DISSECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND TRANSPARENCY: A COUNTRY LEVEL LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS

Olumide Adeoye, PhD Candidate
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Objective and Research Question
3. Significance
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Conclusion
BACKGROUND

• The relationship between transparency and democracy has been widely investigated by scholars.

• Despite the growing body of literature on the subject, controversy still pervades the results and conclusion from such studies.

• For the most part, results are mixed in terms of the direction and extent of relationship. E.G.
  • Hellyer et.al (2011)
  • Rios et.al (2016)
  • Whener (2005)
  • Arapis & Reitano (2018)
OBJECTIVE

• Demystifying the relationship between the two phenomenon requires a deeper look at democracy.

• Hence, it becomes important to break the concept of democracy down into its basic tenets to investigate how they each relate with transparency in isolation.
OBJECTIVE

• Countries seem to be at different stages of the democratic process.
  • For instance, the Freedom House in their latest study on democracy classified countries as;
    • Consolidated Democracy, Semi-Consolidated Democracy, Transitional, and authoritarian.
  • Implyedly, for some countries (e.g. the “new converts”) keeping up with all the basic tenets of democracy can be overwhelming due to resource constraint.
Thus, based on the objective espoused above, this work is guided by one main research question:

- Which of the basic tenets of democracy (7 of them identified in this study) is relatively most important in fostering transparency and ultimately good governance?
SIGNIFICANCE

• Providing answers to the research question above, help achieve the following;
  • Help nascent and struggling democracies identify priority areas.
  • Provide useful hints to international development agencies, policy drivers, NGOs, private development partners, etc. on target areas
  • Perhaps other systems of government like monarchy and other authoritarian can also borrow some priority tenets
DATA AND METHODS

Sample Size

101 Countries spanning a period from 2010 - 2019

Data Sources

*International Budget Partnership
*Freedom House

Analysis

Relatively Importance Analysis (Supplementing OLS Regression.

Variables

Transparency

- Electoral Process
- Political Pluralism
- Functioning of Govt.
- Freedom of Expression
- Associational Rights
- Rule of Law
- Personal Autonomy

Approach

Quantitative Methods
JUSTIFICATION FOR METHOD 1

• Sometimes predictor can co-vary yet they are measuring different construct

• When predictors are correlated (as in the case of the independent variables here), typically relied upon metrics (E.G. OLS) are flawed indicators of variable importance.
JUSTIFICATION FOR METHOD 2

• Hence, this study used relative importance indices as a supplement to multiple regression analyses (Tonidandel & LeBreton, 2011).

• The goal is to partition explained variance among multiple predictors to better understand the role played by each predictor in a regression equation.
RESULTS

Response variable: OBI
Total response variance: 576.6848
Analysis based on 455 observations

7 Regressors:
Electoral Pluralism Functioning Expression Association RL Autonomy
Proportion of variance explained by model: 35.51%
Metrics are not normalized (rela=FALSE).

Relative importance metrics:

```
1mg
Electoral 0.03320498
Pluralism 0.04356179
Functioning 0.04517463
Expression 0.03228934
Association 0.03338479
RL 0.04742361
Autonomy 0.12003897
```

Average coefficients for different model sizes:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1X</th>
<th>2Xs</th>
<th>3Xs</th>
<th>4Xs</th>
<th>5Xs</th>
<th>6Xs</th>
<th>7Xs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electoral</td>
<td>2.920557</td>
<td>0.8377710</td>
<td>0.39835192</td>
<td>0.2365526</td>
<td>0.115115396</td>
<td>-0.0399498</td>
<td>-0.2585659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluralism</td>
<td>2.653329</td>
<td>1.6778443</td>
<td>1.38857404</td>
<td>1.3834934</td>
<td>1.490390397</td>
<td>1.6448154</td>
<td>1.8278165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functioning</td>
<td>3.742479</td>
<td>2.3875923</td>
<td>1.64635634</td>
<td>1.1053132</td>
<td>0.706406252</td>
<td>0.4522846</td>
<td>0.3526647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression</td>
<td>2.903197</td>
<td>0.6920062</td>
<td>0.0330539</td>
<td>-0.2826422</td>
<td>-0.470007178</td>
<td>-0.6025543</td>
<td>-0.7145891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association</td>
<td>3.348507</td>
<td>0.6914892</td>
<td>-0.40058751</td>
<td>-0.9342192</td>
<td>-1.177941481</td>
<td>-1.2464601</td>
<td>-1.2107511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RL</td>
<td>2.970021</td>
<td>1.6954300</td>
<td>1.01837271</td>
<td>0.4763555</td>
<td>-0.008457483</td>
<td>-0.4666108</td>
<td>-0.9147321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Less interested in this R result of the OLS model because of the tendency to mislead due to multicollinearity of the independent variables.

The relative importance analysis here help to supplement the unreliability of R above to help us better understand the relative importance of EACH even though they co-vary.
RESULTS

Most Important Democratic Trait Relative to Transparency

![Bar Chart]

- Electoral
- Political
- Participatory
- Expressive
- Associational
- Rule of Law
- Autonomy
CONCLUSION 1

• The purpose is NOT to undermine the relevance of any of the tenets.

• Rather, it is aimed at helping stakeholders identify priority areas.
• Electioneering process often touted and flaunted by most “new converts” seems to be less relative important to transparency and ultimately good governance.

• Pragmatically, this result gives a hint on focus areas to countries, development partners, public administrators, etc. in the democratization process.
LIMITATIONS

• The regression equation with which the relative importance analysis was premised on what might ordinarily seem bivariate in nature.

• Democracy variable tends to be more susceptible to fluctuations especially with regards to comparative politics across the global political.
APPENDIX (R SCRIPT)

First, you will need to download and install the relative importance package (relaimpo)

```
library(relaimpo)
require(relaimpo)
```

Now, since Relative Importance Analysis is used to supplement multiple linear regression where high multicollinearity is a problem, you need to first run ordinary linear model before proceeding to run the relative importance analysis.

```
model1 <- lm(OBI ~ Electoral + Pluralism + Functioning + Expression + Association + RL + Autonomy, data = relaim)
```

Obtain your model summary

```
summary(model1)
```

Now, calculate the relative importance (RIA) of the model you just ran above

```
RIA <- calc.relimp(model1, type = "lin")
```

Obtain RIA summary

```
RIA
```

For better visual purposes, you can obtain a bar chart from the raw output from 15 above (use online software if code below faulty)

```
barplot(RIA, ylab="Relative Importance Index", xlab = "Variable", main = Most Important Democratic Tenet Relative to Transparency)
```
REFERENCES


