[Commentary by **John F Hall**]   [Last updated: 8 August 2017]

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 5.1.1: Downloading the full ESS6 dataset & documentation

By now you will have a number of files (and possibly folders) which need to be organised properly to make your future work easier. You will have your own ways of doing this, but my arrangement is:
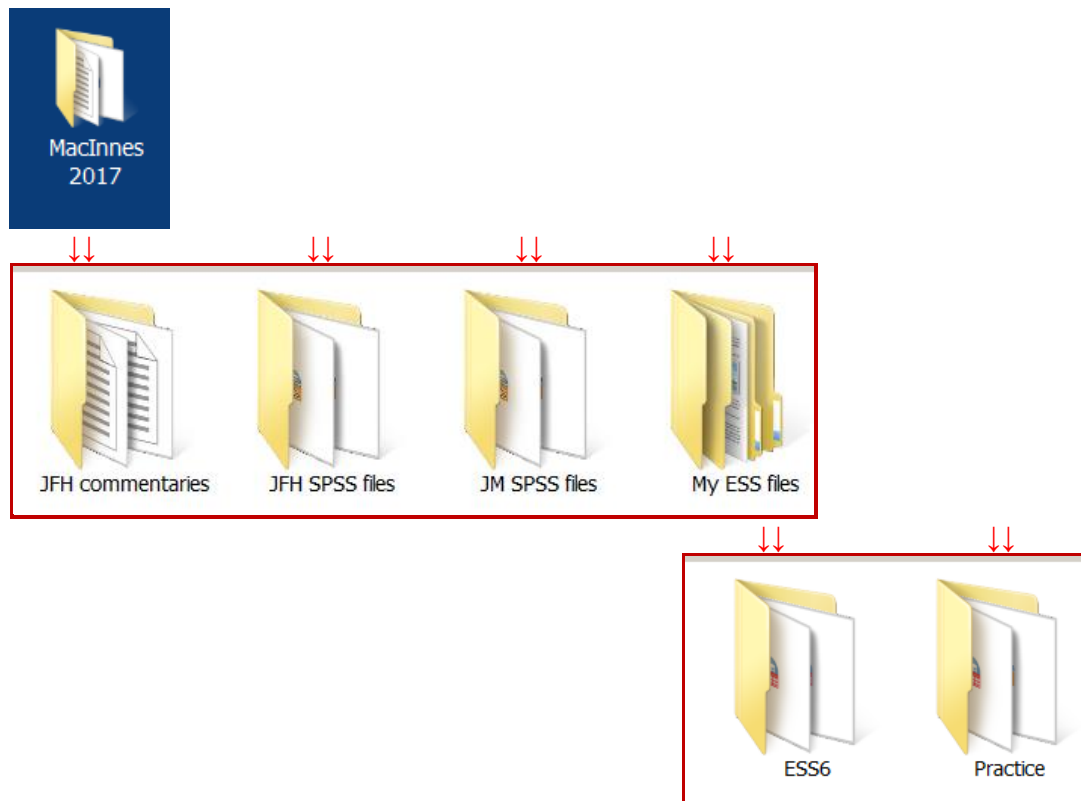
My folder **Practice** contains:

Name ▲	Date modified	Type	Size
ESS6_Practice	17/05/2017 17:18	SPSS Statistics Data Document	3,152 KB
ESS6_Practice_jfh1	10/06/2017 09:36	SPSS Statistics Data Document	3,152 KB
Syntax_Ch4.sav	09/06/2017 18:29	Text Document	2 KB
Syntax_Ch4	30/06/2017 11:06	SPSS Statistics Syntax File	2 KB

The first video opens with the European Social Survey home page. JM works his way through the procedures to sign in and register, accept conditions of use, notes the Guide to Weighting ESS Data and how to cite the series in any publications, then downloads the documentation, questionnaire and SPSS saved file ESS6e02_3.sav

Download datafile

File: Integrated file, edition 2.3 round 6

| **Download SAS** | **Download SPSS** | **Download STATA** |

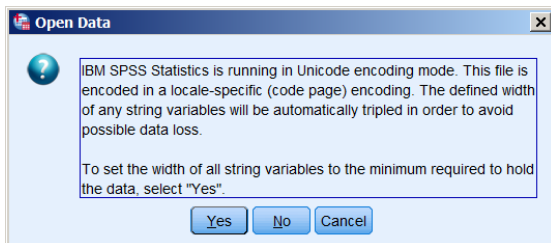Users of data are obliged to read the ESS Conditions of use

Clicking on **Download SPSS** saves a Zip file 📄 ESS6e02_3.spss to your Download folder.

It needs to be unzipped and the files sent to folder **ESS6**:

Name ▲	Date modified	Type	Size
📄 ESS6_data_documentation_report_e02_3	24/05/2017 09:05	Adobe Acrobat Document	451 KB
📄 ESS6_source_main_questionnaire	24/05/2017 09:04	Adobe Acrobat Document	395 KB
📊 ESS6e02_3	14/11/2016 11:31	SPSS Statistics Data Document	52,438 KB

Double click on file 📊 ESS6e02_3

There will be a warning message from SPSS about string (text) variables. This can be ignored.

> **Open Data**
>
> ❔ IBM SPSS Statistics is running in Unicode encoding mode. This file is encoded in a locale-specific (code page) encoding. The defined width of any string variables will be automatically tripled in order to avoid possible data loss.
>
> To set the width of all string variables to the minimum required to hold the data, select "Yes".
>
> [Yes] [No] [Cancel]

Click on [Yes] to get a list of the string variables affected:

Altered Types		
Title of dataset	A36	AMIN
Edition	A9	AMIN
Production date	A30	AMIN
Country	A6	AMIN
Citizenship	A6	AMIN
Country of birth	A6	AMIN
Language most often spoken at home: first mentioned	A9	AMIN
Language most often spoken at home: second mentioned	A9	AMIN
Country of birth, father	A6	AMIN
Country of birth, mother	A6	AMIN
Region	A15	AMIN

Beginning of file ESS6e02_3 **in** Variable View

CTRL + End to see end of file in Variable View

File ESS6e02_3 contains 626 **variables**:

	Name
625	pspwght
626	pweight
627	

Switch to Data View

CTRL + Home to see beginning of file in Data View

CTRL + End to see end of file in Data View

File ESS6e02_3 contains 54,673 **cases**

54672	42
54673	32
54674	

Do NOT work on the original file: make it ☑ Read-only   then **make a personal copy**.

Go to the folder where your files are stored:

📕 ESS6_data_documentation_report_e02_3

📕 ESS6_source_main_questionnaire
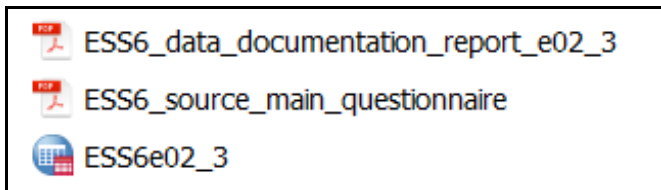
📊 ESS6e02_3

Right click on 📊 ESS6e02_3

Click on Properties (at bottom)   Under Attributes (at bottom) check ☑ Read-only

Press   OK
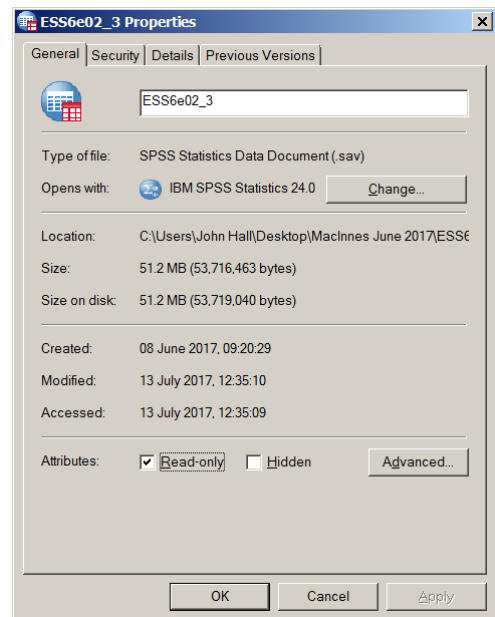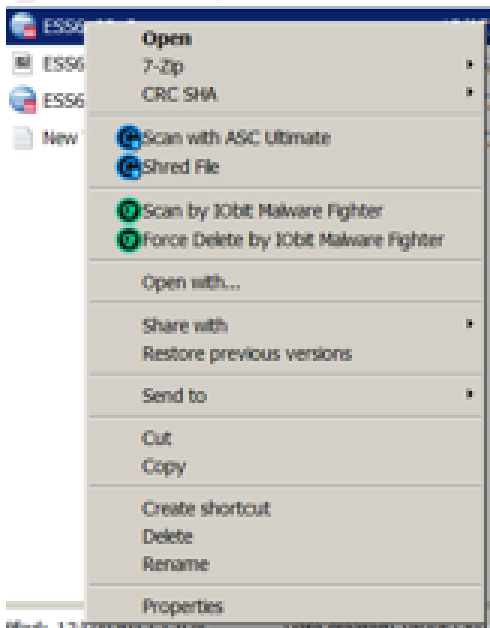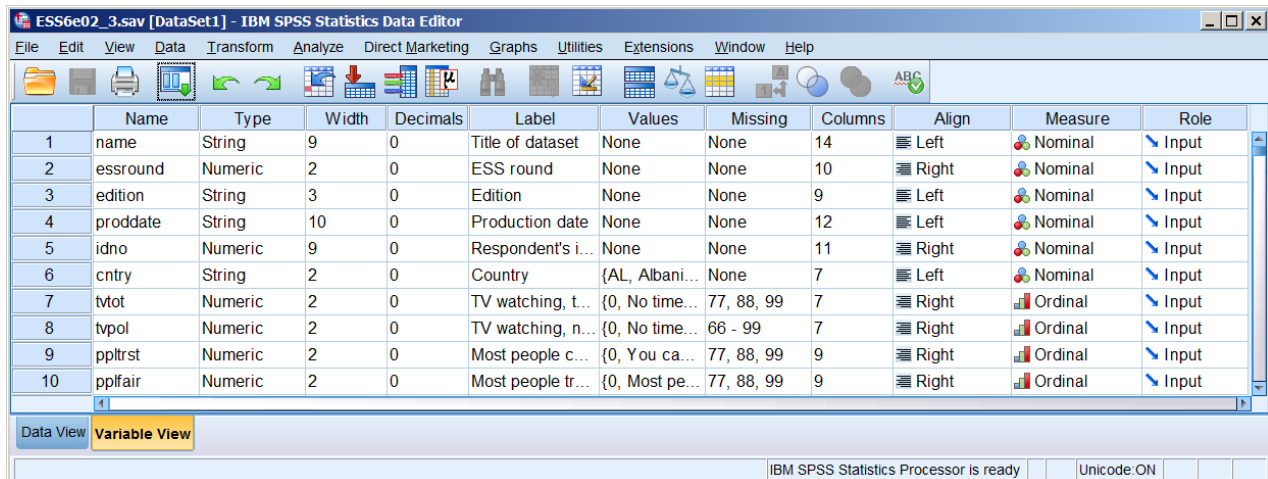
File ESS6e02_3 is now **Read only:** you cannot now inadvertently amend or delete it.

JM has a look at the source questionnaire and makes comments such as, "you can download it or just look at it on-line". To me the questionnaire is a crucial user document: once I get down to some serious analysis, I always keep the questionnaire open alongside the **Data Editor**. He stresses the value of the survey documentation.

Note JM's comments such as ". .ice breaker question" and " observe the routing" (eg people answering "Yes" to the **filter** question B9 "Did you vote in last election?" get asked the next question B10 "Which party?" People answering "No" **skip** to B11 to B16 "During the last 12 months, have you done any of the following [political actions]*?"*. This is the language of questionnaire design and survey research.
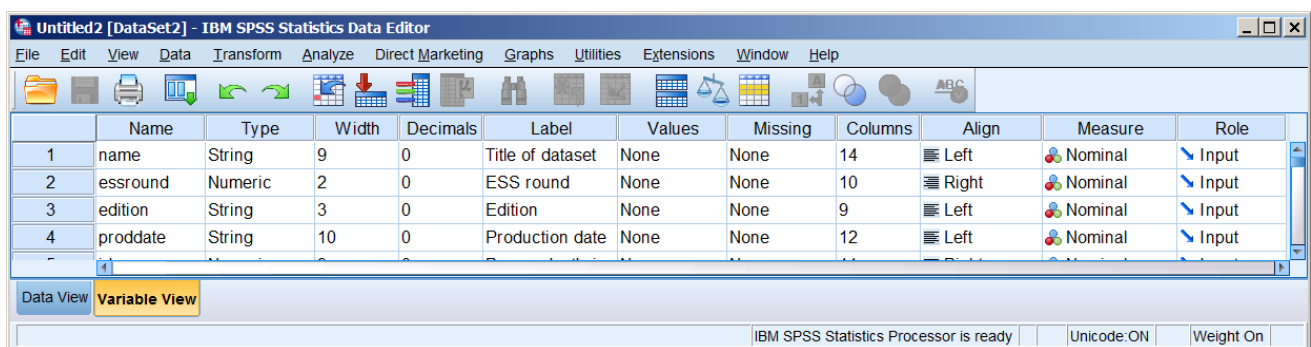
Make a personal copy of the file:

Data >> Copy Dataset

. creates a new *.sav file (headed Untitled2)
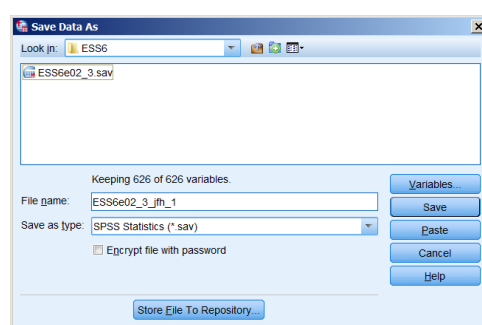

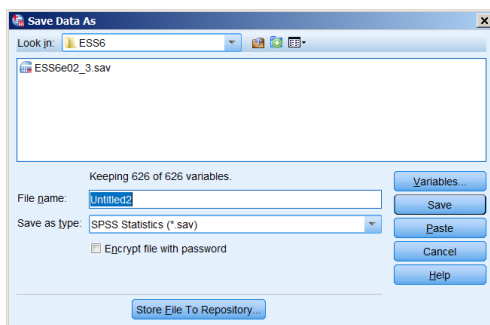File >> Save As

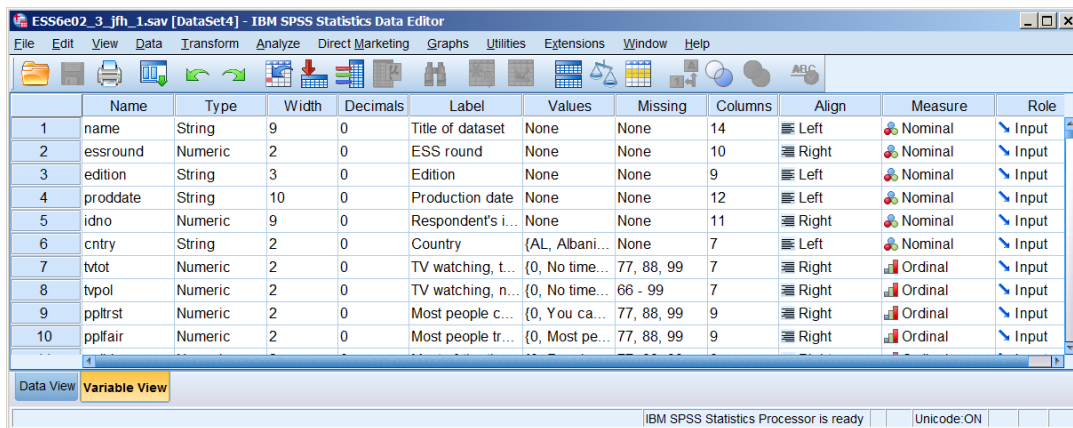Change Untitled2 to   e.g. <filename>_<your initials>_<edition number>
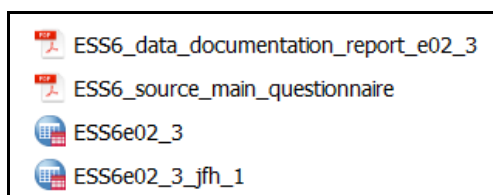
ESS6e02_3_jfh_1.sav

New file   ESS6e02_3_jfh_1

. . will be saved in folder **ESS6**

Close the original file.

From this point **work only on your personal copy**.

Adjusting the columns

I prefer working with the variable attributes displayed in a different order, so I always move the (to me) more important columns to the left. To do this, highlight a column by clicking on the column header, then, holding left mouse down on the header, drag the whole column to a different position.
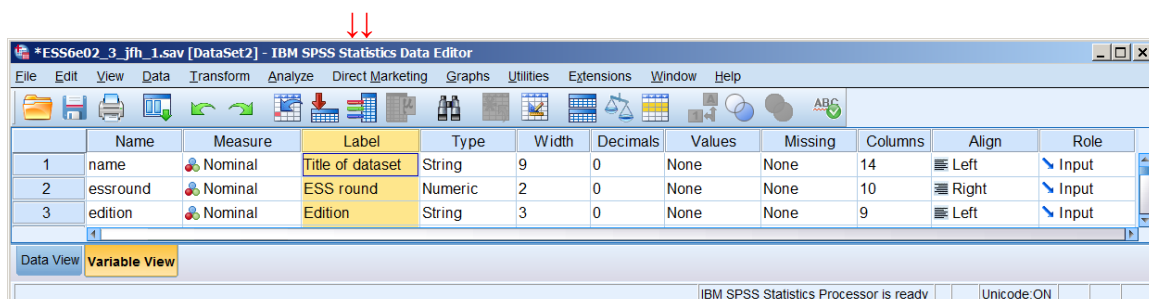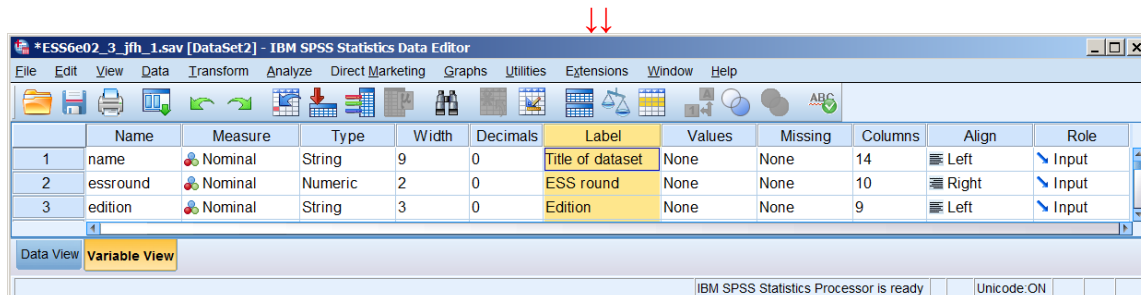
First highlight **Measure**:
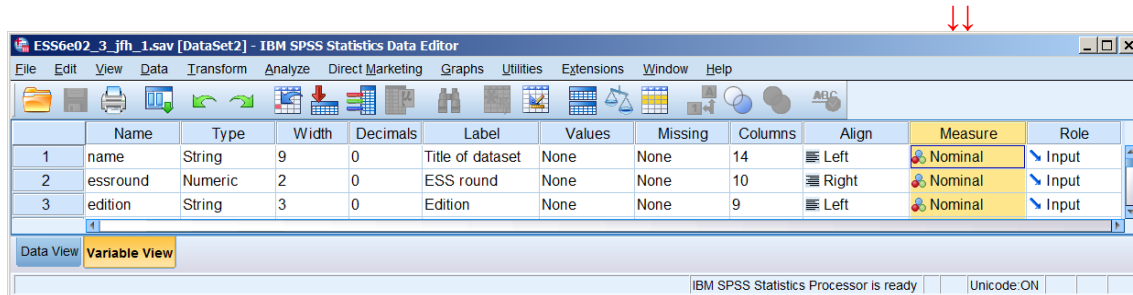
. . and drag it across to after **Name**
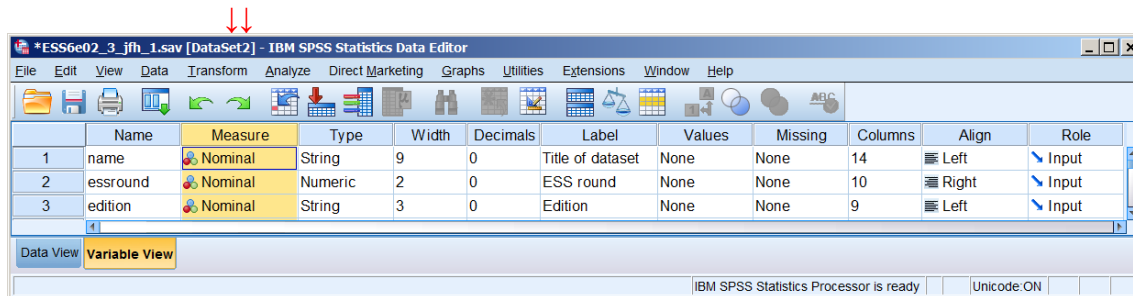
Drag **Label** across to after **Measure**:

Drag **Values** to after **Label**:

7

↓↓

	Name	Measure	Label	Type	Width	Decimals	Values	Missing	Columns	Align	Role
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	String	9	0	None	None	14	Left	Input
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	Numeric	2	0	None	None	10	Right	Input
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	String	3	0	None	None	9	Left	Input

Data View · Variable View

IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready · Unicode:ON

↓↓

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Type	Width	Decimals	Missing	Columns	Align	Role
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	String	9	0	None	14	Left	Input
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	Numeric	2	0	None	10	Right	Input
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	String	3	0	None	9	Left	Input

Data View · Variable View

IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready · Unicode:ON

Drag **Missing** to after **Values**:

↓↓

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Type	Width	Decimals	Missing	Columns	Align	Role
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	String	9	0	None	14	Left	Input
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	Numeric	2	0	None	10	Right	Input
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	String	3	0	None	9	Left	Input

Data View · Variable View

IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready · Unicode:ON

↓↓

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Missing	Type	Width	Decimals	Columns	Align	Role
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	None	String	9	0	14	Left	Input
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	None	Numeric	2	0	10	Right	Input
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	None	String	3	0	9	Left	Input

Data View · Variable View

IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready · Unicode:ON

8
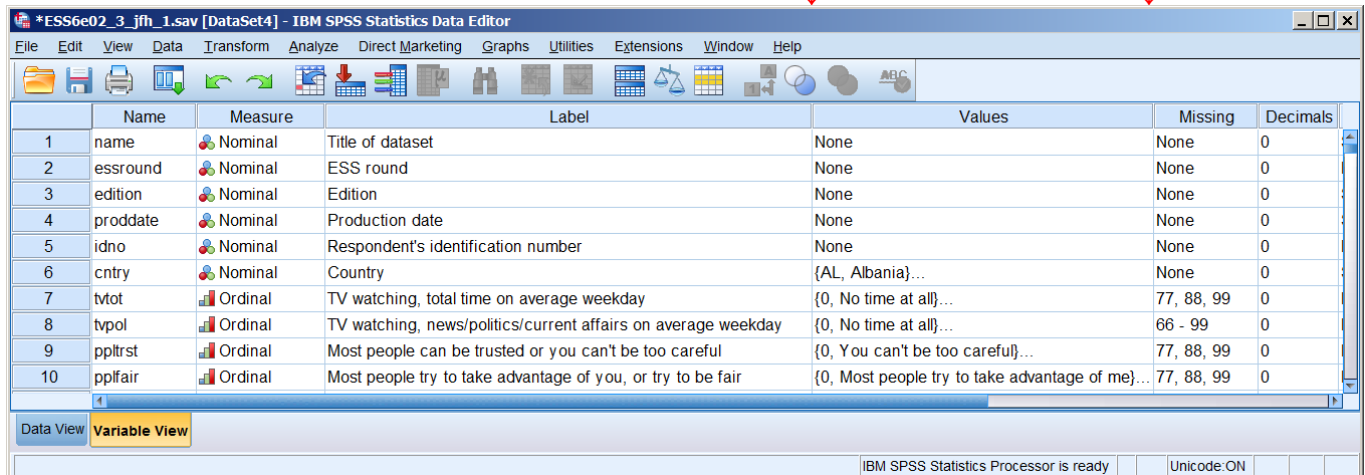
Drag **Decimals** to after **Missing**

↓↓

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Missing	Type	Width	Decimals	Columns	Align	Role
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	None	String	9	0	14	Left	Input
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	None	Numeric	2	0	10	Right	Input
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	None	String	3	0	9	Left	Input

↓↓

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Missing	Decimals	Type	Width	Columns	Align	Role
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	None	0	String	9	14	Left	Input
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	None	0	Numeric	2	10	Right	Input
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	None	0	String	3	9	Left	Input

Finally, to hide the attributes I don't need, drag right edge of window in:

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Missing	Decimals	Type
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	None	0	String
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	None	0	Numeric
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	None	0	String
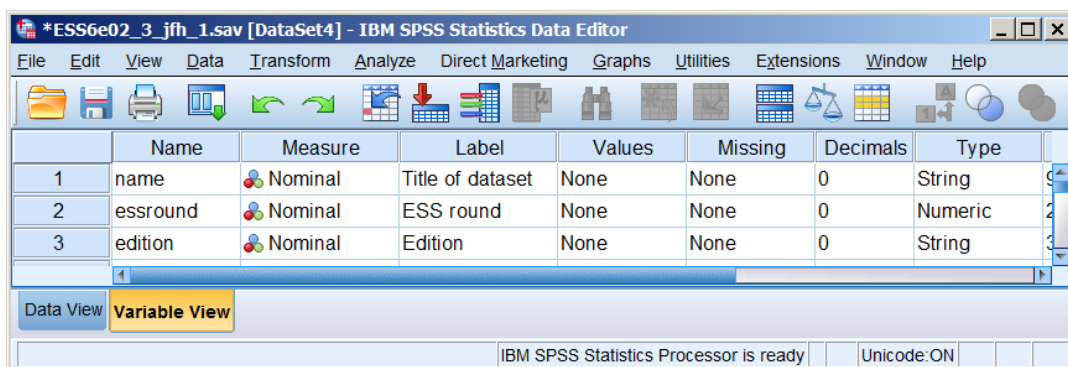
At this stage I don't really need **Type** either:

	Name	Measure	Label	Values	Missing	Decimals
1	name	Nominal	Title of dataset	None	None	0
2	essround	Nominal	ESS round	None	None	0
3	edition	Nominal	Edition	None	None	0

9
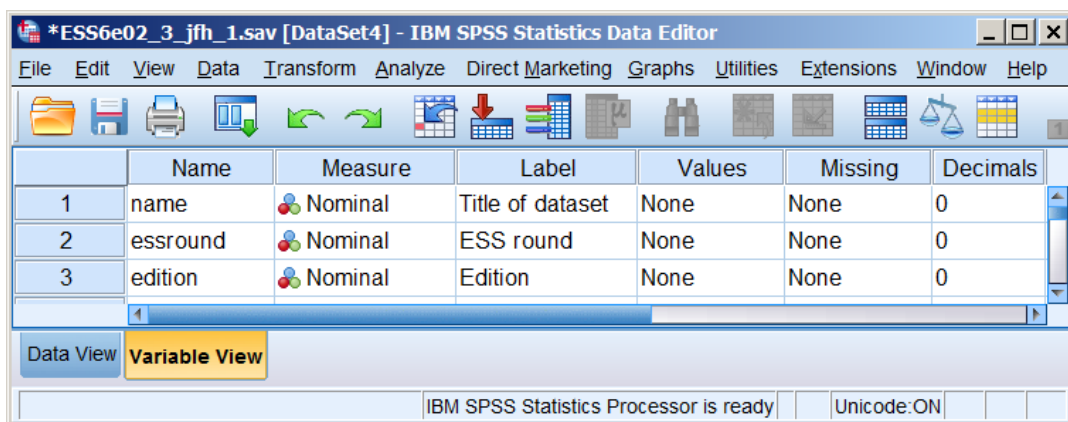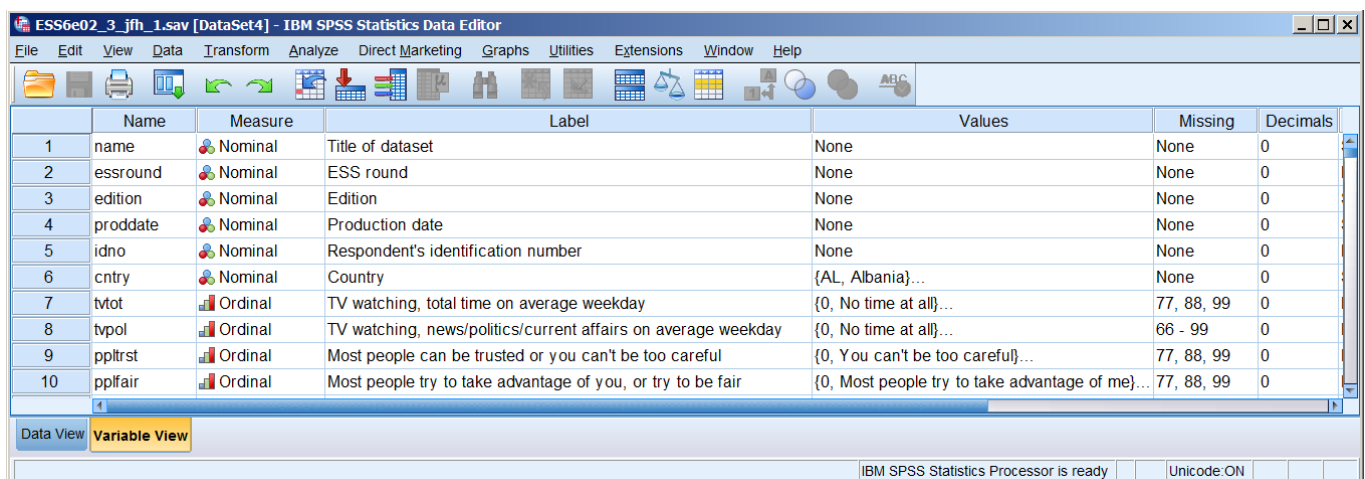
To see the full text in the **Label** and **Values** columns, drag the column separators out to the right:

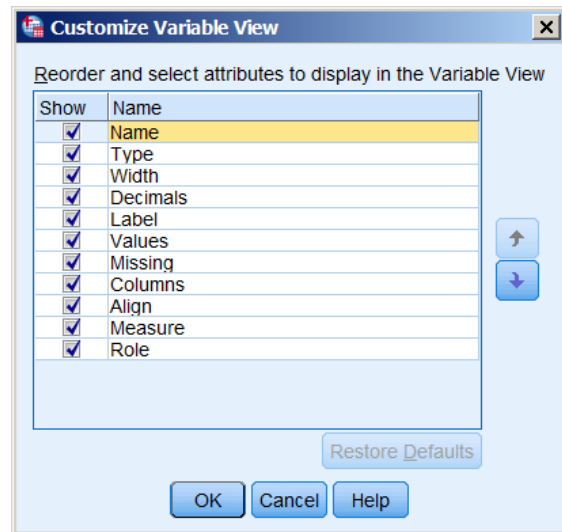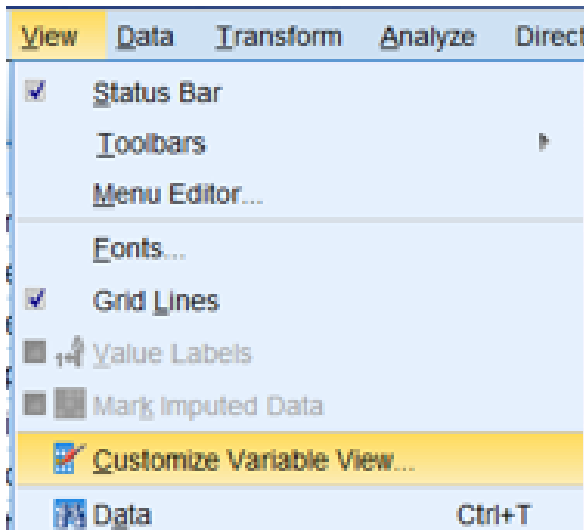**CTRL** + **S** to save the file:

SPSS will preserve the order of the attributes, but not the column widths.
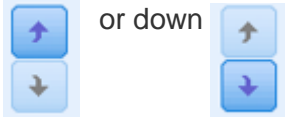
You can also re-order the attributes with:

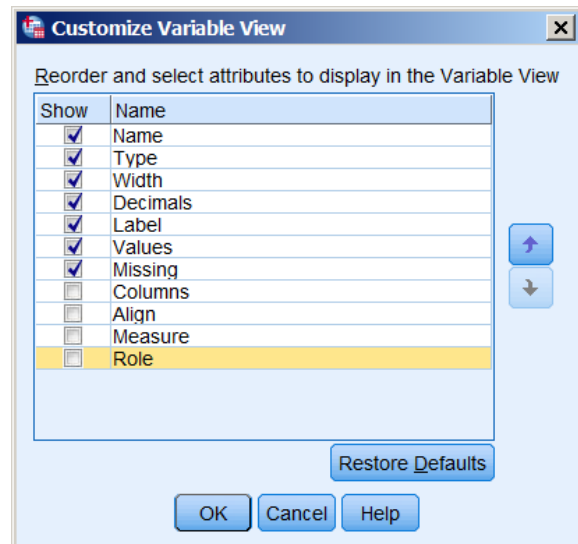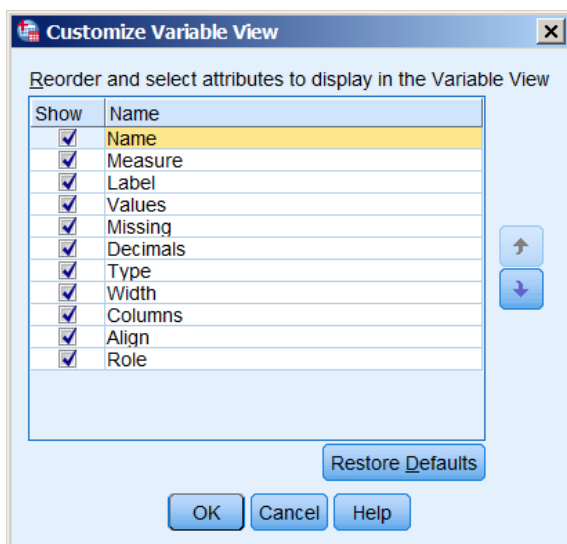View >> Customize Variable View

Use the blue arrows to move attributes up or down the pane

Check or uncheck boxes to show or hide attributes:

End of: **5.1.1 Downloading the full ESS6 dataset & documentation**

Back to: **MacInnes (2017)**

Forward to: **5.1.2 Identifying the missing cases on [cldgng]**