

World - Geography of Academic Research 1985-2004

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Sampling

No content available

Questionnaires

No content available

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
1985	2004	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Internet [int]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The main data source is constructed using information on journal articles published in selected 202 economics journals during the period 1985-2004 that were associated with a geographical identifier (thus excluding all theoretical contributions and cross-country empirical work). We used journal rankings proposed by Kalaitzidakis and others (2003) and Kordrzycki and Yu (2006) to finalize the list of journals for inclusion in the database. Ultimately, we selected the 202 economics journals that appeared at least in one of their proposed rankings.

Table A1 of the Working Paper provides the list of these journals and their rankings according to various citation indices. The large number of journals was chosen partly to ensure that country-specific publications in the dataset reflected the volume of research on the country rather than journal selectivity; of note is that the citation index for the bottom ranked 11 journals is 0, and close to 75 journals have a citation rank less than 1 (that is, the average article in the journal is cited less than once in subsequent research). [1]

To obtain the files of article records we used the Econlit database provided by EBSCOHost to conduct a field search for each individual journal title, limited to the years 1985 through 2004.[2] If a journal started publication after 1985 we started with the earliest possible date. Every Econlit record is assigned metadata separated into fields. We kept data from the following fields: Author; Author Affiliation; Journal Name; Journal Issue; Descriptor Classification Codes (JEL codes); and Geographical Descriptors. We manually cleaned up the Author-Affiliation field and identified the 100 first academic institutions in addition to three multilateral organizations (IMF, UN and World Bank). [3/4] Geographic Descriptors refer to either a specific country, or a generic group of countries.[5]

An article was thus assigned to a specific country if the Geographic Descriptor made an explicit mention of the country and it was labeled as a "cross-country study" otherwise. Papers with no associated geographic descriptors were identified and classified in the category of "theoretical contributions". The data were then aggregated up to create a country*year dataset of total publication counts broken down by three types of journals (Top-5, Top-10 journals, all journals) and author affiliations. [6]

The publications dataset was then merged with data on standard growth variables, governance indices and release of survey data to arrive at a panel dataset and a country-level dataset on 175 countries for the period 1985 to 2004. Table A2 in the Appendix to the Working paper provides a detailed description of variables and their sources. Summary statistics for the data used in the paper are presented in Table 1.

To assess the volume of economics research covered in this paper relative to total economics research, Figure 1 in the Working Paper presents a characterization of the nature of research over the 20-year span of our data. We split the set of articles into three groups: theoretical contributions, country-specific case studies, and cross-country analyses. During the 20-year period, the number of publications in all 3 groups increased. Nevertheless, there has been a very small reallocation of research across these 3 groups. There is an increase in the share of cross-country empirical work at the expense of the other two, but theory (40 percent) and single-country empirical papers (50 percent) continue to account for 90 percent of all publications in the field. Therefore, the papers examined here represent the vast majority of empirical work in the field, and almost half the output of the discipline as a whole.

[1] Kalaitzidakis and others (2003) construct for each journal a citation rank based on citations in 1998 of articles published only in 1994-1998, excluding self-citations and adjusted for impact (influence) and size. Kordrzycki and Yu (2006) provide citations and reference-intensity-adjusted rankings that evaluate a specified set of journals according to influence of journals and influence of journal articles. These rankings take into account citations in economics academic journals as well as citations in other social science and policy journals. In addition, we use the eigen-factor ranking produced as part of a research project at University of Washington. The eigen factor is associated with a specified set of journals and is a measure of the overall value provided by all the articles published in a given journal in a year. The Article Influence is a measure of a journal's influence based on the number of citations per article. Thus, according to the Article Influence ranking, one publication in the American Economic Review will count for 4.9 publications, while one

publication in the Journal of Development Economics will count for 1.4 publications.

[2] Due to the unavailability of data on some governance indicators and growth variables for the years 2005 and onwards, we restrict all the analysis in this paper for the years 1985-2004.

[3] We take the 100 first institutions ranked by the number of pages published provided by Kalaitzidakis et al. (2003). These institutions produced a third of the total number of publications over the period 1985-2004. Affiliations we did not uniquely identify were coded "Other".

[4] The codes used to identify the institutional affiliations are open access (<http://econ.worldbank.org/staff/qdo/>), and we welcome additions to the list of institutions already identified. Above all, we encourage Econlit to code authors, their affiliations, geographic descriptors and other paper attributes in a more standardized fashion.

[5] Articles with broadly defined geographical identifiers such as "Selected Countries" or "Europe" were difficult to link to a specific geographical entity. An Econlit representative pointed out that such identifiers usually represent research arising from cross-country empirical techniques. For instance, a continent identifier such as "Europe" would be used for research on a general topic (such as climate change) across a large number of countries in the continent. It is unclear how to deal with cross-country empirical work, and such papers are excluded from this analysis entirely.

[6] One limitation of our approach is that important research outlets may still be omitted from this database. Many papers on India, for instance, are published in the Economic and Political Weekly, which does not appear here; neither is research that only appears in reports or books incorporated in this analysis. This database also ignores policy reports and other country specific analyses that are not submitted through the formal academic refereeing system, but with potentially important policy impact such as World Bank's Country Economic Memorandums, IMF Country Reports, or the United Nations Development Program's National Human Development Reports.

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

Other forms of Data Appraisal

The field "CountryName" might be subject to coding errors, and will be updated regularly.
Please inform us if you identify coding errors.

File Description

Variable List

data

Content

Cases 1450993

Variable(s) 11

Structure Type:
Keys: ()

Version

Producer

Missing Data

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Type	Format	Question
V1	ArticleNumber	Article Number (original)	contin	numeric	
V2	JournalName	Journal Name (original)	discrete	numeric	
V3	ArticleYear	Year of Publication (computed)	contin	numeric	
V4	GeographicDescriptor	Geographic Descriptor (original)	discrete	numeric	
V10	country	Country	discrete	numeric	
V5	CountryWB	Country WB code: with X-Ctry and Theory (computed)	discrete	character	
V6	CountryIFS	Country IFS code: 1=multi, .=theory (computed)	contin	numeric	
V7	AuthorAffiliation	Affiliation of Author (original)	discrete	character	
V11	issue	Date of Journal Issue (original)	discrete	numeric	
V8	SubjectClassification	Subject Descriptor (original)	discrete	numeric	
V9	ArticleType	Type of article: 0 = Theory, 1 = Single-country study, 2 = Multi-country study	discrete	numeric	

Article Number (original) (ArticleNumber)

File: data

Overview

Type: Continuous	Valid cases: 1450993
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Width: 6	Minimum: 18738
Decimals: 0	Maximum: 880964
Range: 18738-880964	Mean: 544741.2
	Standard deviation: 197003.3

Journal Name (original) (JournalName)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1450993
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Width: 3	
Decimals: 0	
Range: 1-202	

Year of Publication (computed) (ArticleYear)

File: data

Overview

Type: Continuous	Valid cases: 1450993
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Width: 4	Minimum: 1984
Decimals: 0	Maximum: 2006
Range: 1984-2006	Mean: 1999.1
	Standard deviation: 5.4

Geographic Descriptor (original) (GeographicDescriptor)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1450993
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Width: 3	
Decimals: 0	
Range: 1-999	

Country (country)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1053604
Format: numeric	Invalid: 397389
Width: 3	
Decimals: 0	
Range: 1-180	

Country WB code: with X-Ctry and Theory (computed) (CountryWB)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1450993
Format: character	Invalid: 0
Width: 6	

Country IFS code: 1=multi, .=theory (computed) (CountryIFS)

File: data

Overview

Type: Continuous	Valid cases: 1182035
Format: numeric	Invalid: 268958
Width: 3	Minimum: 1
Decimals: 0	Maximum: 968
Range: 1-968	Mean: 241.9
	Standard deviation: 268.1

Affiliation of Author (original) (AuthorAffiliation)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1370445
Format: character	
Width: 244	

Date of Journal Issue (original) (issue)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1450993
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Width: 3	
Decimals: 0	
Range: 1-952	

Subject Descriptor (original) (SubjectClassification)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 1445788
Format: numeric	Invalid: 5205
Width: 6	
Decimals: 0	
Range: 1-200284	

Type of article: 0 = Theory, 1 = Single-country study, 2 =
Multi-country study (ArticleType)

File: data

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Width: 1
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-2

Valid cases: 1450993
Invalid: 0

Related Materials

Other materials

U.S. and Them - The Geography of Academic Research

Title U.S. and Them - The Geography of Academic Research
Author(s) Jishnu Das Quy-Toan Do Karen Shaines Sowmya Srinivasan
Date 2009-12-01
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