

Women's International Non-Governmental Organizations, 1950-2013

(Hughes, Paxton, Quinsaat, and Reith 2017)

DATA FILE:

Data on country-level memberships for women's international nongovernmental organizations (WINGOs) is saved in Excel format in a file named **WINGO_countryyears_2017release.xlsx**. Data are provided for 160 countries (with over 1 million population in 2000) for the following years: 1950, 1955, 1965, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013.

CITATION:

When using the data, please cite the dataset and an article that uses the data:

Hughes, Melanie M. Pamela Paxton, Sharon Quinsaat, and Nicholas Reith. 2017. *Women's International Nongovernmental Organizations, 1950-2013*. [Computer file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], <http://doi.org/10.3886/E100514V1>.

Hughes, Melanie M., Pamela Paxton, Sharon Quinsaat, and Nicholas Reith. Forthcoming. "Does the Global North Still Dominate the International Women's Movement? A Network Analysis of Women's International Nongovernmental Organizations, 1978-2008." *Mobilization*.

CODING DESCRIPTION:

Step I. Generate a list of Women's Organizations

We began with a list of Women's International Nongovernmental Organizations (WINGOs) created by Berkovitch (1999). However, this list only includes WINGOs that were founded between 1875 and 1985. We expanded upon and updated the list of organizations in several ways.

The main source of data on WINGOs are print volumes of the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (UIA 1950-2013) in our 12 selected years. The *Yearbook* is not a perfect census of all international organizations. As with most data of this type, it is likely to systematically underreport certain types of groups, especially those that are small, have fewer resources, and existed for only a short time. However, the *Yearbook* should capture the most visible and influential organizations.

To identify WINGOs, we started with the subject index for 'Women.' In 2013, the subject index for 'Women' was so large that it was not included in the print volume, so we contacted the publisher for a complete list. They provided a list of organizations classified under "Society/Women" in the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, Volume 3, 2014-2015, queried on January 29, 2015.

We found the UIA's subject index for 'Women' to be an imperfect tool for capturing WINGOs. First, the index often ignores groups that fit our definition but do not explicitly use the term "Women" in their title or aims. Therefore, we queried the Open Yearbook (<http://www.uia.org/ybio/>) for words associated with women's organizations but may not use the

word “woman” or “female.” Examples include “wife,” “wives,” “mother,” “gender,” “lesbian,” and “girl.”

Second, we found groups that we would not consider to be WINGOs listed in the subject index for “Women.” Increasingly, groups report women or girls as an important target of their efforts, but these efforts seem to be largely lip-service or represent marginal programming. To verify that UIA’s women’s organizations meet our definition of WINGOs, we read the descriptions of the organizations’ aims and activities, and we conducted internet searches of the organizations.

We define WINGOs as organizations with women as the primary or named membership, and/or that focus on serving women and/or girls. We did not include as WINGOs groups that focused mainly on another issue (e.g. aging or democracy) and said things like “especially targeting women.” As a specific example, consider Health Care Organization for Africa (HCOA) which is identified by UIA as a women’s organization. The main aim of the organization is to “provide health care to the poor.” Their activities include “medical and surgical service to the poor in rural areas of Nigeria,” and they assist “health institutions and specialist public health institutions to acquire appropriate equipment and consumables.” They list, too, that they promote the health and development of women and children. By our definition, HCOA is not a WINGO.

One set of groups that were difficult were reproductive health and gynecology organizations. Whether we included them depended on whether they articulated the desire to represent or help women. That is, professional associations of doctors that treat women and their bodies are not necessarily WINGOs.

Step II. Code Country-Level WINGO Memberships

Once we had as complete a list of WINGOs as possible, we hand coded country-level memberships for each organization using the *Yearbook*. For each year of data, we coded the presence or absence of each WINGO for every country. We then summed the number of memberships for each country during each coding year. This summary measure is captured in the Excel file as “**WINGO Raw**.”

We also created a second measure called “**WINGO Imputed**.” This measure addresses a problem, established in our prior work, with INGO counts for newly-sovereign countries as they enter the world system. Briefly, due to lags in the *Yearbook*, countries typically enter the world system with too few INGOs counted. The problem is especially acute in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s, when many newly-sovereign countries are recorded as having no INGO ties, which is unreasonable theoretically and empirically. For more information on the problem, see Reith, Paxton, Hughes, and Cole (2017). The general INGO problem appears for WINGO counts as well.

To address this problem we generated a mixed-effects (multi-level) Poisson prediction of the number of country memberships to be imputed for WINGOs (and WINGOs to be imputed for countries), interpolated based on their previous and following membership counts. So for example, if a WINGO was missing country members in 1983 but had 13 country members in 1978 and 15 country members in 1988, it is likely that the number of memberships to be imputed for that WINGO in 1983 would be around 14. This mixed-effects model further incorporates the overall growth in membership counts for all WINGOs into the prediction, and we manually set

an upper limit on the predicted number of ties, such that it cannot exceed the maximum number of ties in that year for the most connected WINGO, in order to ensure predictions remain within the upper bounds of our data. The imputation procedure is complicated. Please see Reith, Paxton, and Hughes (2016) for a detailed description of the imputation procedure.

Reith, Nicholas, Pamela Paxton, and Melanie M. Hughes. 2016. "Building Cross-National, Longitudinal Datasets: Issues and Strategies for Implementation." *International Journal of Sociology* 46(1):21–41.

Reith, Nicholas, Pamela Paxton, Melanie Hughes, and Wade Cole. N.d. "Entering the World Polity: Sovereignty and Corrected INGO Counts." Unpublished manuscript.

LIST OF VARIABLES:

WINGO Counts

Country Abbrev	Country Abbreviation
Year	Year
WINGO Raw	Sum of WINGOs in Country
WINGO Imputed	Sum of WINGOs in Country, Adjusted
Start Sovereign	First Year of Independence
End Sovereign	Last Year of Independence

Country IDs

Country Name	Country Name
UNCC	UN Country Code
ISO	ISO Alpha-3
COW	Correlates of War Country ID

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

For further questions or concerns regarding the use of this data, contact:

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