Understanding the Campus Expression Climate

Supporting Documentation: Codebook

Fall 2020

Introduction

This codebook helps researchers analyze data from Heterodox Academy's Fall 2020 administration of the Campus Expression Survey (CES). Please see heterodoxacademy.org for Campus Expression Climate: Fall 2020. This document includes four tables, each of which provides variable names, as they appear in the available CES Fall 2020 data (.csv file), along with their corresponding survey items and response options.

Table 1 includes items from the CES Core Module, which asks students how comfortable or reluctant they are expressing their views on a noncontroversial topic and five potentially controversial topics (i.e., gender, politics, race, religion, and sexuality orientation) during a classroom discussion. These questions were slightly reworded for 2020 to be applicable to both in-person and online classroom discussions. Students who responded that they were "somewhat reluctant" or "very reluctant" to express their views on any of these controversial topics then answered an additional question, indicating the consequences about which they were concerned if they expressed their views on any controversial topic. This way of asking about the consequences of discussing controversial topics is different than in the Fall 2019 administration, which asked about such consequences for each core topic that a respondent expressed reluctance to discuss.

Table 2 includes two items that ask students how comfortable or reluctant they are expressing their views on two specific controversial issues relevant in 2020, which were Black Lives Matter and the Fall 2020 Presidential Election.

Table 3 includes items from the Viewpoint Diversity Module, which asks students about their perception of viewpoint diversity on their campuses. It also included some questions about how the Fall 2020 semester may have been different than previous years (for non-freshmen only).

campus expression survey

Table 4 includes demographic items that were at the end of the Fall 2020 Campus Expression Survey and some questions specific to the Fall 2020 semester (e.g., whether their classes were primarily online or in-person).

Heterodox Academy invites researchers, journalists, and others to explore and interact with these data, which can inform national conversations about the state of open inquiry and constructive disagreement in higher education.

Table 1. Core Module

Variable Name	Variable Label	Value Labels
gender_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about GENDER in a class this semester. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
politics_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about POLITICS in a class this semester. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
race_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about RACE OR ETHNICITY in a class this semester. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
religion_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about RELIGION in a class this semester. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
sexual.orientation_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about SEXUAL ORIENTATION in a class this semester. How	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.

		comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
noncontroversial_discuss		Think about discussing a NON-CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC in a class this semester. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
consequences[1]		You indicated you were somewhat or very reluctant to express your views on at least one controversial issue. If you were to speak up and give your views on one of the CONTROVERSIAL issues during a class discussion, would you be concerned that any of the following would happen? (Select all that apply.)	Other students would criticize my views as offensive. The professor would say my views are wrong. The professor would criticize my views as offensive. The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views. Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media. Someone would file a complaint claiming my views violated a campus harassment policy. I would cause others psychological harm. Other concerns or consequences? Please list below.

[1] This question was only for participants who endorsed reluctance to discuss at least one of the controversial topics above. Observations for which this variable is blank are so because their respondents did not endorse reluctance to discuss any of these topics, and therefore did not see this question. This variable was "check all" and therefore includes all selected responses separated by commas.

Table 2. Specific Controversial Issues in 2020

Variable Name	Variable Label	Value Labels
election_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.
blm_discuss	Think about discussing a controversial issue about THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?	I would be very comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views. I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views. I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Table 3. Viewpoint Diversity Module 2020

Variable Name	Variable Label	Value Labels
views.encouraged_campus	How often does your college/university encourage students to consider a wider variety of viewpoints and perspectives?	Very frequently Frequently Occasionally Rarely Very rarely Never
free.expression_campus	The climate on my campus prevents some people from saying things they believe because others might find them offensive.	Strongly agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

share.ideas_2020	"Share ideas and ask questions without fear of retaliation, even when those ideas are offensive to some people." Compared to previous semesters, in Fall 2020...	This is much easier now. This is somewhat easier now. This stayed the same. This is somewhat more difficult now. This is much more difficult now.
viewpoint_2020	"Regardless of viewpoint, everyone is treated as valued contributors to conversations." Compared to previous semesters, in Fall 2020...	This is much easier now. This is somewhat easier now. This stayed the same. This is somewhat more difficult now. This is much more difficult now.
welcoming_2020	"Welcoming students with a lot of different points of view." Compared to previous semesters, in Fall 2020...	This is much easier now. This is somewhat easier now. This stayed the same. This is somewhat more difficult now. This is much more difficult now.

Table 4. Demographic Items

Variable Name	Variable Label	Value Labels
academic.year_demo	What is your current year of study?	First year (Freshman) Second year (Sophomore) Third year (Junior) Fourth year (Senior) Fifth year or more (Senior) Prefer not to say

age_demo	How old are you?	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 or older
school_demo	Is your college or university public or private?	Public university Private university I don't know
academic.area_demo	What is your primary academic area of study?	Arts Biological Science Business Education Engineering Health Profession Humanities Mathematics/Statistics Religion/Theology Physical Science Social Science Something else [Open-ended response] Prefer not to say
gender_demo	What gender do you identify as?	Male Female Non-binary/non-conforming Prefer not to say None of the above; we invite you to self-identify

race_demo[1]	How do you describe your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply	White Hispanic/Latinx Black Asian Middle Eastern Multiracial None of the above; we invite you to self-identify Prefer not to say
sexual.orientation_demo	Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?	Straight or heterosexual Gay or lesbian Bisexual Asexual None of the above; we invite you to self-identify Prefer not to say
political.party_demo	Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, a Libertarian, or none of these?	Republican Democrat Independent Libertarian None of the above; we invite you to self-identify Haven't thought much about this Prefer not to say
religion_demo	How do you describe your religious beliefs?	Agnostic Atheist Buddhist Christian Hindu Jewish Muslim None of the above; we invite you to self-identify Prefer not to say

enrolment_demo	What is your current enrollment status?	Full-time student Part-time student Neither of the above
region_demo[2]	What region of the country is your college or university located in?	Midwest Northeast South West
online_2020	Which of the following best describes your current Fall 2020 semester?	Fully in-person Primarily in-person Roughly equal portions of in-person and online classes Primarily online Fully online Other
lonely_2020	How often do you feel psychologically isolated from others?	Hardly ever Some of the time Often

[1] This variable has been manipulated for analysis purposes due to its 'select all' nature. Selections that were too few to include in analyses included American Indian or Alaska Native.

[2] The response options for this question included the specific states that comprise each of these regions.
Midwest = Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin)
Northeast = Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont)
South = South (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia)
West = West (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)