**CODEBOOK**

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| Variable Number | Variable Name | Values and Labels |
| *STRUCTURAL VARIABLES* | | |
| 1 | Case ID | Initials of the respective newspaper:  TC = The Courier  ET = Evening Telegraph  Followed by the sequential number (e.g. TC1, TC2, ET1, etc.) |
| 2 | Newspaper | TC = The Courier  ET = Evening Telegraph |
| 3 | Date | The date on which the respective article was published, following the format yy-mm-dd (e.g. 14-12-01) |
| 4 | Weekday | The day of the week on which the respective article was published, following the format ddd (e.g. Thu) |
| 5 | Constructed News Week | The number of the constructed news week (1 to 9) the respective article was sampled to, based on its publication date |
| 6 | Page | The page of the newspaper on which the respective article was printed (open, number)  n/a = no page found |
| 7 | Title | The title of the respective article (open, text)  n/a = no title found |
| 8 | Name of the Author | The name of the author of the respective article (open, text)  n/a = no author found |
| 9 | Position of the Author | The position of the author within the news corporation (open, text)  n/a = no position found |
| 10 | Date coded | The date on which the respective article was coded, following the format yy-mm-dd (e.g. 14-12-01) |
| *SUBSTANTIVE VARIABLES* | | |
| 11 | Tone | The tone of the dominant message expressed in the respective article in relation to Scottish independence  pro = article in favour of Scottish independence  anti = article against Scottish independence  neutral = article does not express a clear position on the independence issue  n/a = no message found |
| 12 | Dominant Theme | The dominant theme of the article (open, text)  n/a = no argument determined |
| 13 | Emotional Pro | Does the news story employ emotional expressions that support the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 14 | Rational Pro | Does the news story deliver any arguments or report any facts that support the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 15 | Future “Benefit” | Does the news story promote promising future opportunities or long-term advantages as results of the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 16 | “Positive” Quote | Within the news story, is there a quote of any kind from any actor that is positive in tone toward the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 17 | Emotional Contra | Does the news story employ emotional expressions that oppose the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 18 | Rational Contra | Does the news story deliver any arguments or report any facts that oppose the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 19 | Future “Cost” | Does the news story promote threatening future risks or long-term disadvantages as result of the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |
| 20 | “Negative” Quote | Within the news story, is there a quote of any kind from any actor that is negative in tone toward the independence of Scotland?  1 = yes  0 = no |