Applied Research Methods (MULT30018)

Tutorial 2

Nhan La

- To discuss and start work on Assignment 1
- To get to know the basics of the World Values Survey (WVS) and its data
- To understand basic descriptive statistics
- To understand the basics of how to work with SPSS to calculate those descriptive statistics and recode variables
- To understand sampling and social desirability biases

Administration:
- Short Research Design
- Length: 600 words (+/- 10%)
- Grade: 15%
- Due: 4pm Wednesday 30th August

Format and contents:
- Title
- Introduction
  - Sell your idea
  - Why is it important?
  - How is it relevant to existing theory and evidence?
- Variables
  - What are those variables?
  - How are they measured?
- Expectations
  - What will results likely be?
- Consideration of possible problems (optional)
  - Survey and data
  - Validity of findings?

Research question:
-    What is a research question?
-   Why do we need one?
-   How do we know it is a good one?
-   What will we do with it?

Develop research question and hypothesis
- Choose a topic
    o Choose an interesting topic
    o Gather information of the topic
    o Identify subtopics in relation to the broader topic
    o Start asking questions: How and Why? So what?
- Determine and evaluate your research question
    o Clear
    o Focused
    o Concise
    o Complex
    o Arguable
- Hypothesis
    o Where do you think your research will take you?
    o What kind of argument are you hoping to make/support?
    o What will it mean if your research disputes your planned argument?

Useful notes:
- Primer or training for the final essay
- Topics can cover any social sciences questions and can change
- Dependent variables (what you want to explain based on other variables) should have more than 2 categories
- Review the subject guide for further specific guidance

- http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org
- Study changing values and their impact on social and political life
- Nationally representative surveys conducted in almost 100 countries
- 6 waves completed, WVS 7 on the way
- Wave 6 will be used for assignments
- Topics covered: Values; Individual characteristics; Social and economic environment; Political environment; Religion; Australian Society; Demographics

- Variable
- Measurement
- Population
- Sample
- Data

- Skim through the survey questionnaire
- Think about possible questions that WVS data may help you answer
- Share and discuss

- Overview
- Starting SPSS
- SPSS windows and files
- Working with the Data Editor
- Practice
    - o Check variable code
    - o Recode variables
    - o Calculate mean, median and standard deviation

?