# Q Step Internship: AgeUK
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AgeUK is the largest charity working with older people in the UK. Its vision is for a world where everyone can enjoy later life

Objectives

- My objective at AgeUK was to help clean and prepare data to be used in an index to measure well-being in later life. The index was comprised of many different aspects of life- such as social networks, income, activities, work, etc.

- The variables came from the survey Understanding Society, and using a mixture of both R and STATA, I was set to the task of making the data set, cleaning the variables, and on a couple of occasions, using factor analysis to create latent variables.
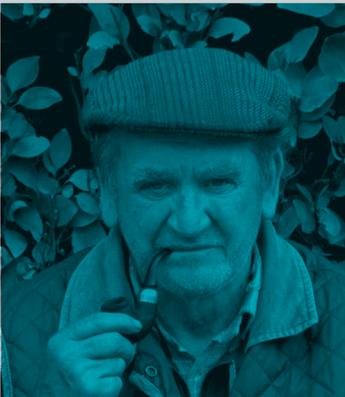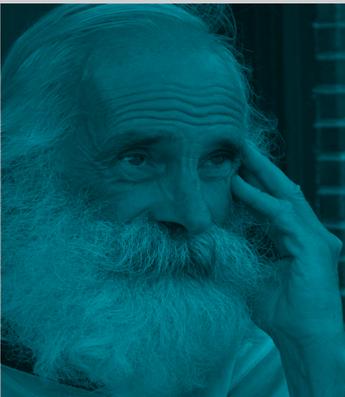
Methods

When cleaning and preparing the data, I was mostly choosing the appropriate variables for the data set, so, when looking at participation, the variable concerning activeness in a particular organisation was seen as more useful than the question regarding belonging to an organisation.

In some cases, I had to recode the variable in order to change the progression of the answers. For instance, a variable whose answers went from 1- Excellent to 5- Poor, were changed round for a more logical order.

For a couple of our variables, such as 'personality', there were no specific questions in the survey that asked about them, though several questions were asked suggesting the concept we wanted. For example, the Big5 Personality Traits suggest personality as a whole, and so we conducted factor analysis in R to create our latent variable for personality.

After the data set was finished, structural equation modelling was used in R in order to create the index. During this process I mostly shadowed Chief Economist Prof. Jose Iparraguirre, who had been teaching me and assisting me throughout my time at AgeUK.

Conclusions

As I was simply preparing the dataset for the well-being model, there were no outcomes from my work, and work was still being done on the model when I left. During my time at AgeUK, however, I learnt how to use two new pieces of software for statistical analysis, R and STATA. I was also able to experience first-hand the time and care that goes into preparing a creating a data set for research.

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