Political Repression – November 2022

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Month/Year	November 2022
Key term	"Political repression" and political repression
Database	Google Scholar
Link to database	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17p2fFHcyHQ0-hhlzNb2ZV-nzAUPxBPYs1fXsVC1_lRY/edit?usp=sharing

Introduction

We identified 112 documents published on political repression in Google Scholar in the period of November 2022. They include both theoretical and empirical papers. The types of the literatures also range from journal articles, books, book chapters, thesis documents, and book reviews. Of the 112 articles, only 17 of them emerged when a quotation mark is applied to specify the key term, in which four of them are relevant to the topic and meet the criteria to be included in the database (i.e., 3 journal articles and 1 book chapter). In addition, we found 95 papers when we remove the quotation mark from the key term. As predicted, not all of those documents specifically focused on 'political repression'. Counting on the relevance, we only had 17% of the papers are classified as relevant and 8% are partially relevant. The rest were not relevant to the topic of political repression. Most of the publications were published in English (81%) while the rest were in Russian (7%), Spanish (3%), Portuguese (2%), and other languages. Language barriers therefore posed a major difficulty in summarising the findings. The summary below is only based on the studies that are "relevant" and "partially relevant" to the topic that we could engage.

Methodologies and approaches

Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to obtain primary and secondary data on political repression. The common methods applied in the papers include

quantitative surveys, in-depth interviews, and textual analyses. Inferential and deductive approaches to the quantitative data were used together with theories and models. In addition, case studies based on geographical locations were also used to present a detailed understanding of political conflicts and government repression in specific contexts. For example, academic freedom in Bangladesh (Hasan & Ahasan, 2022), freedom of expression in Cambodia (Rovira, 2022), civil rights in China (Dirks & Fu, 2022), human rights in Iran (Gabbay, 2022), academic freedom in Japan (Kingston, 2022), dictatorship in Spain (Revuelta & Fuentes, 2022), and "ghostly politics" in Yemen (Al-Eriani, 2022) were contexts of political repression about which research was published in November 2022.

Key findings

Scholars in November, as we saw last month, were interested in increasing digital repression by authoritarian governments (Dal et al., 2022; Rovira, 2022). Though governments have been strictly monitoring the digital world, monitoring alone does not necessarily reduce citizens' participation level on social media in expressing their political views. In fact, it is associated with the potential "risks" of expressing political opinions online and the emotional responses to the "risks" (Dal et al., 2022). Social media is a common platform targeted for political repression nowadays. In the past, arts like comics (Revuelta & Fuentes, 2022) and plays (Thomas, 2022) are found to be likely targets.

Studies have also discussed reasons and motives for repressing citizens in political matters. One attribute is the nature of political order (Albarracín et al., 2022). Policies favouring people in higher social classes are argued to promote impunity for repression and reinforce power imbalances (Al-Eriani, 2022). Most straightforwardly, scholars highlighted how repression creates and enforces the government's power (He, 2022; Kaucz, 2022). In addition, empirical analyses of political repression considered a trend towards transnational repression, examining how globalization has led to a new trend of transnational persecution (Lemon et al., 2022).

Selected References – Political Repression – November 2022

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