[Commentary by **John F Hall**] [**Draft only:** last updated 1 May 2018]

John MacInnes
An Introduction to Secondary Data Analysis with IBM SPSS Statistics
(Sage, Dec. 2017)

5.1 Chapter 5 video tutorials (direct link to companion website)
[**NB:** All video tutorials for chapter 5 are on the same web page and cannot (yet) be disaggregated]

Video tutorial 5.1.8: Producing standardised variables with **DESC**riptives (5'32")

Is **[pweight]** on?

Repeats from previous video? As originally calculated, the depression score has integer values ranging from 8 to 32. For presentation to a non-expert audience, JM first subtracts 8 to yield integer values ranging from 0 to 24 and then divides it by 2.4 to rescale the range from 0 – 10. This range now comprises fractional values with decimal places, which (see 5.1.7: Creating and editing a Histogram) can cause problems for tabulation .

```
compute depress10 = (depress-8)/2.4 .
freq depress10 .
```

This conversion does not change the shape of the distribution, just the units in which the distribution is expressed. It produces very cluttered tables, even after reducing the decimals to 2 places. JM uses the GUI to produce tables of means separately for country and gender, but also shows syntax to do the same thing:

```
means depress10 by cntry gender.
```

It is interesting to listen to his commentary on the tables, pointing out differences between genders and countries. When he uses syntax to ask for mean depression scores of men and women within country the colour coding used by SPSS is very clear until the final full stop is typed:

```
means depres10 by gndr by cntry
means depres10 by gndr by cntry.
```

JM doesn't point this out. However, he gets an error message: he's made a mistake, typing **depres10** instead of **depress10**. There is no such variable, so he corrects the spelling to:

```
means depress10 by gndr by cntry.
```

. . but this time he's got the variables **cntry** and **gndr** back to front, so has to repeat the analysis:

```
means depress10 by cntry by gndr.
```

This could of course be "spot the deliberate mistake" but it demonstrates the care needed in planning and executing analyses, especially when using syntax.

Need to do with **CTABLES** ?

End of: **5.1.8 Producing standardised variables with DESCriptives**

Back to: **MacInnes (2017)**

Back to: 5.1.7: Creating and editing a Histogram

Forward to: **5.1.9: Using syntax to repeat analyses on new data**