**Appendix I: Social Scientists Before Congress:**
**An Introduction and Codebook**


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# Introduction

The *Social Scientists Before Congress* (hereafter, SSBC) dataset provides a set of social scientists who appeared at congressional hearings between 1950 and 2016. By "social scientists" we mean individuals who earned advanced degrees in one of the five main social science fields: anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology. In many cases, the individuals were invited from academic positions, but many more worked in government positions (e.g., the Census, the Congressional Budget Office, or the Federal Reserve Board) or at think tanks. We identified everyone described as a social scientist in their hearing description, and then followed several steps to identify additional social scientists and to check for false positives. We outline these steps in the associated paper. Social scientists may be asked to share expertise, provide technical information, advise Congress on how it should act, or inform Congress of their actions on behalf of an institution. The data is at the individual level, and it includes names, dates, organizational affiliations, and disciplinary affiliation.[1]


## Fields in the SSBC Data

In the SSBC individual file we provide information on each of the social scientists who testified before Congress for four broad fields.

## Name

The name is the witness's name as it appears in the Congressional Record. All named individuals are a part of the public record.

*Name***:** The name of the individual testifying before Congress

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[1] The data was collected using ProQuest's Congressional Hearing database, made available through the University of Arizona. The data themselves are not covered by copyright since they consist of facts and are publicly available through other sources. We have not used or gathered ProQuest's full text of the congressional hearings.

# Date

We provide seven date variables: *event_start, start_day, start_month, start_year, event_end, end_day, end_month, end_year,* and *event_duration.* Event start and Event end provide the start date and end date for the hearing in mm/dd/yyyy format. The other date variables present the data in an alternate format to help facilitate aggregation and other data management approaches. Congressional hearings could last for multiple days or weeks. We include an event duration measure to reflect the number of days the hearings lasted. Hearings that lasted one day will have the same start and end date.

*Event Start Date:* A variable representing the day, month, and year a hearing started
    *Start Day:* The day the hearing started
    *Start Month:* The month the hearing started
    *Start Year*: The year the hearing started
*Event End:* A variable representing the day, month, and year a hearing started
    *End Day:* The day the hearing ended
    *End Month:* The month the hearing ended
    *End Year*: The year the hearing ended
*Event Duration:* A variable representing the number of days the hearing lasted

# Organizational Affiliation

We include six measures of organizational affiliation. Each individual who testifies before Congress is listed with their organizational affiliation. We include the organization name as it is listed in the record (*org_name*), a string variable listing the organization type (*org_type*), and three dummy variables that code the organization as academic, government, or a think tank. We also include the name of the government organization (*gov_org*) and the committee (*committee*) the individual testified before if they are available.

*Organization Name:* The name of the organization, government body, academic institution, or think tank the social scientist was affiliated with when they testified.

*Organization Type:* The type of organization that the individual was affiliated with when they testified.
- Academia - The individual was affiliated with a University Department, Center, or Institute
- Government - The individual was affiliated with a government body like the Congressional Budget Office, Census Bureau, or Federal Reserve Board
- Think Tank - The individual was affiliated with a think tank when they testified.[2]

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[2] The list of think tanks was pulled from an aggregate list of think tanks on Wikipedia. To guard against false negatives, we included many potential spelling iterations of the organization as well as commonly employed acronyms. For instance, the Stanford University affiliated Hoover Institution might be identified in the Congressional Hearing database as Hoover Institution, Hoover Inst., Hoover Instn., Hoover Institute, or its full title: Hoover Institution of War, Revolution, and Peace. The authors reviewed the final list to ensure that it included all major think tanks.

*Government Organization:* The government body the individual was affiliated with when the testified, if applicable

*Committee:* The committee the individual testified before.
-See the [Policy Agendas Project page](#) for a complete list of Congressional Committees

## Disciplinary Affiliation

We include six measures for disciplinary affiliation.[3] The first, *discipline*, is a string variable listing which social science discipline an individual is affiliated with. The next five are dummy variables for the associated discipline.

*Social Scientist Discipline:* The discipline the social scientist was affiliated with.
- Anthropologist— anyone with an advanced degree (MA or above) in Anthropology or affiliated fields (i.e. Archaeology, etc.)
- Economist -- anyone with an advanced degree (MA or above) in Economics or affiliated fields (i.e. Finance, Business, Business Admin PhD etc.). Individuals with Masters in Business Administration (MBAs) were not coded as social scientists unless than had another advanced social science degree.
- Political Scientist -- anyone with an advanced degree (MA or above) in Political Science or affiliated fields (i.e. Public Policy, Public Affairs, Government, International Relations, Law and Diplomacy, National Security Studies, etc.). Individuals who earned advanced degrees from British universities in "Politics and Economics" or "Political Economy" were treated as political scientists.
- Psychologist – anyone with an advanced degree (MA or above) in Psychology or affiliated fields (i.e. Therapy, etc.)
- Sociologist – anyone with an advanced degree (MA or above) in Sociology or affiliated fields (i.e. Demography, Criminology, etc.)

  Individuals were coded when we could confirm that they had earned an advanced degree (taking classes did not count), and we could determine the department/institution where they earned their degree. Individuals were coded as missing if their academic affiliation could not be confirmed (i.e. if they had a PhD, but we could not determine the area of study).
  Individuals who earned advanced degrees in other fields (e.g., social work, geology, physics, M.Ds, area studies (including war/peace studies), education, public health (including Health policy), urban planning, English, and History were coded as "Other scientists" and are not represented in this dataset. Individuals with no academic affiliation Juris Doctor (JD), or Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees are also not included in this dataset.

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[3] Our full list of search terms for our machine aided search were sociology, sociologist, economist, prof of economics, economic prof, economics dept, anthropology, anthropologist, psychology, psychologist, political scientist, political science, public policy, school of gov, and dept of gov. Additional disciplines (e.g., "Finance", "International Relations", or "Therapy") listed were only included in the instructions for coders manually reviewing each case.