

**Instructions:** Work in groups of 3-4 to complete sections I-III below and, if time allows, section IV. Have someone from your group take notes on what you find and post your notes to the discussion board in the section Canvas page at the end of class. The notes do not have to be very polished - I just need to see some record of what you observed and discussed in order to give participation credit for the day. If time allows, we will also share what we learned with the larger group toward the end of section.

### **I: POLICY UNDER FEDERALISM**

- Go to <https://cspp.ippsr.msu.edu/cspp/>
- Select "Visualize Panel"
- Choose a policy under the "Select Variable" dropdown menu. Suggested policies are listed on the next page. You may try to search for other policies that interest you, but it's best to pick a policy where data is included for all 50 states (so make sure you don't see any "missing" states in the visualization).
- Under "Select Years," move the sliding scale between 2010 and 2020 (you might need to adjust this to an earlier period for some policies if more recent data is not available).
- **Questions to consider:** What does the distribution of this policy look like? Is this policy common, confined to just a handful states, or more evenly divided? Are levels of spending or taxation relatively even or uneven? Are there any regional differences in where this policy is located?

### **II: POLICY DIFFUSION**

- Select "Create Dynamic Map" and make sure that your variable is still contained in the "Select Variable" dropdown menu. Expand the "Select Years" scale to cover a longer period of time. You can begin as early as 1900, although most of the variables will only provide you with data from more recent decades.
- Select "Render Map GIF."
- **Questions to consider:** What change do you notice in this policy over time? Do states start at similar levels of taxing or spending in the policy area? Is the policy present in relatively few states at first, or is it present in a wider set of states? How does the presence or taxing/spending level change over time? Does the policy spread regionally or is it more haphazard?

### **III: CORRELATES OF POLICY**

- At the top rail menu, select "Correlation Matrix"
- Under the "Select Variable" dropdown menu, first click "Deselect all." Then, select the policy variable you were using before. Make sure that the "Select Years" scale is adjusted to span between 2010 and 2020 to start, although you may need to adjust this later if you study variables where data is only available before 2010.
- Next, select additional variables in the "Select Variable" menu that you think might be related to the presence or absence of your policy. Suggested variables are listed on the next page, but you do not need to try every single variable - stick with what you think might be a cause or an effect or might be otherwise related to your policy. You may need to select variables in groups of ~5 or so at a time if the table becomes too cumbersome to interpret easily
- Let's say for the purposes of this exercise that a correlation score of 0.25-0.30 or above suggests some meaningful relationship between variables.

- **Questions to consider:** Are there any variables correlated with your policy that might be a cause or an effect of that policy or related to it in some other way? Are there any variables that you expected would be correlated with your policy but that failed to show any correlation (by these measures, at least)? Why do you think that might be the case?
  - Think back to the arguments in favor of and against federalism that we learned about in lecture and in the readings. Might any of those arguments be supported (or unsupported) here? Are the policies correlated, positively or negatively, with variables related to public opinion, political control, population characteristics, or economic conditions in a way that might suggest competitive federalism, a “laboratory of democracy” effect, political inequality, etc.?

#### IV: CASE STUDY (if time permits)

- Select a state of interest based on your study of your policy above. These can be states that stood out in terms of having unusually high or low levels of spending on a policy, that adopted a policy relatively early or relatively late, or that interest you for other reasons.
- Research the history of the policy in that state. You can use news articles, encyclopedia entries, or any other (reasonably credible!) internet resource.
- **Questions to consider:** Under what circumstances was the policy initially adopted in your state? Was there a partisan battle or was the policy less controversial? Does the federal government provide any incentives or regulation to implement this policy? Were there any court cases that either restricted states’ authority in this domain or expanded it? Was the state responding to similar enactments in other states?

#### SUGGESTED POLICY VARIABLES

- statemin - State minimum wage
- income\_tax - Income tax
- corptaxrate - Corporate tax rate
- pleave - Paid family leave
- medicaid\_tot\_pct - Percentage covered by Medicaid
- timelim - Time limit on welfare benefits
- pubhousen - Public housing (enabling legislation)
- workerscompensation - Workers’ compensation
- anyid2 - Request any ID for voting
- immig\_laws\_restrict - Total restrictive immigration laws passed
- immig\_laws\_accom - Total accommodating immigration laws passed
- hatecrime - State hate crime laws; laws establishing hate crimes against minorities
- dera - State constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex
- ssame - Same-sex civil union, marriage, or extensive domestic partnership (for years before 2015 only)
- gaymarban - Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage (for years before 2015 only)
- gilaw - Gender identity law
- vaaban - Affirmative action ban
- charterlaw - Whether or not charter schools are allowed
- abor\_pubfund - Public funding of abortions
- environment\_ghg\_cap - Greenhouse gas cap
- fgastax - Gasoline gas tax
- environment\_ca\_car\_emissions\_sta - Calif. car emissions standard

- smokeban - Statewide smoking ban
- drugs\_medical\_marijuana - Medical marijuana
- dintgam - Express prohibition on internet gambling
- guncontrol\_assaultweapon\_ban - Assault weapon ban
- bconst - State constitution contains individual right to keep and bear arms
- cappun - Capital punishment
- guncontrol\_stand\_your\_ground - Stand your ground law

## **SUGGESTED CORRELATE VARIABLES**

### *Population variables*

- poptotal - population total
- pctlatinx - Percent Latinx population
- pctwhite - Percent white population
- pctblack - Percent black population
- pctasian - Percent Asian population
- pctpopover65 - Percent of population over 65
- evangelical\_pop - Evangelical population
- foreign\_born - Foreign-born population
- racialdiversity - Racial diversity

### *Economic variables*

- hincomemed - Median household income
- pctwomenearn - Women's earnings as a percent of men's
- povrate - State poverty rate
- ineqp\_a - Perception of inequality
- acorrpi - Corrections (prison) spending, % of income
- aedpi - Education spending, % of income
- firms - Number of firms
- union\_density - Union density

### *Political variables*

- ranney4\_control\_10yr - Party control of state government: 10-year moving average
- folded\_ranney\_10yrs - Measure of electoral competitiveness
- overall\_fin\_reg - Overall campaign finance stringency
- corporlimits - Limits on corporate campaign contributions
- contrib\_energy\_natres - Campaign contributions from the energy and natural resources sector
- cotrib\_ideo\_singiss - Campaign contributions from ideological/single-issue organizations
- contrib\_business - Campaign contributions from the general business sector
- InitialCOVI - Cost of voting

### *Public opinion variables*

- democrat - people identifying as Democrats
- republican - people identifying as Republicans
- masseconlib\_est - Estimated economic liberalism of state residents
- massociallib\_est - Estimated social liberalism of state residents
- resent\_score - Racial resentment score