

# **COM8005 Stats Workshop**

## 6. Using SPSS Syntax to Manipulate Variables

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# Most Frequent Tasks/Commands

- Create a new data file
- Change the value of existing variables (“recode”)
- Create new variables (“compute or create”)
  - simple math operations
  - using compute functions
  - string variables
  - date/time variables
- Other manipulations of variables
  - sorting the order (“sort”)
  - changing the name (“rename var”)
  - deleting variables (“delete var”)
  - etc.
- Change or create variables under conditions\*
- Change or create variables through repetition/loop\*

# Learning Resources on SPSS Syntax

1. SPSS help manual (“dictionary”)
2. Textbook-style tutorials, e.g.,
  - [Ruben van den Berg](#)
  - [UCLA](#)
3. Q&A tutorials (focusing on special/advanced issues), e.g.,
  - [Raynald Levesque](#)

# Create a new data file

data list ...

# Change the value of existing variables

recode ...

compute ...

# Create a new variable

compute ...

compute math functions ...

# Create a string variable

string ...

compute ...

# Create a new variable of date/time

`compute ... date/time functions`

`format ...`



# Other variable manipulations

sort cases ...

rename var ...

delete var ...