

Academic Research on EMB Independence

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Electoral Integrity Project

The Electoral Integrity Project



How and when do elections fail-
throughout the electoral cycle?

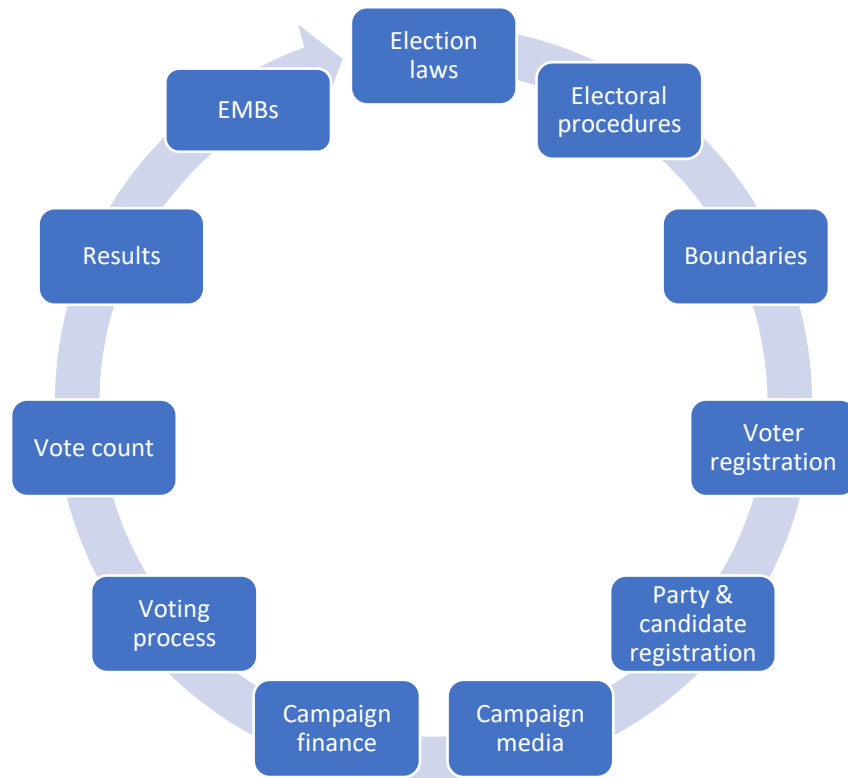


What are the consequences of failed
elections, such as for security,
accessibility and trust?



What can be done to mitigate these
problems, based on academic
evidence?

Perceptions of Electoral Integrity Index



Download the data:

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/PEI>

Download the report:

<https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com/reports>



Electoral Integrity Project

Electoral Integrity Global Report 2023

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PEI 9.0

www.ElectoralIntegrityProject.com

July 2023

Traditional conceptions of EMB independence

- Typology developed by López-Pintor (2000).
- International IDEA Electoral Management Dataset/Handbook (2006) provided data on countries.
- Dichotomous measure of independence
 - Independence electoral management body
 - Governmental
 - Mixed
- Early studies showed dichotomous measure had mixed effects on election quality:
 - Birch 2011, Norris 2015, Birch and Van Ham 2017; Hartlyn et al. 2008; Gazibo 2006; van Ham and Lindberg 2015.



Expert based datasets

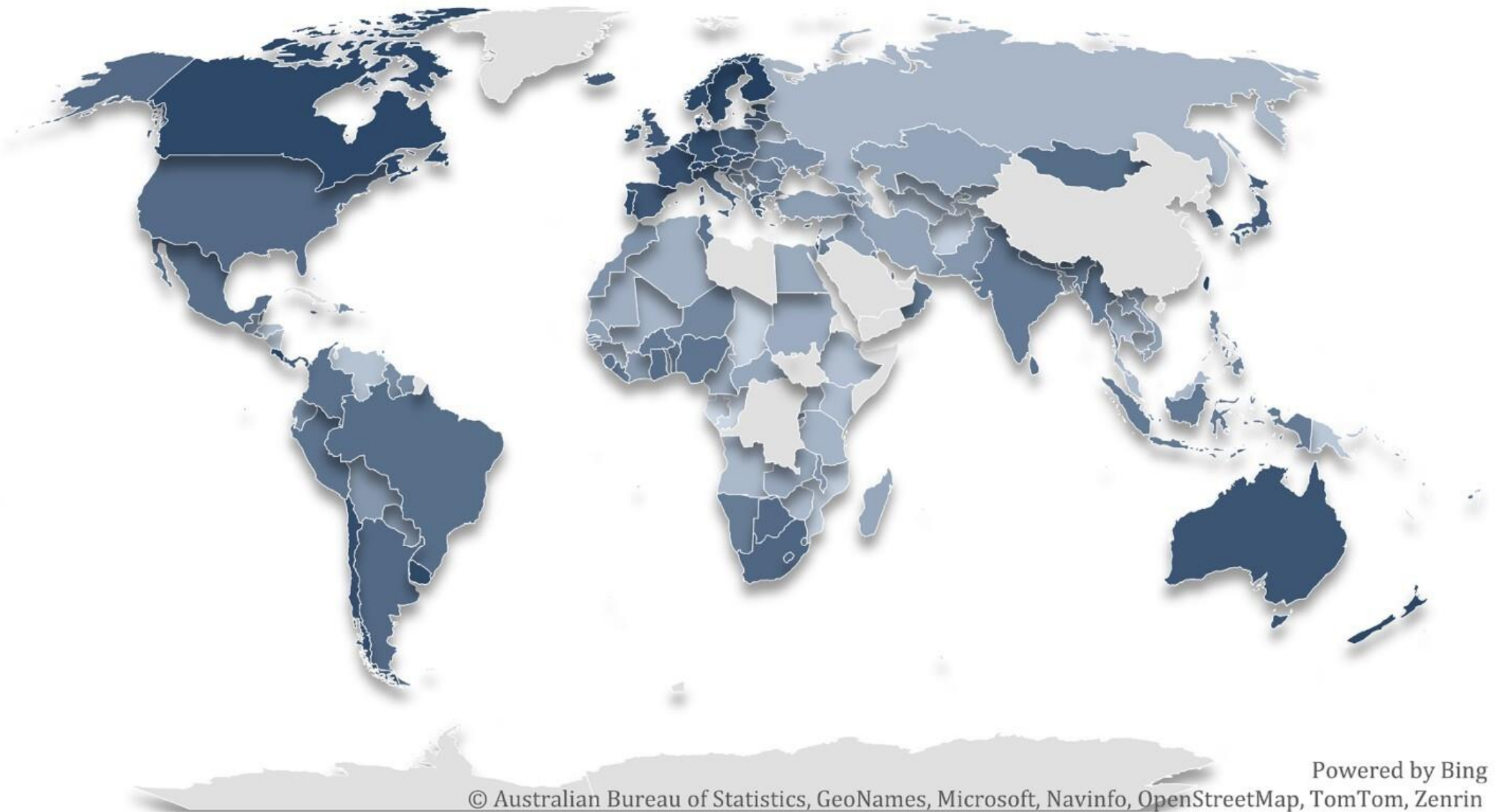


Expert datasets

- Varieties of Democracy Dataset
 - Expert base survey of election quality for countries from 1789-2023
 - Includes questions on:
 - EMB independence (Scale 0-1)
 - EMB capacity (Scale 0-1)

Perceptions of Electoral Integrity 2012-2022 (1-5 scale)

- Elections were well-managed
- Information about voting procedures was widely available
- Election officials were fair
- Elections were conducted in accordance with the law
- The election authorities were impartial
- The authorities distributed information to citizens
- The authorities allowed public scrutiny of their performance
- The election authorities performed well.



Electoral Management Quality



0.16

0.96



EMB Surveys



The EMS 1.0 survey

- Electoral Management Survey 1.0 undertaken in collaboration with Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and A-WEB.
- Data collected on 78 organizations in 72 countries
- Collected: July 2016 to October 2017.
- Data available:
<https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com/electoralmanagementsurvey>
- Analysis showed that de jure independence affected de facto independence.

Table 1. Mapping dimensions of formal EMB independence.

Dimensions of EMB de jure independence	Indicators
Institutional independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMB independence from politics formally stated in electoral laws or constitution? • EMB decisions can be overturned, and if yes, by whom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMB accountable to whom?
Personnel independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who selects EMB members? • EMB members selected based on expertise or partisanship or both? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term length of EMB members? • Can EMB members be reappointed? • Can EMB members be removed, and if so, by whom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection against arbitrary removal? • Provisions compatibility with other public offices?
Financial independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is EMB budget allocated? • Who allocates EMB budget? • EMB control over budget? • EMB control over internal organization and staff?
Functional independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of competences delegated to EMB? • How many other organizations involved in organizing, monitoring and certifying elections?

EMS 3.0

- Survey of EMBs designed in collaboration with partners including International IDEA, IFES, Carter Center, and other organisations.
- Aim: to move towards a regular, single combined survey covering multiple stakeholder needs
- Rolled out Jan-April 2024
- Results and Data: Summer 2024
- 16 Responses so far
- Landing page:
<https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com/electoralmanagementsurvey>



Beyond legal measures



EMB Independence through an Electoral Governance Lens

- Electoral Governance Approach (James 2020; James and Matlosa (forthcoming)), also Garnett (2022).
- Assumptions:
 - There can be multiple organisations and organisational types:
 - Who contribute towards delivery
 - Who attempt to shape policy and delivery
 - Independence is also dynamic and political concept: involves deploying strategies and tactics in response to situations
- Research questions:
 - Delivery partners: Who are the delivery partners?
 - Policy influencers: Who are seeking to shape policy?
 - Contestation: Is there agreement or disagreement about implementation?
 - Power diffusion: What resources and strategies are used? What are available? What works to defend de facto independence?
- Consequences:
 - Is there a need for an EMB independence 'playbook'?



Conclusions



Key messages

- Academic research on independence has grown and is growing!
- Data is increasingly available
- Are additional PEI questions on independence?
- Your support promoting the EMS would be invaluable
- Value in seeing independence in both political and institutional terms:
an EMB playbook to respond to the autocrats playbook?

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Thank you



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