



Institute for
New Economic Thinking

ReplicationWiki - Improving Transparency in Economic Research

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University of Göttingen

[Beyond the Numbers Workshop](#), St. Louis

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“Research that cannot be replicated is not science, and cannot be trusted either as part of the profession’s accumulated body of knowledge or as a basis for policy.”
(McCullough/Vinod 2003)



Lack of

- replicable material
- replications

Incentives:

- publications
- avoid conflicts

Our suggestions:

- work with students
- wiki



Teaching cooperation

- University of Toronto
- University of Bonn
- German universities Marburg, Aachen, Gießen, Göttingen, Kassel & Siegen
- Graduate Institute, Geneva
- Nanjing Agricultural University

Findings from the teaching experience

- usually not every result published can be obtained from available material
- steps to go from raw data to those used for final analysis hardly ever available

Examples of why not all results can be replicated

- deviations in number of observations
- missing variables
- dataset unavailable in version used for publication → use DOI!
- software extensions unavailable
- code is missing
- insufficient documentation



Approach for the ReplicationWiki

<http://replication.uni-goettingen.de>

- database for more than 2,600 empirical studies, mainly from six journals with replication archives 2000-2013
- 324 replications found in the literature



Page Discussion

Read Edit View history

Welcome to Replication in Economics!

7,880 articles

- Replication in economics
- Journal policies

- Replication in economics
- Literature
- Links

Navigation

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Search:

Find one of 2,006 studies to replicate

Browse in 125 journals, 29 Working paper series & blogs and 17 books

Browse by methods, software used, JEL codes, keywords, authors, data type, geographical origin of data, and data source

Find one of 324 replications and 5 Corrections



Enter a new:

replication



This wiki serves as a database of empirical studies.

2 of 11

About the project

Join the project

You can join the project by entering a study that could be replicated. For the latter, you can also enter a study to be replicated. Furthermore, you can enter comments. Under current events, you can enter a new replication. The community portal lists open

Most recently added replications

- 19 October 2016: Impacts of Evidence from a Replication
- 13 October 2016: 'Nonlinear rate: A comparative study of Type 1 and Type 2) (Energy
- 12 October 2016: Do Powerf



Page [Discussion](#)

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Capital is back: Wealth-income ratios in rich countries, 1700- 2010 (G7)

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Article

Authors	Title	Journal	Year	Edition	Pages	JE
Thomas Piketty, Gabriel Zucman	Capital is back: Wealth-income ratios in rich countries, 1700- 2010 ↗	QJE	2014	3	1255-310	E10, E2, D33

Article information

Program code	Data	Readme	Method(s) & estimation	Data type	Data used	Or
2 - available online elsewhere than on journal website	2 - available online elsewhere than on journal website	2 - available online elsewhere than on journal website	-	-	published on author webpage: http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/fr/capitalisback ↗	G7, A

Replication of this study



US-centrism in the literature

of about 1500 studies with information on geographic origin of the data, nearly 900 from the US

UK 59, Canada 39, Italy 29, Sweden 24, Japan 23, China 22, Australia, Kenya and Spain 17, Norway 15, Switzerland 14, Israel 12, Russia six, South Africa five, Greece four



What the Wiki can and what it **cannot** serve for

it documents

- availability of replication material
- replications found in the literature

no judgement on
quality of studies or replications!

criteria how to categorize studies need to be
constantly improved



Advantages of wiki

- small contributions possible
- use talent of those who are good at improving existing research
- overview of replicability in economics

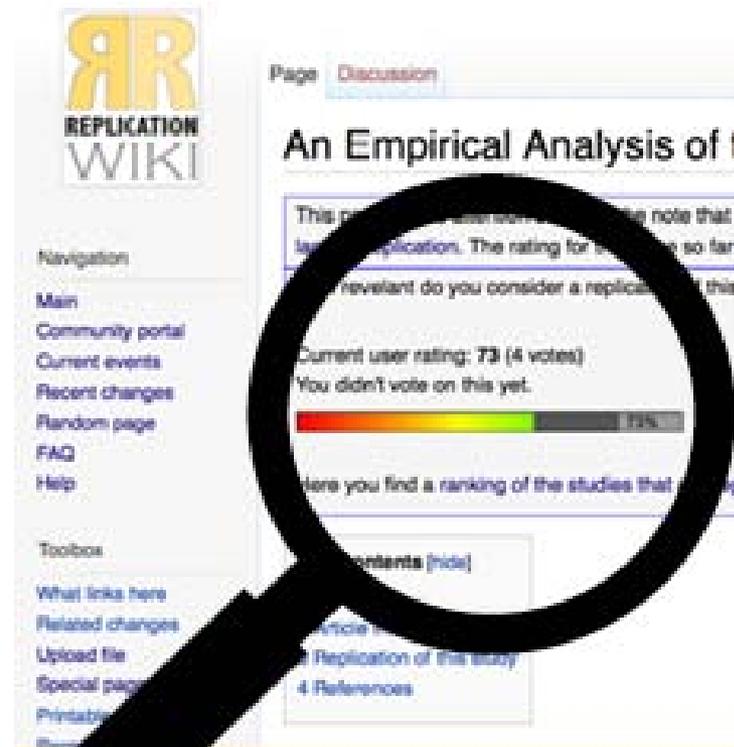


Usage of the Wiki

So far more than 1.8 million page views, 129 users

- several blogs and media outlets reported
- IDEAS/RePEc links back to study pages that link there
- listed among AEA useful resources for economists
- cited in handbooks and journals, also in political science and empirical law

**You can vote
which studies
should be
replicated**



How to get more users for the Wiki?

More content:

Expand the database:

all major journals with archives

lab experiments / theoretical studies /
business economics, other disciplines

Guidelines how to

prepare replicable material: project [TIER](#)
write replications ([3ie replication programme](#))

How to get more users for the Wiki?

endorsements of key players:

associations

influential researchers

join with other projects?



How to further improve transparency in social science research

- more comments, corrections,
retractions?

- replication editors?

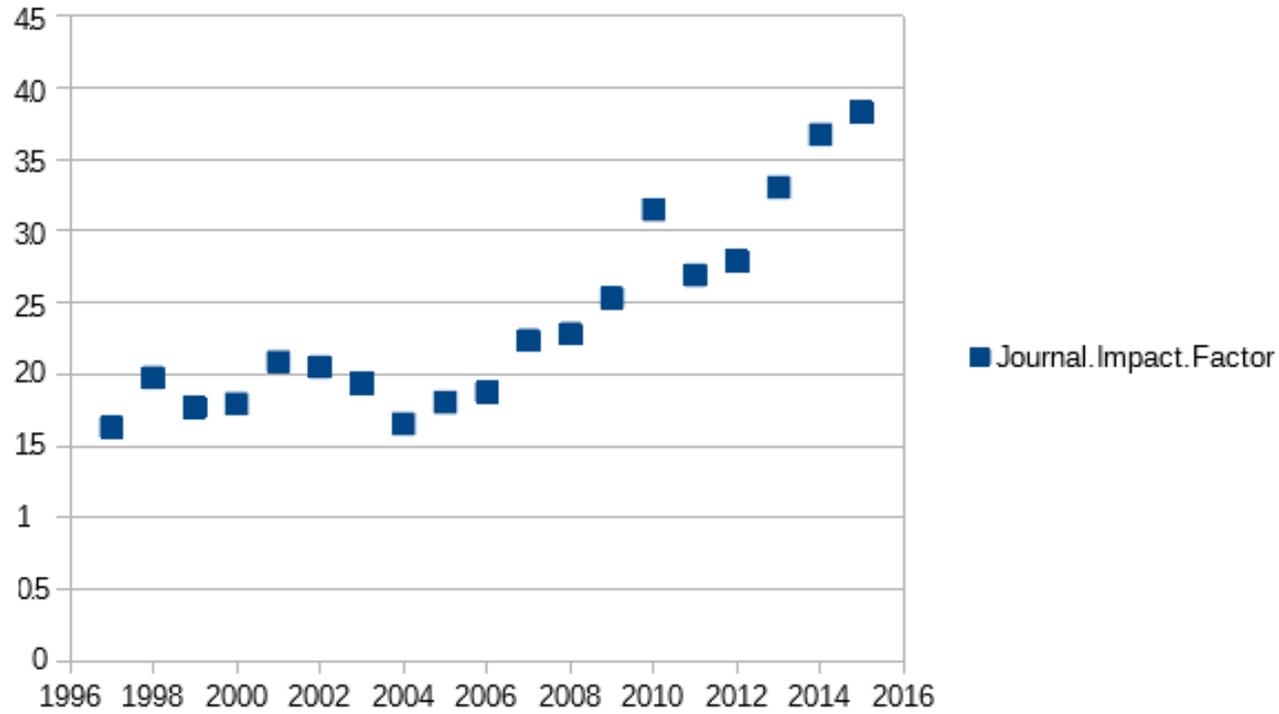
Political Science Replication Blog

Empirical Law



Journal Policies

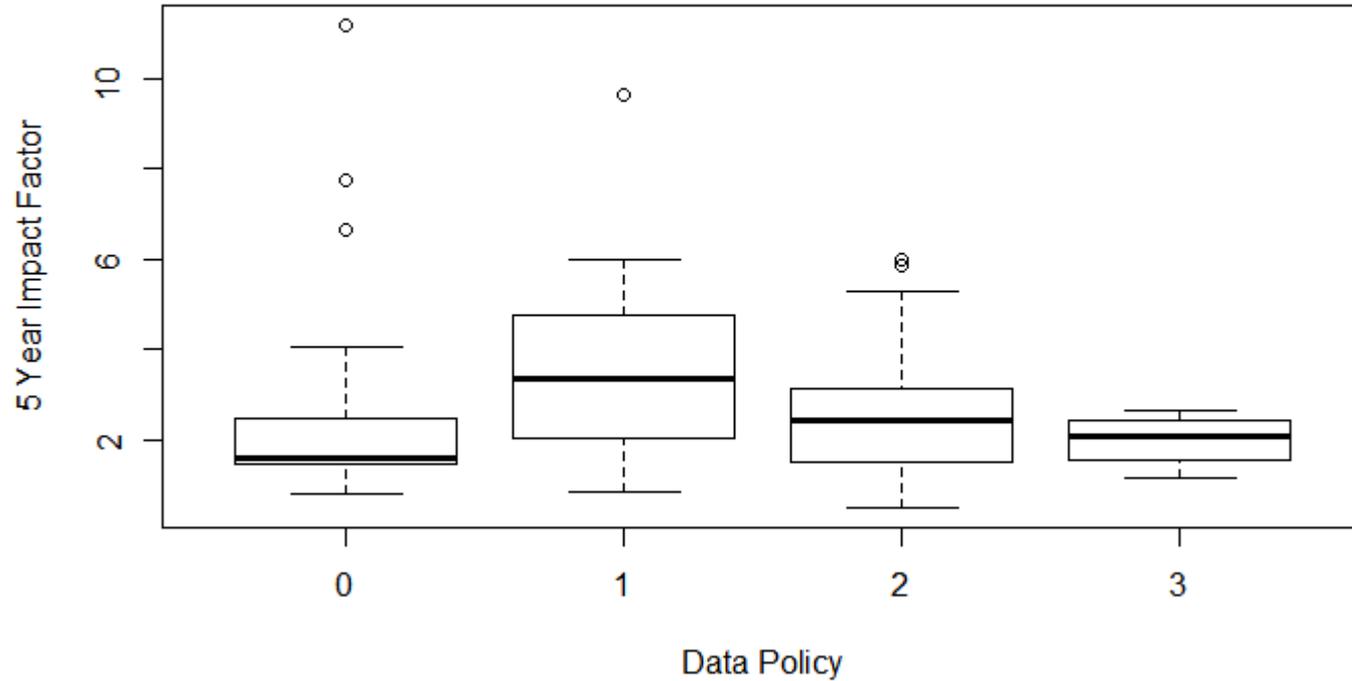
American Economic Review





Journal Policies

Data Policy vs. Impact Factor





Journal Policies

Regression analysis:
fixed effects model shows data policies
correlated with higher citation index

Conclusion and Outlook

data availability policies should be enforced

make them a universal standard

pools of replication editors could lower
organizational cost

everyone can be a part of it: [register & join!](#)