Replicating Analyses from "The (Re)genesis of Values: Examining the Importance of Values for Action

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Overview:

There are two sets of analyses in the paper, one using data from the European Social Survey (ESS), and one using decision data that I collected during the summer of 2013. Analyses use both R and Stata. I used both software packages because for certain analyses each had advantages in terms of speed, flexibility, or ease of use. Below is a list of R packages you will need to have installed.

R packages
foreign
multilevel
psych
Amelia
mitools
ordinal
Hmisc

Data coding and analyses occur in separate files for each set of analyses, as described below.

Replicating ESS Analyses

Files Needed to Replicate ESS Analyses:
- Miles 2015 – V&A – functions.R
- Miles 2015 – V&A – ESS analyses.R
- Miles 2015 – V&A – ESS data coding.R

Data Needed to Replicate ESS Analyses:
- ESS integrated data file, round 2 (http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/download.html?file=ESS2e03_4&y=2004)
- Country-specific data files for Estonia, Finland, France, and Ukraine (to update a few variables in the integrated file)
- ESS personal freedom.csv – available from www.andrewamiles.com

Step-by-step instructions:
1. Download all replication files from www.andrewamiles.com and place them in a single folder on your computer.
2. Download the round 2 ESS data and country-specific data files, and place them in the same folder.
3. Open the file "Miles 2015 – V&A – ESS analyses.R" and set the working directory to point to the folder. The line of code that you need to modify looks like this: setwd("FILE PATH TO FOLDER HERE")
4. Open R (if it is not already open) and run the file "Miles 2015 – V&A – ESS analyses.R" – this will automatically run the script files "Miles 2015 – V&A – functions.R" and "Miles 2015 – V&A – ESS data coding.R", and then run the data checks and analyses reported in the paper. NOTE: this step takes a long time, usually several hours.

Users who wish to see the details of the data coding and imputation procedures should examine the file "Miles 2015 – V&A – ESS data coding.R" directly. Those wishing to see the custom-functions I wrote to handle unique data coding and analysis tasks should examine the file "Miles 2015 – V&A – functions.R" directly.

Note on Imputations: Because analyses use multiply imputed data, exact estimates and standard errors might differ slightly from the published results, but these differences should be minor.

Note on Errors: These instructions work as of the date I posted them to my website, but it is possible that changes to R functions in the future, or even an unusual set of imputations, might result in errors. In this case, first try re-estimating the analyses. If the error persists, you will need to use R's debugging functions to locate the source of the error and correct it. A likely culprit is the constant updating of R functions, which might make it so that some of the custom functions used in the analyses no longer work as they should.

<u>Replicating Decision Data Analyses</u>

Files Needed to Replicate Decision Data Analyses:
Miles 2015 – V&A – decision data analyses.do

Data Needed to Replicate Decision Data Analyses:
Decision data subset (download file "decisiondata.dta" from www.andrewamiles.com)

Step-by-step instructions:

1. Download all replication files from www.andrewamiles.com and place them in a single folder on your computer.
2. Download the decision data subset from www.andrewamiles.com and place it in the same folder.
3. Open the file "Miles 2015 – V&A – decision data analyses.do" and set the working directory to point to the folder. The line of code that you need to modify looks like this: cd "FILE PATH TO FOLDER HERE"
4. Open Stata (if not already open) and run the file "Miles 2015 – V&A – decision data analyses.do" – this file contains both imputations and analyses. The analyses run quickly, but the imputations can take some time. Running the entire file can take an hour or more.

Note on Imputations: The imputation procedure used for these analyses is different from those used for the ESS analyses, and allows a random number seed to be set. This means that the results from the paper should be reproduced exactly. The tradeoff is that the procedure takes a long time. The procedure used for the ESS analyses is much faster. Interested users might wish instead impute the data in R using the Amelia package (or using the standalone Amelia application) and then import it into Stata for analyses. In this case, results should be very similar (but not identical) to published results.