

# Welcome & get ready for the course

Research Beyond the Lab: Open Science and Research Methods  
for a Global Engineer

Prof. Elizabeth Tilley and Lars Schöbitz

Feb 20, 2025



This class is being recorded. Access to the recording is restricted to ETH members.

# Welcome! 🙌

# Meet the lecturers

Prof. Elizabeth Tilley



- Environmental Engineer 🔨
- Economist 📈
- Turkey Lover 🦃
- Canadian 🇨🇦

Lars Schöbitz



- Environmental Engineer 🔨
- Retired researcher 🔨
- RStudio certified instructor
- Data steward at ETHZ

# Learning Goals (for the course)

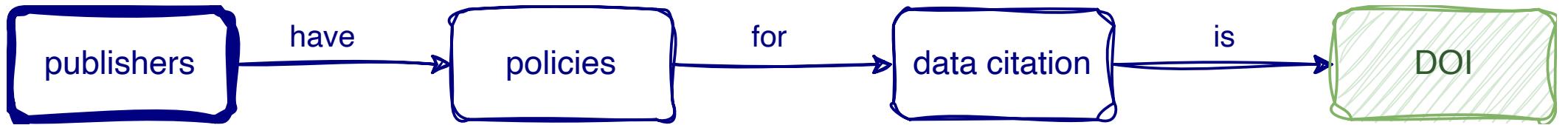
1. Be able to use a common set of data science tools (R, RStudio IDE, Git, GitHub, tidyverse, Quarto) to illustrate and communicate the results of data analysis projects.
2. Learn to use the Quarto file format and the RStudio IDE visual editing mode to produce documents with citations, footnotes, cross-references, figures, and tables.
3. Be able to design a questionnaire to collect information that can be analysed to answer a waste-related research question that is relevant for Zurich.
4. Understand the main challenges associated with managing different types of waste, and how they differ between Europe and Africa.

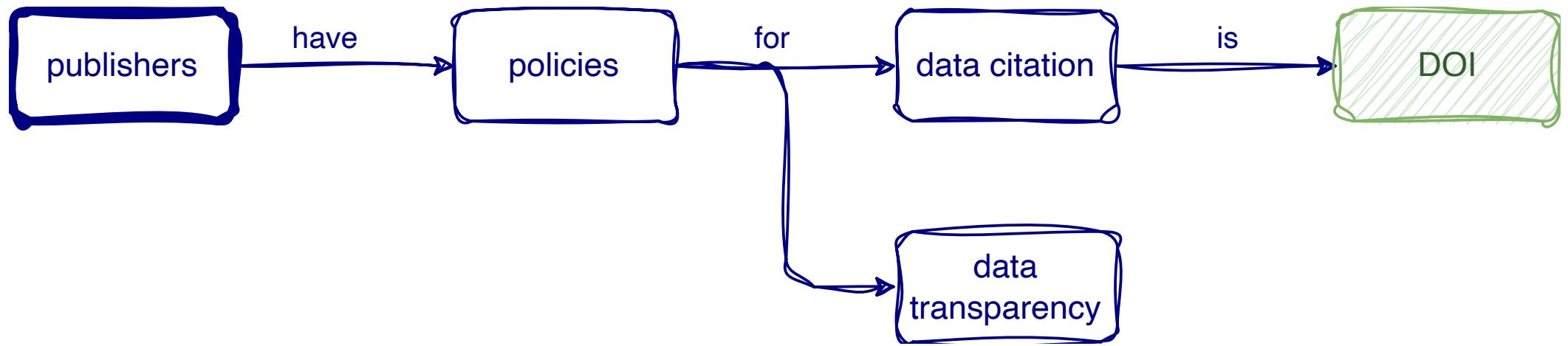
# Why all of this?

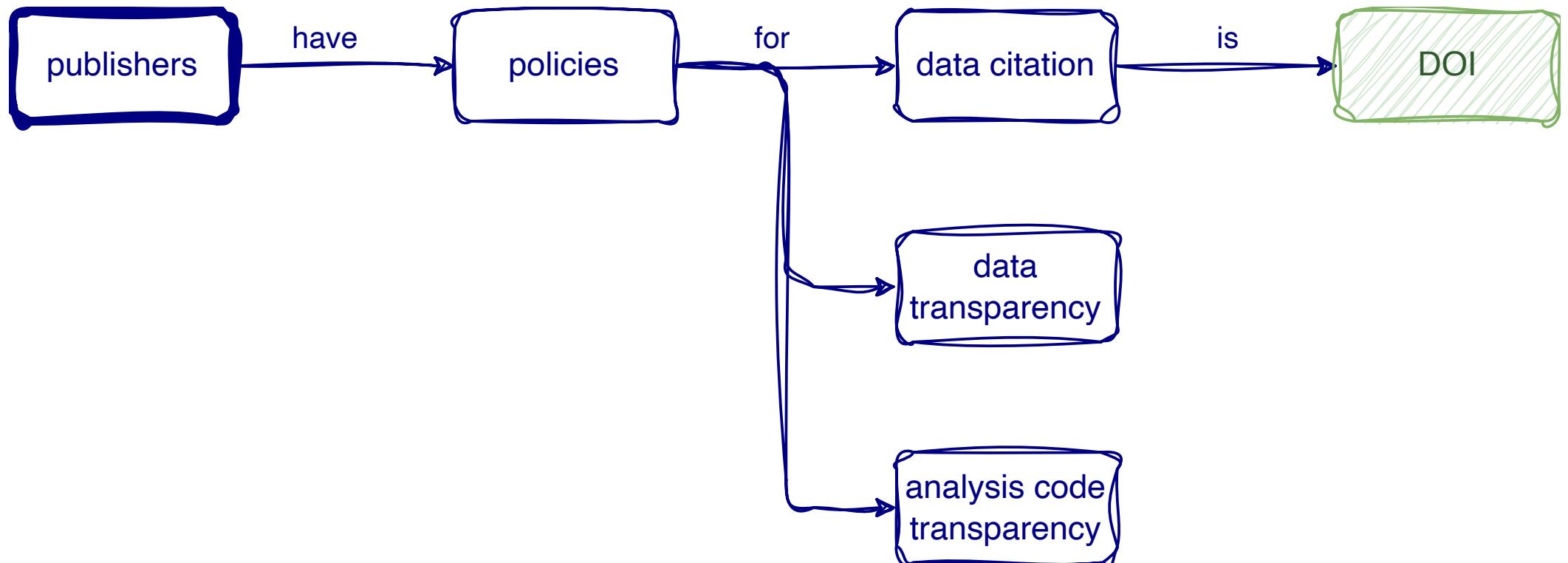
**publishers**

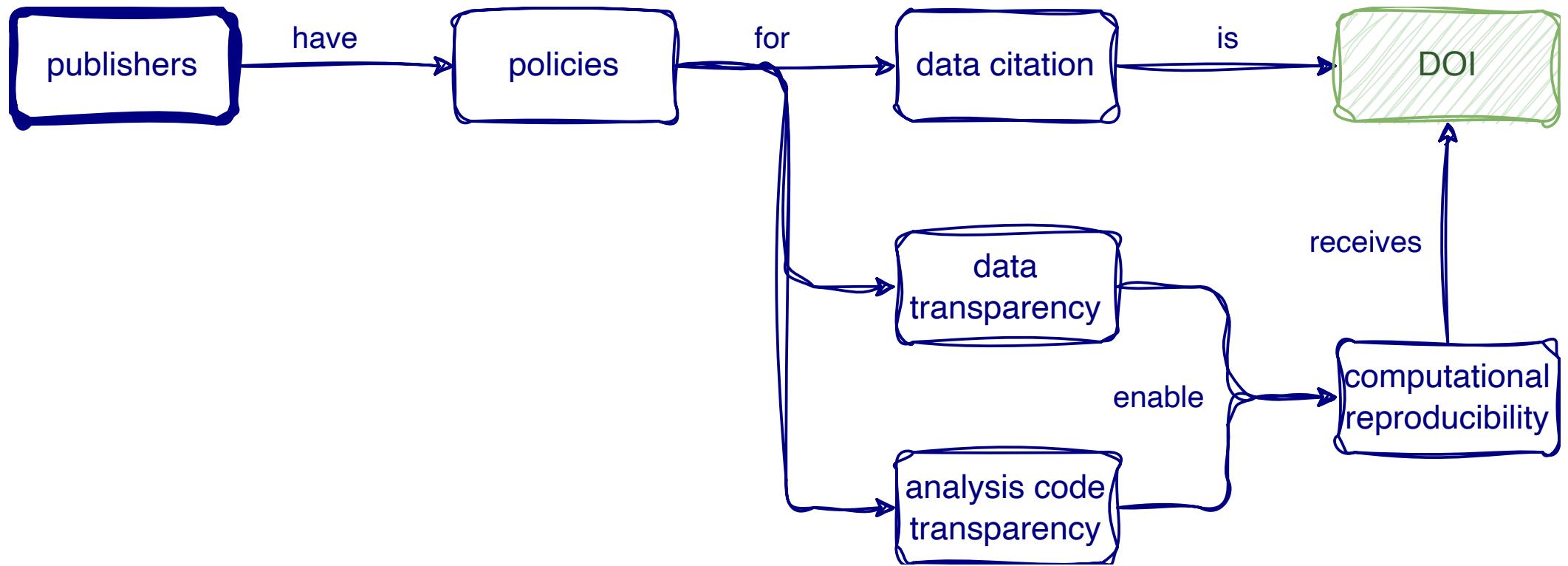
**have**

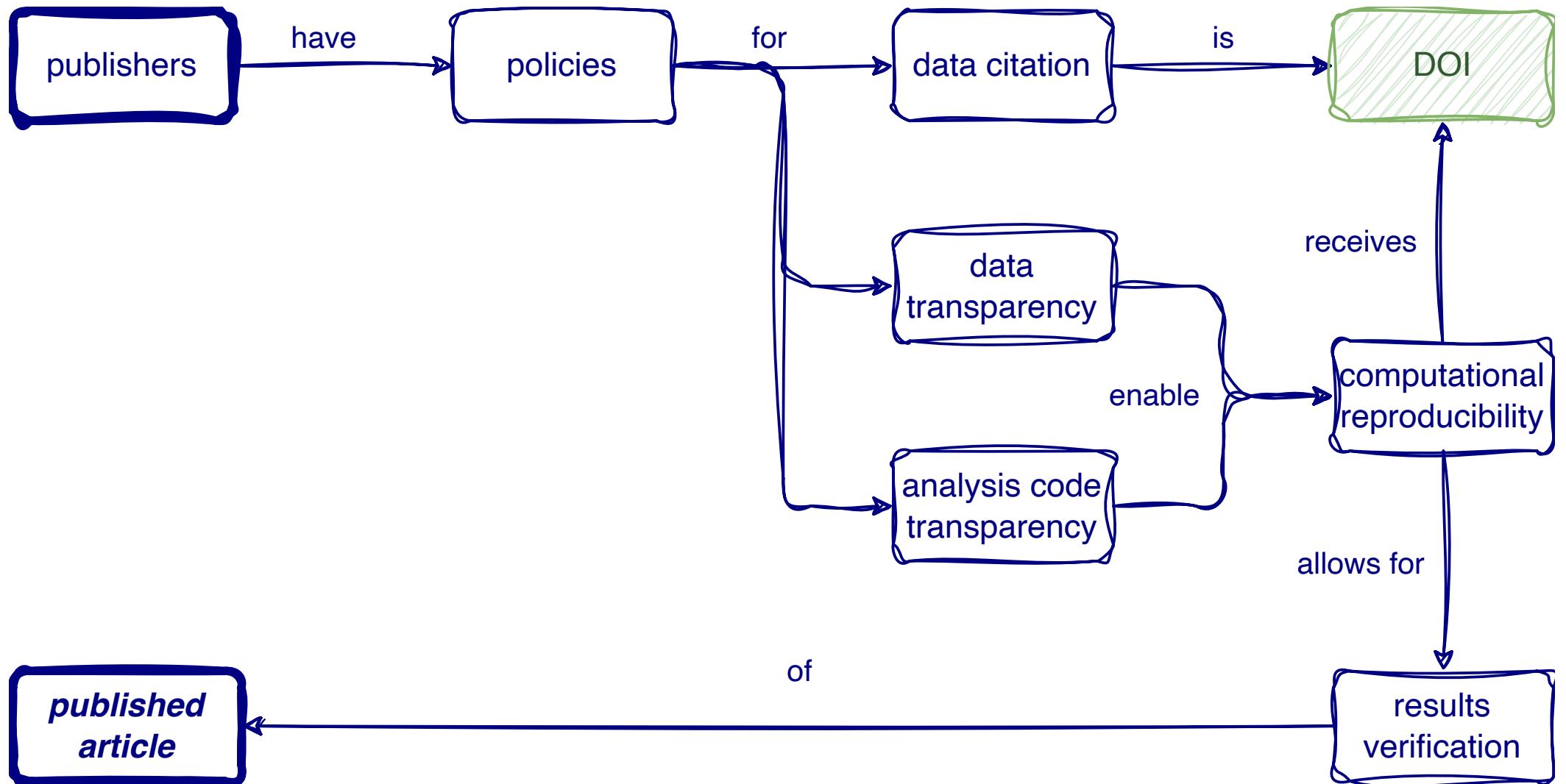
**policies**

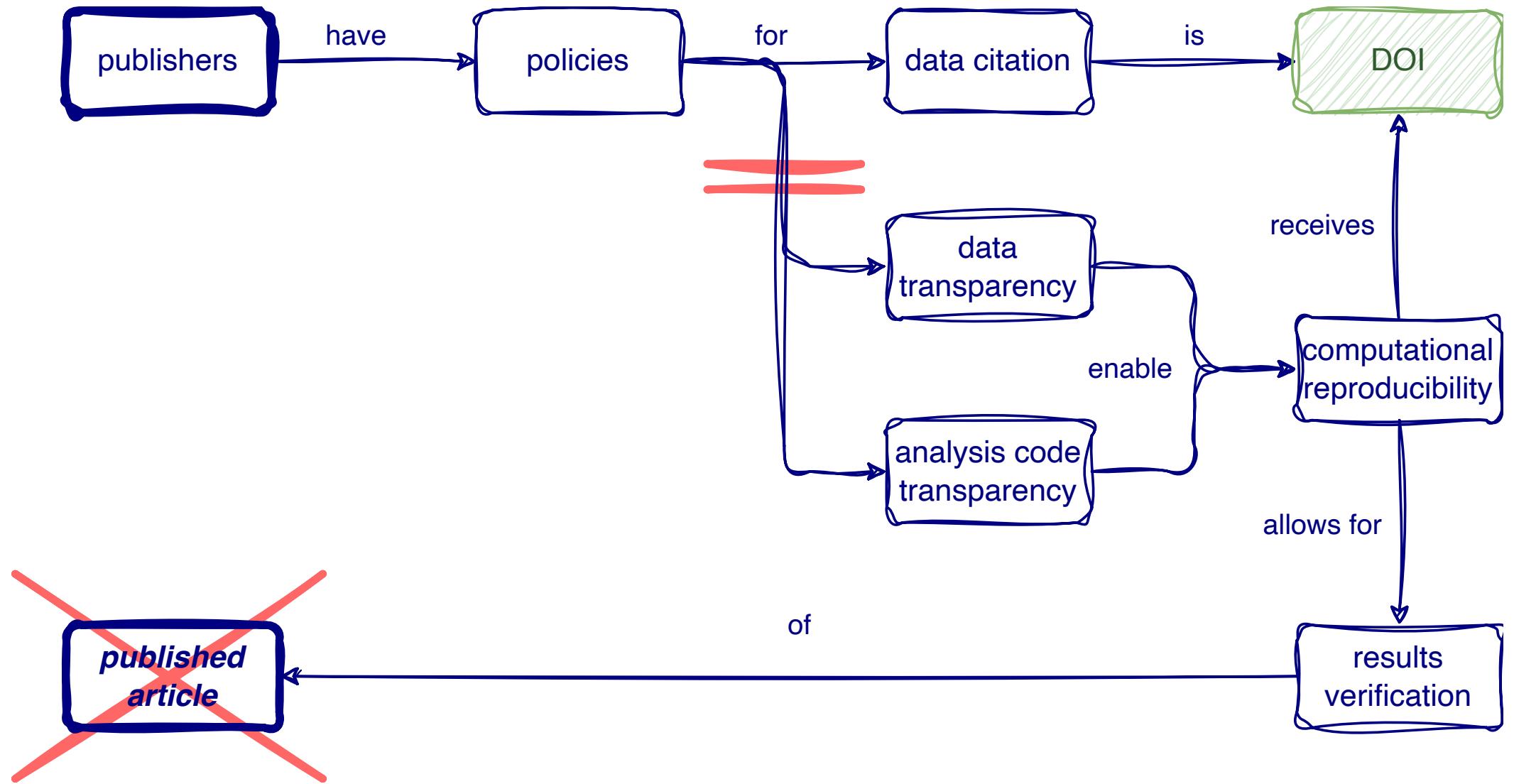








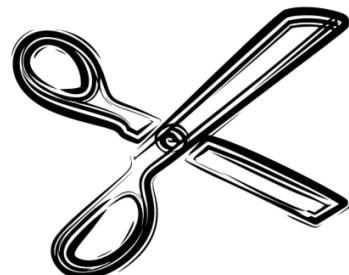




# Your turn: About you

Pick an item and take notes for 1 minute:

What does the item you have picked have to do with the reason for you being here?

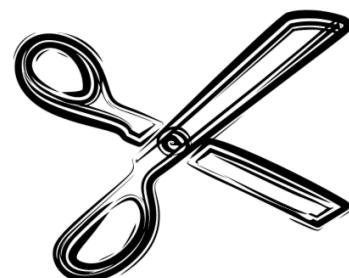


Images from: <https://openclipart.org/>

# In pairs

Take 2 minutes each to share with your partner:

What does the item you have picked have to do with the reason for you being here?



Images from: <https://openclipart.org/>

# Course Calendar

module	date	topic
1	20 February 2025	<a href="#">Welcome &amp; get ready for the course</a>
2	27 February 2025	<a href="#">Data science lifecycle &amp; Exploratory data analysis using visualization</a>
3	06 March 2025	<a href="#">Data transformation with dplyr</a>
4	13 March 2025	<a href="#">Data import &amp; Data organization in spreadsheets</a>
5	20 March 2025	<a href="#">Conditions &amp; Dates &amp; Tables</a>
6	27 March 2025	<a href="#">Data types &amp; Vectors &amp; Pivoting</a>
7	03 April 2025	<a href="#">Joining tables &amp; Creating and publishing scholarly articles with Quarto and GitHub pages</a>
8	10 April 2025	<a href="#">Waste Research</a>
9	17 April 2025	<a href="#">Research Design</a>
	24 April 2025	Easter Break
	01 May 2025	Labour Day Break
10	08 May 2025	<a href="#">Questionnaires</a>
11	15 May 2025	<a href="#">Pre-test and logistics</a>
12	22 May 2025	<a href="#">Data collection</a>
	29 May 2025	Data analysis & report writing
	05 June 2025	Project submission due date
	11 June 2025	Exam (13:00 to 15:00)

# Course structure

- My turn: Lecture segments + live coding
- Our turn: Live coding + follow along
- Your turn: Exercises in pairs

# My turn: Lecture segments + live coding

- Instructor writes and narrates code out loud
- Instructor explains concepts and principles that are relevant
- Code is displayed on screen

# Our turn: Live coding + follow along

- Instructor writes and narrates code out loud
- Instructor explains concepts and principles that are relevant
- Code is displayed on screen
- Learners join by writing and executing the same code

# Your turn: Exercises in pairs

- Two learners work together in pairs
- One person does the typing (the driver)
- One person offers comments and suggestions (the navigator)

# Getting help

- (from next week), please use a pink sticky note to indicate that you have a problem. I will try to address your issue if time permits.
- (from next week), during your turn exercises, please use a yellow sticky note to indicate when you have completed an exercise.

# Platforms and Tools

- Course website
- R
- tidyverse R Packages
- Posit Cloud
- RStudio IDE
- Quarto publishing system
- Zotero reference management
- Google Workspace (Sheets & Forms)

# Course website

[rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)

# Our turn: Open and bookmark the course website

1. Open a web browser on your laptop.
2. Navigate to the course website: [rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)
3. Create a bookmarks folder named rbtl-fs25 in your bookmarks toolbar
4. Add a bookmark of the course website to the folder rbtl-fs25

# Learning Objectives (for this week)

1. Learners can access the Posit Cloud workspace for the course.
2. Learners can open an issue on GitHub and tag the course instructor.
3. Learners can clone a repository from GitHub and use the GitHub PAT to push a commit from their local repository to GitHub.
4. Learners can navigate the course website and understand the learning objectives of the course.





# Version Control

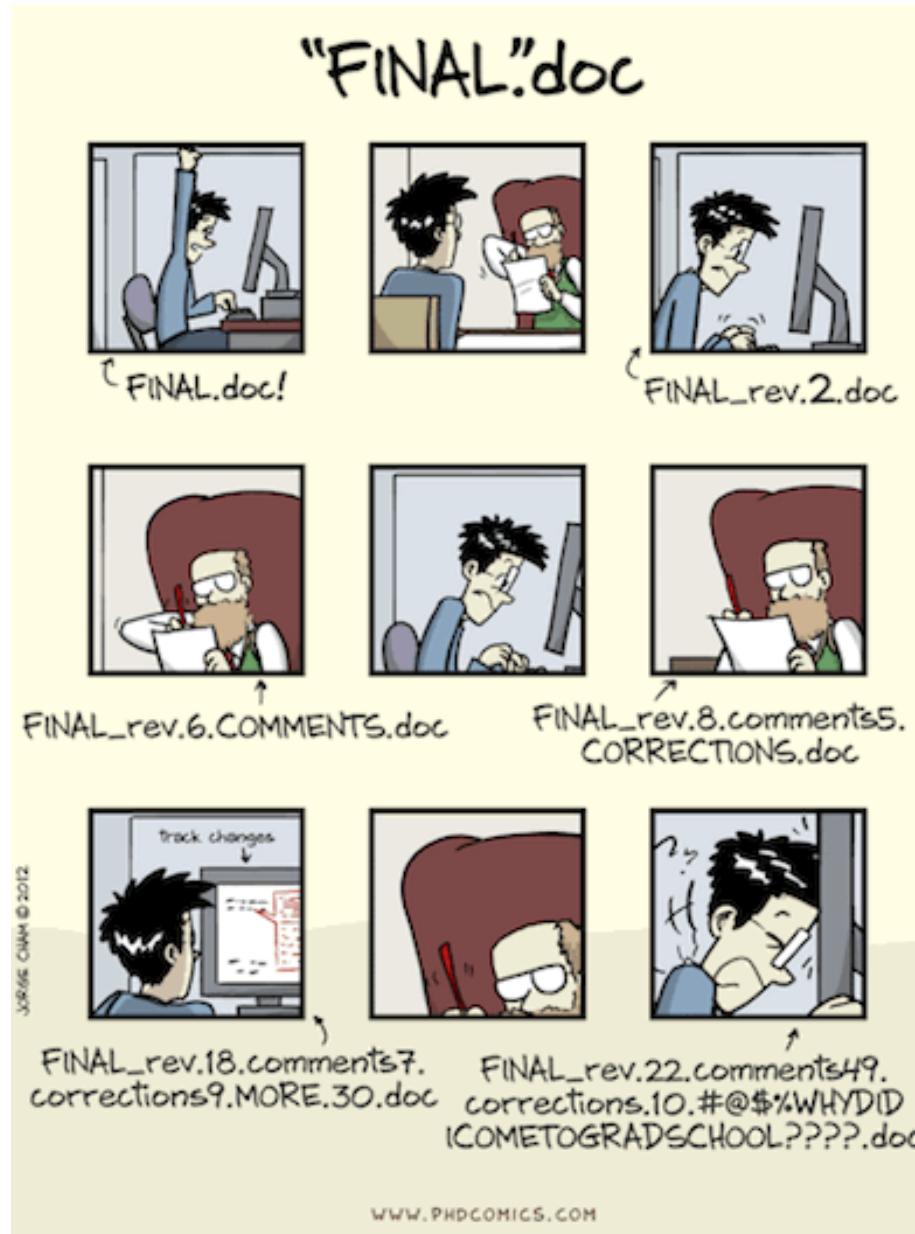
# Version Control with Git and GitHub

A way to share files with others, so they can:

- download
- re-use
- contribute

You can view the history of files, and jump back in time to any point.

# Why is it useful?



# Git and GitHub



- Git is a software for version control
- Created in 2005
- Popular among programmers collaboratively developing code
- Tracks changes in a set of files (directory/folder/repository)
- GitHub is a hosting platform for version control using Git
- Launched in 2008, acquired by Microsoft in 2018, Microsoft for US\$ 7.5 billion
- 100 million Users (20.5 in 2022 alone) ([October, 2023](#))
- Social media for software developers

# My turn: A tour of GitHub

**Sit back and enjoy!**

# Your turn: Get a GitHub account

1. Open a web browser on your laptop.
2. Navigate to the course website: [rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)
3. If you haven't yet, bookmark the course website
4. In the left-hand menu, click on **Module 1**, then select **am-01: GitHub**
5. Follow the instructions
6. Place a yellow sticky note on your laptop when you have completed the assignment

# Posit Cloud

Posit Cloud

https://posit.cloud/spaces/426916/content/6930256

Ds4owd-001 / md-01-exercises

Lars Schöbitz

RAM

R 4.3.1

hello-quarto.qmd x

Source Visual B I Normal Format Insert Table

```
---  
title: "Hello Quarto"  
format: html  
editor: visual  
---
```

Environment History Connections Git Tutorial

Import Dataset 171 MiB Global Environment

Environment is empty

## Data

Data can be imported from many different sources. In this exercise, we import data from:

(Top Level) Quarto

Console Terminal Background Jobs

R 4.3.1 · /cloud/project/

```
R version 4.3.1 (2023-06-16) -- "Beagle Scouts"  
Copyright (C) 2023 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing  
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.  
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.  
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.  
Type 'contributors()' for more information and  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
```

Files Plots Packages Help Viewer Presentation

New Folder New Blank File Upload Delete Rename More

Cloud > project

	Name	Size	Modified
..			
	.gitignore	40 B	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
	.Rhistory	0 B	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
	hello-quarto-complete.qmd	1.2 KB	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
	hello-quarto.qmd	1.1 KB	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
	md-01-exercises.Rproj	205 B	Oct 31, 2023, 1:07 PM

@ rbt-fs25.github.io/website/ 37

Posit Cloud

# Browser tab

https://posit.cloud/spaces/426916/content/6930256

Ds4owd-001 /

# Posit Cloud Workspace

RAM Lars Schöbitz

File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help

Go to file/function Addins

R 4.3.1

hello-quarto.qmd x

ABC Render

Source Visual B I Normal Format Insert Table

```
---
```

```
title: "Hello Quarto"
format: html
editor: visual
---
```

Environment History Connections Git Tutorial

Import Dataset 171 MiB

Global Environment

Environment is empty

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Files Plots Packages Help Viewer Presentation

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@ rbt-fs25.github.io/website/ 38

Posit Cloud

https://posit.cloud/spaces/426916/content/6930256

Lars Schöbitz

R 4.3.1

RAM

File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help

Addins

hello-quarto.qmd x

Source Visual B I Normal Format Insert Table

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```

# RStudio IDE Menu

Environment History Connections Git Tutorial

Import Dataset 171 MiB

Global Environment

Environment is empty

Files Plots Packages Help Viewer Presentation

New Folder New Blank File Upload Delete Rename More

Cloud > project

	Name	Size	Modified
..			
	.gitignore	40 B	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
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	md-01-exercises.Rproj	205 B	Oct 31, 2023, 1:07 PM

@ rbt-fs25.github.io/website/ 39

The screenshot shows the RStudio IDE interface with a yellow overlay titled "Rstudio IDE Menu".

**Code Editor:** Displays a Quarto document (hello-quarto.qmd) with the following code:

```
---
title: "Hello Quarto"
format: html
editor: visual
---
```

A large blue box highlights the "Code Editor" area.

**Data:**

Data can be imported from many different sources. In this exercise, we import data from:

**Console:**

```
R version 4.3.1 (2023-06-16) -- "Beagle Scouts"  
Copyright (C) 2023 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing  
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
```

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**File Browser:**

Name	Size	Modified
..	40 B	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
.gitignore	0 B	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
.Rhistory	1.2 KB	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
hello-quarto-complete.qmd	1.1 KB	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
hello-quarto.qmd	205 B	Oct 31, 2023, 1:07 PM
md-01-exercises.Rproj		

**Page Footer:**

@ rbt-fs25.github.io/website/ 40

Posit Cloud

https://posit.cloud/spaces/426916/content/6930256

Ds4owd-001 / md-01-exercises

Lars Schöbitz

RAM

File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help

Addins

hello-quarto.qmd

Go to file/function

Source Visual B I Normal Format Insert Table

ABC Render

Code Editor

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format: html  
editor: visual  
---

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Data can be imported from many different sources. In this exercise, we import data from:

(Top Level) Quarto

Console Terminal Background Jobs

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RStudio IDE Menu R 4.3.1

Environment History Connections Git Tutorial

Import Dataset 171 MiB

Global Environment

Environment

Git

Files Plots Packages Help Viewer Presentation

New Folder New Blank File Upload Delete Rename More

Cloud > project

	Name	Size	Modified
..			
	.gitignore	40 B	Oct 31, 2023, 11:18 AM
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	md-01-exercises.Rproj	205 B	Oct 31, 2023, 1:07 PM

@ rbt-fs25.github.io/website/ 41

The image shows a composite screenshot of the RStudio IDE interface, divided into four main sections by color-coded borders:

- Code Editor (Top Left, Blue Border):** Displays a Quarto document titled "hello-quarto.qmd". The code includes a YAML front matter section and a "Code Editor" placeholder.
- Environment (Top Right, Yellow Border):** Shows the RStudio IDE menu bar and tabs (Environment, History, Connections, Git, Tutorial). The Environment tab is active, showing the Global Environment pane with a "Global Environment" dropdown and a search bar.
- Git (Bottom Right, Orange Border):** Displays the Git interface with large orange boxes labeled "Environment" and "Git".
- Console (Bottom Left, Pink Border):** Shows the R console output for version 4.3.1, including the Beagle Scouts logo, copyright information, and platform details. The word "Console" is highlighted in a pink box.

At the bottom center, there is a watermark: [rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)

RAM: 171 MiB / 4.3.1 / Lars Schöbitz

File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help

Go to file/function Addins

hello-quarto.qmd

Source Visual B I Normal Format Insert Table

---

```
title: "Hello Quarto"
format: html
editor: visual
---
```

# Code Editor

## Data

Data can be imported from many different sources. In this exercise, we import data from:

(Top Level) Quarto

Console Terminal Background Jobs

R 4.3.1 · /cloud/project/

```
R version 4.3.1 (2023-06-16) -- "Beagle Scouts"
Copyright (C) 2023 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
```

# Console

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Files Plots Packages Help Viewer Presentation

New Folder New Blank File Upload Delete Rename More

Cloud > project

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hello-quarto.qmd	205 B	Oct 31, 2023, 1:07 PM
md-01-exercises.Rproj		

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The image shows the RStudio IDE interface with several sections highlighted by hand-drawn style overlays:

- Code Editor**: A blue overlay highlights the top-left pane where a Quarto document titled "hello-quarto.qmd" is open, showing code like `title: "Hello Quarto"`. The word "Code Editor" is written in white inside the blue box.
- Data**: A pink overlay highlights the bottom-left pane containing a section titled "Data" and a note about importing data from various sources.
- Console**: A pink overlay highlights the bottom-left pane showing the R console output for version 4.3.1, including the message "R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY". The word "Console" is written in white inside the pink box.
- RStudio IDE Menu**: A yellow overlay highlights the top-right pane showing the main menu bar with tabs like Environment, History, Connections, Git, and Tutorial. The title "RStudio IDE Menu" is written in white inside the yellow box.
- Environment**: An orange overlay highlights the middle-right pane showing the R environment and global environment. The word "Environment" is written in white inside the orange box.
- Git**: An orange overlay highlights the bottom-right pane showing the Git interface. The word "Git" is written in white inside the orange box.
- File Manager**: A green overlay highlights the bottom-right pane showing the file manager interface with a list of files. The word "File Manager" is written in white inside the green box.
- Viewer**: A green overlay highlights the bottom-right pane showing the viewer interface. The word "Viewer" is written in white inside the green box.

At the bottom center, there is a footer with the text "@ rbt-fs25.github.io/website/" and a page number "43" in the bottom right corner.

# Your turn: Log into Posit Cloud with GitHub account

1. Open a web browser on your laptop.
2. Navigate to the course website: [rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)
3. If you haven't yet, bookmark the course website
4. In the left-hand menu, click on Module 1, then select **am-02: Posit Cloud**
5. Follow the instructions
6. Place a yellow sticky note on your laptop when you have completed the assignment



## GitHub Authorisation

[rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)

- If this is your first time logging in to Posit Cloud with your GitHub account, you will be prompted to authorize Posit Cloud to access your GitHub account information.
- Once you have authorized access, you will be redirected back to the Posit Cloud website and logged in to your account.

# Hello Quarto

# Meeting you where you are

I'll assume you

- do **not** have R or git experience
- have **not** worked in an IDE before (e.g. RStudio IDE)
- want to **learn** about R
- want to **learn** about Quarto and publishing
- want to **learn** about project management with GitHub

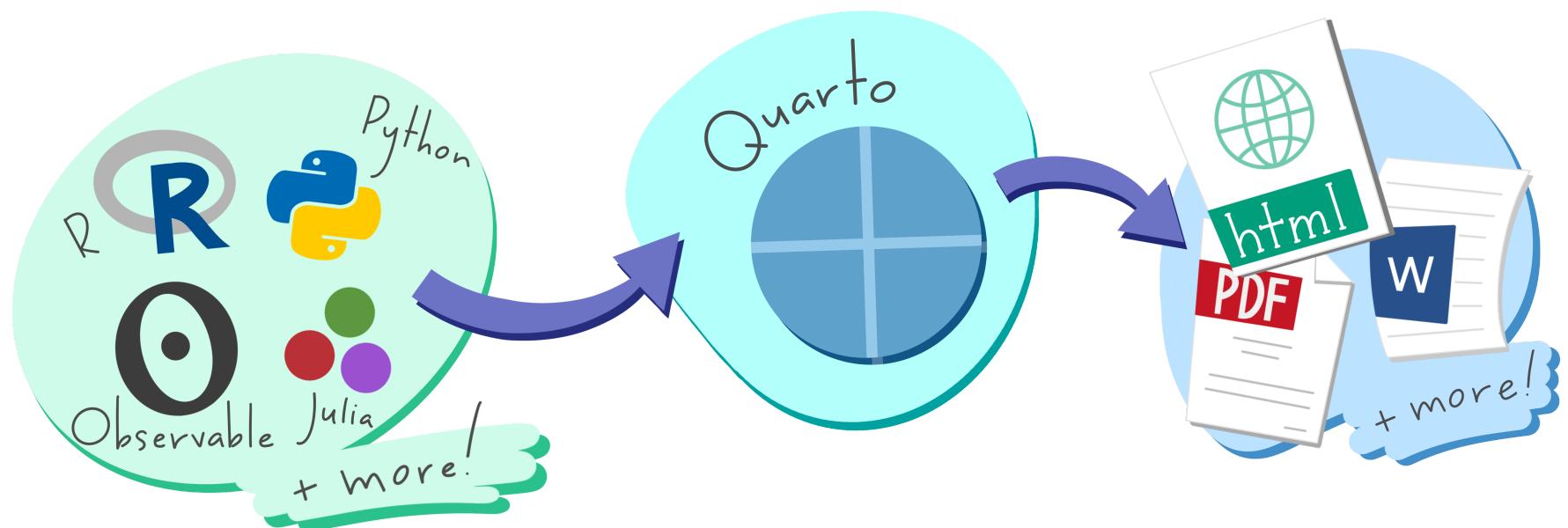
I'll **teach** you

- R
- Quarto syntax and formats
- Markdown
- Git via RStudio GUI
- GitHub issues, project management, and publishing

# What is Quarto?

# Quarto ...

- is a new, open-source, scientific, and technical publishing system
- aims to make the process of creating and collaborating dramatically better



# My turn: A tour of Quarto

**Sit back and enjoy!**

# Take a break

Please get up and move! Let your emails rest in peace.



# Your turn: md-01-exercises

1. Open [posit.cloud](#) in your browser (use your bookmark).
2. Open the rbt-fs25 workspace for the course.
3. Click **Start** next to **md-01-exercises**.
4. In the File Manager in the bottom right window, locate the `hello-quarto.qmd` file and click on it to open it in the top left window.
5. Render the document.
6. Add your name to the `author:` key in the YAML header
7. Render the document
8. Inspect components of the document and make one more update and re-render.
9. Discuss notes about updates you've made with your neighbor. Note any aspects of the document that are not clear after the tour and your first interaction with it.

# From the comfort of your own workspace

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface with two open cells. The left cell contains QMD configuration and a docstring for the `plot` function. The right cell contains Python code to generate a polar plot, which is displayed in the bottom right pane.

**Left Cell (QMD Configuration):**

```
1 ---  
2 title: "matplotlib demo"  
3 format:  
4   html:  
5     code-fold: true  
6 jupyter: python3  
7 ---  
8  
9 For a demonstration of a line plot on a  
polar axis, see @fig-polar.  
10
```

**Right Cell (Python Code):**

```
11 > Run Cell  
12 ````{python}  
13 #| label: fig-polar  
14 #| fig-cap: "A line plot on a polar axis"  
15  
16 import numpy as np  
17 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
18  
19 r = np.arange(0, 2, 0.01)  
20 theta = 2 * np.pi * r  
21 fig, ax = plt.subplots(  
22   subplot_kw = {'projection': 'polar'}  
23 )  
24 ax.plot(theta, r)  
25 ax.set_rticks([0.5, 1, 1.5, 2])  
26 ax.grid(True)  
27 plt.show()  
```
```

**Polar Plot Output:**

**Bottom Right Panel:**

Type 'python' code here and press ⌘Enter to

**Bottom Status Bar:**

Mode: Edit Ln 3, Col 1 quarto-jupyterlab.ipynb

[@ rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/](https://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/)



# Quarto formats

# One install, “Batteries included”

- RMarkdown grew into a large ecosystem, with **varying syntax**.
- Quarto comes “**batteries included**” straight out of the box
  - HTML reports and websites
  - PDF reports
  - MS Office (Word, Powerpoint)
  - Presentations (Powerpoint, Beamer, `revealjs`)
  - Books
- Any language, *exact same* approach and syntax

# Many Quarto formats

| Feature         | R Markdown                                                                                     | Quarto                                                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Basic Formats   | <a href="#">html_document</a><br><a href="#">pdf_document</a><br><a href="#">word_document</a> | <a href="#">html</a><br><a href="#">pdf</a><br><a href="#">docx</a> |
| Beamer          | <a href="#">beamer_presentation</a>                                                            | <a href="#">beamer</a>                                              |
| PowerPoint      | <a href="#">powerpoint_presentation</a>                                                        | <a href="#">pptx</a>                                                |
| HTML Slides     | <a href="#">xaringan</a><br><a href="#">ioslides</a><br><a href="#">revealjs</a>               | <a href="#">revealjs</a>                                            |
| Advanced Layout | <a href="#">tufte</a><br><a href="#">distill</a>                                               | <a href="#">Quarto Article Layout</a>                               |

# Many Quarto formats

| Feature          | R Markdown                                                                                        | Quarto                                                          |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cross References | <a href="#">html_document2</a><br><a href="#">pdf_document2</a><br><a href="#">word_document2</a> | <a href="#">Quarto Crossrefs</a>                                |
| Websites & Blogs | <a href="#">blogdown</a><br><a href="#">distill</a>                                               | <a href="#">Quarto Websites</a><br><a href="#">Quarto Blogs</a> |
| Books            | <a href="#">bookdown</a>                                                                          | <a href="#">Quarto Books</a>                                    |
| Interactivity    | <a href="#">Shiny Documents</a>                                                                   | <a href="#">Quarto Interactive Documents</a>                    |
| Journal Articles | <a href="#">rticles</a>                                                                           | <a href="#">Journal Articles</a>                                |
| Dashboards       | <a href="#">flexdashboard</a>                                                                     | <a href="#">Quarto Dashboards</a>                               |

# Take a break

Please get up and move! Let your emails rest in peace.



# Course information

# Weekly Structure

Assignment submission: Wednesdays, latest by 23:59.

**Monday**      Student hours from 13:00 to 14:30 (CET)

---

**Tuesday**

---

**Wednesday**   Assignment submission, latest by 23:59 (CET)

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**Thursday**      Lecture from 12:15 to 15:00 (CET)

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**Friday**

# Performance assessment

- End-of-semester exam: 50 points
- Compulsory continuous performance assessment: 50 points, of which
  - Homework assignments: 20 points ( $n = 10$ )
  - Capstone project: 30 points, of which
    - Technical parts of submitted report: 15 points (we will communicate what we expect)
    - Intellectual framing of results: 15 points (we will communicate what we expect)

# Grading scheme

Table [Table 1](#) shows the conversion from points to grades. Grades follow the [ETHZ's Grading System](#). Points are rounded to the nearest grade, for example:

- 97 points = 5.75
- 93 points = 5.75
- 92 points = 5.50
- 45 points = 4.00
- 44 points = 3.50

Table 1: Conversion from points to grades.

| grade | points |
|-------|--------|
| 6.00  | 100    |

## grade points

|      |    |
|------|----|
| 5.75 | 95 |
| 5.50 | 90 |
| 5.25 | 85 |
| 5.00 | 80 |
| 4.75 | 75 |
| 4.50 | 70 |
| 4.25 | 60 |
| 4.00 | 50 |
| 3.50 | 40 |
| 3.00 | 30 |
| 2.50 | 20 |

# grade points

| grade | points |
|-------|--------|
| 2.00  | 10     |
| 1.00  | 0      |

# End-of semester exam

- 2-hour final written exam
- 50 points
- all material allowed (incl. internet)
- for the use of AI tools we expect you to add a link to the prompt
- programming exercises using the R programming language
- success depends on the effort put into the compulsory continuous performance assessment

# Compulsory continuous performance assessment

## Homework assignments:

- 10 assignments
- assessed as pass/fail
- 2 points each
- 20 points in total
- submitted as rendered Quarto documents on GitHub

# Compulsory continuous performance assessment

## Capstone Project

- Data analysis project report with a dataset generated by you
- Method: Survey or Observational Study using Google Forms and Sheets
- 1 project per student, submitted as rendered Quarto document on GitHub
- 30 points in total
  - 15 points for the technical parts of the submitted report
  - 15 points for the intellectual framing of results

# Readings

- Some required for homework assignments
- Additional readings provided to support learning
- Not graded

# Policies

## Class attendance

- Can't attend in person? Inform us before the lecture
- Live streaming recording available
- Missed classes: work through the material using the recording

# Policies

## Use of AI tools

- Use it! (e.g. perplexity.ai has useful free features)
- Refine your prompts to get good outcomes
- Don't trust anything it says
- Include links to your prompts
- Be thoughtful about when this tool is useful

# Policies

## Code of Conduct

- Follow the [ETH Respect Code of Conduct](#)
- If you experience inappropriate behaviour from us or any of your classmates, you will find contact and advice services here: [respekt.ethz.ch/en/contact-and-advice-services.html](#)

# Homework assignments

## module 1

# Module 1 documentation

[rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/modules/md-01.html](http://rbtl-fs25.github.io/website/modules/md-01.html)

## Module 1

Welcome & get ready for the course

This first week will be used to get you set up for the course.

### Learning Objectives

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1. Learners can access the Posit Cloud workspace for the course.
2. Learners can open an issue on GitHub and tag the course instructor.
3. Learners can clone a repository from GitHub and use the GitHub PAT to push a commit from their local repository to GitHub.
4. Learners can navigate the course website and understand the learning objectives of the course.

### Slides

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[View slides in full screen](#) | [Download slides as PDF](#)

# Homework due date

- Homework is a pre-requisite for active participation in Module 2
- Homework assignment due: Wednesday, 26th February

# Wrap-up

Thanks! 🌻

Slides created via revealjs and Quarto:

<https://quarto.org/docs/presentations/revealjs/> Access slides as  
[PDF on GitHub](#)

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