

Errata
Charles Cameron and Jonathan Kstellec
“The Supreme Court: How Did We Get Here? And, What Comes Next?”
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35-56
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In the process of doing some follow-up research related to this article, we discovered a coding error that affects Figure 3 in the original article, which is re-printed here as Figure 1.

The error implicates our coding of the liberal, moderate, and conservative blocs in the 2020 decade (i.e. the bottom panel of the graph). In the published version, the data shows a court of 6 conservatives, 0 moderates, and 3 liberals. It turns out that in the original article under our coding scheme, both John Roberts and Elena Kagan were incorrectly coded as conservative and liberal, respectively; they should be properly coded as moderates, creating a 5-2-2 conservative/moderate/liberal court in the 2020s.¹ (This error does not affect any of the other analyses in the article.)

The corrected version of the figure is presented in Figure 2. The updated figure does not substantially change the conclusions we reached in the article, as the corrected figure still shows the contemporary court is characterized by a dominant conservative wing, a distribution not seen in any previous decade for which we have reliable ideal point estimates. Nevertheless, we regret the error.

¹Kagan is just more conservative than the cutpoint we use to separate moderates from liberals, based on the complete distribution of Bailey scores between 1950 and 2019, while Roberts is just more liberal than the cutpoint we use to separate moderates from conservatives. One potential reason for this is Bailey’s scores end in 2019, and we project that year forward to the 2020s. If we had updated ideal point estimates for recent terms, based on the polarization of the court since Justice Amy Coney Barrett replaced Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 2020, it’s quite possible that Kagan and Roberts would fall into the liberal and conservative blocs, respectively. But that is just a conjecture.

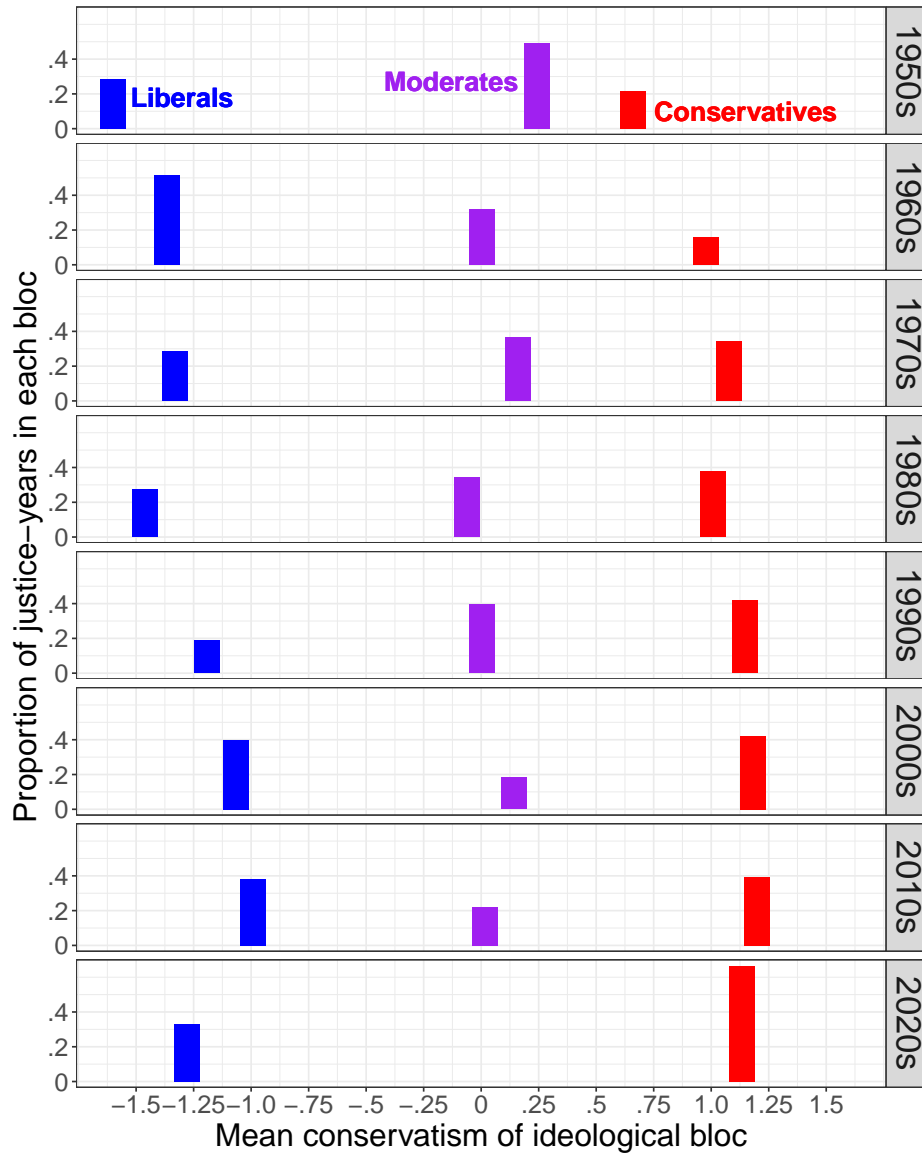


Figure 1: Original Figure 3 from Cameron and Kastellec (2025).

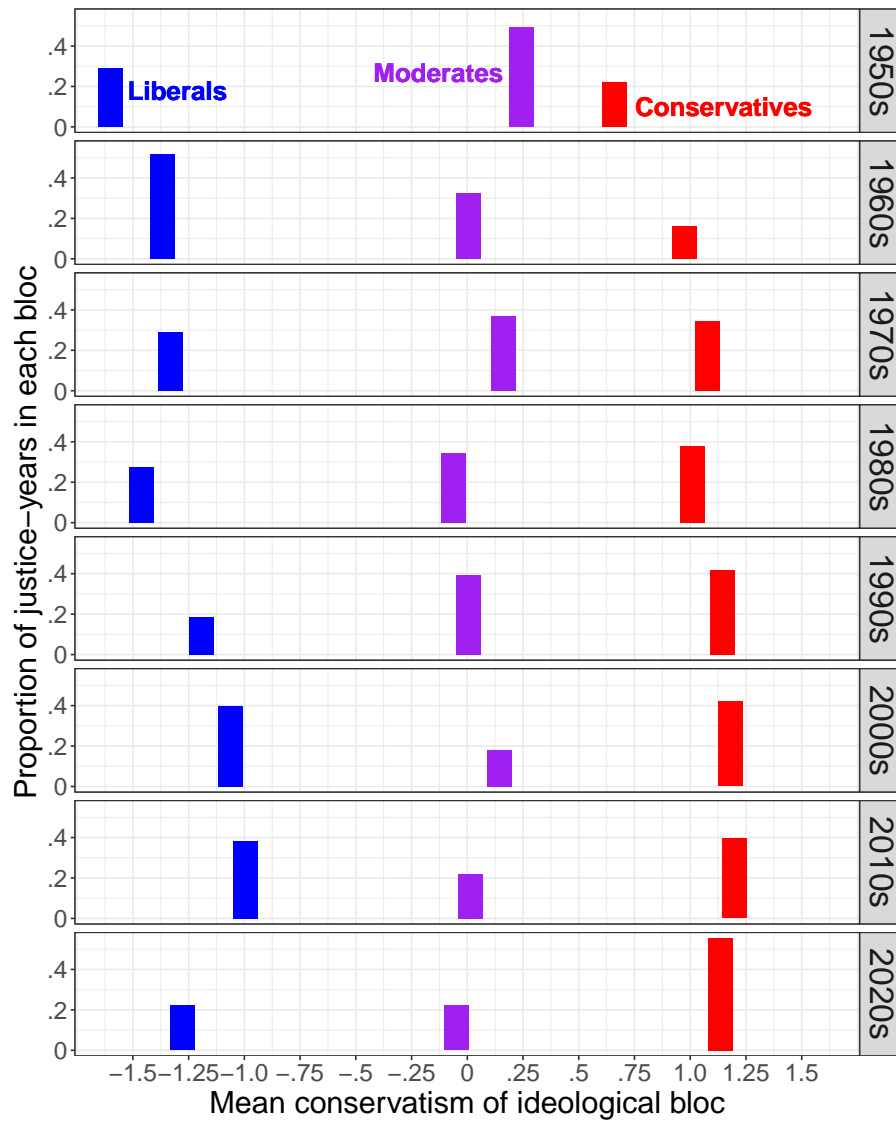


Figure 2: Corrected version of Figure 3 from Cameron and Kastellec (2025).