

“I Want to Break Free”: How Laws and Social Norms Open Doors for Women – A Literature Review

Replication Package - README

The following Readme file explains in detail how to obtain the raw databases, and how to run the DoFiles that create the main databases used and replicate the paper graphs. The document is organized in 3 parts:

1. **Replication Package Files** – describes the folders of the replication package.
2. **Replication** – explains how to run the do-files that reproduce the graphs in the paper.
3. **Raw Databases** – explains how to set up the raw data.
4. **Data Availability Statement** – describes raw data availability.

Any third party can run the code by modifying the folder path.

1. Replication Package Files:

The replication folder contains three main subfolders:

1. **Data**
 - **01 Raw Data:** this subfolder contains the raw data exactly as downloaded from the original sources/websites.
 - **02 Use Data:** this subfolder contains the final datasets used for analysis and graph replication.
2. **Dofiles**
 - **00 Master Dofile.do:** this dofile sets all required global paths and runs the scripts below.
 - **01 Data Consolidation.do:** this dofile consolidates the final databases from the raw and intermediate data.
 - **02 Graphs.do:** this dofile generates the graphs presented in the paper.
3. **Graphs:** This subfolder contains the paper graphs (.png files) generated by the dofiles.

2. Replication:

To replicate the graphs of the paper:

- Open the do-file “**00 Master Dofile.do**” located in the *Dofiles* folder.
- Update the file path on **line 29** in “**00 Master Dofile.do**” to the directory where you saved the **Replication Package** folder.
- Run the entire “**00 Master Dofile.do**”.
- The output will be saved automatically in the following locations:
 - Final datasets → **02 Use Data**
 - Final graphs → **Graphs** folder, saved under the following names:

Table 1. Summary of graphs

Graph	File name	Final database used
Figure 1.1.a. Women’s labor force participation and WBL Index	<i>Fig_1_A_scatter_wbl_flfp.png</i>	<i>WBL_WDI_WVS.dta</i>
Figure 1.1.b. Beliefs against women’s economic participation and WBL Index	<i>Fig_1_B_scatter_wbl_wvsNorm.png</i>	<i>WBL_WDI_WVS.dta</i>
Figure 3.1. Average WBL legal frameworks topic scores, 1970–2023	<i>Fig_2_trend_wbl.png</i>	<i>WBL_panel.dta</i>

3. Raw Databases:

We used three sources of databases: i) World Development indicators (WDI), ii) the World Values Survey (WVS) and iii) the Women Business and the Law (WBL) data. The following steps describe how the raw data are prepared to produce the outputs (graphs).

A. World Development Indicators

- Download the database from: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>. Alternatively, data can be extracted directly from Stata, running the dofile *WDI data extraction.do* that installs *wbopendata*
- Select the following variable for all the available economies for 2024:
 - Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15-64) (modeled ILO estimate). Variable code: SL.TLF.ACTI.FE.ZS

- This database is in the Raw Data folder with the name “*WDI.dta*”

B. World Values Survey (2017-2022)

- Download the database from:
<https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSDocumentationWVL.jsp>
- Select WVS TimeSeries 1981 2022 Stata version. And fill out the information to download the data¹.
- This database is in the Raw Data folder with the name “*WVS_TimeSeries_4_0.dta*”
- **Please note that this dtafile is not included in this package. Access notes are included in the following section below.**

C. Women, Business and the Law

- Database: Women, Business and the Law 1.0 Data for 1971-2024
 - Download de Stata version of “Women, Business and the Law 1.0 Data for 1971-2024” at <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl-data>
 - This database is in the Raw Data folder with the name “*WBL1-0-1971-2024.dta*”
- Database: Women, Business and the Law 2.0 Data for 2024
 - Download de Excel version at <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl-data>
 - This database is in the Raw Data folder with the name “*WBL2024-2-0.xlsx*”

Table 2. Summary of databases used in the code

Source	Variables	File name	Folder
World Development Indicators (WDI)	Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15-64) (modeled ILO estimate) Variable names: SL.TLF.ACTI.FE.ZS ; NY.GDP.PCAP.CD (GDP per capita)	<i>WDI.dta</i>	01 Raw Data
World Values Survey (WVS)	Jobs scarce: Men should have more right to a job than women (5 categories) Variable names: C001 ; C001_01	<i>WVS_TimeSeries_4_0.dta</i>	01 Raw Data

¹ This paper uses version 4.0 of this database.

Women, Business and the Law (WBL)	Women, Business and the Law Index and components (1971–2024); Women, Business and the Law 2.0 Data for 2024 (Legal frameworks)	<i>WBL1-0-1971-2024.dta</i> <i>WBL2024-2-0.xlsx</i>	01 Raw Data
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4. Data Availability Statement:

Datasets:

- **World Development Indicators (WDI)**
 - *Source:* World Bank – World Development Indicators
 - *URL:* <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>
 - *Access year:* 2025
 - *Access notes:* Data can be freely accessed and downloaded in Excel, CSV, or TXT format by selecting indicators and years in the World Bank DataBank portal.
- **Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 1.0 Data (1971–2024)**
 - *Source:* World Bank – Women, Business and the Law Project
 - *URL:* <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl-data>
 - *Access year:* 2025
 - *Access notes:* The dataset is publicly available in multiple formats (Stata, Excel, CSV) from the WBL data portal.
- **Women, Business and the Law 2.0 Data for 2024**
 - *Source:* World Bank – Women, Business and the Law Project
 - *URL:* <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl-data>
 - *Access year:* 2025
 - *Access notes:* The dataset is publicly available in multiple formats (Stata, Excel, CSV) from the WBL data portal.
- **World Values Survey Time Series (1981-2022) Stata_v4_0.**
 - *Source:* World Values Survey (WVS) time-series dataset for the period 1981-2022.
 - *URL:* <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSDocumentationWVL.jsp>
 - *Access year:* 2024
 - *Access notes:* The dataset is available upon requesting access by submitting a data request form through the World Values Survey website (link given above).

- To request access, on the WVS website click on the left bar: “Data and Documentation”, then “Data Download”, then “Timeseries (1981-2022)”. Data request form pops up once one clicks on a listed dataset.
- The paper uses **Version 4.0** of the WVS Time Series dataset (1981–2022) which was accessed through submitting a request form for data access in 2024. At the time of the request, version 4 was the most recent version, and access was shared for that version. One can request access for Version 4 of the dataset in the request form and should follow-up with WVS upon their request to access the same version used in this paper.
- Please note that data use is permitted only for non-profit purposes; users may not redistribute the data files; publications using the data must provide proper bibliographic citations and must notify both EVS and WVS.

Rights statement:

The authors had legitimate access to all datasets used in the manuscript. All data are publicly accessible and were obtained directly from official databases.