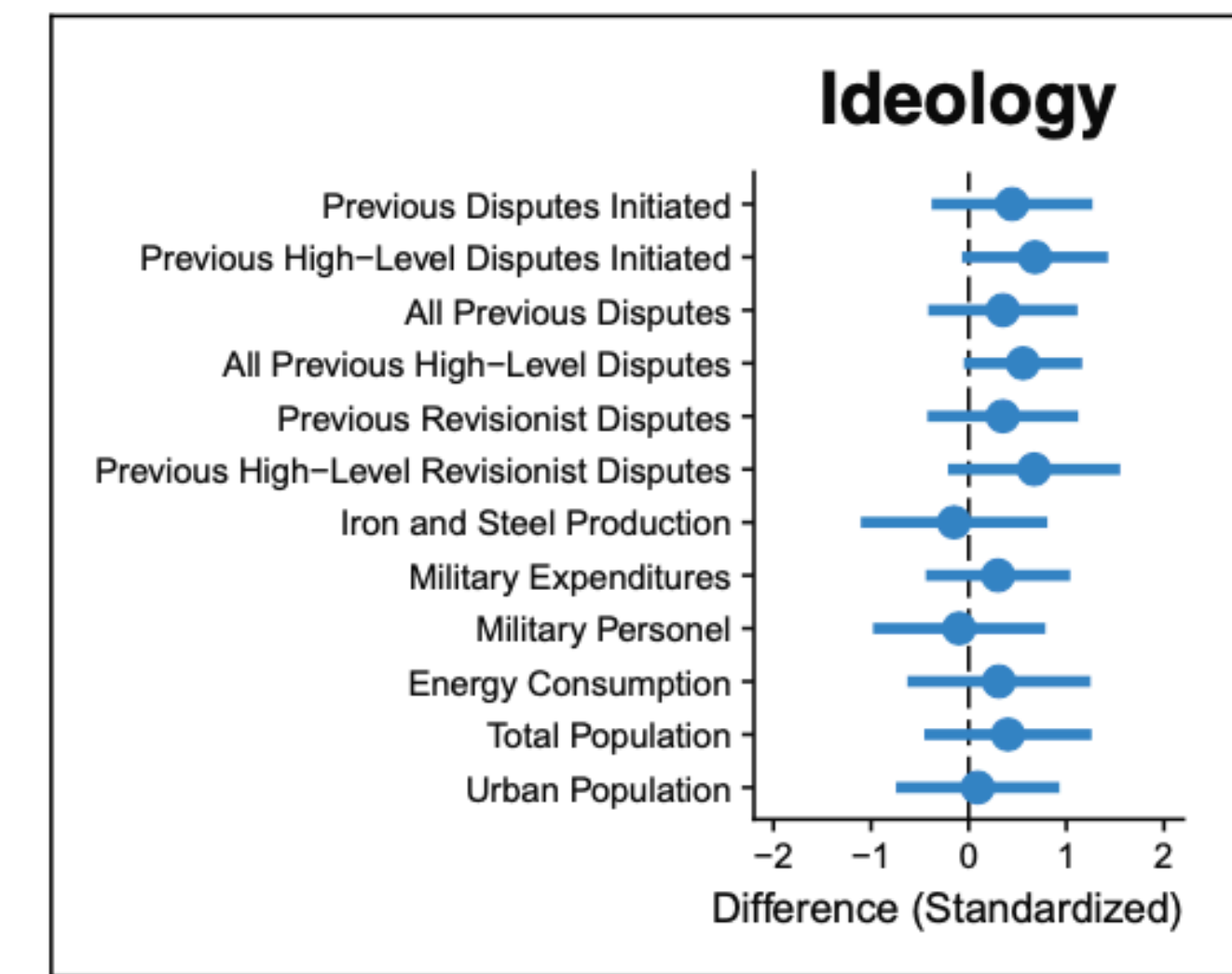


Figure 1. Balance tests.

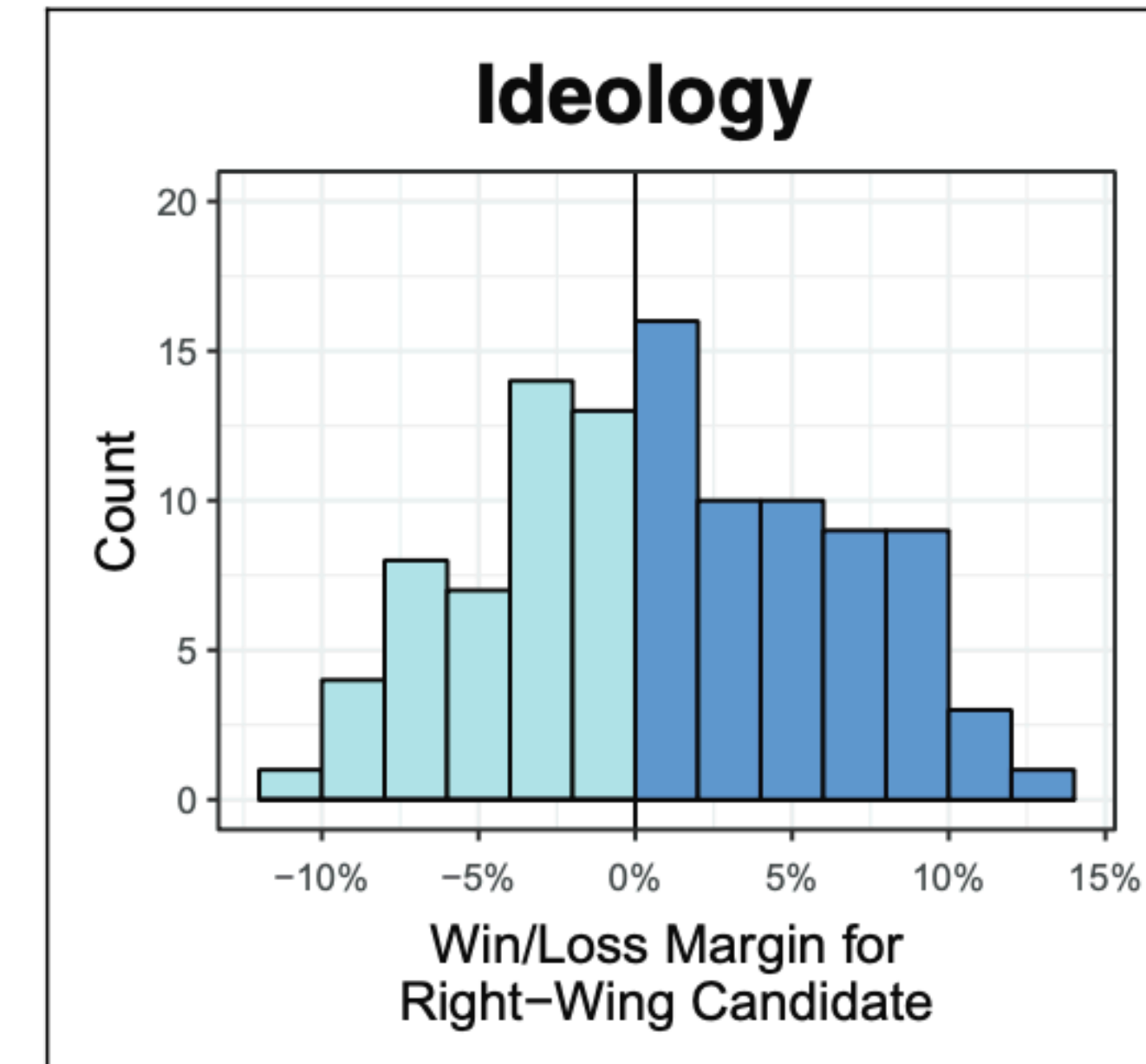


Figure 2. Distribution of the forcing variable.

Observational data (2)

Ideology x conflict (Bertoli, Dafoe, & Trager 2021)

Table 1. Disputes per Year for Countries with Close Elections between Candidates from Right-Wing and Left-Wing Parties.

Cases Where the Left-Wing Party Barely Won				Cases Where the Right-Wing Party Barely Won			
Country	Year	All Military Disputes Initiated	High-level Military Disputes Initiated	Country	Year	All Military Disputes Initiated	High-level Military Disputes Initiated
1. Austria	1957	.33	.00	1. USA	1877	.50	.00
2. Austria	1965	.00	.00	2. Finland	1956	.00	.00
3. Austria	1974	.00	.00	3. Costa Rica	1958	.00	.00
4. Colombia	1978	.25	.00	4. France	1974	.43	.14
5. Portugal	1986	.00	.00	5. Dominican Rep.	1986	.25	.00
6. Cyprus	1988	.00	.00	6. Cyprus	1993	.20	.20
7. Colombia	1994	.00	.00	7. Dominican Rep.	1994	.00	.00
8. Costa Rica	1994	.25	.25	8. Dominican Rep.	1996	.00	.00
9. South Korea	1997	.20	.00	9. Israel	1996	.33	.00
10. Taiwan	2000	.75	.00	10. Madagascar	1996	.00	.00
11. South Korea	2002	.26	.00	11. Colombia	1998	.25	.25
12. Taiwan	2004	.50	.00	12. Costa Rica	1998	.00	.00
13. Finland	2006	.00	.00	13. Cyprus	1998	.00	.00
				14. USA	2001	2.25	1.25
				15. Mexico	2006	.00	.00
				16. Mongolia	2009	.00	.00
		Average = .20	Average = .02			Average = .26	Average = .12