



Comparative Territorial Autonomy Database

Codebook Version 1.0

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Brian C.H. Fong

About the Comparative Territorial Autonomy Database (CTAD)

CTAD is the first-ever comparative dataset that adopts “territorial autonomy” as an *explicit* unit of analysis. It codes the political, social, and institutional data of territorial autonomies with a view to facilitating comparative, quantitative analysis. This Codebook provides a roadmap to guide investigators through the coding process.

CTAD is the flagship research project of the Global Research Network on Comparative Territorial Autonomies (GRN-CTA). Based in The Academy of Hong Kong Studies at the Education University of Hong Kong and comprised of researchers from territorial autonomies worldwide, the GRN-CTA is an academic network dedicated to fostering cross-regional research collaborations in the field of comparative autonomy studies.

About the Principal Investigator

Dr Brian C.H. Fong is a comparative political scientist based in Hong Kong. Dr Fong is currently Associate Professor and Founding Associate Director of [The Academy of Hong Kong Studies at The Education University of Hong Kong](#). His research interests include great-power competition, democratization, territorial autonomies, identity politics, and public budgeting. Dr Fong is the Convenor of the [Global Research Network on Comparative Territorial Autonomies](#) and also the first editor of *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Territorial Autonomies* (Routledge, forthcoming) Academic bio: http://bit.ly/Brian_AcademicCV



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Global Research Network on Comparative Territorial Autonomies (GRN-CTA)

Name	Role	Affiliation	Email
Dr Brian C.H. Fong	Convenor	Associate Director and Associate Professor, Academy of Hong Kong Studies, Education University of Hong Kong	chfong@eduhk.hk
Dr Atsuko Ichijo	Co-Convenor	Associate Professor, Department of Politics, Kingston University	a.ichijo@kingston.ac.uk
Dr Maria Ackrén	Investigator (Åland Islands)	Associate Professor, University of Greenland	maac@uni.gl
Mr Riadi Husaini	Investigator (Aceh)	Head of Section for Investment and One Stop Service Agency, Government of Aceh	riadihusaini@gmail.com
Mr Víctor Aparicio	Investigator (Basques)	PhD student, University of Basque Country	victor.aparicio@ehu.eus
Ms Marta Soler Alemany	Investigator (Catalonia)	PhD student, Waseda University	Martasoler@akane.waseda.jp
Mr. Christian Menage	Investigator (Gibraltar)	PhD Researcher, Institute of Gibraltar and Mediterranean Studies, University of Gibraltar	christian.menage@cantab.net
Dr Benedikte Brincker	Investigator (Greenland and Faroe Islands)	Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen	bebr@soc.ku.dk
Prof Kevin K. W. Ho	Investigator (Guam)	Professor, University of Guam	kevinkho@triton.uog.edu
Dr Victor Ng	Investigator (Hong Kong)	Lecturer, Education University of Hong Kong	hoiyu@eduhk.hk
Mr Chietigj Bajpae	Investigator (Jammu and Kashmir)	PhD student, King's College London	chietigj.bajpae@kcl.ac.uk
Dr Ying-ho Kwong	Investigator (Macao)	Lecturer, College of Professional and Continuing Education, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	yingho.kwong@cpce-polyu.edu.hk
Dr Henry Jarrett	Investigator (Northern Ireland)	Associate Lecturer, University of Exeter	H.Jarrett@exeter.ac.uk
Dr Jean-François Dupré	Investigator (Quebec)	Post-doctoral Fellow, Academia Sinica	jfdupre@connect.hku.hk
Mr Justin Chun-ting Ho	Investigator (Scotland)	PhD student, The University of Edinburgh	Justin.Ho@ed.ac.uk
Dr Lai Yew-meng	Investigator (Sabah)	Associate Professor, University Malaysia Sabah	lyewmeng@ums.edu.my
Dr Arnold Puyok	Investigator (Sarawak)	Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak	parnold@unimas.my
Dr Verena Wisthaler	Investigator (South Tyrol)	Senior Researcher, Institute for Minority Rights, Eurac Research	verena.wisthaler@eurac.edu
Mr Mustafa Gokcan Kosen	Investigator (Tatarstan)	PhD student, Istanbul Bilgi University	gokcan.kosen@bilgi.edu.tr

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis of the CTAD is “territorial autonomies”, which are generally defined as an asymmetric self-governing territorial unit within a sovereign state¹. The existing round of the CTAD coding exercise collects annual data for the following 18 territorial autonomies.

- Åland Islands (Code: 001)
- Aceh (Code: 002)
- Basques Country (Code: 003)
- Catalonia (Code: 004)
- Faroe Islands (Code: 005)
- Gibraltar (Code: 006)
- Greenland (Code: 007)
- Guam (Code: 008)
- Hong Kong (Code: 009)
- Jammu and Kashmir (Code: 010)
- Macao (Code: 011)
- Northern Ireland (Code: 012)
- Quebec (Code: 013)
- Sabah (Code: 014)
- Sarawak (Code: 015)
- Scotland (Code: 016)
- South Tyrol (Code: 017)
- Tatarstan (Code: 018)

List of variables and composite variables

Investigators are required to code data according to the following prescribed variables and composite variables.

General variables	
1. AUTONOMY	Name of the territorial autonomy.
2. STATE	Name of the sovereign state where the territorial autonomy is located.
3. ESTABLISHMENT	Year of establishment of the territorial autonomy.
Geographical variables	
4. AUTONOMY SIZE (km ²)	Territorial size (land surface areas) of the territorial autonomy, measured in square kilometers.
5. STATE SIZE (km ²)	Territorial size (land surface areas) of the sovereign state (including the territorial autonomy), measured in square kilometers.
6. AUTONOMY-STATE SIZE (%)	AUTONOMY SIZE (#) as a percentage of STATE SIZE (#).
Economic variables	
7. AUTONOMY GDP (USD)	Nominal gross domestic product of the territorial autonomy, measured in US Dollar. <i>Note: Dollar figure for GDP should be converted from domestic currency into US Dollar using the official exchange rate or the market exchange rate as of December 31, 2018 (e.g., Hong Kong's GDP should be converted from Hong Kong Dollar into US Dollars based on the 7.8:1 Linked Exchange Rate).</i>
8. STATE GDP (USD)	Nominal gross domestic product of the sovereign state (including the territorial autonomy), measured in US Dollar. <i>Note: Dollar figure for GDP should be converted from domestic currency into US Dollar using the official exchange rate or the market exchange rate as of December 31, 2018 (e.g., Hong Kong's GDP should be converted from Hong Kong Dollar into US Dollar based on the 7.8:1 Linked Exchange Rate).</i>

¹ Weller, Marc and Nobbs, Katherine. (ed.) 2010. *Asymmetric Autonomy and the Settlement of Ethnic Conflicts*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp.4.

9. AUTONOMY-STATE GDP (%)	AUTONOMY GDP (USD) as a percentage of STATE GDP (USD).
10. AUTONOMY GDP PER CAPITA (USD)	Nominal gross domestic product of the territorial autonomy divided by population, measured in US Dollar. <i>Note: Dollar figure for GDP should be converted from domestic currency into US Dollar using the official exchange rate or the market exchange rate as of December 31, 2018 (e.g., Hong Kong's GDP should be converted from Hong Kong Dollar into US Dollar based on the 7.8:1 Linked Exchange Rate).</i>
11. STATE GDP PER CAPITA (USD)	Nominal gross domestic product of the sovereign state (including the territorial autonomy) divided by population, measured in US Dollar. <i>Note: Dollar figure for GDP should be converted from domestic currency into US Dollar using the official exchange rate or the market exchange rate as of December 31, 2018 (e.g., Hong Kong's GDP should be converted from Hong Kong Dollar into US Dollar based on the 7.8:1 Linked Exchange Rate).</i>

Demographic variables

12. STATE POPULATION (#)	Total number of people that legally reside in the sovereign state (including the territorial autonomy).
13. AUTONOMY POPULATION (#)	Total number of people that legally reside in the territorial autonomy.
14. AUTONOMY-STATE POPULATION (%)	AUTONOMY POPULATION (#) as a percentage of STATE POPULATION (#).
15. AUTONOMY POPULATION LOCALS (#)	Number of legal resident population that were locally-born in the territorial autonomy.
16. AUTONOMY POPULATION NON-LOCALS (#)	Number of legal resident population that were born in other regions of the sovereign state.
17. AUTONOMY POPULATION FOREIGNERS (#)	Number of legal resident population that were born in foreign countries.
18. AUTONOMY POPULATION LOCALS (%)	Percentage of legal resident population that were locally-born in the territorial autonomy.
19. AUTONOMY POPULATION NON-LOCALS (%)	Percentage of legal resident population that were born in other regions of the sovereign state.
20. AUTONOMY POPULATION FOREIGNERS (%)	Percentage of legal resident population that were born in foreign countries.
21. LOCALS-NONLOCALS/FOREIGNERS DIVIDE (%)	The subtraction of AUTONOMY POPULATION LOCALS (#) from AUTONOMY POPULATION NON-LOCALS (#) plus AUTONOMY POPULATION FOREIGNERS (#), expressed in percentage points.

Language politics variables²

22. AUTONOMY LANGUAGE SPEAKER (#)	Number of people within the territorial autonomy that adopt the “autonomy language” as their principal/most-usual spoken language. <i>Note: “Autonomy language” means the local language/dialect that is distinctive from the official language of the state as a whole, e.g., Catalan in Catalonia.</i>
23. STATE LANGUAGE SPEAKER (#)	Number of people within the territorial autonomy that adopt the “state language” as their principal/most-usual spoken language. <i>Note: “State language” means the official language of the state as a whole, e.g., Spanish in Spain.</i>
24. OTHER LANGUAGE SPEAKER (#)	Number of people within the territorial autonomy that adopt neither “autonomy language” nor “state language” as their principal/most-usual spoken language.
25. AUTONOMY LANGUAGE SPEAKER (%)	“Autonomy language speakers” in percentage of the total population of the territorial autonomy.
26. STATE LANGUAGE SPEAKER (%)	“State language speakers” in percentage of the total population of the territorial autonomy.
27. OTHER LANGUAGE SPEAKER (%)	“Other language speakers” in percentage of the total population of the territorial autonomy.
28. AUTONOMY-STATE/OTHER LANGUAGE SPEAKER DIVIDE (%)	The subtraction of AUTONOMY LANGUAGE SPEAKER (#) from STATE LANGUAGE SPEAKER (#) plus OTHER LANGUAGE SPEAKER (#), expressed in percentage points.

² These variables are adapted from the *Index of Linguistic Diversity*, which is originally designed to track the number of speakers of different languages in world's population. For details, see: <https://terralingua.org/our-work/linguistic-diversity>.

Executive-legislative politics variables	
29. LEGISLATIVE SEATS TOTAL (#)	Total number of seats within the legislature of the territorial autonomy.
30. GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT (#)	Number of legislative seats held by all governing parties. <i>Note: "Governing parties" are defined as political parties holding at least one position in the cabinet (or an equivalent institution), including a ministerial position, a minister-without-portfolio position or an equivalent cabinet position.</i>
31. OPPOSITION LEGISLATIVE STRENGTH (#)	Number of legislative seats held by all opposition parties. <i>Note: "Opposition parties" are defined as political parties holding no position in the cabinet (or an equivalent institution).</i>
32. GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT (%)	Percentage of legislative seat held by all governing parties.
33. OPPOSITION LEGISLATIVE STRENGTH (%)	Percentage of legislative seat held by all opposition parties.
34. GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION BALANCE (%)	The differences between GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT (#) and OPPOSITION LEGISLATIVE STRENGTH (#), expressed in percentage points.
35. EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE PARTIES (ENLP#) ³	This value is obtained by first taking the percentage of legislative seats held by each party as a decimal, then squaring this value, and finally summing up these squared values for all parties (independents are ignored). The standard formula is: $ENLP=1/\sum(v_i)^2$. <i>Note: "Σ" stands for summation while "v_i" denotes the fraction of legislative seats held by party "i" in the legislature.</i>
Global diplomacy variables ⁴	
36. GLOBAL EMBEDDEDNESS (#)	Number of foreign embassies, consulates-general, honorary consulates and representative offices that have been set up within the territorial autonomy.
37. GLOBAL OUTREACH (#)	Number of representative/trade/cultural offices setup by the territorial autonomous government (and its agencies) in foreign countries.
38. MULTILATERAL MEMBERSHIP (#)	Number of membership representation held by the territorial autonomous government (and its agencies) to multilateral organizations at both global and regional levels.
Regional authority variables ⁵	
39. STATE RAI SCORE (#)	The latest "2018 Country Score" of the sovereign state as stated in the Regional Authority Index dataset.
40. AUTONOMY RAI SCORE (#)	The latest "2018 Region Score" of the territorial autonomy as stated in the Regional Authority Index dataset.

Information sources and counter-checking

Investigators are required to provide the information sources of all the data that they have coded according to the following rules:

- As a general rule, Investigators should document the URL (i.e., web address) of the information sources, with official, primary data sources (e.g., government agencies, legislative bodies or international organizations) preferred to secondary data sources (e.g., newspapers and academic publications).

³ This variable is adapted from the Laakso-Taagepera Index, which is the most commonly used indicator for measuring the relative strength of political parties at the legislative level in the context of sovereign states. For details, see Laakso, Markku and Taagepera, Rein. 1979. The "effective" number of parties: a measure with application to West Europe. *Comparative Political Studies*, 12(1), pp. 3-27.

⁴ These variables are adapted from the *Global Diplomacy Index*, which are originally designed to map and rank the diplomatic networks of 60 sovereign states since 2016 according to indicators such as the number of embassies, consulates-general, consulates and representative offices and their representation in multilateral organizations. For details, see: <http://globaldiplomacyindex.lowyinstitute.org>.

⁵ These variables are drawn from the Regional Authority Index. For details, see: <http://garymarks.web.unc.edu/data/regional-authority>.

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- Should the information source be non-Internet-based (i.e., the information is obtained from a print publication with no Internet version), the Investigator should take photos on both the cover of the publication and the relevant page, then upload such photos to Google Drive and document that URL.

**The general rule of the existing round of the CTAD coding exercise is that all the data should be recorded as of December 31, 2018 as far as possible; Data that come from non-2018 year will be highlighted in blue colour for easy differentiation. Any missing data will be marked as “NA”.*

Independent research assistants will be engaged to counter-check the accuracy, reliability and consistency of the data based on the information sources documented, and Investigators will be requested to clarify and rectify their data as and when necessary.

Citations for the database

Fong, Brian C.H. et al. 2021. *Comparative Territorial Autonomy Database (CTAD), Version 1.0*. Hong Kong: The Academy of Hong Kong Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong. Retrieved from: <https://www.eduhk.hk/ahks/view.php?m=52865&secid=53389>

