Vilnius University

Corruption Protests and Measures

The Effect of Salience

Alfredo Hernandez Sanchez

VU TSPMI

2024-10-28

Research Question

- Which factors predict corruption-related protests?

Hypotheses

- H_1: Corruption Perceptions Increase Corruption Protests
- H_2: Corruption Salience Increases Corruption Protests
- H_1: Corruption Investigations Increase Corruption Protests

Variables

- DV: `log()` of the number of protests in country i in year t from ACLED
- IVs:
  - Bayesian Corruption Index [0:100]
  - Google Trends with Corruption Keywords
  - Accusations and Investigations of Crime towards Elites (ICEWS)
- Controls:
  - Democracy level from VDEM
  - Population, GDP, GDP per capita (WDI)

ACLED

```
acled_corr <- acled_df %>%
  mutate(event_date = ymd(event_date)) %>%
  filter(event_type == "Protests") %>%
  mutate(keyword = str_detect(tolower(notes), "corrup")) %>%
  filter(keyword == T)
```

ICEWS

```
df_icews <- ICEWS %>%
  filter(`CAMEO Code` %in% c(91, 1121)) %>% # 91 is investigations 1121 is ac
  filter(!is.na(`Source Country`)
  ) %>%
  filter(str_detect(tolower(`Target Sectors`), "government|elite")) %>%
  filter(!str_detect(tolower(`Target Sectors`), "ngos"))
```

Google

```
search_terms <- c(
  "corruption",         # English
  "corrupcion",         # Spanish
  "  ",               # Arabic (corruption)
  "      ",          # Russian (corruption)
  " "               # Chinese (corruption)
)
```

Events Data

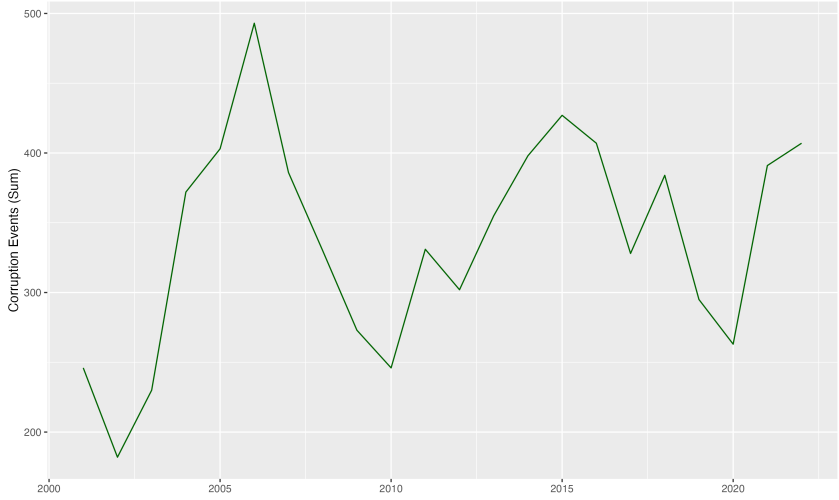

Figure 1: Corruption Events; Source: ICEWS

Trends Data

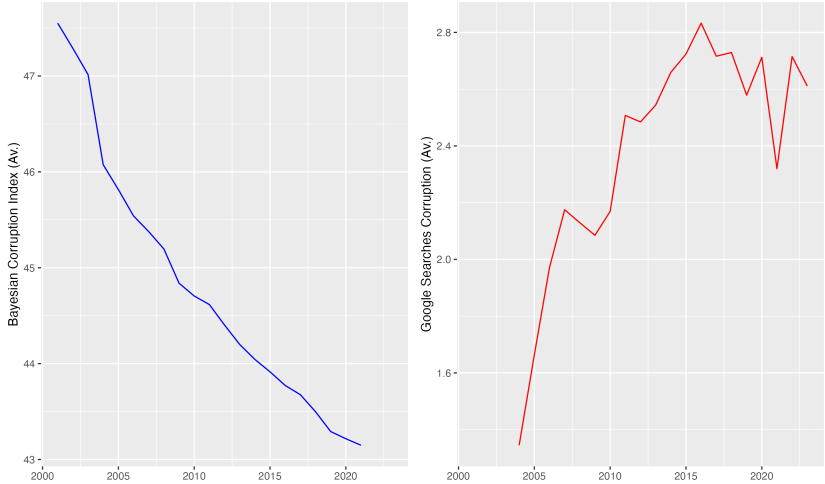

Figure 2: Corruption Trends; Source: Google and BCI

Protests Data

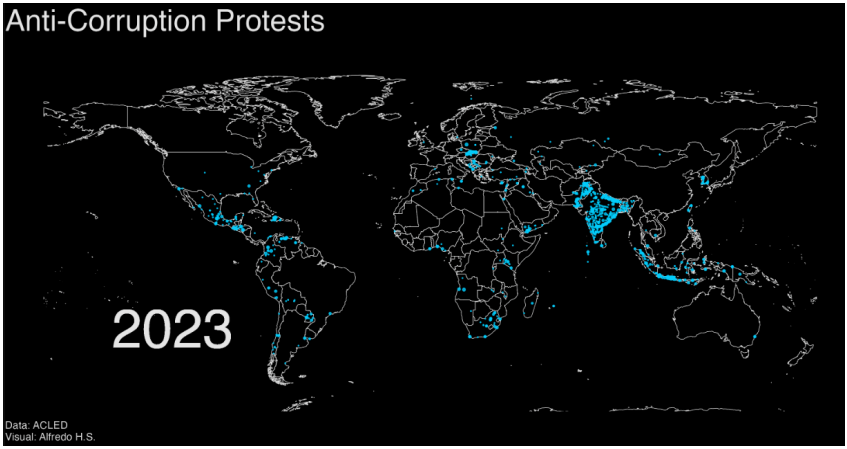

Figure 3: Corruption Protests 2023; Source: ACLED

Models

```
plm(log(protests+1) ~
                investigations +
                lag(investigation) +
                BCI +
                lag(BCI) +
                corr_google +
                lag(corr_google) +
                vdem_poly +
                lag(protest) +
                # log(gdp_wdi) +
                log(gdppc_wdi),
              model = "within",
              effect = "twoways",
              data = pdata)
```

Results

	Dependent variable:			
BCI	-0.02** (0.01)			-0.02* (0.01)
lag(BCI)	0.03*** (0.01)			0.02** (0.01)
corr_google		-0.01 (0.005)		-0.01 (0.004)
lag(corr_google)		0.002 (0.004)		0.003 (0.004)
investigations			0.002** (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)
lag(investigation)			0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)
vdem_poly	0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)
lag(protest)	0.39*** (0.02)	0.36*** (0.02)	0.38*** (0.02)	0.36*** (0.02)
log(gdppc_wdi)	0.03 (0.02)	0.04 (0.03)	0.03 (0.02)	0.03 (0.03)
Observations	3,396	3,205	3,574	2,876
R2	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.12
Adjusted R2	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.06
F Statistic	103.09*** (df = 5; 3200)	83.91*** (df = 5; 3011)	106.63*** (df = 5; 3377)	41.14*** (df = 9; 2680)
Note:				*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Limitations

- Reverse causality
- Data Collection
- Granularity
- Discrete DV Modelling