Data Visualization with ggplot2

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Why visualize?

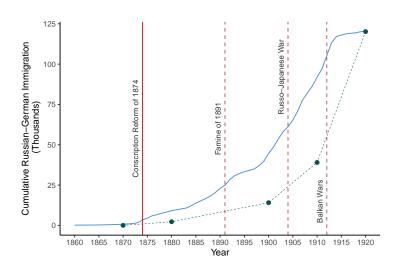
On top of all our struggles with collecting and processing data, why do we need to plot it?

Why visualize?

On top of all our struggles with collecting and processing data, why do we need to plot it?

- Representing data in a visual format can help us as researchers to make sense of it
- Clear and well-thought-out plots can help strengthen and deliver your argument

How visualize?



What do you like about this plot? What could have been done better?

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

Data

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- ▶ Aesthetic mappings that specify a relation between data and its visual properties, such as axes, colors or shapes
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 - Layers display data on a plot
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 - Layers display data on a plot
- Scales that customize aesthetic elements
 - Each 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 adds a layer to a plot and specifies its type

geom_point() produces scatterplots

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- geom_polygon() and geom_sf() can be used to draw a map

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

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- geom_histogram() makes a histogram
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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()
```

Scales

Scales control the appearance of different aesthetics

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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

Scales

Scales control the appearance of different aesthetics

- 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
- 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

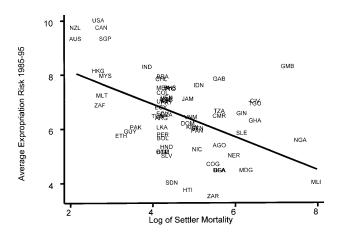


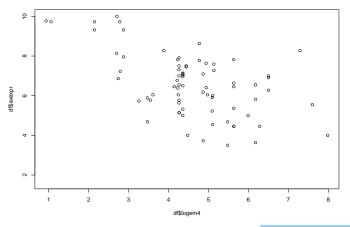
Figure 3: First-Stage Relationship between Settler Mortality and Expropriation Risk

Agenda

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

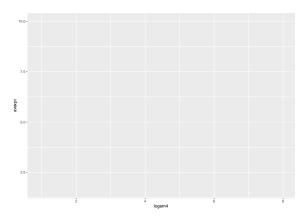
Scatterplot in base R

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



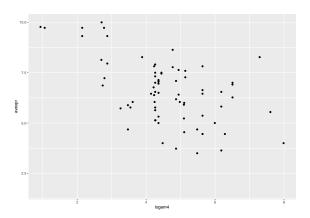
Base layer

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr))
```

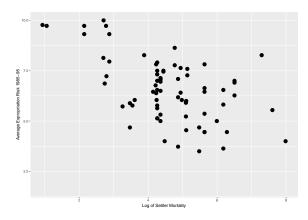


Adding a geom

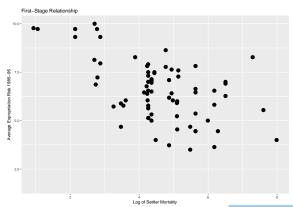
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr)) +
  geom_point()
```



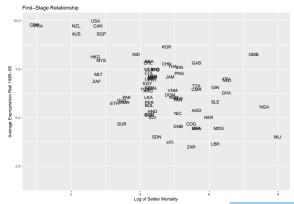
Labeling axes



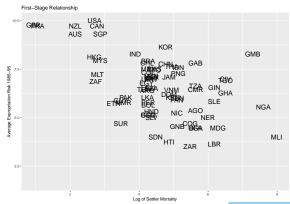
Adding the title



Labeling points



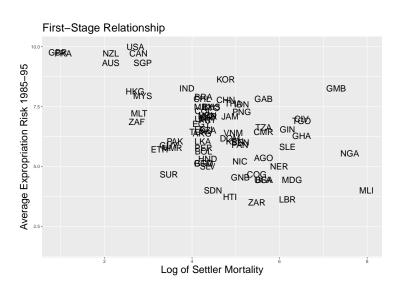
Increasing label size



Increasing title and axes labels font size

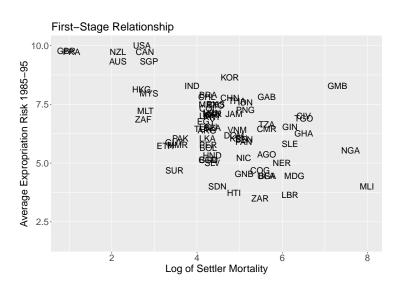
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
        y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
        title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element_text(size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

Increasing title and axes labels font size

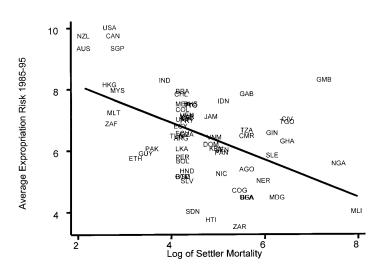


Increasing axes tick mark labels font size

Increasing axes tick mark labels font size



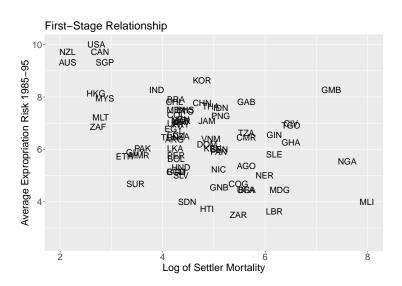
Working with axes



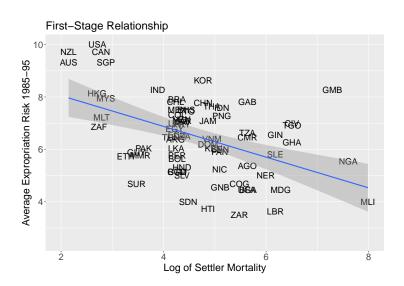
Working with axes

```
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)
```

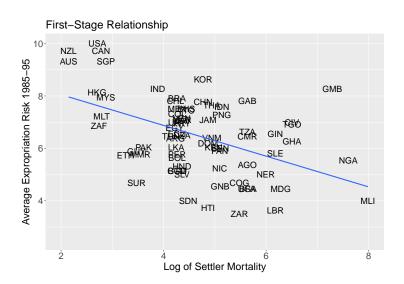
Working with axes



```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       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)) +
  geom smooth(method = lm)
```



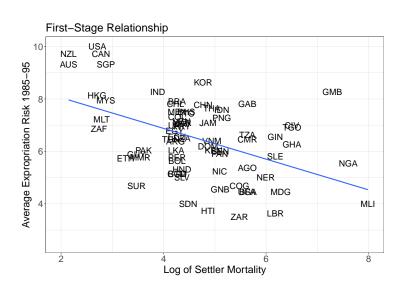
```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, label = shortnam)) +
  geom_text(size = 6) +
  labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 22),
        axis.title.x = element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

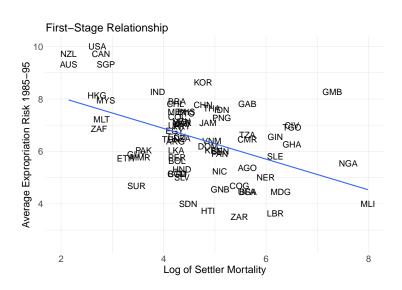
Themes: theme_bw()



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))
```

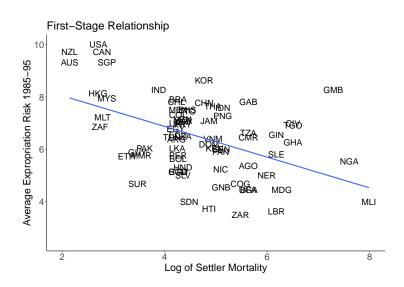
Themes: theme_minimal()



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))
```

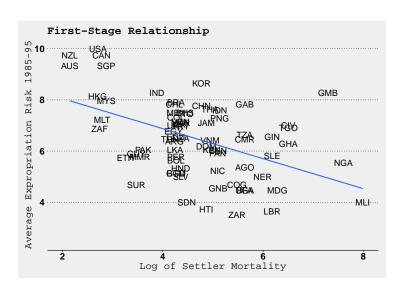
Themes: theme_classic()



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))
```

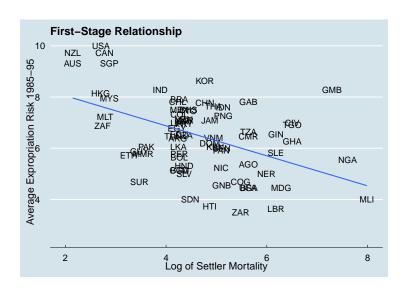
Themes: theme_wsj()



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()



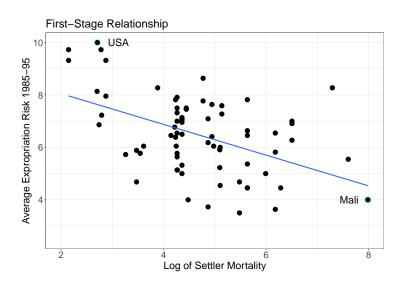
Annotating

```
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))
```

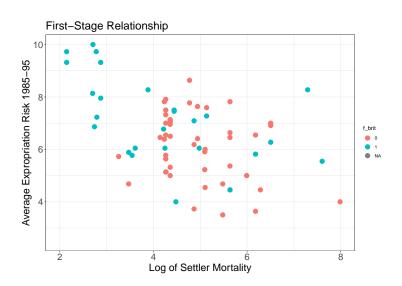
Annotating

```
usa = df %>% filter(shortnam == "USA") %>%
  select(avexpr, logem4) %>% unlist()
mali = df %>% filter(shortnam == "MLI") %>%
  select(avexpr, logem4) %>% unlist()
p +
  # IJSA
  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)
```

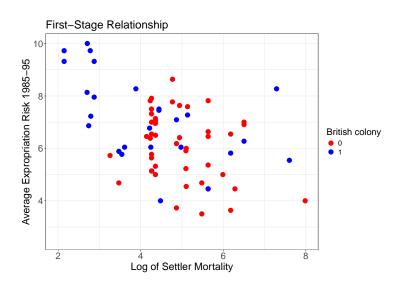
Annotating



```
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))
```

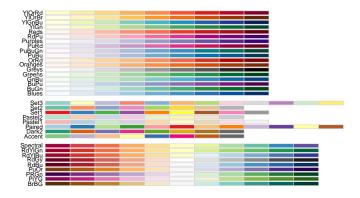


```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, color = f brit)) +
 geom_point(size = 4) +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality".
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 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))
```

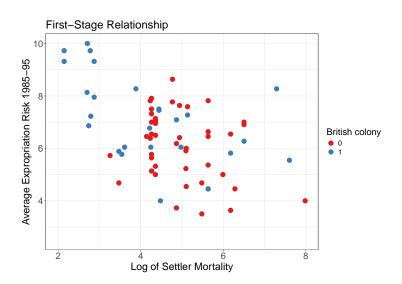


RColorBrewer

RColorBrewer::display.brewer.all()



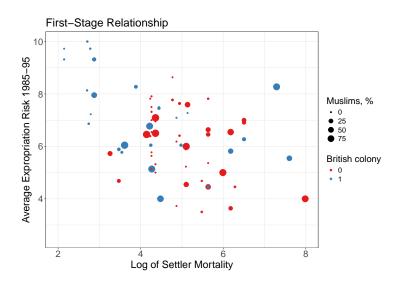
```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == FALSE),
       aes(x = logem4, y = avexpr, color = f brit)) +
 geom point(size = 4) +
 labs(x = "Log of Settler Mortality",
       y = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95",
       title = "First-Stage Relationship") +
 scale_x_continuous(limits = c(2, 8)) +
  scale y continuous(limits = c(2.5, 10),
                     breaks = c(4, 6, 8, 10)) +
  # 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



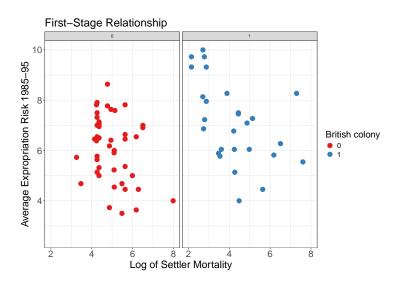
Faceting

- 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

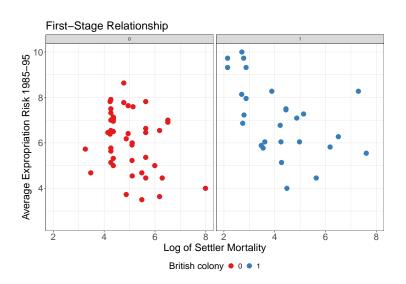


Positioning a legend

```
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")
```

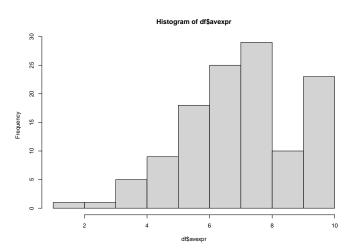
Scatterplot

Positioning a legend

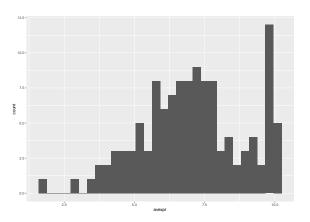


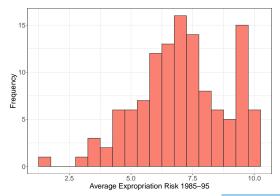
Histogram in base R

hist(df\$avexpr)

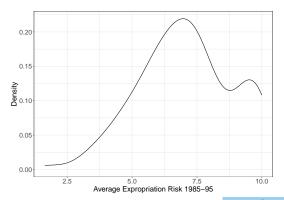


```
ggplot(data = df, aes(x = avexpr)) +
  geom_histogram()
```



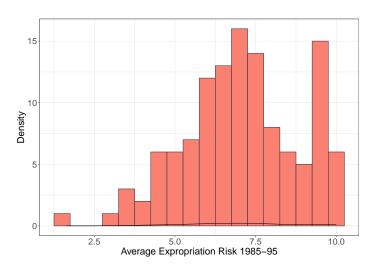


Density plot



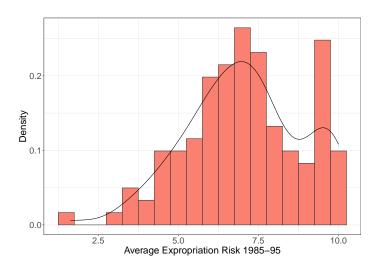
We have a problem

We have a problem

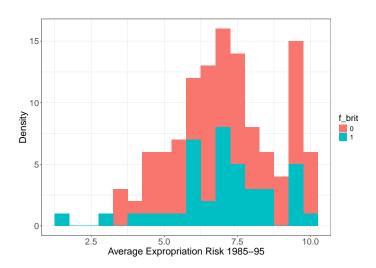


Updating y-axis

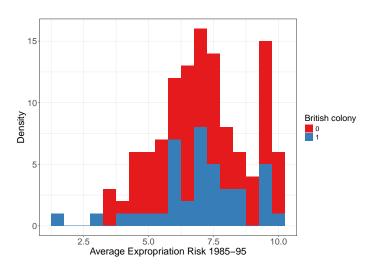
Updating y-axis



```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == F),
        aes(x = avexpr, fill = f_brit)) +
geom_histogram(binwidth = 0.5) +
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))
```



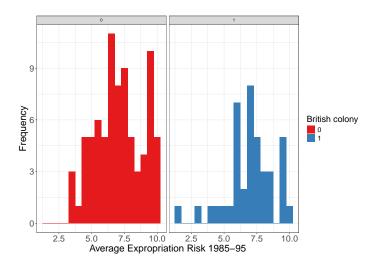
```
ggplot(data = df %>% filter(is.na(f_brit) == F),
       aes(x = avexpr, fill = f_brit)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 0.5) +
  scale fill brewer(name = "British colony",
                     palette = "Set1") +
  labs(x = "Average Expropriation Risk 1985-95", y = "Density") +
 theme bw() +
  theme(axis.title.x = 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)
```

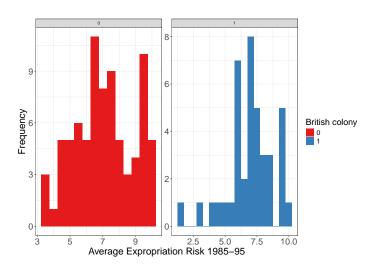
Faceting



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

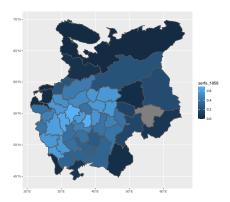
```
library(sf)
re = st_read("re/re.shp")
```

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



Coloring a map

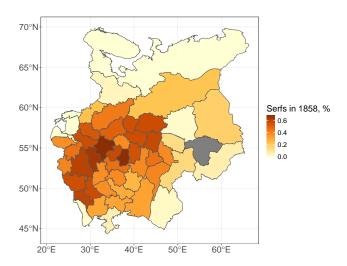
```
ggplot(data = re, aes(fill = serfs_1858)) +
  geom_sf()
```



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 access 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 <u>Stanford EarthWorks</u>