U.S. Supreme Court
Issue Salience Codebook

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March 3, 2011

This dataset (scdbSalience.dta) is composed of 3 variables. It provides the Epstein-Segal measure of salient U.S. Supreme Court cases appearing on the front-page of the *New York Times*, the CQ Press salience measure (consisting of those U.S. Supreme Court cases appearing on the list of landmark cases in Congressional Quarterly's *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court*), and the unique SCDB identification number for each case. The current data contain cases from the 1946 to 2009 terms. The latest version of the data file, supplemental file, and codebook are available at: http://scdb.wustl.edu/data.php

The supplemental file (mergeSalience.do) facilitates easy merging in Stata of these data with the Case Centered Data available from the Supreme Court Database website.

If using the Epstein-Segal data, please cite:

> Lee Epstein and Jeffrey A. Segal. 2000. "Measuring Issue Salience." *American Journal of Political Science*. 44(1): 66-83.

If using the CQ Press data, please cite:

> David Savage. 2010. *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court, 5th ed*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Variable List

Variable	Description
caseId	unique SCDB identification number for each case
nytSalience	salient cases per *NYT* coverage
cqSalience	salient cases per CQ's list of landmark cases

Variable Notes

caseId
The value for each case represents the unique 'caseId' variable from the Supreme Court Database. Each case receives just one identification number. The first four digits are the term. The next four are the case within the term (starting at 001 and counting up). Further details are available at the webpage of the Supreme Court Database:
http://scdb.wustl.edu/documentation.php?var=caseId

nytSalience
The Epstein-Segal *NYT* measure indicates if the case appeared as the lead case within a front-page story in the *New York Times* the day after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision on the case.
Source: Measuring Issue Salience website
(http://epstein.law.northwestern.edu/research/salience.html)

nytSalience=0: Case was not a front-page story in the *New York Times*.

nytSalience=1: Case was a front-page story in the *New York Times*.

cqSalience
The CQ Press measure indicates if the case appears on the list of landmark decisions in Congressional Quarterly's *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court*.
Source: Congressional Quarterly's website
(http://library.cqpress.com/supremecourtguide/)

cqSalience=0: Case does not appear on *CQ's* list of landmark decisions.

cqSalience=1: Case appears on *CQ's* list of landmark decisions.