# BEST PRACTICES FOR THE POLITICAL SCIENTIST

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# INTRO

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- I'll give general advice that should apply for most, and then the tools I use for the specific problem

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  - Keep track of the paper, figures, tables, references, cross-references, analysis, appendix, etc

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  - Present results
  - Do the above reproducibly
- We'll focus on free, open-source tools that enable this behavior and work on Linux,
   Mac, and Windows

RECORD

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- git is the best version-control system it combines the benefits of "track changes" with that of backups

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- ((show example git history))

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- · When you return to your code six months from now, you won't have to wonder what it is or what you were thinking

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  - Feel free to fork-edit-pull request any changes!

# EDIT TEXT

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- What if we write an article now that gets famous?
- · 20 years later, some grad student wants to extend our work
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- Non-plain text files may be unusable 20 years from now
- · Bonus: plain text files are usually *much* smaller than their Word/pdf counterparts

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  - Vim
  - RStudio (for R analysis)

#### **MARKDOWN**

# Markdown

You can use markdown to write plain text that [contain links](https://google.com). Markdown can also manage your references and bibliography [@wlezien1995].

#### MARKDOWN - MATH

As a quick aside, we can also write really nice math in markdown. Inline math goes between single dollar signs: (\$\beta = 3\$) and display math uses double dollar signs:

$$\frac{1}{3} x = \pi$$



REPRODUCE

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- · Solution: Integrate code and paper with rmarkdown

#### **RMARKDOWN**

Rmarkdown lets you put code inside your markdown document like so:

```
```{r}
x <- c(1, 2, 3)
mean(x)
```

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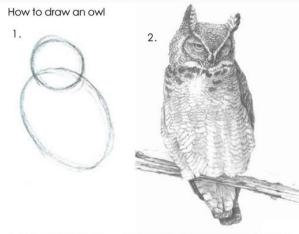
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- · These programs work well with each other

# **SETUP**

How to install and setup this stuff?

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1. Draw some circles

2. Draw the rest of the fucking owl