

# Making an Academic Website

Elissa Berwick

*[elissa.berwick@mcgill.ca](mailto:elissa.berwick@mcgill.ca)*

*McGill University*

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# Agenda

1. Elements of an academic website
2. No-coding methods
3. [Quarto](#) for academic websites
  - Getting started with [Quarto](#)
  - Publishing with [GitHub Pages](#)
  - Advanced content and customization

# Website elements

# Landing page

Introduce and define yourself

- Provide current position and educational background
- Identify what field(s) you work in

James Gethyn Evans

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## Welcome

I am a scholar of modern and contemporary China with a focus on China's foreign relations with the Global South. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University, where I am writing a dissertation on global networks of

<https://jagevans.com/>

# Separate “About” page

- A separate “About” page can provide more detail

James Gethyn Evans

=

About Me

James Gethyn  
Evans

<https://jagevans.com/>

# Single “Home” page

- Or a single “Home” page can have everything



## About

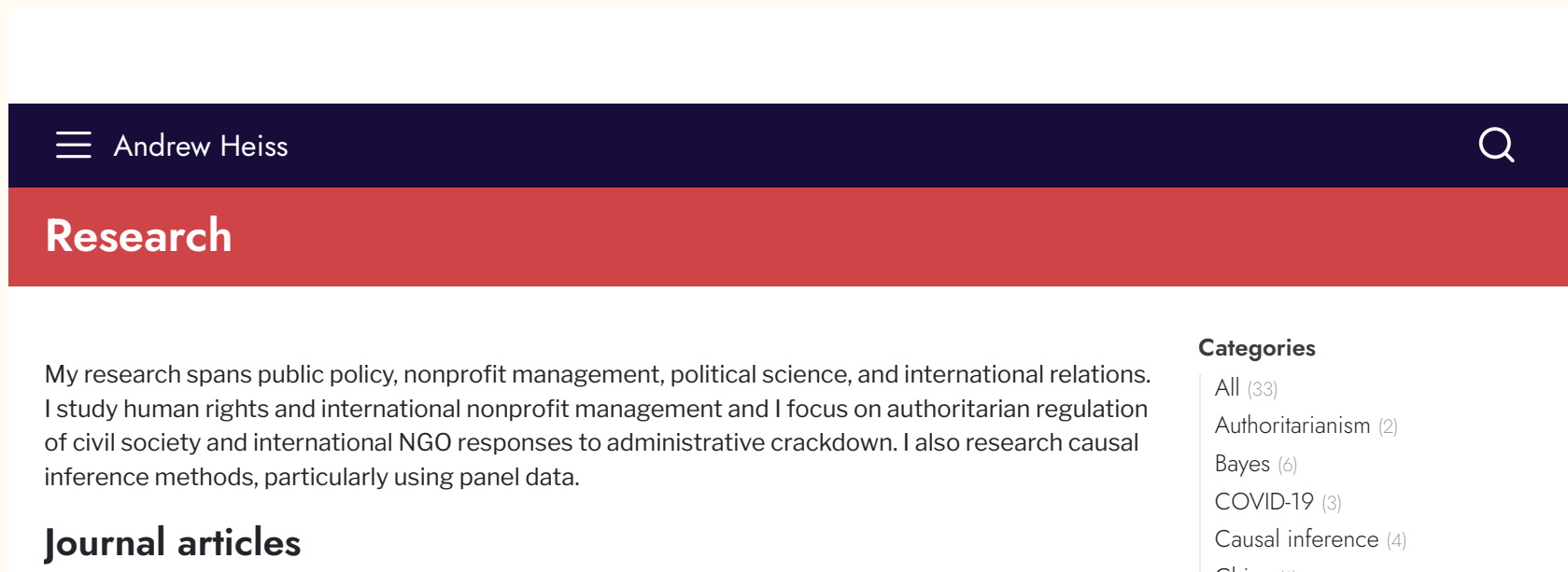
Welcome to my site! I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science

<https://www.aaronerlich.com/>

# Research

Information on publications **AND** current projects

- Include summaries or keywords for papers
- Link to PDFs and/or add replication files



The screenshot shows a website header with a dark blue bar containing a hamburger menu icon, the name "Andrew Heiss", and a search icon. Below this is a red bar with the word "Research" in white. The main content area has a white background. On the left, there is a paragraph about the researcher's work. On the right, there is a "Categories" section with a list of topics and their counts.

My research spans public policy, nonprofit management, political science, and international relations. I study human rights and international nonprofit management and I focus on authoritarian regulation of civil society and international NGO responses to administrative crackdown. I also research causal inference methods, particularly using panel data.

**Journal articles**

**Categories**

- All (33)
- Authoritarianism (2)
- Bayes (6)
- COVID-19 (3)
- Causal inference (4)
- China (1)

<https://www.andrewheiss.com/research/>

# Teaching

Describe your teaching experience

- Detail your approach to teaching

Kathleen A. Creel

About

Research

Teaching

Contact

CV

- Epistemic Virtues: Doing philosophy with others teaches charitable reconstruction of an opponent's views, respectful disagreement, argument formation, and responsiveness in the face of

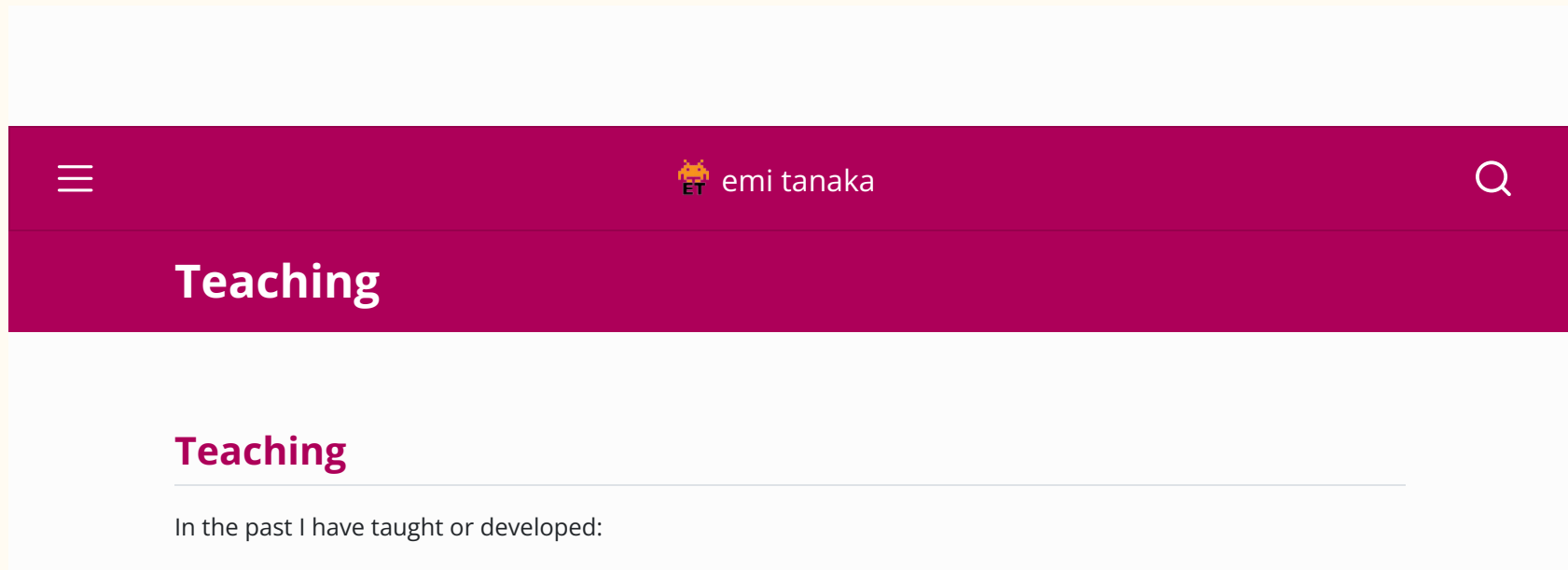
<https://kathleenacreel.com/teaching.html>



# Teaching

Describe your teaching experience

- Add teaching resources you've developed



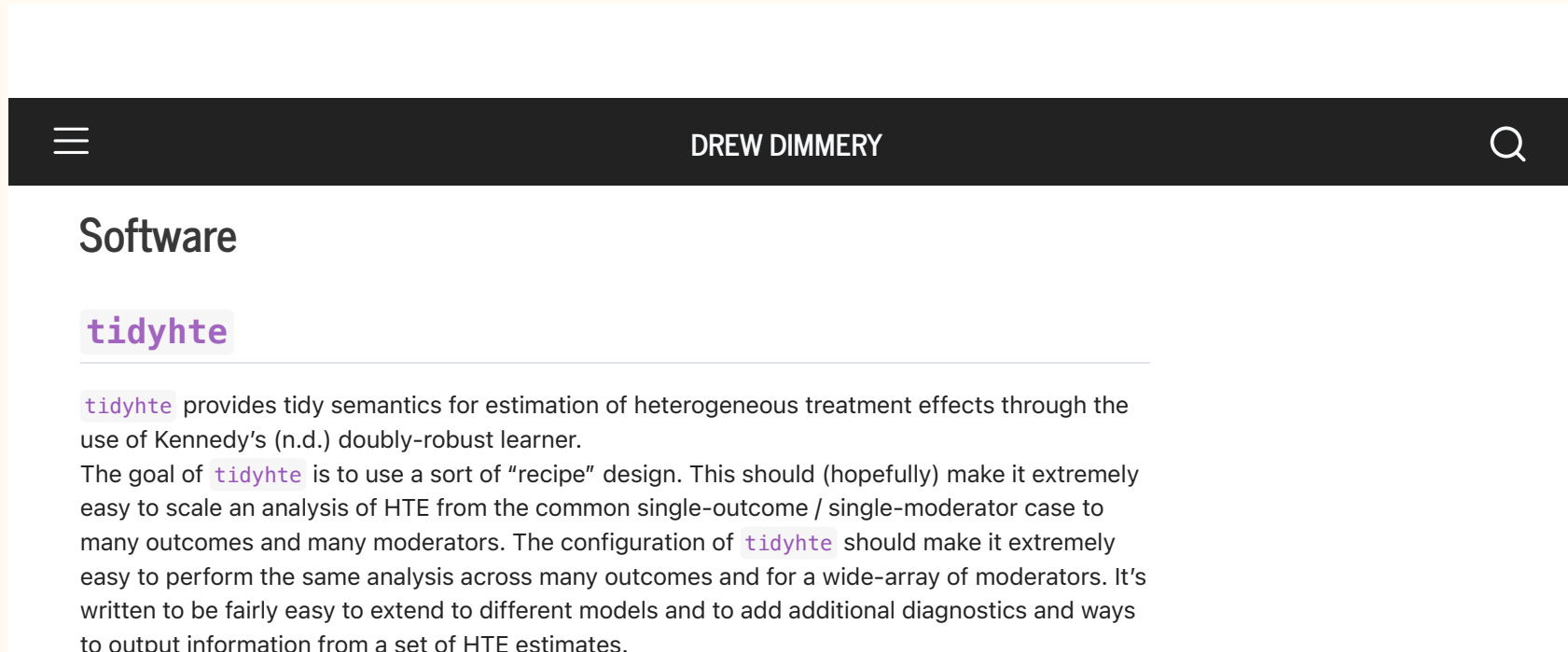
The screenshot shows a web interface for a 'Teaching' section. At the top, there is a dark red navigation bar containing a hamburger menu icon on the left, a logo with the letters 'ET' and the name 'emi tanaka' in the center, and a magnifying glass search icon on the right. Below this bar, the word 'Teaching' is displayed in a large, bold, white font. Underneath, the word 'Teaching' appears again in a smaller, bold, red font, followed by a horizontal line. Below the line, the text 'In the past I have taught or developed:' is visible, followed by a dashed line indicating a text input area.

<https://emitanaka.org/teaching/>

# Extras

Make it interesting!

- Share projects

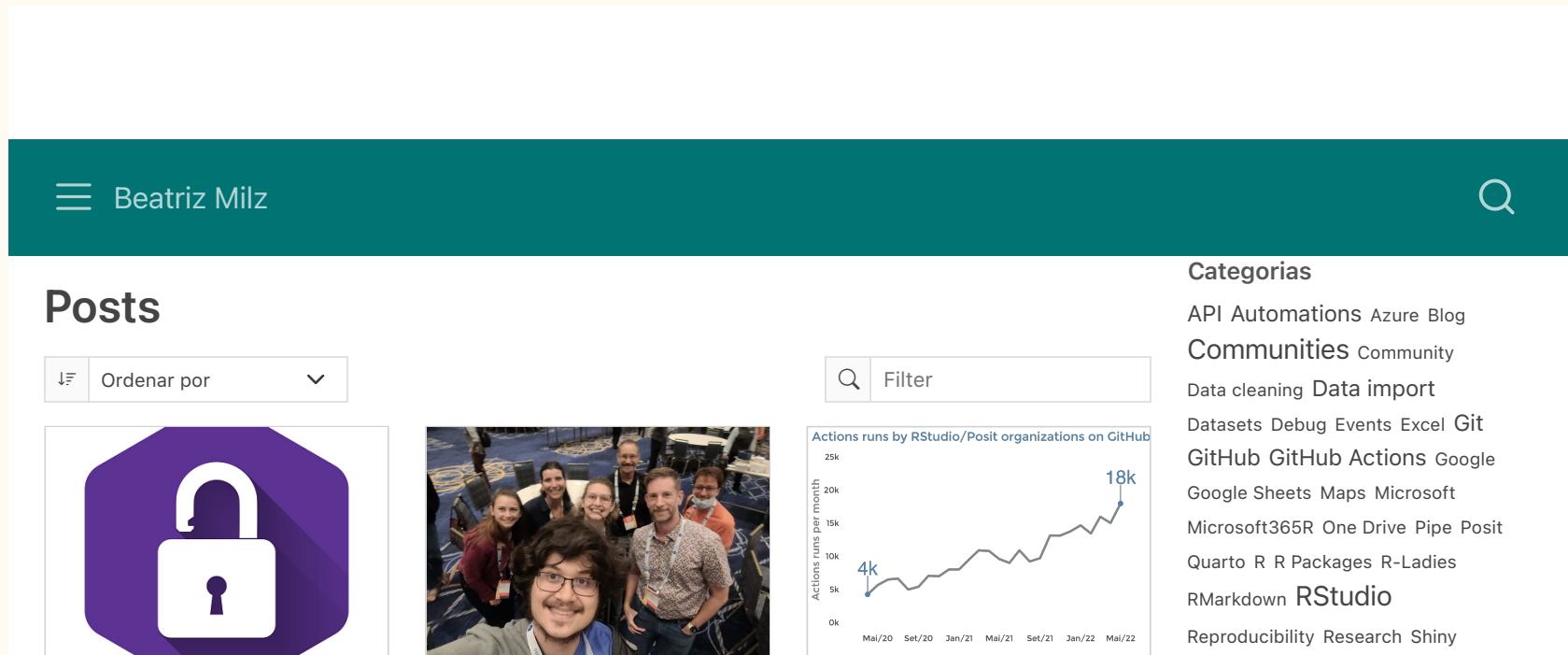


<https://ddimmery.com/software>

# Extras

Make it interesting!

- Share a blog



<https://beamilz.com/posts/>

# Extras

Make it interesting!

- Add photos and hobbies

ABOUT CV RESEARCH TEACHING EXTRAS

ENCUESTA ACTIVISMO SOCIAL EN MONTERREY

TRAVELS THROUGH MEXICO

TESALIA RIZZO  
REYES

University of California, Merced - Assistant  
Professor

Pictures and things

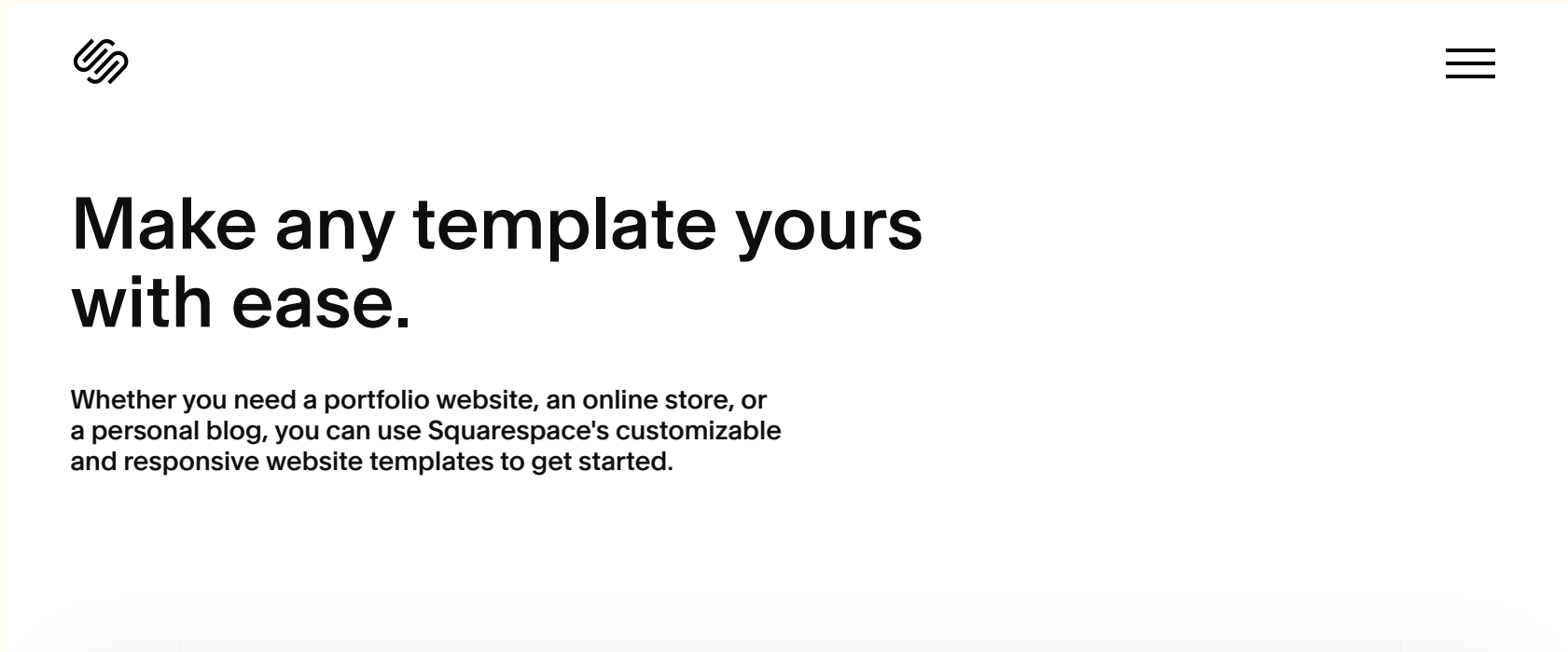
---

<https://www.tesaliarizzo.com/pic>

# No-coding methods

# Pre-made templates

- Powerpoint-like experience
- Designed by professionals



<https://www.squarespace.com/templates>

# Template providers

- Pricing for basic plan that includes domain name (i.e. [yourname.com](#))
  - WordPress: from \$5/month
  - Weebly: from \$7/month
  - GoDaddy: from \$12/month
  - Wix: from \$15/month
  - Squarespace: \$21/month
- Design quality and inclusions are proportional to price!
- WordPress and Weebly have free options without custom domain
- [GitHub](#) is free with domain name [username.github.io](#)...  
... but requires coding

# Custom domain names

- You can purchase a domain name directly from the last slide's website template providers
- OR you can purchase a domain separately from a **domain registrar**
  - Keeps your ownership of the domain independent of your current template
- Options include:
  - GoDaddy (largest)
  - Domain.com
  - Google Domains (easiest)
  - Cloudflare



# Getting started with Quarto

# Why use Quarto?

- Three building blocks of a website:
  - Basic structure built with `html`
  - Styling done with `css`
  - Dynamic content from `JavaScript` (not needed for a static site)
- **Static site generators**: convert easy-to-write `Markdown` to `html` for use in a static website
  - Examples: `Jekyll`, `Hugo`, `Gatsby`
- There are other `R` packages like `distill` and `blogdown` that let you do this too
  - `Quarto` is a new `Markdown` based way to generate static website content

# What is Quarto?

- RMarkdown beyond R (support for Python, Julia, Observable)
- Output types (via pandoc):
  - PDF (via LaTeX)
  - MS Word
  - Revealjs
  - PowerPoint
  - Beamer
  - Markdown
  - HTML

More information: <https://www.apreshill.com/blog/2022-04-we-dont-talk-about-quarto/>

# Project setup

Create a new project in RStudio

- Select “new project” from upper right corner of GUI
- Select “new directory”
- Select “Quarto website”
- Give the directory a name
  - This will be the name of the [GitHub](#) repository as well
  - If you plan on hosting the page on [GitHub](#), make sure you name the project/repository [username.github.io](#)
- Pick somewhere to save the entire project

More detailed directions: <https://quarto.org/docs/websites/>

# What's in the project?

You will now have a folder with several (mostly blank) files:

- `_quarto.yml`: config file with common `yaml` information for *all* the pages in your site
  - Includes title, navbar contents, theme
- `styles.css`: where you can put design settings written in `css`
  - `css` (“cascading style sheets”) are the main styling system for the entire internet
  - Holds custom design elements like colors and fonts
  - Note: you’ll probably want to use `scss` (Sass) for customization instead!

# What's in the project?

You will now have a folder with several (mostly blank) files:

- `index.qmd`: your site's landing page
  - This is where you'll put content to display when someone first arrives on your site
  - Don't change the name!
- `about.qmd`: an initial page on your site
  - You can copy and rename this demo page as needed

# Editing `yaml`

- Change the site title to your name

```
1 project:
2   type: website
3
4 website:
5   title: "My Name"
6   navbar:
7     left:
8       - href: index.qmd
9         text: Home
10      - about.qmd
11
12 format:
13   html:
14     theme: cosmo
15     css: styles.css
16     toc: true
```

- You can also move the navbar to the right or turn off the table of contents

# Rendering

You already have the basics for a site!

- Click [Build > Render Website](#) to convert all of your quarto files into [html](#) output in the [docs](#) folder
  - Button is in the pane with Environment, History, Git, etc.
- A preview version should open up in RStudio
  - The site isn't live yet, this is just a local preview version!
  - To make it live we will deploy via [GitHub Pages](#) (to be continued...)
  - You can also use another service like Netlify



# Themes: options

- You can change the appearance of your site to one of the pre-made “Bootstrap” themes (`css` someone else already wrote)
  - A random selection:
    - `cosmo`
    - `lux`
    - `minty`
    - `slate`
    - `yeti`
    - `zephyr`

All available themes: <https://bootstrap.com/>

# Themes: trying it out

- Try setting `theme: zephyr` or another theme of your choice

```
1 project:
2   type: website
3
4 website:
5   title: "My Name"
6   navbar:
7     left:
8       - href: index.qmd
9         text: Home
10      - about.qmd
11
12 format:
13   html:
14     theme: zephyr
15     css: styles.css
16     toc: true
```

- Render site to preview

# Page content: Markdown

- You can use [Markdown](#) syntax to edit your landing page
- For example:
  - Use `#` for top-level headers, `##` for second-level headers etc.
  - Bullet points with `-`
  - Numbered lists with `1.` etc
  - Links: `[text](https://link.com)`
  - Images: `![Caption](project_directory/folder/image)`<sup>1</sup>

Markdown basics: <https://quarto.org/docs/authoring/markdown-basics.html>

<sup>1</sup> Make sure any files are in the same directory as the project

# Page content: Markdown

- Try adding an introduction in [Markdown](#) to your site and rendering it

```
1  ## Lorem Ipsum
2
3  Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
4
5  - Sed at nulla lobortis, faucibus nisi et, tempor dui.
6  - Fusce quis nulla sodales, ultricies arcu vitae, bibendum est.
7
8  Donec neque justo, vulputate vel velit ut, pulvinar suscipit nibh.
9
10 1. Nullam risus erat, consectetur quis libero in, condimentum accumsan qu
11
12 Maecenas egestas pulvinar lobortis.
```

# Page content: “About” pages

- For easier layout options, make pages into “About” pages
- To do this, you will add an `about` option to the `yaml` of the page you want to change (not `_yaml.qmd`!)
- You will need to pick one of 5 templates for your About page:
  - `jolla`
  - `trestles`
  - `solana`
  - `marquee`
  - `broadside`

# About pages: trying it out

- Try making `index.qmd` an “About” page using `template: jolla`

```
1 ---
2 title: "Finley Malloc"
3 about:
4   template: jolla
5   image: profile.jpg
6   links:
7     - icon: github
8       text: Github
9       href: https://github.com
10    - icon: file-pdf
11      text: CV
12      href: my_cv.pdf
13 ---
```

# About pages: trying it out

- Add a picture of yourself using `image: profile.jpg`
- You can also add links to social media, `GitHub` or files like your CV<sup>1</sup>

```
1 ---
2 title: "Finley Malloc"
3 about:
4   template: jolla
5   image: profile.jpg
6   links:
7     - icon: github
8       text: Github
9       href: https://github.com
10    - icon: file-pdf
11      text: CV
12      href: my_cv.pdf
13 ---
```

Make sure any files (or their parent directories) are in the same directory as your project!

<sup>1</sup> Available icons: <https://icons.othootstran.com/>

# Make a new page

- You can make new pages by creating new `.qmd` files in the project directory
- Try making a new quarto file called `research.qmd`<sup>1</sup>
- You can add content using `Markdown` as before
  - **Tip:** you can also format *any* page (or part of a page) using one of the “About” templates

1. Or just rename the blank file `about.qmd`, it's not the same as your “About” page



# Add it to the site

- Add your new page to the site by linking it to the navbar in the `_quarto.yml` file

```
1 project:
2   type: website
3   output-dir: docs
4
5 website:
6   title: "My Name"
7   navbar:
8     left:
9       - href: index.qmd
10         text: Home
11       - about.qmd
12       - research.qmd
13
14 format:
15   html:
16     theme: zephyr
17     css: styles.css
18     toc: true
```

# Publishing with GitHub Pages

# Project setup

In your RStudio project:

- Open the file `_quarto.yml` and set `output-dir: docs`

```
1 project:
2   type: website
3   output-dir: docs
4
5 website:
6   title: "My Name"
7   navbar:
8     left:
9       - href: index.qmd
10         text: Home
11       - about.qmd
12       - research.qmd
```

- Add an empty text file to the project directory and name it `.nojekyll`
- Render site using `Build > Render Website`

# GitHub setup (manual)

- Create a repository in your [GitHub](#) account that has the **same** name as your RStudio project
- From within the new repository, select [Add file > Upload files](#) and upload the entire contents of the project directory
- Every time you want to edit your site you will need to:
  1. [Build > Render Website](#)
  2. Upload **all** new files to [GitHub](#)

# git and RStudio

- Haven't used `git` directly from RStudio before?
  - You will need to generate a PAT using `usethis::create_github_token()`
  - Store it in RStudio using `gitcreds::gitcreds_set()`

# GitHub setup (usethis)

- Set up your project for git tracking by running `usethis::use_git()`
- Create a corresponding repository on [GitHub](#) by running `usethis::use_github()`
- Every time you want to edit your site you will need to:
  1. [Build > Render Website](#)
  2. Stage files by checking names in [Git](#) tab
  3. Commit files by clicking [Commit](#) and adding a message
  4. Push to the repository by clicking [Push](#)

# GitHub Pages setup

In the repository page on [github.com](https://github.com):

- Go to the “Settings” tab in the top menu bar
- Then select “Pages” from the left menu bar
- Set branch to [main](#) or [master](#)<sup>1</sup> and selected folder to [/docs](#) and save
- The url will change when the page is fully deployed
- Go to the “Actions” tab in the top menu bar to see the deployment status

1. Depending on your setup the main branch will either be called [main](#) or [master](#); you can find out which one you’re on by typing `git branch` in the Terminal

# Advanced content and customization



# Page content: **pandoc**

- **Markdown** is supposed to be easy to read
- For more complex formats, you can use **pandoc** syntax
- Try adding columns using a **.columns** div

```
1 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.  
2  
3 ::: {.columns}  
4 ::: {.column width="50%"}  
5 Sed at nulla lobortis, faucibus nisi et, tempor dui.  
6 :::  
7  
8 ::: {.column width="50%"}  
9 Fusce quis nulla sodales, ultricies arcu vitae, bibendum est.  
10 :::  
11 :::
```

# Custom styles

- Want to customize colors, fonts, and more? Use Sass!
  - **Tip:** Add customization on top of an existing theme by using multiple theme arguments
    - ex: `theme: [journal, styles.scss]`
- How:
  - Make a new file ending in `.scss` and add it to the theme setting in your `_yaml.qmd` file
  - Make two sections in your new file:
    - `/*-- scss:defaults --*/`
    - `/*-- scss:rules --*/`

# Defaults

- Define variables like colors and fonts in `scss:defaults`

```
1  /*-- scss:defaults --*/
2
3  // import a font from google
4  @import url('https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?family=Merriweather&displa
5
6  // set fonts for text
7  $font-family-sans-serif: "Merriweather", Palatino, FreeSerif, serif !defa
8
9  // set colors for text
10 $body-bg: #f0f1eb !default;
11 $body-color: #000 !default;
12 $link-color: #51483d !default;
13
14 // set font and colors for headings
15 $presentation-heading-font: "Merriweather", Palatino, FreeSerif, serif !d
16 $presentation-heading-color: #383d3d !default;
```

- For full list of variables you can set, see:  
<https://quarto.org/docs/presentations/revealjs/themes.html#sass-variables>

# Rules

- Use `scss:rules` to define additional `css` styles

```
1  /*-- scss:rules --*/
2
3  // highlight a word
4  .highlight {
5      color: #D33582;
6      font-weight: bold;
7  }
8
```

- To use this style, you would type:  
`[highlighted phrase]{.highlight}`
- Which would produce: **highlighted phrase**

# Resources

- Guides to website setup:
  - <https://quarto.org/docs/websites>
  - <https://ucsb-meds.github.io/creating-quarto-websites>
  - <https://ddimmery.com/posts/quarto-website>
  - <https://www.marvinschmitt.com/blog/website-tutorial-quarto>
- Inspiration:
  - <https://github.com/mcanouil/awesome-quarto>
- Use a custom domain name with GitHub Pages:
  - <https://hossainkhan.medium.com/using-custom-domain-for-github-pages-86b303d3918a>