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RELEASE OF THE 1998 ELECTION STUDY

The 1998 Election Study dataset was released through the NES web site in early March and is now also available through the ICPSR. Due to the efforts of NES and SRC staff this release occurred six weeks earlier than the normal release date. Substantive themes of the 1998 Election Study (among others) include knowledge and evaluation of the House candidates and placement of the candidates on various issue dimensions; interest in the political campaigns; attentiveness to the media's coverage of the campaign, media use, evaluation of the mass media; vote choice; partisanship and evaluations of the political parties and party system; political participation; political mobilization; evaluations of the president and congress; questions relating to the "Lewinsky affair," egalitarianism; moral traditionalism; political trust; political efficacy; ideology; cultural pluralism; political knowledge; attitudes toward a wide range of issues, including social policy, race policy, military and foreign policy, immigration, foreign imports, prayer in school, school vouchers, the environment, the death penalty, women's rights, and abortion; religion and politics, including new measures of explicitly political religious orientations; plus demographic information. For more information and access to the data, see www.umich.edu/~nes/resources/studies/98study.htm.

DEATH OF WARREN MILLER

All of us associated with NES note with great sadness the recent death of Warren Miller, our colleague, friend, and for many of us, mentor. Warren began his association with NES with the 1952 study, became its guiding light, and shepherded its transformation from the "Michigan Election Studies" to the "National Election Studies" after 1977. He was active in NES up to the very end. The release of the 1998 Election Study, announced above, has its poignancy: it is the last of the election studies with which he will have been directly associated. All of us at NES extend our good wishes to Warren's many friends and especially, to his family.

A series of memorial events involving NES will occur at the **American Political Science Association** meetings this September in Atlanta, most likely on the Friday afternoon of the conference. NES will co-sponsor a session, chaired by Tom Mann, that will focus on electoral research inspired by Warren's work.

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Death of Warren Miller, continued from page 1

Papers will be presented by Larry Bartels; Virginia Sapiro; Merrill Shanks and Doug Strand, authored with Warren Miller; and Jacques Thomassen.

Discussants include Philip Converse and David Legee. The next conference session will be a memorial celebration of Warren Miller. Finally, NES and the APSA Organized Section on Elections and Public Opinion will co-sponsor a reception.

STAYING IN TOUCH: THE NES WEB SITE

NES staff have been hard at work revising and updating the NES web site (www.umich.edu/~nes). The most recent NES datasets and associated resources are available for free downloading. Among the updated resources that should be especially useful to many people in the NES research community: *The NES Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior* provides access to tables and graphs that display the ebb and flow of public opinion and electoral behavior and choice in American Politics since 1952; and *The NES Bibliography*, expanded and updated to include about 3,000 entries, lists all of the books, articles, papers, and publications of which we are aware that use NES data. Each entry includes a reference to the datasets used. There is also a form available to anyone to submit citations that should be added to the *Bibliography*. Also, now, for the first time, all NES technical reports and Pilot Study reports are online in full text. On average, the NES web site is "hit" by 3600 individuals every month, viewing a cumulative total of 32,455 web documents.

RELEASE OF THE 1998 PILOT STUDY

NES has long used "off-years" to run Pilot Studies, research and development surveys that offer laboratories for testing proposed improvements in the election studies. In 1998 for the first time, NES ran a Pilot Study during an election year in an effort to examine and evaluate aspects of NES instruments that can only be tested adequately in proximity to an election. The main themes of this study revolve around gaining leverage on examining the effects of electoral campaigns on the mass public so that they may assist the development of the 2000 Election Study. In order to do this, the 1998 Pilot Study focused on gubernatorial races in three states (California, Georgia, and Illinois). These data were released in late March through the NES web site; the data and related resources are available at www.umich.edu/~nes/resources/studies/98pilot.htm.

NEW DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

We are very pleased to announce that as of March 1999, NES has a new Director of Studies. Ashley Grosse comes to us with a background in academic survey research, a position with Voter News Service and doctoral studies in electoral behavior at Washington State University. Her dissertation focuses upon gender effects in party realignment. While in graduate school, Ashley worked as Study Director at the Social and Economic Science Research center at Washington State University. Her experience in survey research has fostered her interests in mode effects and non-response issues. You can contact her at agrosse@umich.edu.

APSA MEETING IN ATLANTA AND NES EVENTS

There are several NES events scheduled for the APSA, including those described above in honor of Warren Miller. Please join us. Times may change, please check your schedule:

1:30pm Friday, Sept. 3

NES co-sponsored panel on electoral studies

3:30pm Friday, Sept. 3

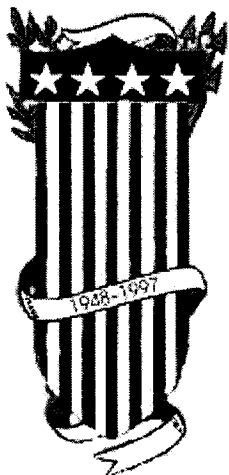
NES roundtable devoted to Miller Memorial

5:30pm Friday, Sept. 3

NES co-sponsored reception

Poster Session, time to be announced

RELEASE OF THE NES 1948-1997 CD-ROM



The NES CD-ROM provides convenient and immediate access to 50 years of data on voting, public opinion and electoral participation in the United States. The CD contains:

- ◆ 45 datasets with over 50,000 survey questions and related variables
- ◆ NES time-series studies (1948 to 1996)
- ◆ All NES pilot studies (1979 to 1997)
- ◆ All NES panel studies and other special studies
- ◆ The 1948-1996 Cumulative Data File (600 variables for 41,627 cases)
- ◆ *The NES Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior*, providing 120 pre-run tables and graphs, displaying the ebb and flow of public opinion and electoral behavior and choice since 1952. Each table is presented in summary format, as well as by ten sets of demographic variables.
- ◆ Questionnaires for most studies
- ◆ NESstat, a unique front-end software package designed to facilitate basic, but integrated, data exploration of the 50 year NES archive.

RELEASE OF THE FIRST DATASET FROM THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS



NES is one of over 50 collaborators around the world producing cross-national electoral studies for the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES), a project in which national election studies incorporate a cooperatively-developed 10-minute common module of questions into their national election surveys, and complement this with a common core of macro-data. The Secretariat of CSES, which is responsible for much of the logistical coordination as well as final data management, is housed in Ann Arbor, with NES. We are pleased to announce that a first merged dataset of CSES micro-level data is available now. Data from the following countries are available for analysis: Australia, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine, USA. In order to access the data and documentation, please visit www.umich.edu/~nes/cses/study/csesdata.htm. Further releases will occur in the coming months. We urge you to read the codebook introduction and notes carefully for important information about this dataset.

KEEPING THINGS STRAIGHT: DATA VERSION NUMBERS

In response to suggestions from members of the research community, NES recently implemented a new "version identification" system designed to make it easier to know if you have the most up-to-date version of an NES dataset. This system is built around version "tags" on the components of the NES datasets (where the components are data files, data definition files and codebook files) and a central version ID table on the NES web site with notes explaining any version changes. By comparing the version number found on your dataset component file (e.g. the raw ASCII data file) against the latest version number for that file as found on the version ID table, you can verify if your copy is up-to-date. For more information see www.umich.edu/~nes/errata/version.htm.



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In This Issue...

News about 3 dataset releases

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you have comments, suggestions, or queries on news items included here or on other matters related to NES, feel free to contact:

*Watch for news
about the 2000
election study*

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