Special Issue - GLES Open Science Challenge 2021 – Call for Papers

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The Challenge

The German Longitudinal Election Study ([GLES](#)), in collaboration with the journal German Political Science Quarterly ([PVS](#)) and the German Society for Electoral Studies ([DGfW](#)), invites researchers to participate in the GLES Open Science Challenge 2021. We call for submissions in the form of [Registered Reports](#) for a special issue on the upcoming German federal elections 2021. After 16 years of Angela Merkel as chancellor, these elections mark a watershed in German politics. The race for her successor is wide open. Simultaneously, it is unclear how long the Covid-19 pandemic and its corresponding restrictions will dominate the political agenda in Germany. We invite open topic submissions for studies that employ 2021 GLES survey data to examine relevant questions in these times of political change and crises surrounding the German federal election. Adopting the Registered Reports format, the editorial process of the Special issue will follow a multi-step procedure aimed at increasing transparency and reducing publication and reporting biases. This procedure includes initial editorial feedback based on the abstract (Stage 0) and peer review that is blinded to empirical results (Stage 1). Therefore, this call will be of particular interest to scholars who value rigorous and transparent research and early career researchers interested in a publication pathway where success depends on the novelty, theoretical relevance, and rigorous execution of a research idea rather than the eventual empirical results.

GLES will publish study documentations and questionnaires for two of its surveys before the data release: The first is the [GLES Cross-Section](#) 2021 pre-election survey, which is based on a multi-stage, stratified random sample. The data will be collected from July to September 2021 in a self-administered mixed-mode design combining Computer Assisted Web Interviews (CAWI) and Paper and Pencil Interviews (PAPI). The second is the [GLES Rolling Cross-Section](#) 2021. Starting 62 days before the election, this survey aims at conducting up to 120 Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) per day with randomly sampled respondents from the German electorate – totaling in a sample of about 7,500 respondents. The GLES Rolling Cross-Section 2021 will also feature a post-election panel wave.

How will the GLES Open Science Challenge 2021 work?

Stage 0 – Abstract: Submission until July 12, 2021

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of up to 500 words with a concise overview of their planned study. Please address how the GLES Cross-Section 2021 pre-election survey or the GLES Rolling Cross-Section 2021 are employed in the study. Information and questionnaires of the surveys will be published on our website on June 25, 2021. Until then, authors are welcome to use the existing study materials of the GLES Cross Section 2017 pre-election survey and the GLES Rolling Cross-Section 2017 to set up their abstracts. The editorial team will evaluate the submitted abstracts based on the novelty and relevance of the research question and the suitability of the study design and give editorial feedback. Authors who receive positive feedback on their abstracts will be invited to submit their Stage 1 manuscript until September 25, 2021.

Stage 1 – Full study design: Submission until September 25, 2021

In Stage 1, authors will develop the theoretical end empirical background of their study as well as the full study design, including specific hypotheses, and detailed analysis plans. Authors should use the pre-released study materials (questionnaires and short study description) to generate hypotheses and devise an analysis pipeline. The pre-released study materials for the 2021 GLES Data will be available on our website on June 25, 2021.

The submitted Stage 1 manuscripts will be sent out for blind peer review and evaluated on the following criteria:

- The completeness of the literature review and existence of a research gap
- The logic, rationale, and plausibility of the proposed hypotheses.
- The soundness and feasibility of the proposed research design, concept operationalizations, variables selected, and proposed statistical methods of data analysis.
- Whether the proposed analysis offers adequate and appropriate tests of hypotheses.
- Whether the clarity and degree of methodological detail are sufficient to replicate exactly the proposed data analysis.
- Whether the authors have pre-specified sufficient statistical tests for ensuring that the obtained results can test the stated hypotheses, including outcome-neutral tests, robustness, and quality checks.

Following Stage 1 review, manuscripts will be in-principle accepted (IPA), rejected, or requested to be revised (and IPA or rejected after revision).

Stage 2: Full manuscript: Submission until February 27, 2022

With the release of the data in November and December 2021, all the Stage 1 manuscripts that achieved in-principle acceptance status will progress to Stage 2, which includes conducting data analysis and reporting of results. Manuscripts with statistical results now included will be resubmitted for peer review and assessed according to our existing Stage 2 criteria:

- Whether the Introduction and Theoretical background, as well as the stated hypotheses and analysis plan, are the same as the approved Stage 1 submission required. Deviations from the Stage 1 Introduction and Methods section, in general, must be minor (e.g., the addition of newer citations) and in no way inconsistent with the Stage 1 manuscript. If there are any deviations from the original manuscript, assess whether they are made transparent and sufficiently justified.
- Whether the data are suitable for testing the authors' proposed hypotheses in terms of conforming to the approved outcome-neutral criteria (such as the absence of floor and ceiling effects or success of positive controls or other quality checks). Failure to pass these conditions may lead to manuscript rejection.
- Whether the authors adhered precisely to the registered data analysis procedures.
- Where applicable, whether any unregistered analyses are justified, methodologically sound, and informative.
- Whether research data and visualizations contain any major flaws, such as insufficient data points, statistically non-significant variations, and unclear data tables.
- Whether the authors' conclusions are justified given the data.

All accepted Stage 2 Registered Reports will then be published in the GLES Open Science Challenge 2021 Special Issue at German Political Science Quarterly (PVS).

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact the editorial team via e-mail. Further information is available on our website.

How can you further support the GLES Open Science Challenge 2021?

Due to the necessary scheduling of the review processes depending on data collection and publication, we call for reviewers supporting a rapid review of the Registered Reports. If you are willing to review a Stage 1 RR in your field of expertise during the period from 2021-10-04 to 2021-10-17 and a Stage 2 Manuscript during the period from 2022-03-14 to 2022-03-27, please write us an e-mail. All expert reviewers are welcome, from Ph.D. students to professors.

If you have any questions or informal inquiries please do not hesitate to contact the Editorial Team.

Timeline

2021-06-25	Pre-Release Questionnaires and short study description	Authors should access these documents via our website:
2021-07-12	Stage 0 Abstract Submission	Send an e-mail of introduction, with the abstract **attached** as a PDF or Word document, to gles-osc@gesis.org. Stage 0 submissions should include: • The working title • Authors' names and affiliations • Corresponding author's contact information • An abstract, maximum 500 words (excl. references), summarizing the research question(s), data to be used, and the proposed method(s) of analysis
2021-07-13 – 2021-07-16	Editorial Feedback	The Stage 1 submissions should incorporate Stage 0 feedback.
2021-07-17 – 2021-09-25	Stage 1 Manuscript Submission	Stage 1 submissions must be uploaded to the editorial manager of PVS: The analysis plan must be registered on a recognized public registry for pre-analysis plans (e.g.OSF, EGAP) Include a brief cover letter and the Stage 1 manuscript (5,000-6,000 words). All parts of the manuscript should be completed, except for the result and discussion sections including: • Precise hypotheses, the methodological approach, and a detailed analysis plan • Methods used should be described in the future tense • Code should **not** be submitted in this phase For detailed information see our Guidelines for Authors
2021-09-26– 2021-10-03	Editorial Triage	
2021-10-04 – 2021-10-17	Stage 1 Manuscript Review	Stage 1 reviewers will review the Stage 1 manuscript as a regular submission (e.g., the relevance of research question, theoretical argument, included literature, etc.). For detailed information see our Guidelines for Reviewers
2021-10-18 – 2021-11-03	Editorial Decision and Revision of Manuscripts	Following the Stage 1 review, manuscripts will receive either an in-principle accepted (IPA), or a revise and resubmit, or a rejection. IPA status means the article will be published, pending the successful completion of the study according to pre-registered methods and analytical procedures, and after adding a defensible and evidence-based interpretation of the results in Stage 2.
2021-11-08	IPA Decision	
2021-11-09	Data Publication GLES Pre-Election Cross Section (CAWI)	The GLES datasets are provided via the GESIS data archive. A one-time registration is required before the data can be downloaded.
2021-11-25	Data Publication GLES Pre-Election Cross Section (PAPI)	The GLES datasets are provided via the GESIS data archive. A one-time registration is required before the data can be downloaded.
2021-12-06	Data Publication GLES Rolling Cross Section	The GLES datasets are provided via the GESIS data archive. A one-time registration is required before the data can be downloaded.
2021-11-09 – 2022-02-27	Stage 2 Manuscript Submission	Stage 2 submissions must be uploaded to the editorial manager of PVS. Stage 2 submissions should include a brief cover letter and the Stage 2 manuscript (maximum 9,000 words). All parts of the Stage 1 manuscript should be replicated with the following additions: • Extension of the Stage 1 manuscripts after data access by conducting the pre-registered analysis plan, and by adding the statistical results and a discussion section. • Transparent discussion of any alterations and/or additions to the Stage 1 manuscript. • A final code file should be submitted together with the manuscript. For detailed information see our Guidelines for Authors
2022-02-28 – 2022-03-13	Editorial Triage	
2022-03-14 – 2022-03-27	Stage 2 Manuscript Review	Stage 2 manuscripts should resemble a typical journal article format at this point. For detailed information see our Guidelines for Reviewers
2022-03-28 –2022-05-01	Editorial Decision and Revision of Manuscripts	
2022-05-02 – 2022-06-30	Special Issue Publication	