

Bachelor in Politics And International Studies  
Bachelor in Sociology

## Digital Data, Data Collection (QS102)

**Week 8**  
**Composing a questionnaire**  
**+ Case study conference**

### Introduction to spreadsheet software: Exercises

1. Is there a different age balance between men and women?
2. Can you find newspaper sections that are more consumed by women than men? And reversely?
3. Do people who read **news titles** also read about **international politics**? Do people who read **international politics** also read the **horoscope**? How do these contrasts to **sex**?
4. How does **Religion** relate to reading **Satire** newspaper sections? Does this relationship vary with **Occupation**, average number of **Children** and/or with average **Age**?

## Introduction to spreadsheet software: Exercises

5. Can you compose a variable **4.10.Occupation** that combines **Activity** and **Profession**?
6. Test how **Occupation** relates to the **Interest in politics** and in **Economic news**.
7. How does the number of parents respondents have in the **Public service** relate to their interest for **Culture, Society** and **"Going out"** newspaper sections?

## Hands-on: Getting, assessing and treating data

**RQ: We want to know if physical and verbal violence to people living in the UK depends on the victim's religion, and what other factors explain this kind of violence.**

### Section D: Additional questions

11. Locate and assess questions with a subjective dimension. Distinguish different kinds of subjective questions.
12. Is there any way to overcome the fact that some respondents do not wish to report some of the experiences they have lived?
13. Do you think there would be a benefit from passing this survey online?
14. List five potential kinds of users of your dataset, besides yourself.
15. Identify two extensive data sources on violence, alternative to surveys. How would they compare with the data you found? What usage would you make of each (if any)?

## Formative essay: Composing a questionnaire – Issues to discuss

- How "wide" is a good focus for a survey RQ?
- Where to place the sociodemographics in the questionnaire?
- Which kind of survey should we pass online?
- How useful is a stratified sample? How big should the stratas be?
- How to spread your questionnaire into a hard to reach population?
- How long does it take to pass a questionnaire?
- What are the respective advantages of open and close-ended questions?  
How to arrange them (number, order) inside the questionnaire?
- How to make sure that respondents will trust your handling of confidentiality?
- How to deal with "screw you" behaviours?

## Summative essay: Assessing and analysing a secondary dataset

- Sections:
  1. Research question and hypothesis(es)
  2. Explore datasets and select one (possibly two)
  3. Assess the methodological specificities: population, sampling, mode of administration, etc.
  4. Assess your questions and variables of interest: quality, unequivocality, precision, etc.
  5. Statistics and interpretation
  6. Self-assessment and critic of any of the previous stages
  7. Potential further developments: adjusting your RQ, using other dataset or variables, improving the survey methodology, etc.
- Collaboration
  - Both keep same topic as in formative essay
  - RQs take two significantly distinct angles
  - Work individually on search and assessment of data, as well as compose and write
  - You may review each other's essay, possibly include a final synthesis of results.
- Practicalities
  - Advice hours for Excel: Timo We & Fr, 10-12h
  - Individual essay title submission: by email before March 27th, 17h (week 8).
  - Maximum 2,500 words, bibliography and appendices excluded. Tables and charts count as proportionate volume (eg. if average page is 300 words, a half-page graph counts for 150). Follow handbook instructions.
  - Tabula submission: 27th Apr.-5th May. Feedback: 4th June.