Lab 1: Introduction

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Introduction to the labs

I mentioned that the study of participation involves looking at evidence. Most of the questions are about: levels; styles; and factors that influence participation. In these labs, we"ll look at the evidence.

To do that, we need data and software to analyse it. These labs use RStudio to analyse the data. This is a programming-based environment, but I've written all of the code for you. All you need to do is run it.

Let's start by looking at the data. Run the following line:

ESS <- foreign::read.dta("data/ESS.dta", convert.factors=TRUE)

attach(ESS) View(ESS) library(tidyverse)

Introduction to the data

In the labs we'll be using the ESS. This is the European Social Survey - a big cross-sectional survey conducted in 30 countries in Europe.

Coverage

To make the file more manageable, I've cut it down quite a bit.

Basic Terminology

Here is some of the key word you should watch out for in the labs:

- Dependent variable: something we are looking to explain, e.g. one (or more) forms of participation:

- Independent variable : something that influences our dependent variable (age, for example, may influence voting).

- Observation: someone we ask about their participation and age.

Overall, then, this file contains:

- 8 different forms of participation;

- 8 different variables that may influence participation (or 9 if we include country)

- In total we have 12472 observations - or 12472 people gave us answers to our questions.

Let's look at what counties it contains.

Now we can run the following code:

```
ESS %>% count(cntry, sort=TRUE) %>%
  knitr::kable("pandoc", caption = "Coverage of European Social Survey",
  col.names=c('Country', 'N'), align="cc")
```

Table 1: Coverage of European Social Survey

Country	N
Germany	3045
UK	2264
Netherlands	1919
France	1917
Austria	1795
Switzerland	1532

```
nrow(ESS)
```

```
## [1] 12472
```

Let's look at the data file and see what forms of participation it contains

```
View(ESS)
```

We have:

1. Voting;

2. Contacting politicians;

3 working for a political party;

4 wearing political paraphenalia;

5. signing a petition;

6. demonstrating;

7. boycotting;

8. voting for the radical right

And we also have variables that might influence these forms of participation, including:

1. Age; 2. Education; 3. gender; 4. unemployed. These are *structural* characteristics.

And we can also look at the attitudes people hold shapes their participation. We have attitu

Economic satisfaction; trust in politics; trust in European parliament.

Let's finish today by looking at some forms of participation:

How many people said they voted at the last national election?

```
ESS %>% filter(!is.na(vote1)) %>% count(vote1)
```

```
##         vote1    n
## 1 did not vote 2717
## 2       voted 8511
```

Percentages are easier, so let's add them in:

```
ESS %>% filter(!is.na(vote1)) %>% count(vote1) %>% mutate('%' = round(n/sum(n)*100, digits=1)]
  knitr::kable("pandoc", caption = "Electoral Turnout",
  col.names=c('Voted', 'N', '%'), align="ccc", digits=1)
```

Table 2: Electoral Turnout

Voted	N	%
did not vote	2717	24.2
voted	8511	75.8

Let's look at contacting politicians

```
ESS %>% filter(!is.na(contact)) %>% count(contact) %>%
  mutate('%' = round(n/sum(n)*100, digits=1)) %>%
  knitr::kable("pandoc", caption = "Contacted Politicians",
  col.names=c('Contacted', 'N', '%'), align="ccc", digits=1)
```

Table 3: Contacted Politicians

Contacted	N	%
have not contacted	10265	82.4
contacted	2193	17.6
# Lets look at demonst	rating	

```
ESS %>% filter(!is.na(demo)) %>% count(demo) %>%
  mutate('%' = round(n/sum(n)*100, digits=1)) %>%
  knitr::kable("pandoc", caption = "Demonstrating",
  col.names=c('Demonstrated', 'N', '%'), align="ccc", digits=1)
```

Table 4: Demonstrating

Demonstrated	N	%
have not demonstrated	11535	92.6
have demonstrated	928	7.4
# Let's look at voting fo	r the rad	ical right

```
ESS %>% filter(!is.na(rright)) %>% count(rright) %>%
  mutate('%' = round(n/sum(n)*100, digits=1)) %>%
  knitr::kable("pandoc", caption = "Voted Radical Right",
```

```
        col.names=c('Voted', 'N', '%'), align="ccc", digits=1)
```

Table 5: Voted Radical Right

Voted	N	%
no	12145	97.4
yes	327	2.6