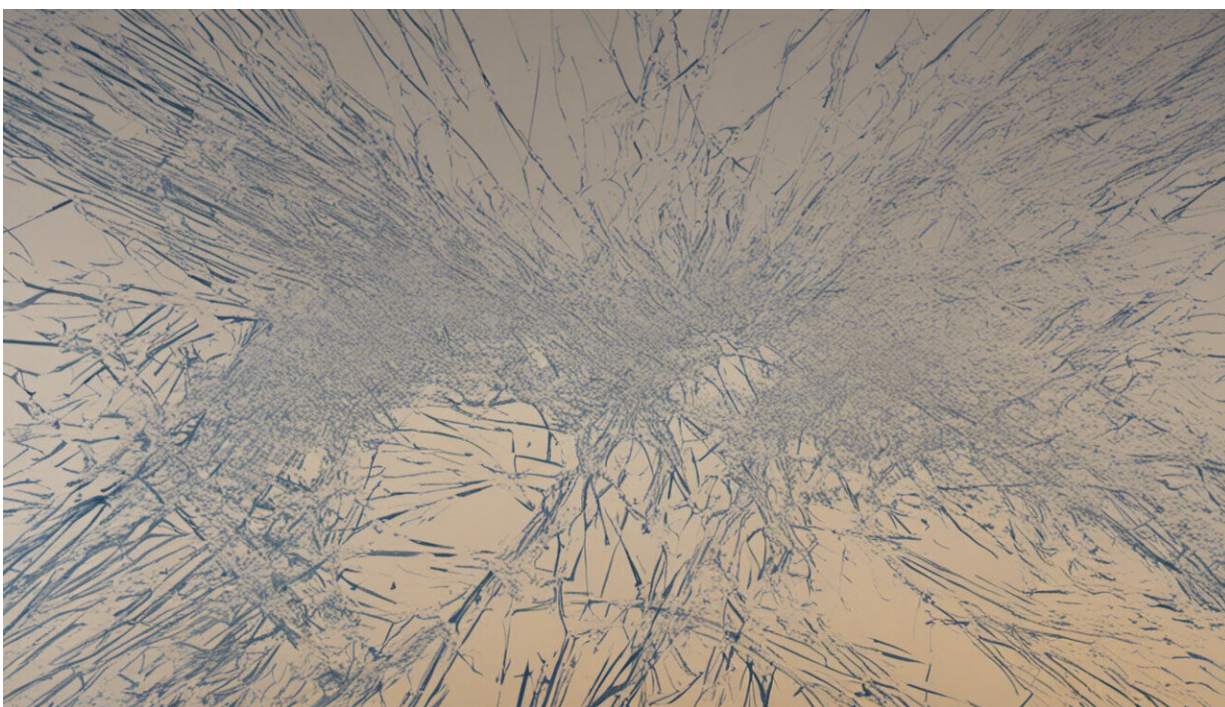


# New data provides scholars insight into foreign-policy changes during leadership transition

March 31 2016

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Credit: AI-generated image ([disclaimer](#))

A new dataset from researchers at Rice University and the University of California-Berkeley will allow international relations scholars to study the extent to which different types of foreign-policy change are associated with different types of leader transitions within countries.

Ashley Leeds, a professor of political [science](#) at Rice, and Michaela Mattes, a professor of [political science](#) at the University of California-Berkeley, developed the Change in Source of Leader Support ([CHISOLS](#)) dataset, which was introduced in a recent article in the *Journal of Peace Research*. The dataset covers all 169 [countries](#) with a population of more than 500,000 and 2,412 leaders from 1919 to 2008.

CHISOLS identifies which leadership changes within countries bring to power a new leader whose primary support is drawn from different societal groups than those that supported a predecessor.

"This dataset will allow us to investigate the extent to which foreign-policy change is influenced by the domestic political interests of societal groups that bring leaders to power and help them to maintain [power](#)," Leeds said.

Leeds and Mattes hope that research using this new dataset will help academics better predict changes in foreign policy and understand institutional factors that help maintain foreign-policy consistency in light of domestic political change.

The data collection was supported by National Science Foundation grant SES-0921781 "Collaborative Research: Interests, Institutions and Foreign Policy Change." The database is available online at [www.chisols.org/](http://www.chisols.org/).

**More information:** M. Mattes et al. Measuring change in source of leader support: The CHISOLS dataset, *Journal of Peace Research* (2016). [DOI: 10.1177/0022343315625760](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343315625760)

Provided by Rice University

Citation: New data provides scholars insight into foreign-policy changes during leadership transition (2016, March 31) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-03-scholars-insight-foreign-policy-leadership-transition.html>

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