Introduction to Python

Open Science Methods Workshop

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Welcome! This intro to Python workshop is oriented around the principles of **Open Science.** Python, with its versatile ecosystem and powerful libraries, is a cornerstone for computational data analysis in social science research, enabling key Open Science principles like **replicability**, **transparency**, **collaboration**, and the use of **open-source software**. Python scripts allow researchers to automate and document their analysis, ensuring **replicability**—other researchers can run the same code on the same data to verify findings. **Transparency** is achieved by openly sharing the code, data, and methodology, so that every step of the research process is accessible and understandable. Python also fosters **collaboration** by allowing multiple researchers to contribute to the same project, often through platforms like GitHub, where code is shared, versioned, and improved. Finally, Python itself is **open-source software**, meaning anyone can use, modify, and distribute it freely, promoting equitable access to powerful research tools and fostering an inclusive scientific community.

Workshop link and Schedule

Part 1: Getting Started

In this part, participants will be introduced to Python environments, with a focus on using **Google Colab Notebooks**, an accessible and powerful tool for coding in Python. We will cover the installation and setup process, ensuring everyone is ready to run Python code in their browsers. The session will also explore basic Python syntax, including variables, data types, and control structures like loops and conditionals, laying the foundation for more advanced applications in social science research.

Part 2: Data Analysis

This section focuses on performing **data analysis** with Python, using libraries like **Pandas** for **dataframe manipulation**. Participants will learn how to load, clean, and transform data, enabling them to analyze datasets commonly used in social science. We'll also dive into

results visualization using **Matplotlib** and **Seaborn**, teaching participants how to create informative charts and graphs to present their findings effectively.

Part 3: Text Analysis

In this part, participants will explore the basics of **text analysis** in Python, starting with reading text data from various sources such as documents or online content. We will cover **text tokenization**, the process of breaking text into individual words or phrases, using libraries like **spaCy** and **NLTK**. This will allow participants to process, analyze, and extract meaningful insights from large volumes of textual data, such as social media posts or survey responses.

Part 4: Image Analysis

The **image analysis** section will introduce participants to working with visual data in Python. We'll cover how to read and process **image content** using libraries like **OpenCV** and **Pillow**. Participants will also explore basic **object recognition** techniques, learning how to detect and classify objects within images, which is particularly useful for social science fields that rely on visual data, such as media studies or behavioral analysis.

Part 5: Data Collection

The final part of the workshop focuses on **data collection** techniques using Python. Participants will learn **web scraping** methods to gather data from websites using tools like **BeautifulSoup** and **Scrapy**. Additionally, we will explore how to design and run **web experiments**, allowing researchers to collect behavioral data from users in real-time. These skills will empower participants to gather the data they need for their social science research projects.

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