What role can R play in Open Science?

- R scripts are easy to share allowing for reproducibility and easy public sharing of data and code.

- R is free, open source software that is much more flexible and powerful than SPSS.

- There is an active R community continuously updating statistical tests and packages that run in R.

- As R is a programming language, it forces you to know your data.

R *vs.* SPSS

"SPSS is like a bus - easy to use for the standard things, but very frustrating if you want to do something that is not already pre-programmed.

R is a 4-wheel drive off-roader, with a bike on the back, a kayak on top, good walking and running shoes in the passenger seat, and mountain climbing and spelunking gear in the back.

R can take you anywhere you want to go if you take time to learn how to use the equipment, but that is going to take longer than learning where the bus stops are in SPSS." (Greg Snow, 2010, stackoverflow.com).