From Event Reporting to Coding: Political Claims A Feasibility Experiment in the European Social Survey

Henk Fernee and Ineke Stoop
(The Netherlands Institute for Social Research/SCP)
Overview

- Why event reporting
- History event reporting ESS
- Claims-making approach
- Feasibility study
Multiple purposes event reporting

- Fieldwork events
  - Floods, scandals
- National elections
- Narrative
  - Type of country
- Major events
  - That can influence answers questionnaire
  - Frontpage news several days
- Modelling
  - Link to questionnaire/respondent
  - Coded data
  - Standardized, objective

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Event reporting guidelines ESS

- Major national events that make the frontpage of newspapers for several days
- Major international events that draw national attention
- Elections, major changes in the national landscape
Framework event reporting ESS

- Name (of specific event)
- Category (select all that apply)
- Short description
- Timing (date)
- Coverage (attention in media)
- Web link
- Link to questionnaire
- Possible effect on fieldwork
- Additional information, if any
Event categories

- Elections (national & local), including plebiscites and referendums,
- Resignations, appointments and the dismissal of politically significant person,
- Fall of cabinet, change of government, new government,
- Significant change in laws,
- Strikes, demonstrations,
- Acts of terrorism (like the Madrid bombings),
- Events involving ethnic minorities, asylum seekers and other immigrants,
- Events concerning the national economy and labour market,
- Political, financial and economic scandal,
- Frauds (both by politicians, organisations, businesses etc. as well as by the general public);
- National events (eg royal weddings, sports championships),
- Crimes (kidnappings, robberies),
- Disasters (outbreaks foot and mouth/mad cow disease/ extreme weather conditions),
- International conflicts (Israel-Palestine conflict, Iraq, Pakistan) that have a national impact,
- Major international events that draw vast local attention.

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Event website Round 4 and Round 5
Major problems

- Guidelines
  - Subjective
  - What is an event?
- Text-based structure
- Lots of work (if done properly)
- Fieldwork period only
  - What happened in between only in very few countries (and no standard)
- Mediascape differs (frontpage)
Frontpage Dutch quality newspaper: no news!
Frontpage UK quality newspaper: text.
Winner of the 2005 Descartes Research Prize

Round 3 Event Reporting
show all events by week - by id - by category | add a paper or an event | RSS

- title: 1131
- year: 2006
- week: 16
- category: National events (royal weddings, sports championships)
- country: Germany
- name: German Government urged to intervene in Airbus Crisis
- short_description: Plans to move Airbus operations out of Germany as part of a cost-cutting plan have angered politicians and officials who are calling on the German government to intervene in a bid to retain investment in the firm. News that Airbus is facing an uncertain future due to the delayed roll-out of the A380 super-jumbo jet by at least a year, and the proposed shifting of operations from Hamburg to cheaper sites in Russia, India and China, has angered politicians and industry officials in Germany. Politicians in Hamburg, home of the Airbus plant charged with building the super-jumbo's cabins, are reportedly enraged at prospects of layoffs after the German state spent 750 million euros to keep the plant running. Airbus is responsible for some 40,000 jobs in Germany. The German government is particularly concerned about the future of Airbus' factory in Hamburg – which employs some 32,000 people and rumors that all production activities connected with A380 super-jumbo could be transferred to Airbus' parent company EADS (European Aeronautic Space and Defence Company) Toalbis in France. Germany is present in EADS via German-US auto giant DaimlerChrysler, but the group has recently reduced its stakeholding in the aerospace group. EADS announced late Tuesday that deliveries of the A380 jet will be delayed by another year on average, meaning the programme is now running up to two years behind schedule. Airbus boss Christian Streif has called for crisis talks with German Minister for Economic Affairs Michael Glos and will meet the minister on Thursday, October 5, to discuss emergency measures to prevent Germany losing influence in Airbus. The prospect of a transfer of operations out of Germany would be a major blow, according to a number of politicians who have expressed their concern. "Such a transfer cannot be accepted without resistance," economic expert of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Laurence Meyer told Bild Zeitung newspaper Wednesday. The German government is being urged to intervene to save the plant and stop the operation being moved abroad. Thomas Mrow, the German finance secretary, has called for Berlin to take a direct stake in Airbus to prevent the plant from being switched to other foreign alternatives and has also suggested the alternative of the state-bank KfW buying a stake in Airbus from DaimlerChrysler AG, which owns 22.5 percent of the company, to secure its future. The German government refused to rule out buying the German car maker's stake, originally designed to balance the influence of the French Government and the media group Lagardere, which own 22.5 percent in total, in the long term but had no plans to do so in the near future. That left the possibility of KfW stepping in, with the purchase of DaimlerChrysler shares being financed by the sale of the state-owned bank's stakes in Deutsche Telekom or Deutsche Post. However, this may also not come in time to save the Hamburg operation at KfW, which holds large minority stakes in both former state-owned companies, has promised investors not to sell more Post shares until next year and Telekom shares until the middle of 2008. While the German government would welcome the purchase of a stake in Airbus as a counterweight to Paris and Lagardere's influence, it would go against Berlin's policy in taking stakes in companies and any further state control in the United States, whose Boeing company is in direct competition.
- timing: This news was released on October 4
- coverage: All national news papers and news programmes
- question/answer: B25, B26, E52
- possible effects: B25
- additional information:

  This page was last modified: 2007-11-19. Any questions, comments or suggestions? Let us know.
## Round 3 Event Reporting

<table>
<thead>
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<th>nr</th>
<th>311</th>
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<td>year</td>
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<tr>
<td>week</td>
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<tr>
<td>category</td>
<td>Election (national, local), plebiscite, referendum, Events concerning the national economy, labour market, National events (royal weddings, sports championships),</td>
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<tr>
<td>country</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
<td>New government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shortdescription</td>
<td>The new prime minister presents the outline of the Government's policies for the coming years. The new ministers are also presented.</td>
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<tr>
<td>timing</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coverage</td>
<td>All media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questionnaire link</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>additional information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>source</td>
<td>Frodrik Rainfallts nya regering klar (Sveriges Radio)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This page was last modified: 2007-11-19. Any questions, comments or suggestions? Let us know.
Major problems: quality

- Not standardized
  - Guidelines
- Not objective
  - Reporter
- No link to ESS-questionnaire
- Not usable analytically
- Not used cross-nationally
- Quality of reporting
  - Number of events
  - Detail reports
- Not comparable across countries

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What important actors claim about ESS topics in the media

Where/what is an event?
- Egypt, Tunisia, Libya uprise

What does it mean in each country?
- Interest in news
- Insecurity
- Performance of the government
- Trust in government
- Nationalism
- Fear of immigrants
- Rising oil prices

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Activities up till now

Bristol (Paul Statham and colleagues)
- Development coding schemes
- Coding claims for a number of countries (database)
- Mediascape few countries

ESS NCs feasibility study
- Introductory workshop
- Coding claims according to scheme (database)
- Second workshop
  - Evaluation
  - Questions and problems

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Claims-making acts: ‘claims’ definition
(based on Paul Statham, Bristol)
The unit of analysis for capturing the ideological contents is a ‘claims-making act’. A claims-making act (shorthand: a claim) is a strategic action in the public sphere.

It consists of intentional public speech acts which articulate political demands, calls to action, proposals, and criticisms, which, actually or potentially, affect the interests or integrity of claimants and/or other collective actors in a specific issue-field.

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Claims-making acts: coded variables

1. Location of claim in time and space (WHEN and WHERE is the claim made?)
2. Actor making claim (WHO makes the claim?)
3. Form of claim (HOW is the claim inserted in the public sphere?)
4. Substantive issue of claim (WHAT is the claim about?)
5. Addressee of claim (AT WHOM is the claim directed?)
6. Justification for claim (WHY should this action be undertaken?)
7. Constituency actor: who would be affected by the claim if it were realised (FOR/AGAINST WHOM?)

In a simple form: at a time and place (1.) an event occurs, where an actor (2.) mobilises a speech act (3.) that raises a claim about an issue (4.) which addresses another actor (5.) calling for a response, on the basis of a justifying argumentation (6.). The claim is made with reference to a public constituency, whose interests are affected (7.).
### Examples: The structure of political claims-making acts - Claims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO (CLAIMANT)</th>
<th>HOW (FORM)</th>
<th>AT WHOM (ADDRESSEE)</th>
<th>WHAT (ISSUE)</th>
<th>FOR/AGAINST WHOM? (ULTIMATE TARGET)</th>
<th>WHY (FRAME)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A group of asylum seekers</td>
<td>engage in a hunger strike</td>
<td>Demanding the government</td>
<td>not to deport to their country of origin</td>
<td>themselves (the group of asylum seekers)</td>
<td>because this would be in violation of the Geneva Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Parliament</td>
<td>passes a resolution</td>
<td>criticizing the Turkish government and demanding</td>
<td>measures to improve the treatment of Political prisoners</td>
<td>arguing that respect for human rights is a core value of the European Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examples:**

- **WHO:** A group of asylum seekers
- **HOW:** Engage in a hunger strike
- **AT WHOM:** Demanding the government
- **WHAT:** Not to deport to their country of origin
- **FOR/AGAINST WHOM:** Themselves (the group of asylum seekers)
- **WHY:** Because this would be in violation of the Geneva Convention
Coding scheme: overview

- Reliance on media (including radio, television, internet)
- Community relations
- Political engagement
- Trust in political institutions
- Collective action/actions by members of the civil society
- Salience of political parties
- Personal wellbeing and life satisfaction
- Perception of national performance
- Limits of state intervention
- Environmental problems
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Economic effects of immigration
- Cultural diversity (within the country)
- Violent crimes targeting individuals and perception of safety in the local environment
- Terrorist act/threat
- Liberal state’s responses to terror threats
- Religion
- Religiosity and attendance/participation
- Discrimination
Coding scheme: details

- **Reliance on media**
  - *Questionnaire category*- questions A1 to A7 in the questionnaire.
  - Claims relating to how much people depend on the different forms of media (radio, television, internet etc.) for informational or other purposes.

- **Community relations**
  - *Questionnaire category*- questions A8 to A10 in the questionnaire.
  - Claims relating to the state of relations between different communities in a country, including aspects of mutual trust, harmony and influence.

- **Political engagement**
  - *Questionnaire category*- questions B1 to B3 and B11 in the questionnaire.
  - Claims relating to people's involvement with politics in the country, how much do they feel they can understand and engage with it, do they feel involved in the political processes in their own country.

- **Trust in political institutions**
  - *Questionnaire category* – questions B4 to B10 in the questionnaire.
  - Claims relating to public's trust in macro political institutions and bodies, people's perception of the role of these bodies.

- **Collective action/actions by members of the civil society**
  - *Questionnaire category*- questions B13 to B19 in the questionnaire.
  - How active are people as members of the civil society in making their opinions/stance known by taking some sort of action.

- **Salience of political parties**
  - *Questionnaire category* – questions B20 to B23 in the questionnaire.
  - Prominence of national political parties in people's perception or claims made in relation to a specific political party.

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Experiment
## Experiment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Newspapers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>The Guardian, The Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>De Volkskrant, NRC Handelsblad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>ABC, El País</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Correio da Manhã, Público</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>Pravda, SME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR</td>
<td>KATHIMERINI, TA NEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>Fakt, Gazeta Wyborcza</td>
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## Experimental period

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<td>PT</td>
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<td>02.11.2010</td>
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# Experiment: number of claims

<table>
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<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>claims/day</th>
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<td>ES</td>
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<td>PT</td>
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<td>9.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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Spain

- Perception of national performance
- Trust in political institutions
- Political Party identity
- Terrorist act/threat
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Discrimination
- Violent crimes/perception of local safety
- Liberal state’s responses to terror threats
- Collective action by members of civil society
- Political engagement
- Religion in public life
- Personal wellbeing
- Limits of state intervention
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Environmental problems
- Economic effects of migration
- Community relations
- Reliance on media
- Religiosity and attendance
- Cultural diversity
Greece

- Perception of national performance
- Trust in political institutions
- Political Party identity
- Terrorist act/threat
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Discrimination
- Violent crimes/perception of local safety
- Liberal state's responses to terror threats
- Collective action by members of civil society
- Political engagement
- Religion in public life
- Personal wellbeing
- Limits of state intervention
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Environmental problems
- Economic effects of migration
- Community relations
- Reliance on media
- Religiosity and attendance
- Cultural diversity

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Lithuania

- Perception of national performance
- Trust in political institutions
- Political Party identity
- Terrorist act/threat
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Discrimination
- Violent crimes/perception of local safety
- Liberal state’s responses to terror threats
- Collective action by members of civil society
- Political engagement
- Religion in public life
- Personal wellbeing
- Limits of state intervention
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Environmental problems
- Economic effects of migration
- Community relations
- Reliance on media
- Religiosity and attendance
- Cultural diversity
Netherlands

- Perception of national performance
- Trust in political institutions
- Political Party identity
- Terrorist act/threat
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Discrimination
- Violent crimes/perception of local safety
- Liberal state’s responses to terror threats
- Collective action by members of civil society
- Political engagement
- Religion in public life
- Personal wellbeing
- Limits of state intervention
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Environmental problems
- Economic effects of migration
- Community relations
- Reliance on media
- Religiosity and attendance
- Cultural diversity
Poland

- Perception of national performance
- Trust in political institutions
- Political Party identity
- Terrorist act/threat
- Enlargement/deepening EU interaction
- Discrimination
- Violent crimes/perception of local safety
- Liberal state’s responses to terror threats
- Collective action by members of civil society
- Political engagement
- Religion in public life
- Personal wellbeing
- Limits of state intervention
- Ethnic difference and immigration
- Environmental problems
- Economic effects of migration
- Community relations
- Reliance on media
- Religiosity and attendance
- Cultural diversity

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Portugal

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Total

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Results: database

- Country
- Issue
- Date
- Actor
- Party
- Value
- Headline
- Text claim

(goa back to newspaper article)

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<td>Trust in political institutions</td>
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<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Analysis

- Country information: major events
- Relate major events to questionnaire answers
- Spot major changes in answer patterns in questionnaire and relate to events
- Day to day track of events
Advantages

- Objective
  - Claim is in newspaper
  - Irrespective judgment journalist/coder
- Standardized
- Reproducible
- Link to questionnaire
- Compare countries, periods (within or across fieldwork)
- Analysis (multilevel, time series)
- Hypotheses
- (Coding at any time)

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Problems/disadvantages

- Availability
  - LexisNexis
  - Paper newspapers
- Which newspaper?
- Training (exercises) essential
- Burden
  - 1 to 2 hours per day (8 claims per day)
  - Training effect
Future

- Sample days or claims
  - (as sample persons in ESS)
- One day per week?
- One day per week entire year?
  - Changes in climate as background to ESS “weather”