



Teaching R for Applied Economics

From Zero to Causal Inference

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UseR 2026

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Planning the course: Empirical Economics

- Lecture
- Tutorial
 1. Intro to R
 2. Causal inference
- Lab exams



Photo by Patrick Perkins on Unsplash

What we thought we'd spend most of our time on

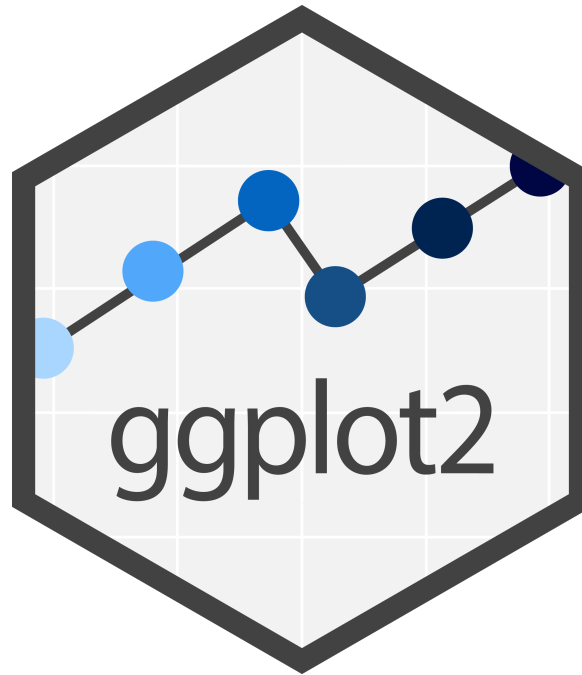


Illustration by Allison Horst

What we actually spent most of our time on

```
.
├── Downloads/
│   └── empirical-econ/
│       ├── data/
│       │   └── empirical-econ/
│       │       ├── data
│       │       ├── R/
│       │       │   └── empirical-econ/
│       │       │       ├── data
│       │       │       ├── R
│       │       │       └── .Rproj
│       │       └── .Rproj
│       ├── R
│       └── .Rproj
```

Mental model: folder hierarchy

Hypothesis:

- Most of us grew up with computers, where folders are inherent
- Younger people grew up with better search functions and smart devices, with flat hierarchy

Planning the course

...

Folder structures

...

What helped

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Photo by Maksym Kaharlytskyi on Unsplash



Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

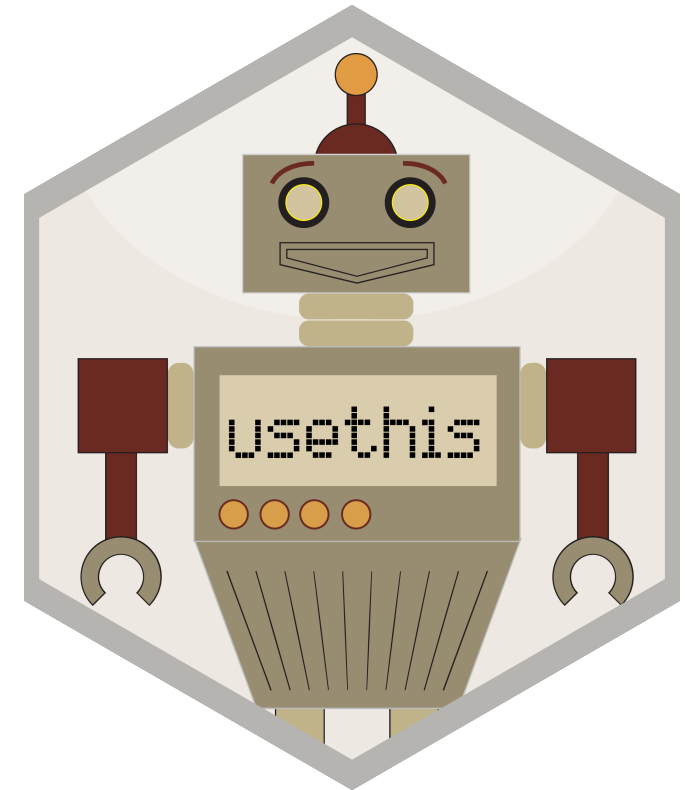
What helped with folder structures 🤖

`usethis::use_course()`

- forces download to Desktop
- unzips the github repository
- opens the .rproj

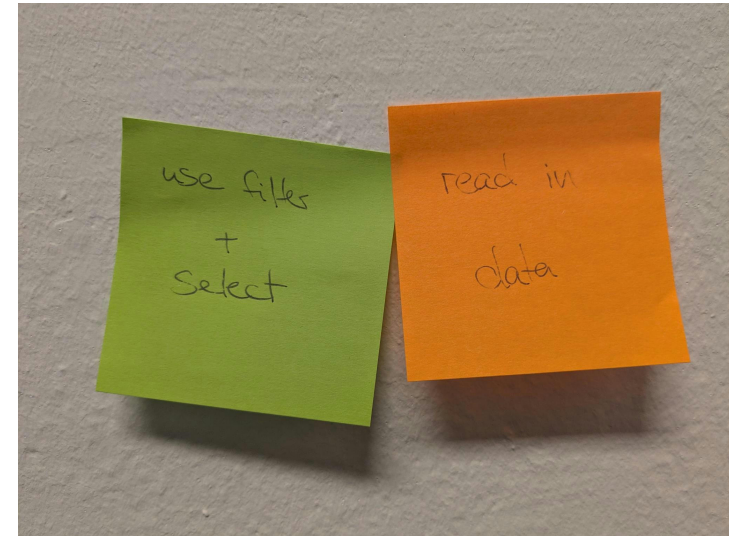
And also

- repetition
- consequent check in every tutorial



What also helped

- Green and Red post-its
 - during tutorial: I'm done, I need help
 - after tutorial: feedback on What I've learned and Where I'm struggling
- Lab exam
- (Wo)manpower



Thank you!

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