

Digital Methods: Learning Journal

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1.1 Thoughts / Intentions

Based on the hands-on-session from last and this week I see some great opportunities in using RStudio for my final project. My intentions with this assignment is to develop a short overview of my final project in order to know which direction I am going.

1.2 Exercises

When it comes to the significance of COVID-19 there are a lot of different information but also political opinions flourishing around. In connection with this it is important to investigate the actual severeness of the current pandemic, which could be done by comparing it on a historical scale to get a broader understanding of its gravity. In order to do this I have chosen to compare the Spanish flu 1918-1920 with COVID-19 by using the software RStudio. The reason for choosing the Spanish flu is because it has been appointed as the nearest health crisis the world has experienced on the same scale as COVID-19. With this project I therefor seek to investigate how deadly the Spanish flu of 1918 was in its initial phase compared to the initial phase of COVID-19. In order to narrow down the area of research I have chosen the Punjab region in India as my case. Here I show the number of deaths due to the Spanish flu and COVID-19. Through a comparison of the two pandemics, it will be demonstrated which of the two was worst in regard to deadliness. This comparison should help putting COVID-19 into a greater historical context, which is the prime goal of this project. It is important to keep in mind that this project is too small to conclude anything final about the relationship between COVID-19 and the Spanish flu on a more general level. However, the comparison is very important and not irrelevant to society, because it provides a knowledge on how pandemics work and a sense of what to expect.