Policing Project Coding Practices

# Working Directory

To ensure consistent working directory practices we will be using the Here() function to default our working directories to the project root folder in each script. Accordingly, each script should begin with setwd(here()) as the first executable code.

Further, we will not adjust the working directory in scripts to avoid conflicts when pointing to various paths within the project. We are using a small enough project that it is not difficult to reference any necessary location from the root folder.

# Dependency Management

Necessary packages for code execution will be stored as a list in the PackagesList.txt file located in our root folder. A complementary script has been added in the root folder as well, ProjectPackageManagement.R, that includes 2 functions to use for managing our dependencies.

* **PackageDependency():** This function when executed will check the required project packages from the PackagesList.txt file, and compare it with the local installed packages. In cases where a required package has not been installed, said packages will be installed, and then all required packages will be loaded as libraries for the current session.
* **AddPackage():** In case people don’t want to manually update the PackagesList.txt they can invoke the AddPackage() function, and pass the name of the package they wish to add via the function. This function is not robust, so please only pass proper string, and only 1 at a time.

To have access to these functions it will be necessary to run source("ProjectPackageManagement.R") at the top of each script after setting the working directory to our root project folder.

# Dataset Read and Write Practices

To keep our code consistent and easy to reference for where we are reading and writing data, I am requesting we practice importing all the data a script requires at the top of the script and then for any data writing, we execute those functions at the end of a script. Though at times a script may be ready to export a data table before the end of the code, it can make it difficult to properly find all the files a script is interacting with if we need to review every line to ensure we are not missing any.