

# SESSION 3: PROGRAMMING IN DO-FILES (I)

Manuel V. Montesinos

Computation Brush-Up Course  
Competition and EPP Master Programs

Fall 2020



## Setting Directories

We already know that we can set a **working directory** by typing `cd "mydirectorypath"`.

If we want to work in a **subfolder** of the current directory, you only need to write the name of the subfolder:

```
cd "subfoldername"
```

We can create **new directories** at higher levels using commands directly (`../` for one level higher):

```
mkdir ../../anotherdirectory
```

We can also **load/delete files** from different directories if needed.

## Log-Files

**Log-files** are Stata's built-in “tape recorder” where you can retrieve the output of your work and keep a record of it.

These files are saved using the “.log” or “.smcl” suffixes, and can be read by any text processor (Notepad, Word, etc.) apart from Stata.

To **create** one, in the command line type `log using mylog.log`. If you want to **stop using** this log-file, close it with `log close mylog`.

To **add more output** to an existing log-file: `log using mylog.log, append`.

To **replace** an existing log-file: `log using mylog.log, replace`.

## *Tips for Programming in Do-Files*

Start your do-file by including a **title**, the **name of the programmer** and a **date**.

In order to avoid stopping the execution of the do-file due to **large results**, type in `set more off` (, permanently).

Start with the command `clear` and `capture log close` to ensure you begin with a clean slate.

**Comment your do-files.** You can use `//` (everything that follows to the end of the line is a comment), `*` (everything that follows on the same line is a comment), or `/* */` (everything in between the opening `/*` and the closing `*/` is a comment).

`///` indicates the command **continues in the next line**.