Welcome To POL 478: Data Management and Visualization for Political Scientists

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Some Quick Rules of Engagement

- Turn off your camera

- Silence your mic unless you are speaking

- If you have a question/comment, post your question in the chat or post the word "Question" in the chat. I will call on you in order of posting.

- If you have a follow up question to someone else's question, say "Follow up on [name]'s question" in chat—I will try to call on you before moving on to the next question.

About me…

- Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto, since 2020
- Previously an Assistant/Associate Professor of Political Science and Statistics at Iowa State University (2015-2020).
- My research areas are network analysis, spatial statistics, substantive focus on non-state violent actors
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- How about you?

Outline

- Introduction
- Objectives, software
- What do you already know?
- Getting started

"Tall-Order" Objective

- Become proficient in data management and visualization in R

Objectives

- Learn how to deal with complex messy networks data
- Collect, clean, and format real political data
- Use graphics to summarize, visualize and understand data
- Gain familiarity with formatting/managing data
- Become fluent in common data management and graphics packages in R

Set-up

- About 2:1 split of class between teaching:practice
- Recommend 2 screens: one to watch slides, one to follow along in R

Assessments

- 10 weekly homeworks, equally weighted.
- Revise what we covered, synthesize some new information

Lectures

- Slides and all materials available on the course website pol478.netlify.app and on Quercus
- Follow along with in-class demos or you will get swamped

What do you know already?

- Have you taken an Intro to Statistics?
- Have you used R before?
- For more than a year?