

APPENDIX A

To understand error rates across the GSS voluntary association categories, Table A1 displays the odds ratio of correct classification for each category compared to every other category. The results come from a multi-level model that includes a series of dummy variables for each organization category, controls for whether the organization meets locally, how many years the respondent has been in the organization, and respondent fatigue, and fixed effects for respondents and interviewers. The omitted category is rotated to provide a comparison of each category of association to every other category of association. Omitted categories are across the top of Table A1 and serve as the reference for those in the rows. The first column, for example, provides the odds ratio of the odds of correct classification for farm organizations, fraternal groups, etc. compared to church-affiliated groups. For a farm organization, the odds of being accurate are 8.2 times larger than the odds of being accurate for a church-affiliated group. Put another way, compared to church groups, farm organizations are expected to have a 822% increase in the odds of being accurate. In contrast, the chance that a fraternal association is accurately reported by a respondent is only .07 of the chance that a church-affiliated organization is accurate. Reversed, this means that church-affiliated groups are 14 times as likely to be accurately reported. With the other particularly problematic category, service associations, we see they are accurate 9% as often as church-affiliated groups. Overall, Table A1 offers additional support for the finding that the fraternal and service categories have significantly more measurement error than other categories.¹ Furthermore, the results demonstrate that respondents classify farm organizations most accurately. Many other categories have similar levels of accuracy, as indicated by their insignificant odds ratios.

¹ The “other” category also has high levels of measurement error. Twenty-six percent of responses in this category were interviewer/interviewee error, with responses such as “no more groups” or “NONE” recorded as group names. There were also numerous nonresponse and “don’t know” answers (22% of responses).

Table A1: Multilevel Logistic Regression Odds Ratios of Accurate Classification per Category

	Omitted Category															
Organization Category	Church-affiliated groups	Farm organizations	Fraternal groups	Greek organizations	Hobby or garden clubs	Literary, art, discussion, or study groups	Nationality groups	Other groups	Political clubs	Professional or academic societies	School service groups	Service clubs	Sports groups	Unions	Veterans' groups	Youth groups
Church-affiliated groups	—															
Farm organizations	8.22*	—														
Fraternal groups	0.07***	0.01***	—													
Greek organizations	0.36**	0.04***	5.11***	—												
Hobby or garden clubs	0.71	0.09**	10.00***	1.96+	—											
Literary, art, discussion, or study groups	0.74	0.09**	10.54***	2.06+	1.05	—										
Nationality groups	0.97	0.12*	13.69***	2.68	1.37	1.30	—									
Other groups	0.09***	0.01***	1.33	0.26**	0.13***	0.13***	0.10***	—								
Political clubs	1.12	0.14*	15.83***	3.10*	1.58	1.50	1.16	11.88***	—							
Professional or academic societies	0.97	0.12*	13.67***	2.68**	1.37	1.30	1.00	10.27***	0.86	—						
School service groups	0.51**	0.06**	7.27***	1.42	0.73	0.69	0.53	5.46***	0.46+	0.53*	—					
Service clubs	0.09***	0.02***	1.21	0.24***	0.12***	0.11***	0.09***	0.91	0.08***	0.09***	0.17***	—				
Sports groups	1.00	0.12*	14.23***	2.79*	1.42	1.35	1.04	10.69***	0.90	1.04	1.96**	11.80***	—			
Unions	0.90	0.11*	12.69***	2.48*	1.27	1.20	0.93	9.53***	0.80	0.93	1.75	10.53***	0.89	—		
Veterans' groups	0.70	0.09**	9.95***	1.95	0.99	0.94	0.73	7.47***	0.63	0.73	1.37	8.25***	0.70	0.78	—	
Youth groups	0.45**	0.06**	6.42***	1.26	0.64	0.61	0.47	4.82***	0.41*	0.47*	0.88	5.33***	0.45**	0.51+	0.65	—

Source: 2004 General Social Survey

Note: Includes level-1 controls and fixed effects for respondents and interviewers

* $p < 0.10$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$; **** $p < 0.001$ (two-tailed test)

