

Wäckerle, Jens; Silva, Bruno Castanho; Pullan, Danielle; Taner, Firuze

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The CMD: A comparative dataset on parliamentary committee membership in 14 countries

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Parliamentary Committee Membership in 14
Countries**

Jens Wäckerle
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Bruno Castanho Silva
Firuze Taner

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The CMD: A Comparative Dataset on Parliamentary Committee Membership in 14 Countries

Jens Wäckerle*
University of Cologne

Bruno Castanho Silva
Freie Universität Berlin

Danielle Pullan
Georgia College & State University

Firuze Taner
University of Vienna

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Abstract

Cross-national parliamentary data have increasingly enabled scholars to study the behavior of individual Members of Parliament (MPs), allowing insights into issues such as (re)selection, intra-party dissent, and representation. Yet data on MPs' activity have largely been limited to speeches, roll-call votes, and bill sponsorship. We introduce the Committee Membership Dataset (CMD), a major expansion of available legislative data. The CMD records all committee assignments for MPs in 14 countries (14,963 MPs in 260 parties) from 1989 to 2024, including positions held (e.g., member, chairperson), assignment dates, and committee policy areas. Harmonized MP and party identifiers allow linkage with other widely used datasets. We illustrate the CMD's value by showing that women are systematically under-represented in prestigious committees and chairperson roles across all 14 countries. These disparities persist across nearly all party families. The CMD provides a new resource for analyzing legislative behavior, institutional power, and political representation across democracies.

*Contact author, email: jens.waeckerle@uni-koeln.de. The authors would like to thank Anna Ebedat, Marie Eichholz, Monja Rinderle, Flynn Schirott, and Greta von dem Knesebeck for research assistance, and members of the OSIBag (Freie Universität Berlin) and Political Science Lecture Series (University of Cologne) seminars for valuable comments. Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) under Germany's Excellence Strategy – EXC 2126/1-390838866.

Committees are at the core of parliamentary activities. Across countries, they are responsible for drafting, scrutinizing, and amending legislation, with large influence on the policy making process (e.g. Ágh, 1998; Fortunato, Martin and Vanberg, 2019; Siefken and Rommetvedt, 2022). They can decide on spending and thus have major influence on distributing resources and executing policy agendas (Evans, 2011; Hallerberg, 2000). Moreover, MPs' appointment to committees is not random: parties bargain over who gets to control the most prestigious committees, overseeing the highest budgets or most salient policies (e.g. Yordanova, 2024; McElroy, 2006), as well as using these positions to monitor coalition partners (Kim and Loewenberg, 2005; Martin and Whitaker, 2019). Within parties, the distribution of seats to MPs is highly strategic, reflecting intra-party hierarchies (Damgaard, 1995; Mickler, 2013; Rehmert and Fujimura, 2024), structural inequalities (Coffé, Bolzendahl and Schnellecke, 2019), and potential gatekeeping (Pansardi and Vercesi, 2017). For parliamentarians, committee work is a fundamental stepping-stone to higher positions such as party leadership roles or cabinet posts (McKay, Goodwin and Holden Bates, 2019), as well as to acquire or signal issue expertise (Fernandes, Goplerud and Won, 2019). In spite of their relevance, to date there has been no comprehensive, cross-national dataset of committee membership over a long period of time.

We address this by presenting the Committee Membership Dataset (CMD)¹. It contains complete information on committee membership for 14 democracies between 1989 and 2024. The dataset includes 14,963 unique MPs from 260 parties, and indicates every position they held in a parliamentary committee. Committee names and roles have been translated into English and their policy areas harmonized to match those from the WhoGov dataset on cabinet members (Nyrup and Bramwell, 2020). MPs' gender is included along with their Wikidata ID, which allows researchers to seamlessly match this dataset with biographical information from Wikidata itself or the Comparative Legislators Database (Göbel and Munzert, 2021), as well as with parliamentary speech datasets like Parlspeech v2 (Rauh and Schwalbach, 2020). Parties are identified with their Party Facts ID (Döring and Regel, 2019), so they can be easily merged with party-level infor-

¹The dataset can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.7802/2940>

mation from multiple sources. The dataset can be used to measure multiple quantities of interest, such as the amount of power an individual MP holds at any given time, MPs' policy expertise, parties' policy priorities, or specific paths of career progression.

After introducing the dataset, we showcase a potential application by looking at the difference between positions held by men and women across countries and party families. Descriptively, we find that women are disproportionately less likely to belong to committees dealing with high prestige policies; and that women are underrepresented in committee leadership positions in relation to their numbers as regular members. We then combine our dataset with data from the Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES, Jolly et al., 2022) to show that these patterns hold across all party families, even those on the left that present themselves as more concerned with gender equality. This is just one example application of many possibilities for which researchers can use this data.

Parliamentary committees

Committees are the backbone of almost all parliaments around the world. While the plenary is the main arena in which policy is debated and the government is held to account by the opposition, committees are where most of the policy-making happens (Longley and Davidson, 1998; Geddes, 2021). Each committee comprises a subset of all MPs, in most cases proportional to their share in parliament. These committees can vary in size, from large committees dealing with budgeting or procedural issues to smaller ones working on specific policy areas. Membership in these committees is most commonly negotiated at the party level, meaning party leaders decide who gets to sit on which committee (Damgaard, 1995). Most often, committee membership is connected to policy expertise and parties will try to recruit experts in different policy areas in order to staff committees (Mickler, 2013). Consequently, MPs tend to stay in a given committee across legislative terms, if it fits their policy expertise (Mickler, 2021).

The importance of plenary sessions lies in their high public visibility as well as the well-known actors that take center stage. This is where party leaders debate each other about

the main direction of policy and where the fate of governments is decided. Meanwhile, committees serve a different role: Here, experts meet to discuss policy, make compromises and work out the technicalities of new legislation. As such, committee meetings can tell us information that plenaries can't: They allow us to track how policy is changed during the parliamentary process (Siefken and Rommetvedt, 2022; Cross et al., 2021) and they can help us understand how coalition partners govern (Krauss, Praprotnik and Thürk, 2021; Andeweg and Timmermans, 2008). The analysis of committee strength and size is key to understanding how powerful a parliament is vis-a-vis the government, individual coalition parties, and other democratic institutions in the respective country (Martin and Vanberg, 2020; Fish and Kroenig, 2011; Chernykh, Doyle and Power, 2017).

Additionally, committees provide important information about the MPs themselves. Especially in countries with strong parliaments, committee membership signals policy expertise (Mickler, 2013). As membership for important committees is competitive (Damgaard, 1995; Rehmert and Fujimura, 2024; Coffé, Bolzendahl and Schnellecke, 2019), achieving leadership positions (e.g. chairperson or spokesperson) and serving on important committees (such as budget, defense, or interior) can signal power and influence of individual MPs. Consequently, committee assignments are better signals of influence than seniority, which is often used to analyze individual MP's career trajectory (Sokolow and Brandsma, 1971; Taylor, 2019).

Existing datasets have started to open the black box of parliamentary committee assignments. However, many of these datasets focus on committee chairs: For instance, Treib and Schlipphak (2019) collect committee chair and deputy chair assignments in the European Parliament, while Fernandes, Riera and Cantú (2019) study committee leadership in Spain and Ireland and show that these positions are used to incentivize high-profile and successful party members. Other research projects focus on individual countries, such as the US (Kellermann and Shepsle, 2009; Frisch and Kelly, 2003), Germany (Mickler, 2013), or Denmark (Hansen, 2010). We expand on these datasets in both depth and scope: We cover a wide range of countries as well as all positions from leadership to members.

Dataset

We present a dataset of all Members of Parliament (MP) from 14 democracies. The time spans covered range from 1989 to 2024 and depend mainly on the availability of data from parliamentary archives. While basic information such as names, party affiliations, and constituencies are commonly available for most legislatures, we are interested in committee assignments and executive roles of members of parliament. These are recorded in different forms, depending on the country and point in time, ranging from complete lists of all assignments in Sweden to very limited publicly available information in Germany. Consequently, the coverage in this first version of the dataset is most dense in recent years where data is available for most countries. We have detailed how the data was collected in each country in Appendix B. For a detailed overview of the variables contained in the dataset, see the codebook under the following link: <https://doi.org/10.7802/2940>.

We provide a single dataset that records every legislative and executive position that is held by every MP. Subsequently, researchers can aggregate this into a dataset which has one observation per MP in each legislature and aims to present a comprehensive picture of their position in parliament. Due to data availability, the data in some countries is available with start and end dates for each position (e.g. if MPs leave or enter a committee in the middle of the term), while other countries only record whether an MP was ever in a given committee in a given legislative term, without specific dates. In these cases, start and end dates of the parliamentary term are used.

After collecting available information for MPs from the parliamentary homepages, we record the name of the committee or position, the rank the MP held, and the period in which the position was held. We then translate both positions and ranks into English. In two cases, we did not collect the data directly from the parliamentary homepages, but rather relied on existing datasets: The Talk of Norway (Lapponi et al., 2018) and "Congressional Committees, Modern Standing Committees, 103rd–115th Congresses" for the United States (Stewart and Woon, 2017). Subsequently, we code the committee or position into the policy areas proposed by Nyrop and Bramwell (2020). We use their coding as committees frequently mirror executive positions. However, we add several categories

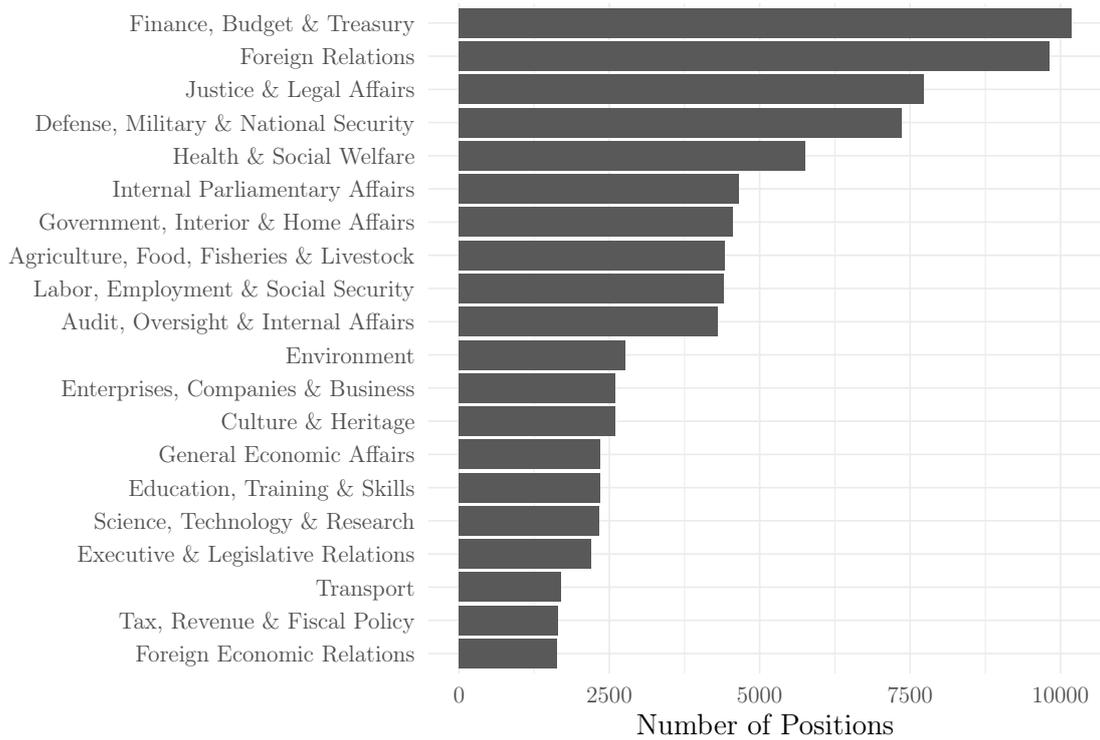
that are unique to legislative positions: Committees of Inquiry, Internal Parliamentary Affairs, and Petitions. Committees of Inquiry do not exist in all countries, but where they do they are important avenues for opposition influence. Committees for Internal Parliamentary Affairs organize parliamentary action, set the agenda, decide about immunity of MPs and much more. Finally, petitions committees are set up in most countries to deal with citizens' inquiries. All committees that are subcommittees (typically a subgroup of the members of a committee dealing with a more specific subtopic) are identified by a binary variable. We also add a separate category for prime ministers, which also covers deputy prime ministers. Figure 1 shows the 20 most common policy areas of committee positions across all countries and legislatures. Finance, Budget & Treasury and Foreign Relations are the most common, as there are large committees in these policy areas in all countries. On the other end of the scale (not pictured) are policy areas such as Sports, Tourism or Youth, in which countries often have small committees or none at all. We exclude all positions to which we cannot attribute a policy area (such as ceremonial committees or committees dealing with very specific topics like overseeing the organization of Olympic Games or a World Cup).

Table 1: Coding of Rank of Parliamentary and Executive Positions

Role	Typical Positions	Branch
Minister	Members of cabinet	Executive
Deputy Minister	Stand in for members of cabinet	Executive
Minister of State	Non-cabinet members of the executive	Executive
Parliamentary Secretary	Supporting cabinet members	Executive
Committee Chair	Chairing committees	Legislative
Party Spokesperson	Lead party group in committee OR shadow minister	Legislative
Deputy Committee Chair	Stand in for committee chair	Legislative
Deputy Party Spokesperson	Stand in for party spokesperson	Legislative
Committee Member	Member of committees	Legislative
Deputy Committee Member	Stand in for committee member	Legislative

We then code the roles MPs have into 10 categories: minister, deputy minister, minister of state, parliamentary secretaries, committee chair, deputy chair, party spokesperson, deputy party spokesperson, member, and deputy member. Table 1 shows these codes and a typical position in the category. Note that we focus on positions that MPs have obtained

Figure 1: Most Common Policy Areas

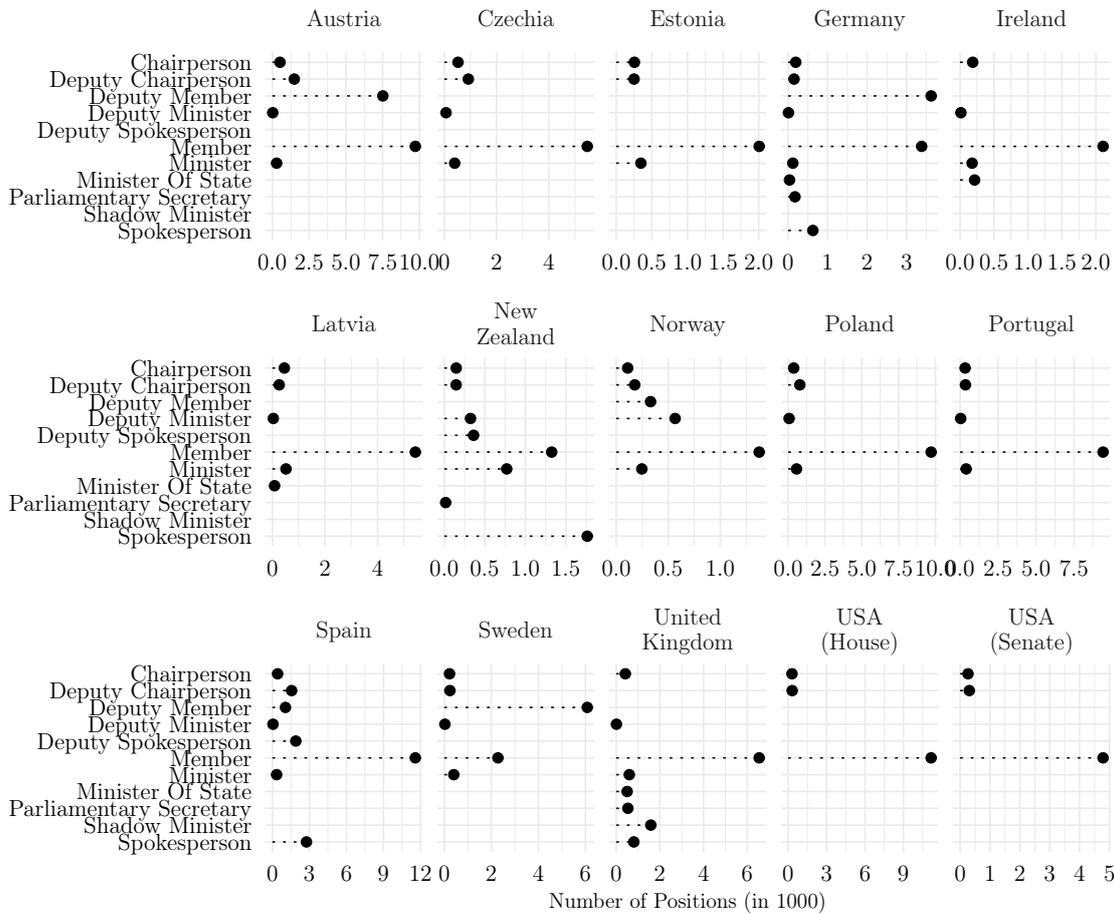


with powers vested by parliament. We therefore exclude whips, dedicated party experts, party leaders and party group leaders. As such, we focus on the positions MPs achieve within the institutional setup of a parliament as well as executive positions, which are, at least in parliamentary democracies, subject to parliamentary approval. Figure 2 shows the distribution of roles in the countries. Note that not all roles exist in all countries.

Ministers and Deputy Ministers are straightforward to define: they are cabinet members and their replacements. We collect the ministerial position of members of parliament from the parliamentary homepages where available and supplement them with data from Wikipedia. Additionally, some countries have the position of parliamentary secretaries, which are supporting cabinet members in running their ministries. These are political positions, often held by members of parliament.

Committees have at least two different positions: chairs and members. Chairs of committees open the meetings, organize the agenda, and control speaking time, together with the party representatives in committee. They are often supported by one or more deputy chairs that take over these duties in case the chair is not available. Committee

Figure 2: Most Common Roles



members take part in meetings and vote. Seats are commonly allocated in proportion to seat share in parliament, with special ways to divide seats among very small parties. Committee size is proportional to the importance of the policy area: the largest committees are often finance, budget, foreign affairs and social security committees. However, there are also small committees, such as the ones overseeing security services that are very important but are kept small for security reasons. Some countries (such as Sweden) have assigned many deputy committee members which replace the members when they are unavailable². In countries with smaller parliaments (such as New Zealand or Czechia), this is less common.

Finally, there are party spokespeople, which are the head of the party delegation in a

²Sweden, specifically, assigned a large number of deputy committee positions during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

committee. They organize committee meetings together with the chair, lead their party group in debates and votes, and report back to the party on deliberations within the committee. They are therefore more powerful than simple committee members, but less powerful than committee chairs, but don't exist as clearly defined roles in every country in the dataset.

While analyzing committee assignments on their own can be instructive, a great deal of usefulness comes from connecting this dataset to others, such as parliamentary speech data. In addition, users might want to add other data such as information about where MPs are elected, their profession, or their social media accounts. The best connector for this is the Wikidata ID, which points to a politician's profile on Wikidata, the dataset that underlies Wikipedia. This ID can either be used to connect to Wikidata directly (for example to research the birth dates of MPs) or to connect to other datasets, for example the Comparative Legislators Database (Göbel and Munzert, 2021). We collect Wikidata IDs for members of parliament in all fourteen countries and connect them with the CMD dataset by names. After cleaning names and identifying the correct individual matches for pairs of MPs with the same name, we are able to match more than 95% of cases across the complete dataset. Beyond allowing for connections to other datasets, this procedure also ensures that MPs are uniquely identified, as name changes and typographic errors are corrected in this process. We recommend employing a similar strategy when connecting our dataset to others: add Wikidata IDs to the other dataset and then connect it with the CMD.

Table 2 gives an overview of the CMD. Overall, the dataset contains 134,295 positions across fourteen countries. We were able to match all politicians to Wikidata IDs in most of the countries in the dataset, with just some individual politicians missing in Poland, Norway and Spain. Meanwhile, Latvia and Portugal were harder to match with only 93% and 61% of observations matched to IDs respectively. We discuss coding decisions, such as how to treat overlapping assignments or switching between parties in more detail in Appendix B.

Table 2: Data Overview

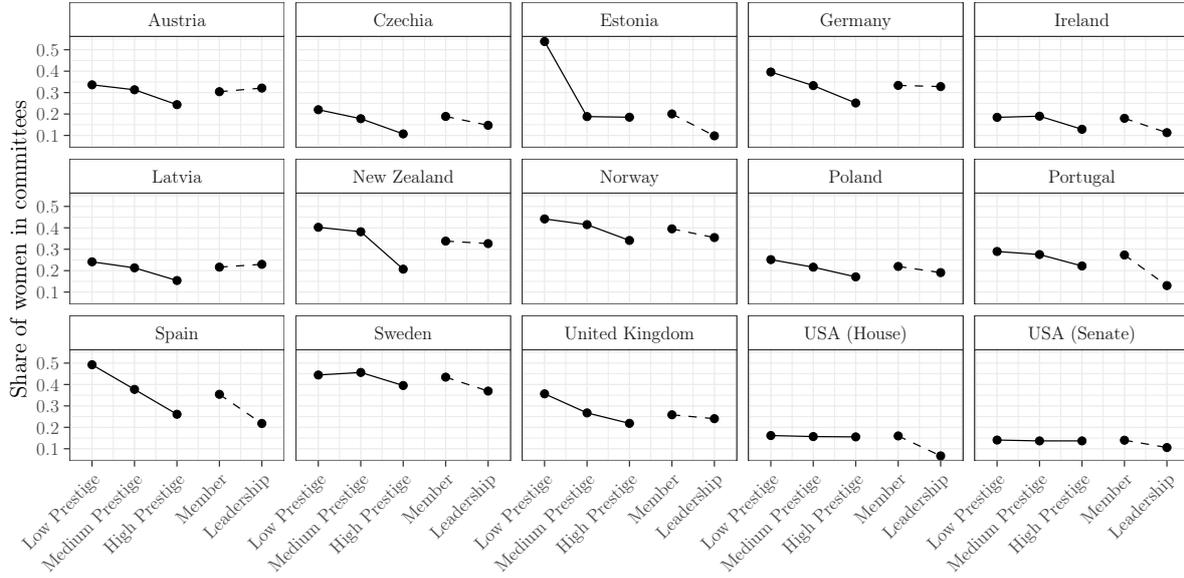
Country	# of Positions	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Perc. Wikidata
Austria	19,542	1996-01-15	2019-10-22	100.00
Czechia	7,376	1992-06-06	2017-11-19	100.00
Estonia	2,857	1992-10-12	2019-03-03	100.00
Germany	8,304	2005-10-18	2021-12-07	100.00
Ireland	2,696	1997-06-26	2020-02-19	100.00
Latvia	6,779	1991-11-19	2022-11-01	92.89
New Zealand	4,853	2005-11-07	2020-11-24	100.00
Norway	2,804	1997-10-01	2017-10-01	98.43
Poland	11,513	1992-07-10	2019-11-11	99.96
Portugal	10,532	1991-10-06	2022-03-28	61.39
Spain	19,673	1989-11-21	2019-12-02	99.52
Sweden	9,243	1991-09-30	2018-09-23	100.00
USA (House)	11,775	1993-01-05	2019-01-03	100.00
USA (Senate)	5,357	1993-01-05	2019-01-03	100.00
United Kingdom	10,991	1992-04-09	2024-12-31	100.00
Overall	134,295	1989-11-21	2024-12-31	96.51

Gender and Positions in Parliament

To demonstrate a potential application of our dataset, we look into the distribution of committee positions for men and women in parliaments. While women’s representation has been increasing in most countries – though none in our sample have reached parity – the question remains of whether women are actually reaching positions of power, or whether they join parliament but are confined to its less prestigious corners. Across countries, studies have found that women are more likely to serve on committees with less prestige, dealing with "soft" policy issues such as health care, education, or women’s issues (Michelle Heath, Schwindt-Bayer and Taylor-Robinson, 2005; Espírito-Santo and Sanches, 2020).

Figure 3 indicates, by country, the proportion of women in each level of committee prestige, and in the two main types of positions that may be held: members or chairpersons. We see that in all fourteen countries, high prestige committees have a smaller share of women than low or medium prestige ones. Additionally, with the exceptions of Austria and Latvia, women’s share of leading positions in committees is lower than their numbers among regular members. This shows the clear presence of a glass ceiling,

Figure 3: Share of women by in each position type and by committee prestige across countries



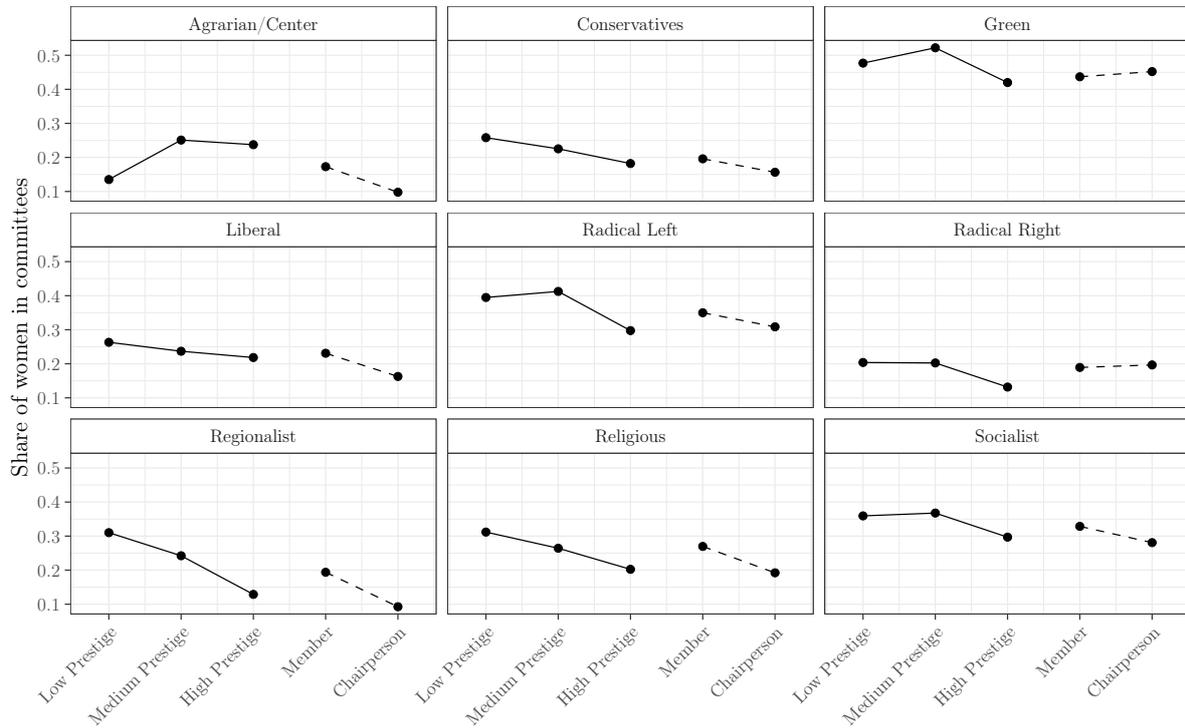
whereby women are underrepresented in the most prestigious committees and powerful positions, even as they increase their numbers in parliament. Notably, the pattern holds even in countries that are proud of their more equal numbers of women in parliament, such as Norway and Sweden.

The data also contains a column with the party ID reference from the Party Facts dataset (Döring and Regel, 2019), which links to multiple datasets on political parties. Using that, we can also see a description of the share of positions held by women MPs across different party families³ in Figure 4. Once again we observe that, across almost all party families, women are more present in lower prestige than high prestige committees. Furthermore, the only two party families where women are not underrepresented among chairpersons in relation to the share of women members are greens and the radical right. For all others, once again, women are more likely to be in lower prestige committees and to hold less powerful appointments in them.

Naturally, these are just descriptive presentations of the data. We do not employ statistical models, meaning we do not control for other factors that may explain MPs'

³Party families are coded according to the Chapel Hill Expert Survey's (CHES) classification (Jolly et al., 2022).

Figure 4: Share of women by in each position type and by committee prestige across parties



appointment to higher prestige/power positions, such as tenure. They are intended solely to demonstrate how this dataset could be used to study pressing issues in contemporary research on political representation or legislative behavior.

Conclusion

We present the Committee Membership Dataset (CMD) to significantly expand the data available to political scientists around the world. With over 130,000 individual positions across 14 countries and 35 years, this dataset is the first to provide harmonized legislative and executive positions for parliaments across the world. The data will have widespread applications in a variety of studies of MPs' behavior. Through Wikidata and Party-facts identifiers, the dataset is easily merged with legislative speech data, information on individual MPs, and party-level datasets.

The dataset comes with some limitations. First, while we harmonized roles (e.g. member, chairperson) as well as policy areas of positions across countries, researchers should

keep in mind that these distinctions might carry different importance across countries. For example, parliamentary rules might make committee chairs more powerful in some countries compared to others. In addition, while some policy areas (e.g. finance, foreign affairs, defense) are important in every country, there might be both over-time and between-country variation in the desirability of different committee positions. For example, the impending accession to the European Union might make seats on the committee for European affairs very powerful, while other policy areas lose importance after joining the European Union as policy is decided at the European level. Second, the dataset is limited by the quality of the underlying information. While great care has been taken to correct mistakes as much as possible, there can of course be errors in the data itself. Third, there are some differences in data quality between countries, which are detailed in Appendix B, as not all countries provide date-specific start and end dates.

The positions legislators hold carry a host of relevant information for scholars of legislative politics: They allow us to estimate policy expertise, provide indicators of power relative to other party members, and allow a much more fine-grained analysis of political careers than ever before. As such, the dataset allows for an estimate of a politician's influence in parliament at any given time (e.g. when they give a speech or launch a campaign for re-election), but also allows for macro-level analyses of how power is distributed between parties and MPs. As one example, we show a descriptive analysis that shows that women are underrepresented in powerful committees as well as leadership positions across countries and (almost all) party families.

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Appendices

All Appendices are intended for online publication only.

A Coding of Policy Areas

Table A1: Coding of policy areas

Policy area	Number of countries	Prestige
Prime Minister	13	Very high
Defense, Military & National Security	14	High
Finance, Budget & Treasury	14	High
Foreign Relations	14	High
Government, Interior & Home Affairs	13	High
Agriculture, Food, Fisheries & Livestock	14	Medium
Audit, Oversight & Internal Affairs	10	Medium
Civil Service	8	Medium
Communications & Information	13	Medium
Construction & Public Works	11	Medium
Correctional Services & Police	11	Medium
Culture & Heritage	14	Medium
Education, Training & Skills	14	Medium
Energy	14	Medium
Enterprises, Companies & Business	12	Medium
Environment	14	Medium
Executive & Legislative Relations	9	Medium
Foreign Economic Relations	12	Medium
General Economic Affairs	13	Medium
Health & Social Welfare	14	Medium
Housing	11	Medium
Industry & Commerce	13	Medium
Inquiry	7	Medium
Internal Parliamentary Affairs	8	Medium
Justice & Legal Affairs	14	Medium
Labor, Employment & Social Security	14	Medium
Local Government	12	Medium
Planning & Development	12	Medium
Political Reform	11	Medium
Properties & Buildings	2	Medium
Regional	13	Medium
Religion	4	Medium
Tax, Revenue & Fiscal Policy	11	Medium
Transport	13	Medium
Ageing & Elderly	7	Low
Children & Family	12	Low
Immigration & Emigration	9	Low
Minorities	6	Low
Petitions	6	Low
Science, Technology & Research	14	Low
Sports	12	Low
Tourism	9	Low
Veterans	4	Low
Without Portfolio	11	Low
Women	12	Low
Youth	10	Low

B Data Collection

In this section, we give an overview of coding and collection decision we made during data collection. For each country, we outline the data source, collection method, and how positions were recoded.

For each country, we were looking for the data source that provided the most detailed record of committee assignments. In many cases, these were the pages or archived pages of Members of Parliament. Often, the page of individual committees only recorded the list of members at the beginning or end of term, neglecting changes during the term. Below, we outline exactly where data in each country is from. Of course, we are subject to all errors that might exist in the parliamentary homepages and archives. Especially in earlier periods, records are often imprecise (for example, only giving full terms rather than precise start and end dates). We have corrected errors to the greatest extent possible (e.g. end dates that precede start dates, or obviously wrong dates) but otherwise we record the data as found in the data sources as detailed below in all other cases.

We made three important data decisions. First, whenever an MP changes party, we start a new observation, even if they remain in a committee (which is common). Consequently, if an MP is part of the agriculture committee from 1st September 2012 to 1st March 2013, but changes parties on 1st January 2013, we create two observations of membership in the committee, one from 1st September 2012 to 31 December 2012 and one for 1st January 2013 to March 2013. The same is true for MPs that change their affiliation to sit as an independent or unaffiliated member.

Second, some countries record both committee membership and committee leadership separately. Here, we do not record overlapping periods, as all committee chairs are also treated as committee members in the dataset. Rather, we only keep the highest value membership observations for these time periods. For example, if an MP was initially recorded as member of a committee for the whole term, but chair of the committee for the second half of the term, we keep them as member for the first half and chair in the second half of the term. The same is true for deputy chairpersons.

Third, some positions (such as ministers) stretch across two or more legislative terms. In such situations, we proceed the same way as with party changes, splitting the position into two (or more) subsequent periods.

Consequently, one observation in the dataset is a position for one party within one legislative term in one role.

B.1 Austria

In Austria, data is available for each MP. On the homepage of the MP (for example: [Link](#), accessed 30 October 2024), the committee positions that member had are recorded in the section "Ausschüsse". This list includes start and end dates, the name of the committee as well as the role of the MP. One alternative route would have been to look at the homepages of the committees themselves, which are available retroactively all the way back to the 1996-1999 legislative period. However, in past legislative terms, the page of the committee always records members at the end of the term (for example the member list of the committee on employment accessible here: [Link](#), accessed 30 October 2024 is accurate as of 21. August 2008). Any members that left a committee before the end of the term would therefore not be recorded here. Consequently, we rely on the MP pages for recording committee assignments.

In Austria, MPs can be full members of a committee (Mitglied), deputy members (Ersatzmitglied), chairperson (Obmann or Obfrau), or deputy chairperson (Obmann/fraustellvertreter/in). In total there are 19,542 positions in the dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the XX. (1996-1999) to the XXVI. legislative period (2017-2019), which was the last completed period during data collection.

B.2 Czechia

The data on Czech committee assignments was gathered from the homepages of the MPs. On each homepage, all committee positions are listed, including exact start and end dates. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 30 October 2024. Positions are recorded as member ("člen/členka"), chairperson ("předseda/předsedkyně"), deputy chairperson ("místopředseda/místopředsedkyně"). In rare cases, the homepage recorded multiple people as the chairperson of a committee at the same time. As it cannot be verified for certain whether this is an error in the data bank or was in fact the case, we record both individuals as chairperson.

In total there are 7,376 positions in the Czech dataset, which covers all legislative periods from 1992-1996 to 2013-2017, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.3 Estonia

The data on Estonian committee assignments is published on the homepage of the Riigikogu. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 27 November 2024. There are separate pages for past legislative periods, going back all the way to the 7th Riigikogu (1992-1995). The page also provides party affiliation, which was added to the dataset. Positions are recorded as chairperson ("Esimees"), deputy chairperson ("Aseesimehed") and member ("Liikmed") with start and end dates for each position.

In total there are 2,857 positions in the Estonian dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 7th (1992-1995) to the 13th Riigikogu (2015-2019), which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.4 Germany

The data on German committee assignments was collected from the individual homepages of members of the Bundestag. On these pages, the MPs list "Mitgliedschaften und Ämter" (memberships and positions), which include committee positions. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 23 May 2025. Unfortunately, these pages only list committee memberships for the complete term, without start and end dates. Consequently, all positions start and end at the first and final day of the term respectively.

Positions are recorded as member ("Ordentliches Mitglied"), deputy member ("Stellvertretendes Mitglied"), chair ("Vorsitzende"/"Vorsitzender"), deputy chair ("Stellvertretende Vorsitzende"/"Stellvertretender Vorsitzender"), and spokesperson ("Obmann"/"Obfrau").

In total there are 8,304 positions in the German dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 16th Bundestag (2005-2009) to the 19th Bundestag (2017-2021), which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.5 Ireland

The data on Irish committee assignments was gathered from the homepages of the individual committees. On each homepage, all committee members are listed. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 27 November 2024. Positions are recorded as member or chairperson ("Cathaoirleach", which is also the title of the chair of the senate, but is used on the Oireachtas homepage to refer to committee chairs). Unfortunately, the page does not have a good archive, so we collected past assignments using the Wayback Machine. Consequently, start and end dates for past assignments might be imprecise and some short assignments might be missed. The homepage also does not record party changes within term (which are quite rare in Ireland), so we collected party changes from Wikidata. In addition, we collect minister, deputy minister and minister of state positions from Wikipedia.

In total there are 2,696 positions in the Irish dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 28th Dáil Éireann (1997-2002) to the 32th Dáil Éireann (2016-2020), which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.6 Latvia

The Latvian parliament, Saeima, publishes party and committee assignments for all historical periods on the Latvian-language version of its homepage. They can be accessed here: [🔗 Link](#) (accessed 23 November 2024). Roles are recorded as member ("Deputāts/Deputāte"), chairperson ("Priekšsēdētājs/Priekšsēdētāja"), and deputy chairperson ("Priekšsēdētājas biedrs/Priekšsēdētāja biedre"). Because assignments were continued even when MPs switched parties (which is not uncommon in Latvia), we had to record party switches and split assignments. Party switches were also recorded on the same MP pages.

In total there are 6,779 positions in the Latvian dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 5th Saeima (1991-1995) to the 13th Saeima (2018-2022), which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.7 New Zealand

In New Zealand, the parliament provides data for all current and former (back to 2006) MPs. The pages provide both committee and minister positions. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#) (accessed 23 May 2025). Minister positions are designated as "Minister", deputy ministers are called "associate minister". In addition, the New Zealand parliament has deputy/associate spokespersons, chairpersons and deputy chairpersons. Finally, there are also Parliamentary Under-Secretaries, which are executive positions assisting ministers (see: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 23 May 2025).

In total there are 4,853 positions in the New Zealand dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 48th (2005-2008) to the 52nd (2017-2020) parliament, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.8 Norway

In Norway, the data comes from the dataset "Talk of Norway" (Lapponi et al., 2018), which primarily collects speech data from the Norwegian parliament. For each speech, the dataset records all positions that the MP held at the time of the speech, with specific start

and end dates of the committee position. The positions are recorded as deputy member ("Varamedlem"), member ("Medlem"), deputy chairperson ("Nestleder"), and chairperson ("Leder"). Due to the structure of the dataset, it cannot be excluded that some short-term positions are missed (e.g. if an MP enters and leaves a committee between two speeches so that membership is never recorded). However, due to the comparatively low number of seats in the Storting (169 members), we are confident that all members speak frequently enough for this not to be an issue.

In total there are 2,804 positions in the Norwegian dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 1997-2001 to 2013-2017, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.9 Poland

In Poland, data is provided in the parliamentary archives, separate for each MP. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 28 May 2025. Committee positions are recorded in the section "Przynależność do komisji i podkomisji" (Membership of committees and subcommittees), including specific start and end dates. MPs are considered members of the committee, if not stated otherwise. Chairmen are denoted as "przewodniczący", whereas deputy chairmen are denoted as "zastępca przewodniczącego".

In total there are 11,513 positions in the Polish dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 2. (1992-1997) to the 8. (2015-2019) Sejm, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.10 Portugal

In Portugal, data is provided on the homepage of individual MPs, both for current and previous terms. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 23 May 2025. Committee positions are recorded in the section "Atividade de Deputado" in the subsection "Comissões a que pertence / pertenceu". Unfortunately, these pages only list committee memberships for the complete term, without start and end dates. Consequently, all positions start and end at the first and final day of the term respectively.

If not stated otherwise, committee assignments are coded as "member". Alternatively, MPs are identified as chairperson ("Presidente") or deputy chairperson ("Vice-Presidente").

In total there are 10,532 positions in the Portuguese dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the VI. (1991-1995) to the XIV. (2019-2022) parliament, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.11 Spain

In Spain, data is provided on the homepage of individual MPs, both for current and previous terms. One example can be found here: [🔗 Link](#), accessed 23 May 2025. Committee positions are recorded in the section "Histórico de cargos", including start and end dates for each position. Roles are recorded as deputy member ("Vocal Suplente"/"Miembro Suplente"), member ("Vocal"/"Miembro Titular"/"Miembro"), deputy chairperson ("Vicepresidente"/"Vicepresidenta"), chairperson ("Presidente"/"Presidenta"), spokesperson ("Portavoz"), and deputy spokesperson ("Portavoz adjunto"/"Portavoz adjunta"/"Portavoz Sustituto"/"Portavoz Sustituta"). Committees in the Congreso de los Diputados also

have secretaries ("Secretario"/"Secretaria"), which we code as deputy committee chairs because they fulfill a similar role. However, the original Spanish role description is also included in the dataset.

In total there are 19,673 positions in the Spanish dataset, which covers all legislative periods from the 4th (1989-1993) to the 13th (2019-2019) Cortes Generales, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.12 Sweden

The Swedish parliament, Riksdag, publishes committee assignments on their open data page [Link](#) (accessed 21 November 2024). We downloaded the .csv file that lists all committee assignments of MPs since 1991. Roles are recorded as deputy member ("Deputerad/Extra suppleant/Suppleant"), member ("Ledamot"), deputy chairperson ("Vice ordförande/Förste vice ordförande/Tredje vice ordförande/Andre vice ordförande"), chairperson ("Ordförande"). Unfortunately, the dataset records MP's party affiliation at the time of downloading, which would miss party changes between or within legislative periods. We collected data from Wikidata, which has the party affiliations of all Swedish MPs, including party changes. In cases where the exact date of a party change was unknown, we assumed the end of the year in case there was no election and the election date in years that had an election. We then replaced all party affiliations in the Riskdag document with those collected from Wikidata.

In total there are 9,243 positions in the Swedish dataset, which covers all legislative periods from 1991 to 2018, which was the last period completed before data collection.

B.13 United Kingdom

For the UK, data is available on the homepage of the UK parliament, which provides data for both Houses of parliament. One example can be found here: [Link](#), accessed 3 September 2025. Data goes back consistently until 1992 (before that, data is only available for those members that were also in parliament subsequently). We collect basic information (e.g. party affiliation) from the main page and committee/government assignments from the page "Parliamentary career". Dates of appointments are exact in most cases. In committees, MPs can either be members or chairpersons. For executive positions, we collect the positions of minister, deputy minister, minister of state, parliamentary secretary, and shadow minister. We also collect the position of spokesperson.

In total, there are 10,991 positions in the UK House of Commons dataset, ranging from 1992 to 2024.

B.14 United States

Data from the United States is based on the dataset "Congressional Committees, Modern Standing Committees, 103rd–115th Congresses" provided by Charles Stewart III and Jonathan Woon (Stewart and Woon, 2017) here: [Link](#), accessed 3 September 2025. The positions in the dataset were converted to be consistent with the CMD. We matched Wikidata identifiers to all names and collected the gender from Wikidata.

In total, there are 11,775 positions in the US House of Representatives and 5,357 positions in the US Senate dataset, ranging from the 103rd Congress (1993-1995) to the 115th Congress (2017-2019).