



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University

# Creating and Hosting an Academic Personal Website Using Hugo and GitHub

Connected\_Politics Lab Workshop Series

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<https://nataliaumansky.github.io> | <https://muellerstefan.net>

1. Why is it important to have a personal academic website?
2. What should be included on the website?
3. Creating the website
4. Deploying the website
5. Questions

## Education

- 2018–To date: PhD In Politics and International Relations (University College Dublin)

## Research Interests

- International Relations
- Critical Security Studies
- Computational Social Science
- Social Media Communication

## Education and Positions

- 2015–2018: PhD in Political Science (Trinity College Dublin)
- 2019: Postdoctoral Researcher (University of Zurich)
- since 2020: Assistant Professor (University College Dublin)

## Research Interests

- Party Competition
- Political Communication
- Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour

We will cover:

- Advantages of having a personal academic website
- Structure of the website:
  - What information should be included
  - Advantages and disadvantages of different themes
- How to create the website:
  - Creating a new project
  - Basic Markdown commands
  - Basic HTML commands
  - Working with the 'config.toml' file
  - Adding content
  - Personalizing the website
- How to deploy the website using GitHub

We will **not** cover:

- CSS files to override theme attributes
- Other Hugo themes
- Linking website to custom domain

## Why is it important to have a personal academic website?

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# Advantages of a Website

- Visibility
- Present your (published and) ongoing research
- Contact details
- Durability (researcher profiles on university websites change – or you change the institution)
- It's free or very cheap (if you add your custom domain)



## What should be included on the website?

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## **Introduction:**

- Your full name
- Picture (a picture you would show to your future employer)
- Your position
- Affiliation
- Outlining your work in 1-2 sentences
- Research interests

## **Your research:**

- A PDF version of your CV
- List of your research projects
  - Produce *separate* lists for publications, papers under review, working papers, work in progress, etc.
  - Attach PDF drafts of your working papers (if they have the required standard)
  - Provide links to published work
  - Add abstracts

## **Your teaching experience:**

- List of modules/courses/workshops you teach or taught in the past
  - Where possible, add link to teaching materials

Personal taste/advice: Keep it simple and professional:

- No need for very overly long bios
- No need for (background) photos, fancy colors or spectacular fonts
- No need for description of hobbies or free-time activities
- Make sure all central information can be found in less than 20 seconds (research, contact details, CV)
- Check that the website is displayed well on mobile devices

## **Contact information:**

- Email address
- Social media accounts (if you are an active user)
- GitHub account
- Location



**Natalia Umansky**

PhD candidate in Politics and  
International Relations  
University College Dublin



## About me

I am a PhD candidate and an Iseult Honohan Scholar in the [School of Politics and International Relations \(SPIRe\)](#) at University College Dublin. Additionally, I am Lab Manager to [The Connected\\_Politics Lab](#) and research assistant for the EU funded [EU Data Laboratory Project](#).

My PhD thesis "Repost and Like: Securitization Theory in the Digital Age" examines the construction of (in)security frames on Twitter and offers a processual refinement of securitization to understand how security problems emerge online. More broadly, my research focuses on applications of computational social science, including quantitative text analysis, network analysis, and digital trace data to questions in international relations and critical security studies.

[Curriculum Vitae](#) 

## Interests

- International Relations
- Critical Security Studies
- Computational Social Science
- Social Media Communication

# Creating the website

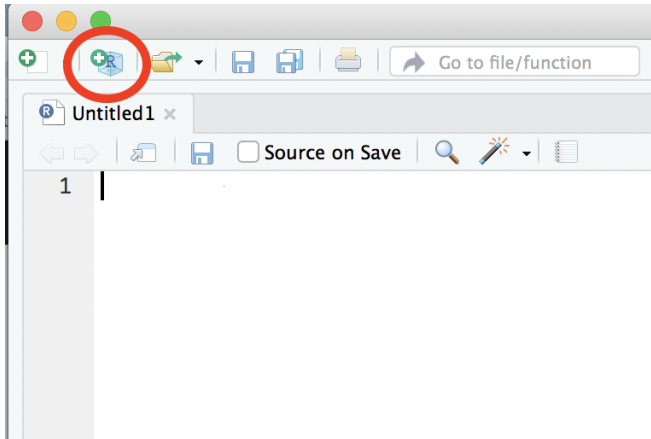
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- Complete list: <https://themes.gohugo.io>
- Today we will be working with the 'Researcher' theme:  
<https://themes.gohugo.io/hugo-researcher/>

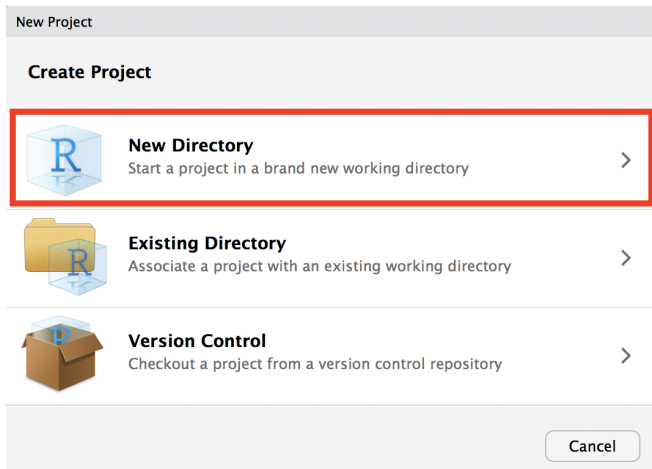


```
install.packages('blogdown')
```

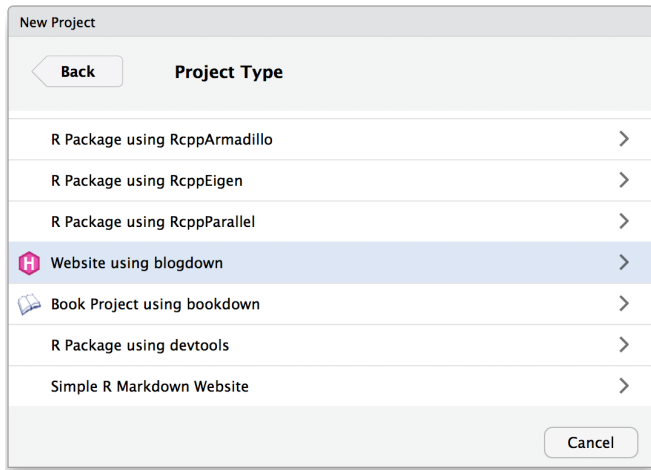
# Create a new R project



# Create a new directory



# Choose project type



# Select the theme

New Project

[Back](#) **Create a new website using Hugo and blogdown**

Directory name:

Create project as subdirectory of:  
 [Browse...](#)

☒ Install Hugo automatically ☐ Keep empty directories  
☒ Add sample blog posts ☒ Convert all metadata to YAML

Hugo theme:

☒ Add the example site of the theme

☒ Open in new session

[Create Project](#) [Cancel](#)

# Exercise #1: Create a new project

## Breakout rooms:

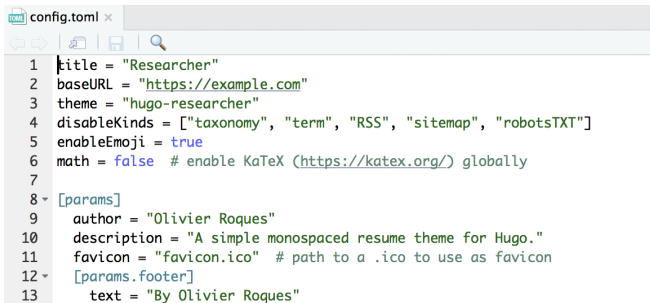
- Introduce yourself (where are you based; what are you studying/working on)
- Repeat the steps to create a new R project for your website using the 'Researcher' theme

**Questions?:** Use [menti.com](https://menti.com) (code: 88 29 53 7)

```
library(blogdown)

options(blogdown.publishDir = 'path/to/folder')
build_site()
serve_site()
```

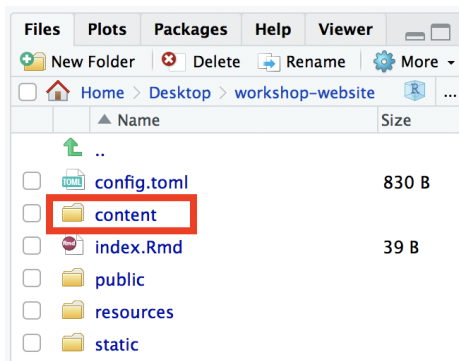
- This file will open automatically when we create the project
- From here we can manage:
  - Website title
  - Author
  - Description
  - Main menu



```
1 title = "Researcher"
2 baseURL = "https://example.com"
3 theme = "hugo-researcher"
4 disableKinds = ["taxonomy", "term", "RSS", "sitemap", "robotsTXT"]
5 enableEmoji = true
6 math = false # enable KaTeX (https://katex.org/) globally
7
8 [params]
9   author = "Olivier Roques"
10  description = "A simple monospaced resume theme for Hugo."
11  favicon = "favicon.ico" # path to a .ico to use as favicon
12 [params.footer]
13   text = "By Olivier Roques"
```



- We can find this file under in the content folder
- From this file, we will add most of the content of our website (at least in this template)



# R Markdown commands:

## We will use:

- Images
- Links
- Tables

Check the R Markdown cheat sheet: [https:](https://rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/rmarkdown-cheatsheet.pdf)

[//rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/rmarkdown-cheatsheet.pdf](https://rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/rmarkdown-cheatsheet.pdf)

## We will use:

- Breaks
- Paragraphs
- Details + summary

## Avatar picture and CV:

- To change the picture and the CV attached to the example website, we must first add our own in the directory.
- Pictures and PDF files must be saved in the `static` folder.
- We can then change the file name in the file path.

We can manage the contact information from the `contact.md` file, which is in the content folder

## Exercise #2: Adding content

### Breakout rooms:

- Introduce yourself (where are you based; what are you studying/working on).
- Make changes to the `config.toml` file to add your name, description, and manage the main menu.
- Add your bio by making some changes to the `_index.md` file.

**Bonus:** Create three sections: Research, Teaching, and CV (where you'll add content) and change the avatar picture to show your own.

**Questions?:** Use [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) (code: 88 29 53 7)

# Deploying the website

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# Building the website

- Store your scripts for the website in one folder
- Create a separate folder and GitHub repository and name it like your preferred GitHub domain (e.g. nataliaumansky.github.io)
- Run the following code after opening the website folder in your RProject

```
library(blogdown)

# set directory where the built website is stored
options(blogdown.publishDir = '../nataliaumansky.github.io')
build_site()
serve_site()
```



# Pushing the website to GitHub

- Use GitHub Desktop (or RStudio) to push the repository (`nataliaumansky.github.io`) to GitHub
- Go to `github.com`, select this repository, go to Settings and activate GitHub pages
- Source: Branch: `master`; `"/root"`
- [Add custom domain (needs to be set up with the provider of the domain)]
- Activate Enforce HTTPS

Please fill in the following feedback form: [tinyurl.com/websiteconnectedpol](https://tinyurl.com/websiteconnectedpol)

# Questions

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