

Definitions of Variables

Variable Name	Definition
Identifier	
prov	Provincial identifier
city	City identifier
cnty	County identifier
Treatment	
treat	Treatment assignment. 0 = control; 1 = T1; 2 = T2; 3 = T3.
tr1	1 = T1 (collective action); 0 = otherwise.
tr2	1 = T2 (tattling); 0 = otherwise.
tr3	1 = T3 (loyalty); 0 = otherwise.
attempted	1 = posting attempt was made; 0 = otherwise (a forum does not exist).
posted	1 = a request was successfully posted; 0 = otherwise.
Forum Characteristics	
forum_response	1 = there existis publicly viewable government responses; 0 = otherwise.
forum_recent_response	1 = there existis publicly viewable government responses in the past 30 dyas; 0 = otherwise.
forum_imme_viewable	1 = newly submitted request was immediately viewable; 0 = otherwise.
Posting Requirements	
post_name	1 = requiring the requester's name; 0 = otherwise.
post_tel	1 = requiring the requester's telephone number; 0 = otherwise.
post_email	1 = requiring the requester's email account; 0 = otherwise.
post_address	1 = requiring the requester's address; 0 = otherwise.
post_idnum	1 = requiring the requester's ID number; 0 = otherwise.
Government Response	
response	1 = a government response was received; 0 = otherwise.
response_public	1 = a government response was received and it was publicly viewable; 0 = otherwise.
response_content	Content of government responses. 1 = deferral; 2 = referral; 3 = direct information.
response_time	Number of days before obtaining a government response.
Control Variables	
logpop	Log population
logpop00	Log population (2000)
popgrow	Population growth (2000-10%)
sexratio	Gender ratio (female = 1.00)
logpopden	Log population density (person/km2)
migrant	Migrant share of population (%)
nonagrhh	Non-agriculture household share of population (%)
urban	Permanent urban residents share of population (%)
eduyr	Average years of education
illit	Illiteracy rate among population age above 15 (%)
minor	Ethnic minority share of population (%)
unemploy	Unemployment rate (%)
wk_agr	Work force in agriculture (%)
wk_ind	Work force in industry (%)
wk_ser	Work force in services (%)
income	GDP per capita (1,000 CNY)
logincome	Log GDP per capita
loggdp	Log GDP
avggrowth	Average nominal GDP growth (2000-10)
logoutput_agr	Log agricultural output
logoutput_ind	Log industrial output
logoutput_ser	Log services output
numlfirm	Number of enterprises above designates size (annual sales above 5 million CNY)
loginvest	Log total investment from households, enterprises, and government
logsaving	Log total saving (total outstanding bank deposits of rural and urban households)
loggov_rev	Log total government revenue
loggov_exp	Log total government expenditure

Note: Control variables are from 2000 and 2010 Census and Provincial Statistical Yearbooks. Variables were measured in 2010 unless otherwise noted. Provincial, city, and county GB codes are replaced with random numbers that preserve the clustering data structure.