

Motivation

- ▶ Purges are a conceptually distinct form of political repression.
 - ▶ Repression of opposition elites
 - ▶ Used in literature as indicator of repression
- ▶ Cross-National Time Series (CNTS) Data Archive.
 - ▶ Most widely used measure of political purges
 - ▶ No way to validate without anything to compare against
 - ▶ Uses New York Times, other sources unclear

Goals

- ▶ **Replicate**
 - ▶ Replicate CNTS using original coding rules
 - ▶ Collect theoretically relevant additional info
- ▶ **Validate**
 - ▶ How accurate is CNTS purge measure?
 - ▶ Where does it fall short?
 - ▶ How can it be improved?
- ▶ **Extend**
 - ▶ Military / non-military purges
 - ▶ Method of purge: killed, fired, exiled, jailed
 - ▶ Estimated number of victims
 - ▶ Expanded sources
 - ▶ The New York Times
 - ▶ The Associated Press
 - ▶ Agence France-Presse

How Different is Our Measure?

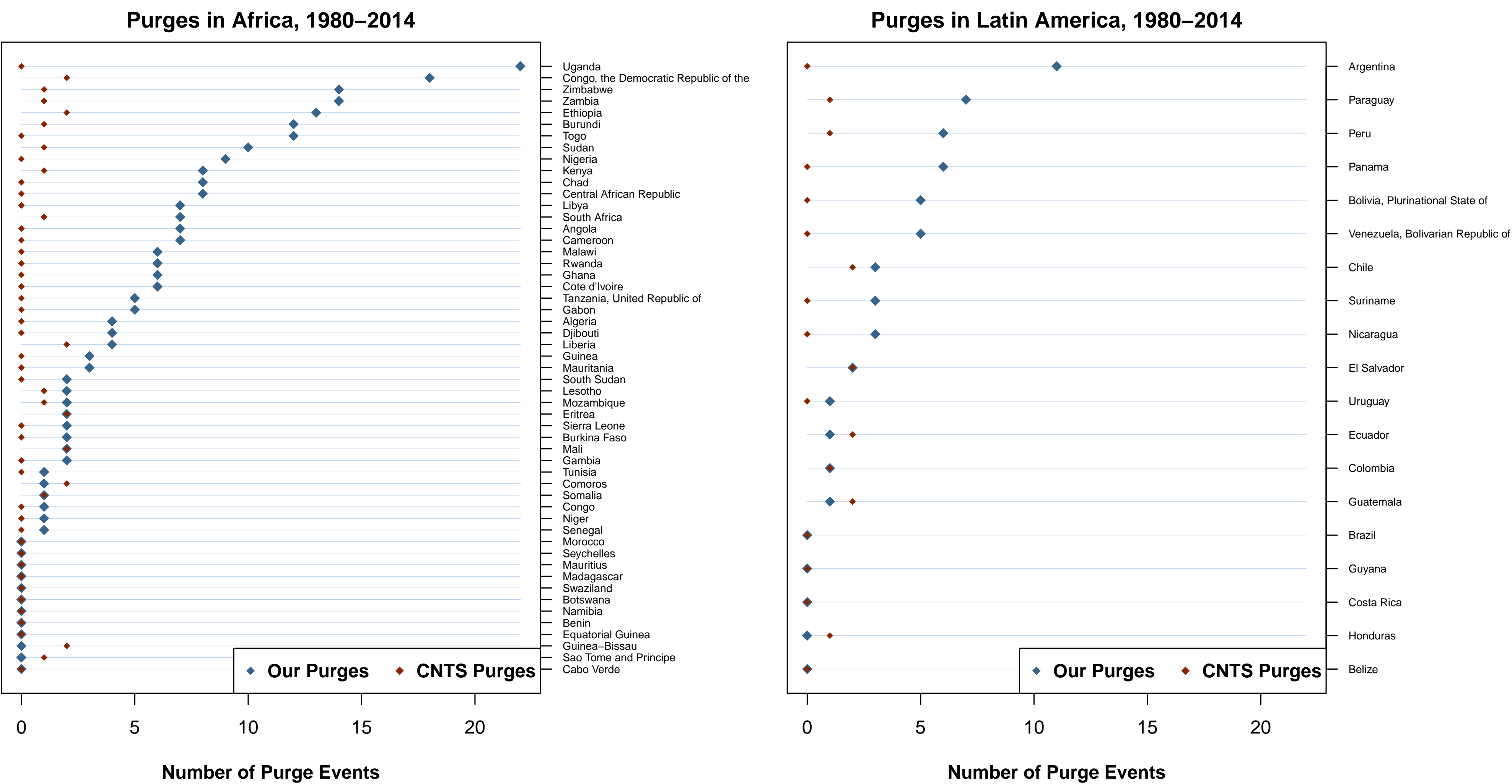


Figure: Absolute number of purges recorded by country.

CNTS Source: Banks, Arthur S., and Kenneth A. Wilson. (2015). Cross-National Time-Series Data Archive. Databanks International. Jerusalem, Israel; see <http://www.databanksinternational.com>

Where is Our Measure Different?

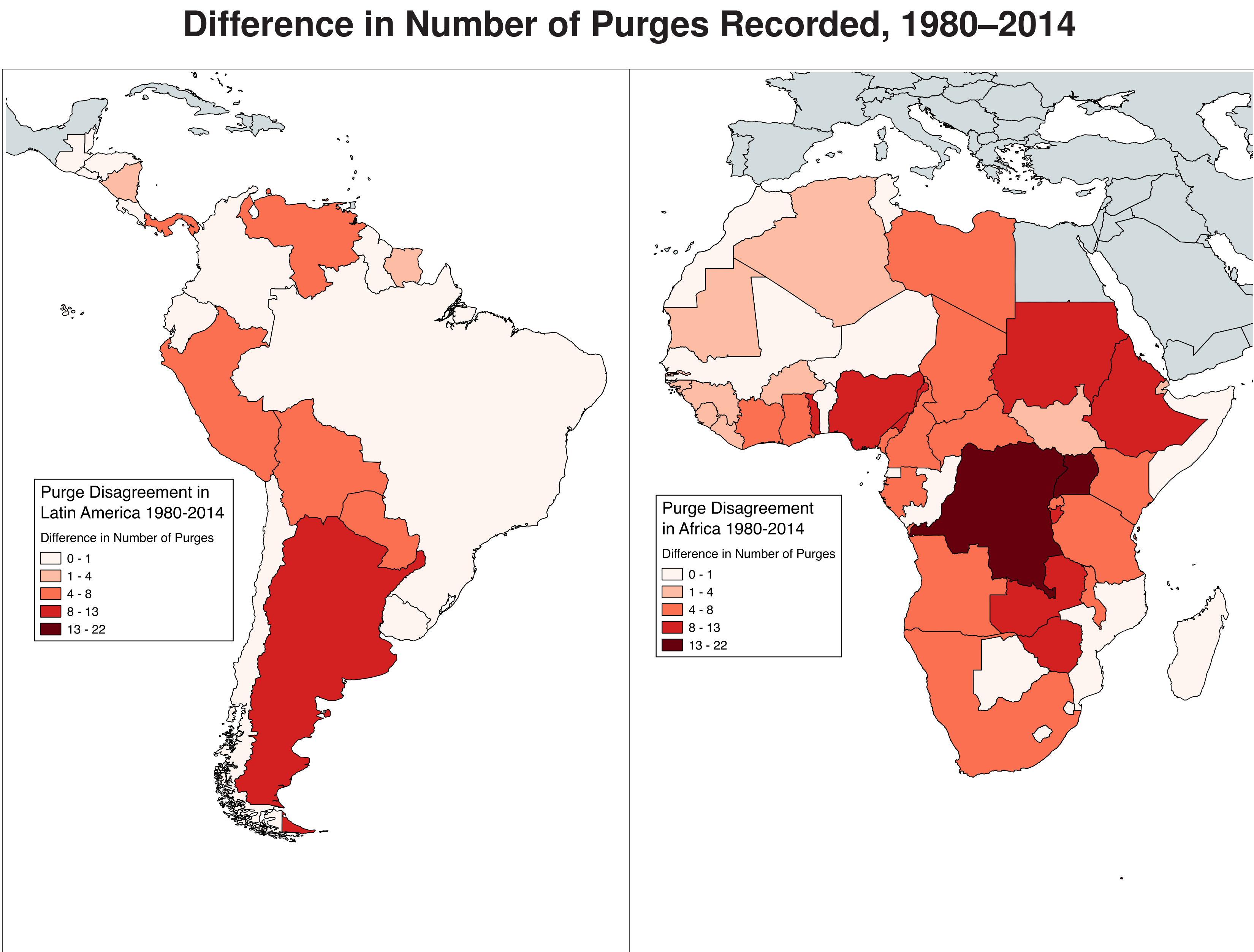


Figure: Absolute difference in number of purges between the CNTS measure and our replicated measure, 1980–2014.

Shapefile Source: Weidmann, Nils B., Doreen Kuse, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2010. "The Geography of the International System: The CShapes Dataset." *International Interactions* 36(1).

Convergent Validity

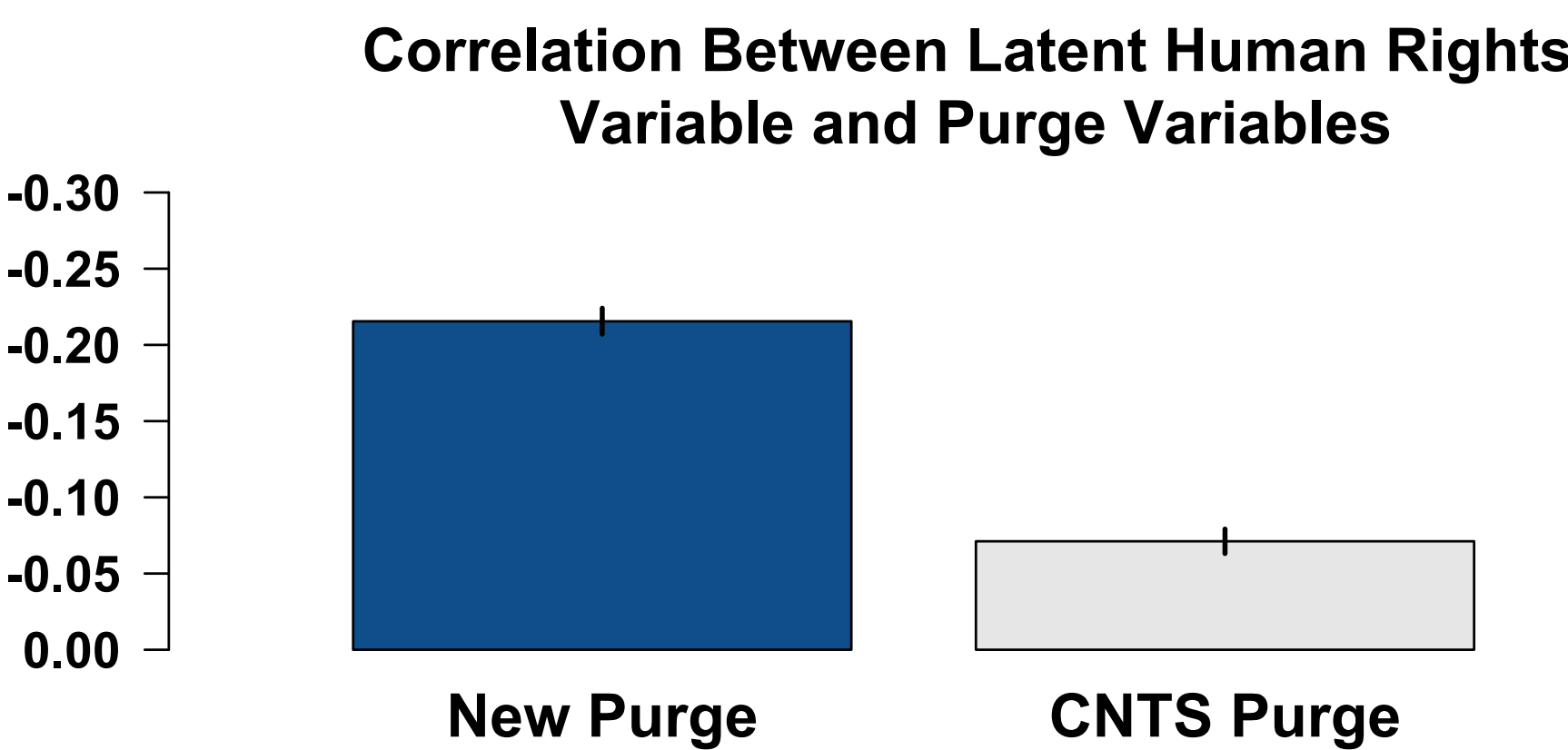


Figure: The new purge variable is substantially more correlated with a measure of the underlying theoretical concept — human rights — than the CNTS purge variable (n=2,424 cases coded so far).

Human Rights Latent Variable Source: Fariss, Christopher J. 2014. "Respect for Human Rights has Improved Over Time: Modeling the Changing Standard of Accountability." *American Political Science Review* 108(2).

Discussion

- ▶ Our new measure captures more variation between states.
- ▶ Our measure shows a stronger theoretically expected correlation with human rights.
- ▶ We incorporate additional news sources, reducing bias in coverage.