

*ReadMe File for Replication for:*

## **Does Legality Produce Political Legitimacy: An Experimental Approach<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Computational platforms**

We tested our code on a 2019 MacBook Pro with an 8-Core Intel Core i9 processor and 64G RAM. The operating system is MacOS 14.5 (Sonoma). The R version is 4.1.2. The Stata version is Stata/MP 18.0 for Mac (Apple Silicon).

### **R package version requirements**

haven ( $\geq 2.5.4$ ), ggplot2 ( $\geq 3.5.1$ ), dplyr ( $\geq 1.1.4$ ).

### **Folder structure and functionalities**

code	Stores code files required to plot data and generate results
data	Stores data files required for replicating the results
graphs	Intended for storing graphs generated from code files
output	Intended for storing tables and results for plotting

### **Notes**

1. Please make sure to set path to the root replication folder in R and Stata do files.
2. All the data files are saved in the “data” folder.
3. All the code files are saved in the “code” folder. The required packages in each script will be automatically installed.
4. Please execute the code files sequentially based on the name order.
5. All the output files are saved in the “output” folder. When you run the R and Stata do files, existing files in the “output” folder will be overwritten.
6. All graphics are saved in the “graphs” folder. When you run the scripts, existing files in this folder will be overwritten.
7. Table 1, 2, A2, and Figure 1 involve no estimation and do not require replication.

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<sup>1</sup> We thank Jinwen Wu for preparing the replications files. Please email Yiqin Fu ([yiqinfu@stanford.edu](mailto:yiqinfu@stanford.edu)) if you have any questions related to replication.

*Code files (stored in the “code” folder)*

Filename	Description	Output	Execution Time
<b>1_main.R</b>	Produce summary statistics tables and plots for experimental findings in the main article.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tables 3</li> <li>• Figure 2, 3, 4, 5</li> </ul>	< 10 Minutes
<b>2_appendix.R</b>	Produce plots for experimental findings in the Appendix.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table A1(a), A1(b)</li> <li>• Figure A1</li> </ul>	< 5 Minutes
<b>3_regressions.Rmd</b>	Produce regression tables in the file.  <i>Note: The output tables are reformatted using `Stargazer`. Code is omitted from the RMarkdown for aesthetic purposes.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table A3-A8</li> </ul>	< 10 Minutes
<b>4_sup_round.Rmd</b>	Second round of data serves for robustness check.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table A9-A11</li> </ul>	< 10 Minutes

*Note:* Table 1, 2, A2, and Figure 1 are auxiliary information (on measurement and case universe) and do not require replication.

*Data files (stored in the “data” folder)*

Filename	Description
<b>main.csv</b>	Main survey results of 1,040 respondents
<b>supp.csv</b>	Supplementary survey results of 420 respondents

*Graphic file (stored in the “graphs” folder)*

Figure	Filename
<b>Figure 1</b>	<i>No need to replicate</i>
<b>Figure 2</b>	01_treatment_effect.png
<b>Figure 3</b>	02_by_fact_pattern.png
<b>Figure 4</b>	05_diffused.png
<b>Figure 5(a)</b>	04_hetero.png
<b>Figure 5(b)</b>	06_diffused_hetero.png
<b>Figure A1(a)</b>	03_by_variant.png
<b>Figure A1(b)</b>	02_by_fact_pattern.png

## Keybook

### *Composite Measures*

Variable	Description
<b>Education</b> (edu_numerical)	Highest level of education: 0 = Primary education or less; 1 = Middle School; 2 = Vocational School; 3 = High School; 4 = Two-Year College; 5 = Four-Year College; 6 = Master's Degree; 7 = Doctoral Degree
<b>Income</b> (income_numerical)	Monthly income (CNY): 0 = Below 1k; 1 = 1-2k; 2 = 2-3k; 3 = 3-5k; 4 = 5-8k; 5 = 8-12k; 6 = 12-20k; 7 = 20-50k; 8 = 50k or more
<b>Self-Reported Social Class</b> (class_numerical)	Social class: 0 = Bottom 25th percentile; 1 = 25th - 50th percentile; 2 = 50th - 75th percentile; 3 = 75th - 100th percentile
<b>Ideology: Legality</b> (attitude_justice_index)	Likert Scale: (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree) 1) Doing the right thing sometimes means breaking the law. (reversed) 2) Lawyers should do their utmost to defend clients even if their client has committed a crime. 3) When laws fail to fully constrain criminal behavior, people have the right to impose their own punishments for these behaviors. (reversed) 4) One ought to be punished if they committed a crime, regardless of whether the evidence collection followed procedural rules. (reversed) 5) Courts should decide cases without regard to public opinion. (reversed)
<b>Ideology: Nationalism</b> (attitude_nationalism_index)	Likert Scale: (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree) 1) Force should be used to reunify Taiwan with China if conditions are favorable. 2) The Chinese nation ought to be willing to endure long-term hardship to achieve great power status. 3) China ought to use economic sanctions against other countries, as long as the sanctions advance the national interest. 4) Chinese citizens should be allowed to hold foreign citizenship. (reversed) 5) The government ought to put as strong an emphasis on developing its military as it does on developing the economy.
<b>Ideology: Liberalism</b> (attitude_justice_index)	Likert Scale: (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree) 1) In the long term, multiparty systems are unsuitable for China. (reversed) 2) Elections ought not to be held in China today, because the people are not well educated enough. (reversed) 3) In times of emergency, the government ought to share as much information as possible with the public, even if the information may cause public panic. 4) The government ought not to prosecute those who criticize the government on the Internet as long as they are not smearing the government, even if their speech contains falsehoods. 5) The state ought not to interfere with the individual's decision to have a child, or how many children to have.
<b>Ideology: Market Economy</b> (attitude_market_index)	Likert Scale: (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree) 1) State-owned enterprises should control all sectors crucial to national security and the people's livelihood. (reversed) 2) Private capital should be encouraged to set up private hospitals to provide convenient and high-quality services to those willing to pay high prices. 3) Private ownership and sale of land should be allowed. 4) People should be allowed to freely exchange domestic currency for foreign ones. 5) The government should not regulate private businesses that do not affect national security or the people's livelihood.
<b>Regime Support</b> (attitude_regime_index)	Likert Scale: (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree) 1) Broadly speaking, I am proud of our political system. 2) In the long run, China's political system can solve the problems facing our country. 3) People should support our political system even if there are some problems. 4) Compared with our

	country's political system, I prefer to live under that of Western countries. (reversed)
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### *Complete List*

Variable	Description
age	Age of the respondent
age_demeaned	Age of the respondent with the mean value subtracted
arm_level_treat_status_four_digit	Treatment status based on a four-digit code
attitude_justice_index	Composite measure based on respondents' responses on 5 justice-related questions
attitude_justice_index_scaled	Scaled composite measure of justice-related attitudes
attitude_liberalism_index	Composite measure based on respondents' responses on 5 liberalism-related questions
attitude_liberalism_index_scaled	Scaled composite measure of liberalism-related attitudes
attitude_market_index	Composite measure based on respondents' responses on 5 market-related questions
attitude_market_index_scaled	Scaled composite measure of market-related attitudes
attitude_nationalism_index	Composite measure based on respondents' responses on 5 nationalism-related questions
attitude_nationalism_index_scaled	Scaled composite measure of nationalism-related attitudes
attitude_regime_index	Composite measure based on respondents' responses on 5 regime-related questions
attitude_regime_index_scaled	Scaled composite measure of regime-related attitudes
class_numerical	Numerical representation of self-identified social class
college_numerical	Numerical representation of college education (0 = No, 1 = Yes)
edu_numerical	Highest education attained
ethnicity_minority_numerical	Ethnicity: "Han Chinese" (0 = No, 1 = Yes)
female_numerical	Gender (0 = Male, 1 = Female)
high_school_numerical	Highest education attained: high school education (0 = No, 1 = Yes)
id	Respondent ID
income	Respondent's monthly income: numerical representation of income grouped in 8 categories
income_half	Income split into two halves (0 = Lower half, 1 = Upper half)
junior_college_numerical	Highest education attained: junior college education (0 = No, 1 = Yes)
justice_half	Justice index split into two halves (0 = Lower half, 1 = Upper half)
knowledge_correct_total	Total number of correct answers on political knowledge questions
party	Party affiliation: Communist Party of China Party 0 = No, 1 = Yes)
regime_half	Regime index split into two halves (0 = Lower half, 1 = Upper half)
treatment	Treatment assignment tracker
treatment_text	Research arm tracker with text explanation
w_trust	Trust in the regime (diffused trust)
case_1_vendor_treat_status	Treatment status in fact pattern 1 (restriction of street-side vendors )
case_1_vendor_legitimacy	Specific support to the government regulation: restriction of street-side vendors
case_2_fireworks_treat_status	Treatment status in fact pattern 2 (restriction of private fireworks sales)

case_2_fireworks_legitimacy	Specific support to the government regulation: restriction of private fireworks sales
case_3_drama_treat_status	Treatment status in fact pattern 3 (media content review)
case_3_drama_legitimacy	Specific support to the government regulation: media content review
case_4_speech_treat_status	Treatment status in fact pattern 4 (speech censorship)
case_4_speech_legitimacy	Specific support to the government regulation: speech censorship
vendor_attention_check_correct	Attention checks in fact pattern 1 (0 = False, 1 = Correct)
fireworks_attention_check_correct	Attention checks in fact pattern 2 (0 = False, 1 = Correct)
drama_attention_check_correct	Attention checks in fact pattern 3 (0 = False, 1 = Correct)
speech_attention_check_correct	Attention checks in fact pattern 4 (0 = False, 1 = Correct)
attention_check_correct_total	Total correct answers on attention checks