

SOC 4650/5650: Lecture Prep 02 - R Notebooks

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Directions

Open up a new session of RStudio and follow these directions. When you are done, save your file in a place you will be able to remember - we'll practice assignment submissions with this file!

Your First R Notebook

1. In RStudio, go to File ▸ New File ▸ R Notebook.
2. The header of the new document you have just created uses a particular syntax called YAML and will look like this:

```
---
title: "R Notebook"
output: html_notebook
---
```

3. Alter the header so that it looks like the block below.¹ Make sure to replace <your name> with your actual name!

```
---
title: "Lecture Prep 02 Notebook"
author: "<your name>"
date: 'r format(Sys.time(), "%B %d, %Y")'
output:
  github_document: default
  html_notebook: default
---
```

¹ Beware of how the backtick symbol (the same key as the tilde on your keyboard) looks below! It renders in a slightly misleading way. Make sure you are using the backtick and not the apostrophe in 'R'!

When you complete your notebook, this will generate two forms of output - a .html version of your notebook that gives you a live preview and a .md version of your notebook that is well suited for viewing on GitHub.

4. Read through the text below the header and try executing the code chunk. Click on the green "play button" on the right side of the code chunk to execute it.

5. Once you have read through and deleted the content, add an introduction below the bottom set of dashes in your YAML header.

```
## Introduction  
This is my first R Notebook!
```

Each notebook we write should contain an introduction that describes its purpose.

6. Below the Introduction section, we'll add a second section called Project Set-up:

```
## Project Set Up
```

7. Below the new header, we'll add the following code chunk. Use the Insert button at the top of your notebook and choose R from the dropdown, then add `setup` inside the brackets on the first line as well as the second line of code:

```
```{r setup}  
knitr::opts_knit$set(root.dir = here::here())
```
```

This code chunk will allow your notebook to integrate seamlessly with the project organization format we'll be following this semester. This is the beginning of a well-structured notebook, and we'll build on it this week in class.