GenDip

Dataset on Gender and Diplomatic Representation

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Authors: Birgitta Niklasson and Ann Towns

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

THE GENDIP DATASET ON GENDER AND DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

Citation

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GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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THE GENDIP DATASET ON GENDER AND DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

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GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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The GenDip Program

The main aim of the GenDip program is to identify and analyze the changing nature of gender in and of diplomacy. The program constitutes an integrated part of the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg and was founded by Professor Ann Towns in 2014.

Aim of the Dataset

Diplomatic missions are an important link between actors in international relations. As representatives of sending countries, diplomats serve as important channels of communication and information. The establishment of a diplomatic mission in another state or territory thus signals recognition and that the state is worthy of official communication (e.g. Singer and Small 1969; Small and Singer 1973; Li 2013; Kinne 2014).

However, there are more aspects to this signalling than where a mission is placed – who is in charge of the mission also matters. For instance, previous research has pointed to the importance of the diplomatic title of the head of mission (Moyer et al. 2020). One crucial dimension in diplomatic representation has been overlooked, however: gender.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, most diplomats were men. But in the twenty-first century, the share of female diplomats has increased markedly. What happens to diplomacy when women come onto the stage? How does this shape relations between states? Given the symbolic importance of the status of women for how states promote and perceive themselves (e.g. Towns 2010), answering questions about which states appoint women (or men) as heads of mission and to where is likely to provide new and exciting insights about states' pursuit of status. The data can also be used for a range of other intriguing questions about international politics.

The purpose of this dataset is to provide information on the gender of diplomats around the world, data that has so far been missing from existing datasets on diplomatic exchanges (Bayer 2006; Rhamey et al. 2013; Moyer et al. 2020). Our hope is thus that the GenDip dataset will supply the fields of international politics and gender and politics – including the exciting and fast-growing research field on gender in diplomacy – with a foundation to be explored and developed in a range of ways.

The Data Collection Process

The data collection process is described in Niklasson, Birgitta and Ann E. Towns (2023) "Diplomatic Gender Patterns and Symbolic Status Signaling: Introducing the GenDip dataset on gender and diplomatic representation", *International Studies Quarterly*, vol., no., pages.

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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Variables

year

The year for which the data is valid. The data collection for the *Europa World Yearbook* (*EWY*) takes place the year before the *EWY* is published, which means that the year 1968 in the dataset is taken from the *EWY* of 1969.

cname_send

Name of the sending country. The name is written according to the ISO 3166-1 standard: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/

9999 = missing

ccode_send

Country numeric code of the sending country based on ISO 3166-1 numeric codes and ISO 3166-3. The latter standard specifies former codes for countries that do no longer exist. All numeric country codes are unique, which makes this variable the best suited one for merging datasets (in combination with year).

Source: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/ and https://www.iso.org/standard/72484.html (also available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-3)

9999=missing

ccodealp_send

A three-letter code of the sending country based on the ISO-3166-1 alpha3 English standard.

Source: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/ and https://www.iso.org/standard/72484.html (also available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-3).

When information has been unavailable at the ISO page, we have also used information from Statistics Canada: https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/sccai/2011/scountry-desc

9999= missing

ccodeCOW_send

Correlates of Wars (COW) country code number according to Singer and Small (1994).

9999=missing

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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region_send

Geographical region of the sending country. *NB!* This coding does not take political or cultural affiliations into account.

0 = Africa

1 = Asia

2 = Central and North America (including the West Indies)

3 = Europe (including Russia)

4 = Middle East (including Egypt and Turkey)

5 = Nordic countries

6 = Oceania

7 = South America

9999 = Missing

GME_send

The sending country is a part of the Greater Middle East (Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen).

0 = not GME

1 = GME

name

First and last name of the diplomat. The first names are often presented in different ways in our sources; sometimes just initials, sometimes initials for middle names, etc., so if searching for a specific person, it is safer to base the search on the surname.

Occasionally, we have detected apparent errors in the *EWY* with regards to who actually served as the mission head. Two heads of mission may be listed from the same sending country the same year to the same posting, for example. This makes sense if the ambassador's main posting is elsewhere and another lower ranked representative, e.g. a chargé d'affaires, runs the mission in her absence, but when this is not the case, we have removed one of the names (about 150 cases). We kept the diplomat who 1) held the highest rank, or 2) held other posts at the same time that made the most sense in combination with this one (given cultural and geographical closeness), or 3) was the most likely to

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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serve at this post given their career trajectory, or 4) were women.[1] Most cases were decided based on criteria 1 or 2. Only one or two cases were settled using criterium 4.

9999=missing

gender

The gender classification of the diplomat. The coding is based on titles (e.g. Mr/Mrs, prince/princess, baron/baroness, etc.), pronouns used when referring to the diplomat, or the recognition of names as either female or male. We have not yet encountered an ambassador that is classified as something other than man or woman.

Sometimes, the *EWY* only states the initials for the mission heads. If the diplomats have not been known to us through other sources and their surnames do not reveal their gender, their gender has been coded as missing.

In all, the dataset includes gender classification codes for 94% of the total 74,549 postings, as well as of all the 61,886 main postings (Table 2). There is some variation across time; we were able to assign gender classification to a larger share of ambassadors for more recent postings than for postings in 1968 and 1978, partially because only the initials of the ambassadors' names were entered into the *EWY* in those early years. There is also some variation across countries, with a lower share of gender classifications for appointments made by a few smaller Asian states.

Our data for 2014 and 2019 constitutes a more reliable source for gender classification than *EWY*. In 2019, for example, there are no missing cases on gender, since we have been able to categorize all diplomats based on some combination of gendered title, gender pronoun and name. For the *EWY* years, the gender coding is almost exclusively based on the diplomats' names. That coding necessitated involving coders with cultural name recognition competence for different parts of the world. More specifically, we hired coders with cultural name recognition competence for China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Slavic language countries, Latin American countries, Sub-Saharan Africa, Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria, Liberia, Morocco, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore, and Finland. Coders were instructed to be conservative and cautious – if there was any doubt about a binary gender classification of a name, they were instructed to code the gender as "missing." Names that can refer to women as well as men have thus been coded as missing, unless more information about the ambassador has been available through other sources.

0 = man

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[1] Since we expect that many of the studies using this dataset will apply a feminist perspective on the gender distribution of diplomats, we take a generous approach towards the appointments of women in order to minimize the risk that scholars are accused of excluding women who actually served as heads of mission.

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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1 = woman

99 = missing

title

Title of the diplomat.

1 = chargé d'affaires

2 = minister, internuncios

3 = ambassador, high commissioners papal nuncios (e.g. pro-nuncios, apostolic nuncio, etc.), designate ambassador, ambassador-at-large, secretary of the people's bureau (Libya)

96 = acting chargé d'affaires

97 = acting ambassador, acting secretary of the people's bureau (Libya)

98 = other

99 = missing

Examples of 98 codes are for example: head of mission, head of section, secretary, consul, diplomatic representative, envoy, deputy high commissioner, bureau chief, etc.

Main_posting

The main posting of the diplomat. The diplomats are coded so that they only have one main post the same year (although we have not been able to double-check that this is the case in all cases). However, in about 800 cases, the *EWY* does not clearly specify which of several posts is the main one. We have then coded "main_posting" as 1 for the posting of: 1) the highest rank (e.g. if a diplomat is an ambassador in one country and "only" chargé d'affaires in another, 2) the country where other sources (similar as for the data collection of 2014 and 2019) have confirmed that the diplomat was indeed posted and we have found no sources that can confirm the *EWY* statement that the diplomat was posted in the other country during the same time period, 3) the country with the highest GDP the relevant year (World Bank website). The additional postings (main_posting=0) have been kept in the database, even though they sometimes imply combinations of postings that appear unlikely. Some of these cases are probably incorrect, but we have preferred to keep them rather than risking a removal of potentially correct cases. The data for the main postings is, however, more reliable than that for side accreditations.

0 = concurrent accreditations

1 = main posting

99 = missing

FFP_send

The sending country had declared a feminist foreign policy at the year of the data collection (2019), i.e. Canada, France, Mexico, or Sweden.

0 = no

1 = yes

V2lgfemleg_send

Lower chamber female legislators (percent) in the sending country. Variable from the V-Dem Dataset (Coppedge et al. 2022).

cname_receive

Name of the receiving country. The name is written according to the ISO 3166-1 standard: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search .

9999 = missing

ccode_receive

Country numeric code of the receiving country based on ISO 3166-1 numeric codes and ISO 3166-3. The latter standard specifies former codes for countries that do no longer exist. All numeric country codes are unique, which makes this variable the best suited one for merging datasets (in combination with year).

Source: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/ and https://www.iso.org/standard/72484.html (also available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-3) .

9999=missing

ccodealp_receive

A three-letter code of the receiving country based on the ISO-3166-1 alpha3 English standard.

Source: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/ and https://www.iso.org/standard/72484.html (also available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-3). When information has been unavailable at the ISO page, we have also used information from Statistics Canada: https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/sccai/2011/scountry-desc .

9999= missing

ccodecow_receive

Correlates of Wars (COW) country code number according to Singer and Small (1994).

9999=missing

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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region_receive

Geographical region of the receiving country. *NB!* This coding does not take political or cultural affiliations into account.

0 = Africa

1 = Asia

2 = Central and North America (including the West Indies)

3 = Europe (including Russia)

4 = Middle East (including Egypt and Turkey)

5 = Nordic countries

6 = Oceania

7 = South America

9999 = Missing

GME_receive

The receiving country is a part of the Greater Middle East (Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen).

0 = not GME

1 = GME

FFP_receive

The receiving country has declared a feminist foreign policy at the year of the data collection (2019), i.e., it is Canada, France, Mexico, or Sweden.

0 = no

1 = yes

GenDip, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 711, SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG, Sweden, gendip@pol.gu.se

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