# Data visualization with ggplot2

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# Why ggplot2?

- Base R has the set of built-in plotting functions, such as plot() or hist(), which might be useful when you need to quickly look at your data
- If you need to come up with a highly customized figure, the ggplot2 package is your choice
- With ggplot2, you build up a plot layer by layer, and each layer can come from a different dataset
  - ggplot2 works with datasets and not with separate vectors as base R does; some people consider it a downside
- Plots made with ggplot2 can be really pretty

- ▶ A **layer** created with the geom function
  - Layers display data on a plot

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- A scale customizes aesthetic elements
  - Every aesthetic is associated with a separate scale
- A facet specifies how to break up and display subsets of data
- A theme controls elements of the plot not associated with data, such as the font size, background color or the location of a legend
  - ggplot2 has a large variety of pre-specified themes
  - You can also create your own theme

## Base layer

```
ggplot2(data = df,
    aes(x = x, y = y))
```

The geom function add a layer to a plot and specifies its type

geom\_point() produces scatterplots

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- geom\_line() makes a line plot

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- geom\_polygon() and geom\_sf() can be used to draw a map

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- geom\_polygon() and geom\_sf() can be used to draw a map

You can combine different geoms on the same plot; for example, you can add points to a line plot

# Adding a geom

```
ggplot2(data = df, aes(x = x, y = y)) +
geom_line()
```

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- Position scales control the x and y axes
  - scale\_x\_NAME(), scale\_y\_NAME()
  - NAME refers to data type and most often is continuous or discrete
  - You can specify axes limits, breaks (the locations of the axis tick marks), or the labels of the tick marks

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  - scale\_x\_NAME(), scale\_y\_NAME()
  - NAME refers to data type and most often is continuous or discrete
  - You can specify axes limits, breaks (the locations of the axis tick marks), or the labels of the tick marks
- Color scales map values to colors and produce legends
  - scale\_color\_NAME()
  - scale\_fill\_NAME()
  - NAME is either manual or pre-specified palette sets, such as brewer for discrete values or distiller for continuous values

# Controlling scales

```
ggplot2(data = df, aes(x = x, y = y)) +
scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0, 1)) +
geom_line()
```

## Data for today

AJR (2001) The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development

- logem4 the logarithm of the settler mortality rates per thousand
- avexpr the average value of an index of protection against expropriation between 1985 and 1995
- f\_brit the dummy variable that takes on a value of one if a country was a British colony
- muslim80 the fraction of the country population that is Muslim

### Link to replication files

## Data for today

#### AJR (2001) The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development

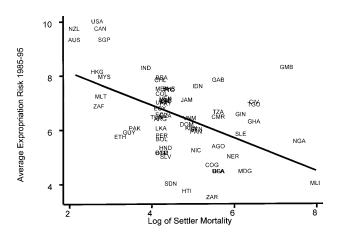


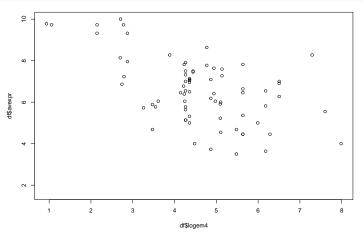
Figure 3: First-Stage Relationship between Settler Mortality and Expropriation Risk

# Agenda

- 1. Scatterplots
- 2. Histograms
- 3. Intro to maps

## Scatterplot in base R

```
library(foreign)
df = read.dta("ajr.dta")
plot(x = df$logem4, y = df$avexpr)
```



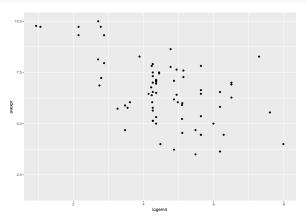
#### Base layer

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr))
             10.0 -
             7.5 -
             5.0 -
```

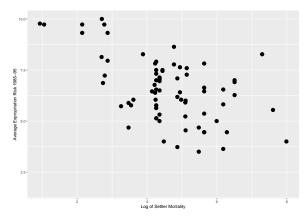
logem4

#### Adding a geom

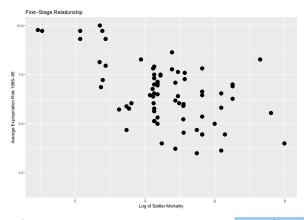
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr)) +
geom_point()
```



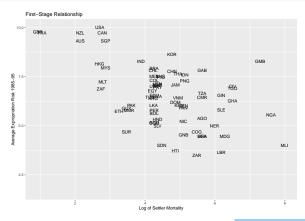
#### Labeling axes



#### Adding the title

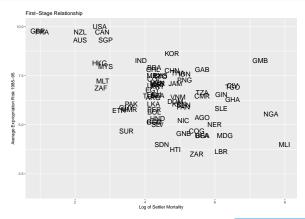


#### Labeling points



#### Increasing label size

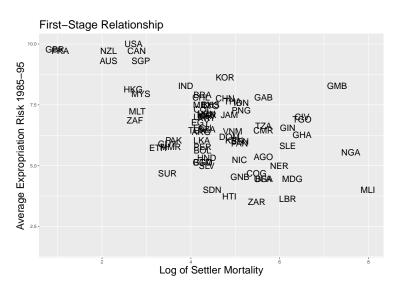
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
geom_text(size = 6) +
labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
    y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
    title = "First-Stage Relationship")
```



Increasing title and axes labels font size

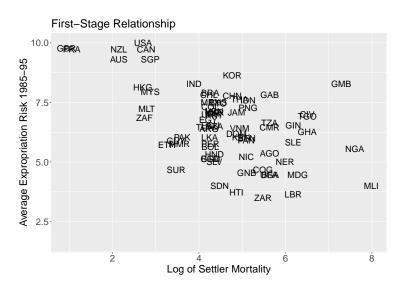
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
      y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
      title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
      axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
      axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20))
```

#### Increasing title and axes labels font size

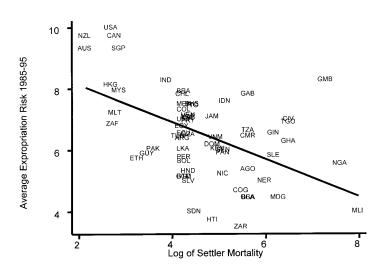


Increasing axes tick mark labels font size

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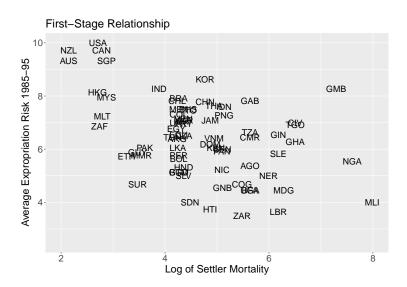
#### Working with axes



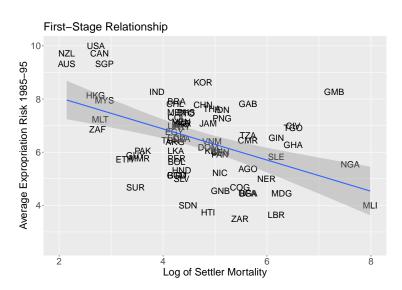
#### Working with axes

```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom\ text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element text(size = 18)) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10)
```

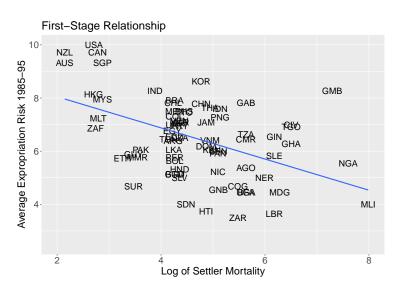
### Working with axes



```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
      v = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 theme(plot.title = element text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18)) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10)) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm)
```



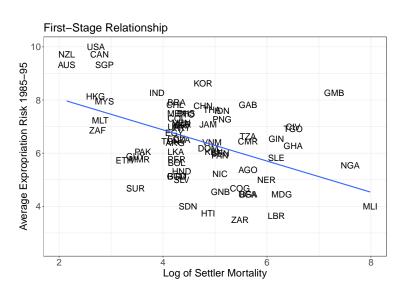
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
      v = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 theme(plot.title = element text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18)) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE)
```



Themes: theme\_bw()

```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom\ text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE) +
 theme bw() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18))
```

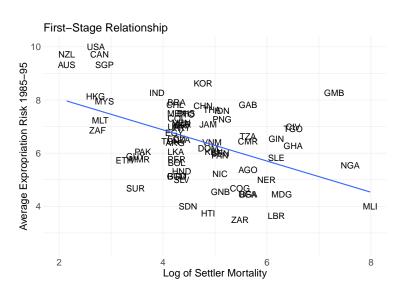
Themes: theme\_bw()



Themes: theme\_minimal()

```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom\ text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE) +
  theme minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18))
```

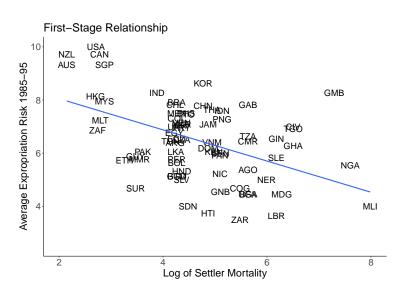
Themes: theme\_minimal()



Themes: theme\_classic()

```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom\ text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE) +
  theme classic() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18))
```

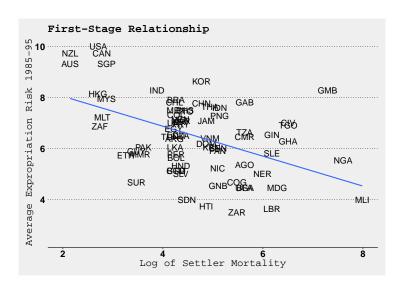
Themes: theme\_classic()



Themes: theme\_wsj()

```
library(ggthemes)
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
      y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale x continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE) +
  theme_wsj(color='gray') +
  theme(plot.title = element text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18))
```

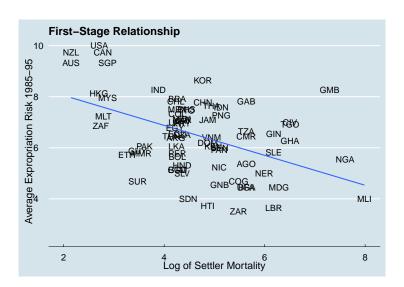
Themes: theme\_wsj()



Themes: theme\_economist()

```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom\ text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE) +
  theme economist() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18))
```

Themes: theme\_economist()



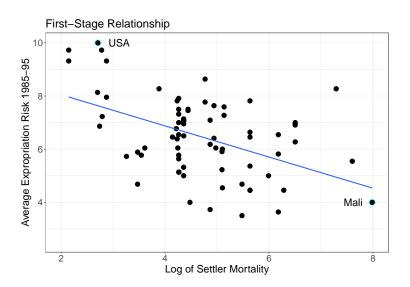
#### Annotating

```
p = ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr)) +
 geom point(size = 4) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  geom_smooth(method = lm, se = FALSE) +
 theme bw() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18))
```

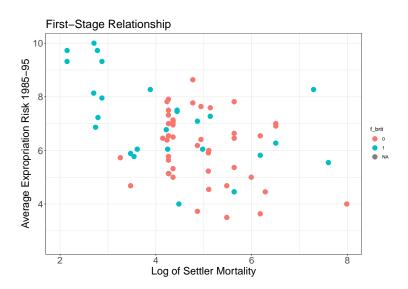
#### Annotating

```
usa = df %>% filter(shortnam == "USA") %>%
  select(avexpr, logem4) %>% unlist()
mali = df %>% filter(shortnam == "MLI") %>%
  select(avexpr, logem4) %>% unlist()
p +
  # USA
  annotate(geom = "point", x = usa["logem4"], y = usa["avexpr"],
           colour = "darkslategray1", size = 8) +
  annotate(geom = "point", x = usa["logem4"], y = usa["avexpr"],
           size = 4) +
  annotate(geom = "text", x = usa["logem4"], y = usa["avexpr"],
           label = "USA", size = 7, hjust = -0.5) +
  # Ma.1. i.
  annotate(geom = "point", x = mali["logem4"], y = mali["avexpr"],
           colour = "darkslategray1", size = 8) +
  annotate(geom = "point", x = mali["logem4"], y = mali["avexpr"],
           size = 4) +
  annotate(geom = "text", x = mali["logem4"], y = mali["avexpr"],
           label = "Mali", size = 7, hjust = 1.5)
```

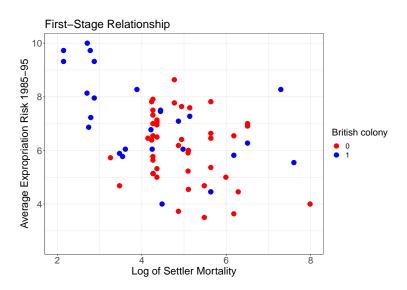
### Annotating



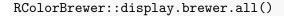
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr,
                          color = f_brit)) +
  geom_point(size = 4) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
      y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
      title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
 theme bw() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element text(size = 18))
```



```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, color = f brit)) +
 geom_point(size = 4) +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10)) +
  # MANUAL
 scale color manual(
   name = "British colony", # ADDS LEGEND TITLE
   values = c("0" = "red", "1" = "blue")) +
 theme bw() +
 theme(plot.title = element text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element_text(size = 18),
       legend.text = element_text(size = 14))
```

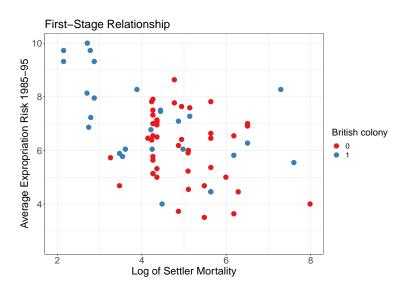


### **RColorBrewer**





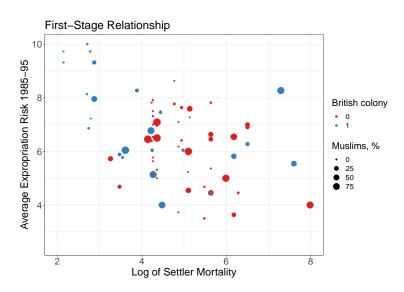
```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, color = f brit)) +
 geom_point(size = 4) +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale x continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
 scale v continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
  # BREWER
 scale_color_brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
 theme bw() +
 theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.text = element_text(size = 14))
```



#### Size by value

```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr,
           color = f_brit, size = muslim80)) +
 geom_point() +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
      y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
      title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale x continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
 scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4.6.8.10) +
 scale color brewer(name = "British colony".
                     palette = "Set1") +
 scale size continuous(name = "Muslims, %") +
 theme bw() +
 theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element_text(size = 18),
       legend.text = element_text(size = 14))
```

### Size by value



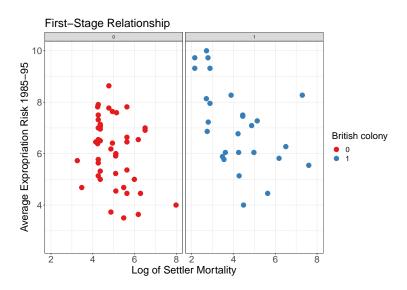
#### Faceting

- Faceting generates and displays subsets of data defined by a categorical variable (or combination of multiple categorical variables)
- To create a faceted plot, you need to add a new layer with facet\_wrap()
  - Specify a name of a grouping variable after the sign
- Faceted plots are displayed in a table
  - You can control the number of rows and columns using the nrow and ncol arguments
  - dir controls the direction of wrap: "h" for horizontal or "v" for vertical

#### Faceting

```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr,
           color = f brit)) +
 geom_point(size = 4) +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale x continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
 scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
 scale_color_brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
 scale size continuous(name = "Muslims, %") +
 theme bw() +
 theme(plot.title = element text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element text(size = 18).
        legend.text = element text(size = 14)) +
 facet wrap(~factor(f brit))
```

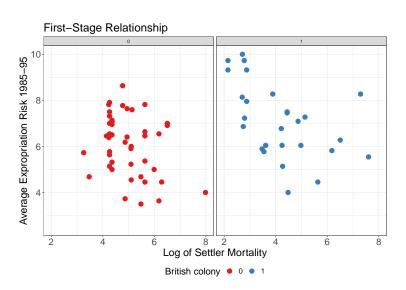
### **Faceting**



#### Positioning a legend

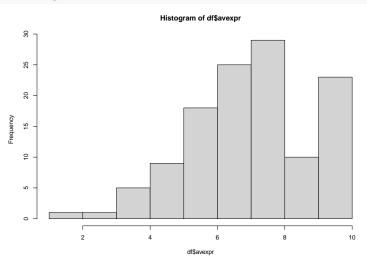
```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, color = f brit)) +
 geom_point(size = 4) +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale x continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
 scale_y_continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10) +
 scale_color_brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
 scale size continuous(name = "Muslims, %") +
 theme bw() +
 theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.text = element text(size = 14)) +
 facet wrap(~factor(f brit)) +
 theme(legend.position = "bottom")
```

#### Positioning a legend



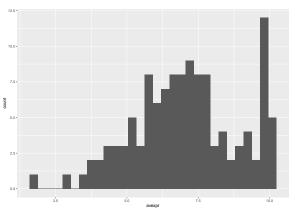
# Histogram in base R

### hist(df\$avexpr)

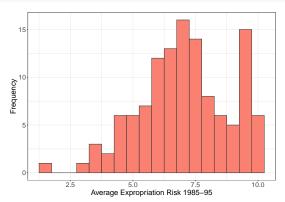


# Histogram

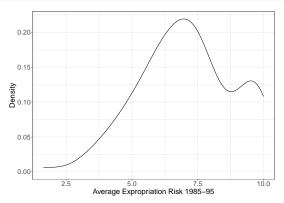
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = avexpr)) +
  geom_histogram()
```



## Histogram

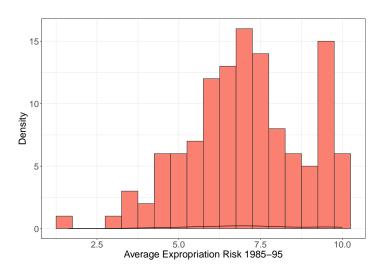


### Density plot



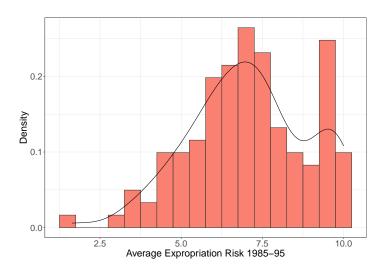
We have a problem

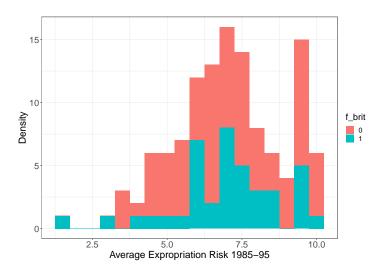
We have a problem



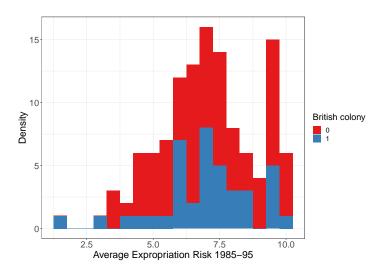
Updating y-axis

Updating y-axis





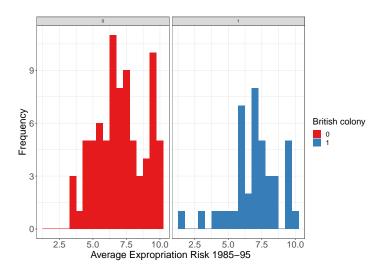
```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == F),
       aes(x = avexpr, fill = f_brit)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 0.5) +
  scale_fill_brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
  labs(x = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95", y = "Density") +
 theme_bw() +
  theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.text = element_text(size = 14))
```



#### Faceting

```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == F),
       aes(x = avexpr, fill = f_brit)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 0.5) +
  scale_fill_brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
  labs(x = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95", y = "Frequency") +
 theme bw() +
  theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element text(size = 18),
        legend.text = element_text(size = 14)) +
 facet_wrap(~f_brit)
```

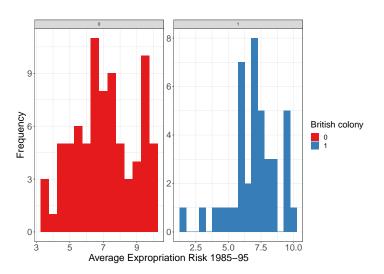
#### **Faceting**



#### Controlling scales

```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == F),
       aes(x = avexpr, fill = factor(f_brit))) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 0.5) +
  scale_fill_brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
  labs(x = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95", y = "Frequency") +
 theme bw() +
 theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element text(size = 18),
        legend.text = element_text(size = 14)) +
  facet_wrap(~f_brit, scales = "free")
```

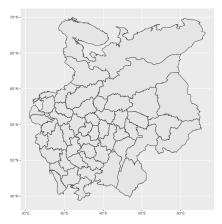
#### Controlling scales



- A lot of social processes have a spatial dimension
  - Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things
  - Visualizing data in space might be really illuminating
- To plot a map, you need a file that contains the coordinates of objects you want to display (it is usually called a shapefile)
- Use st\_read() from the sf package to load a shapefile in R
- ▶ In ggplot2, use geom\_sf() to add a map layer

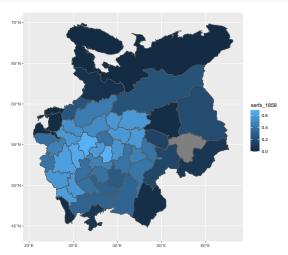
```
library(sf)
ri = st_read("re/re.shp")

ggplot(data = re) +
  geom_sf()
```



#### Coloring a map

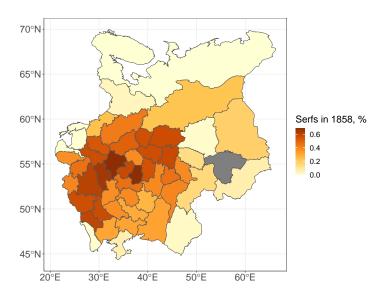
```
ggplot(data = re, aes(fill = serfs_1858)) +
  geom_sf()
```



Customizing a map

```
ggplot(data = re, aes(fill = serfs_1858)) +
 geom_sf() +
  scale_fill_distiller(palette = "YlOrBr",
                       direction = 1.
                       name = "Serfs in 1858, %") +
 theme bw() +
  theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.title.y = element_text(size = 20),
        axis.text.x = element_text(size = 18),
        axis.text.y = element_text(size = 18),
        legend.title = element text(size = 18),
        legend.text = element_text(size = 14))
```

#### Customizing a map



# Exporting a plot

```
ggplot(data = re, aes(fill = serfs_1858)) +
  geom_sf()
ggsave("my-first-map.pdf")
```

### Activity

- Plot a histogram of settler mortality rates (logem4). Set binwidth equal to 1. Label axes and customize colors. Examine the histograms of settler mortality rates across British and non-British colonies.
  - ▶ Here you can asses the list of colors available in R
- Plot a scatterplot of settler mortality rates and the logarithm of GDP per capita in 1995 (logpgp95). Label points and add a regression line.
- Build a boxplot of settler mortality rates setting aes(y = logem4) and adding geom\_boxplot()
  - Suppose you want to zoom in on countries for which log mortality rates lie between 3 and 7 Set the limits of the y scale. What do you notice?
  - Now use coord\_cartesian(ylim = c(3, 7)) instead of setting the scale. What changes now?
  - Throughout the problem, you can also plot the median adding a layer with a horizontal line using geom\_hline(yintercept = median(df\$logem4, na.rm = T)) (don't forget to change a color)

#### Further reads & useful resources

- Textbooks
  - ▶ Winston Chang, *R Graphics Cookbook*
  - ► Hadley Wickham, ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis
- Colors
  - Colors in R
  - ► Color palettes generator
- Maps
  - David Rumsey Map Center workshops
  - Look up shapefiles at Stanford EarthWorks