



The University of Chicago
Department of Statistics

Master's Seminar

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**A Discrete Time Survival Model: Diffusion of Freedom
of Information Laws Among OECD Nations**

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ABSTRACT

During 1949 – 2002, many countries enacted laws promising free access to certain kinds of government information. Freedom of Information (FOI) laws were first adopted by Sweden in 1949 and subsequently by most OECD countries. The aim of this project is to study factors affecting the adoption/diffusion of FOI laws in OECD countries. I use a discrete time survival model to analyze the aggregate diffusion process of FOI laws. Three factors are identified: the degree of domestic political competition, female secondary education, and trade connections.