[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)

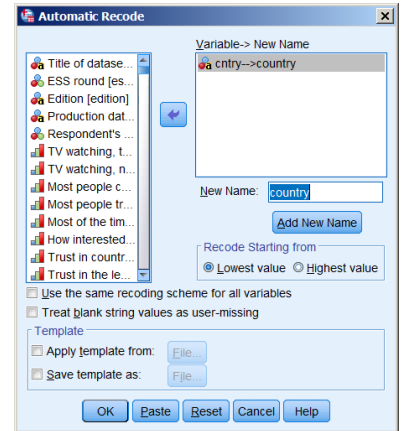**5.1 Chapter 5 video tutorials (direct link to companion website)**
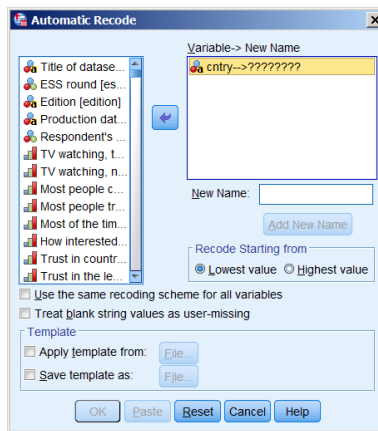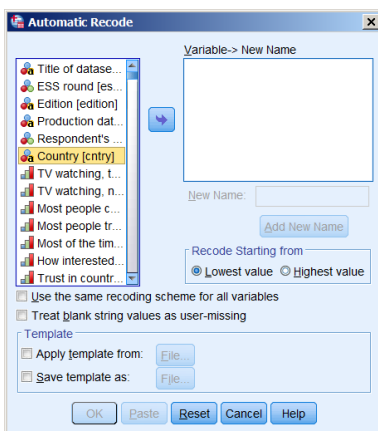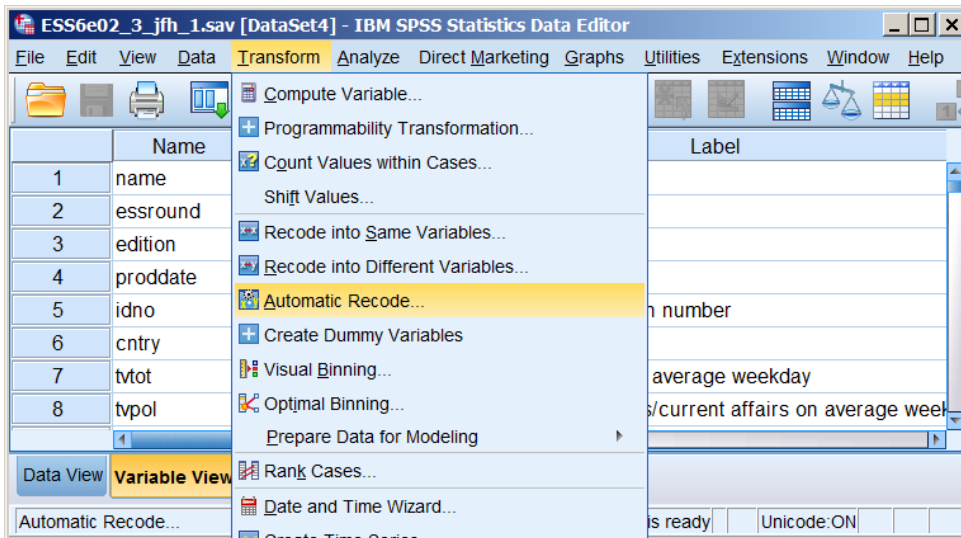[**NB:** All video tutorials for chapter 5 are on the same web page and cannot (yet) be disaggregated]

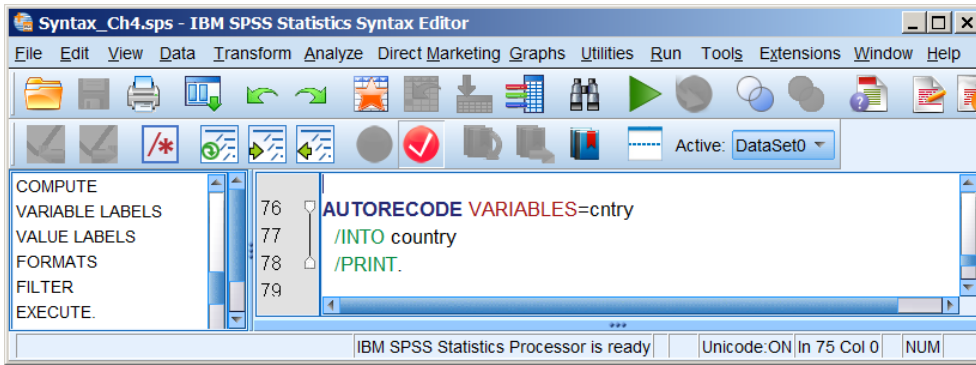**Video 5.1.3:** Creating a numeric version of **[cntry]**

Basically JM repeats the entire practice exercise from chapter 4, but with the addition of **copy/paste** to use previously generated syntax from that exercise.

[cntry] is a **string** variable: JM recodes it into a new **numeric** variable **[country]** using **AUTORECODE** as per chapter 4 video 10 in which he used:
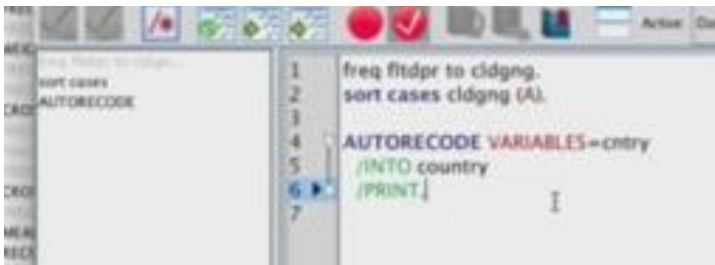
Transform >> Automatic Recode
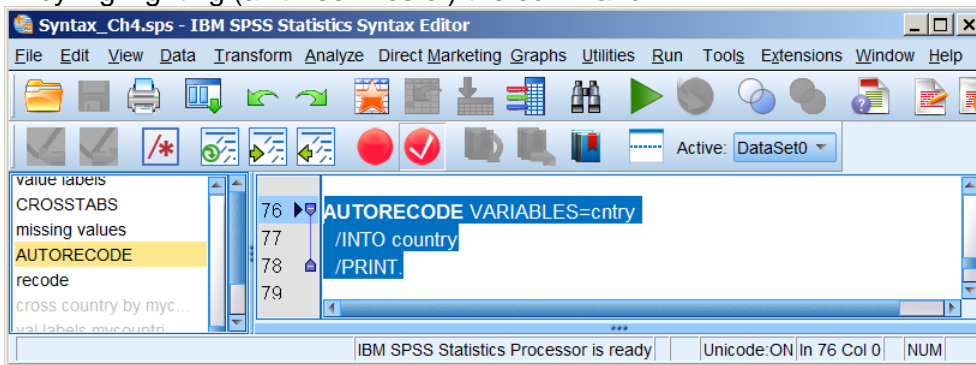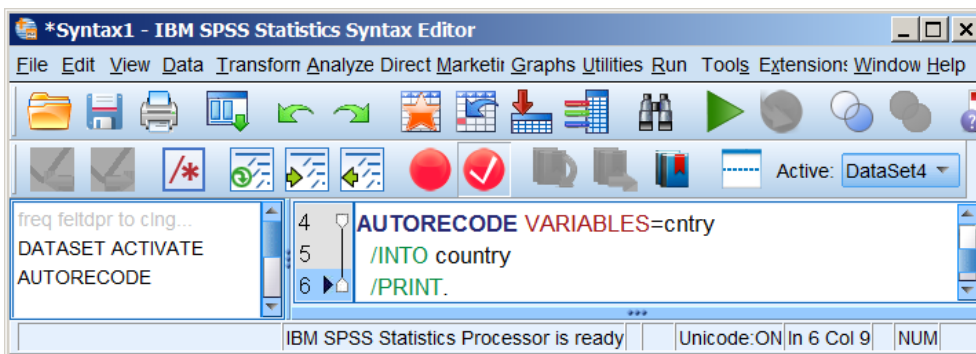

Syntax generated by Paste

Instead of using the GUI again, " . . if you saved the syntax from Ch 4 . ."   he copies the syntax from chapter 4 video 10:

. . by highlighting (all three lines of) the command:

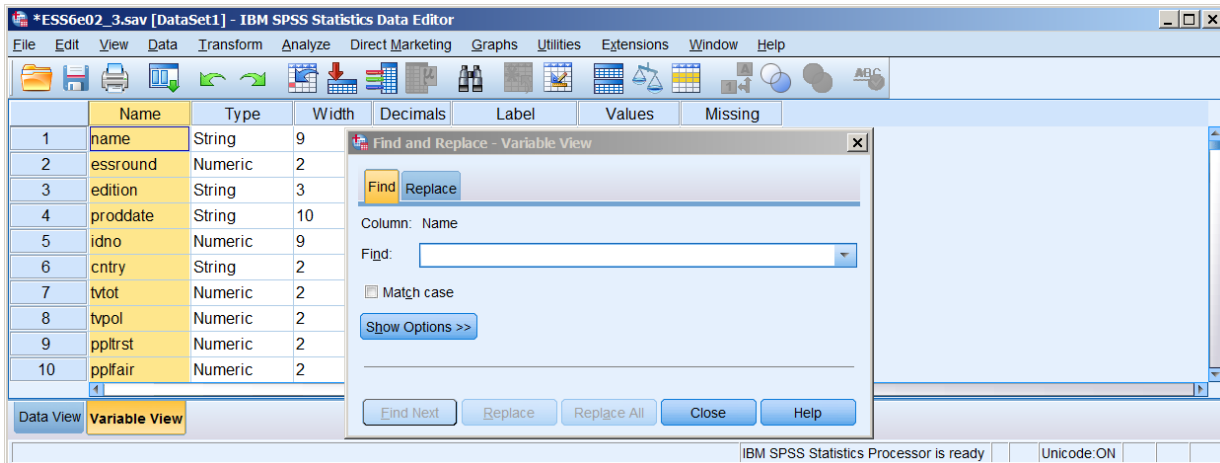. .and copy/pastes it into the new **Syntax Editor:**

2

After running the job, the **Output Viewer** shows:

```
Old Value   New Value   Value Label

AL                  1   Albania
BE                  2   Belgium
BG                  3   Bulgaria
CH                  4   Switzerland
CY                  5   Cyprus
CZ                  6   Czech Republic
DE                  7   Germany
DK                  8   Denmark
EE                  9   Estonia
ES                 10   Spain
FI                 11   Finland
FR                 12   France
GB                 13   United Kingdom
HU                 14   Hungary
IE                 15   Ireland
IL                 16   Israel
IS                 17   Iceland
IT                 18   Italy
LT                 19   Lithuania
NL                 20   Netherlands
NO                 21   Norway
PL                 22   Poland
PT                 23   Portugal
RU                 24   Russian Federation
SE                 25   Sweden
SI                 26   Slovenia
SK                 27   Slovakia
UA                 28   Ukraine
XK                 29   Kosovo
```
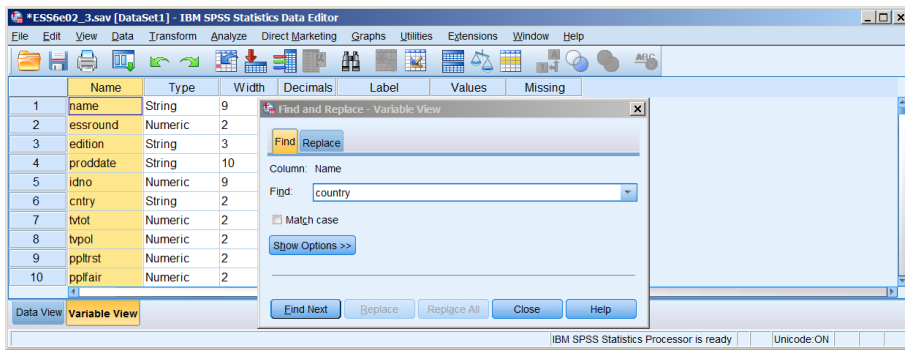
The new variable **[country]** is appended to the **Data Editor** on row 627:

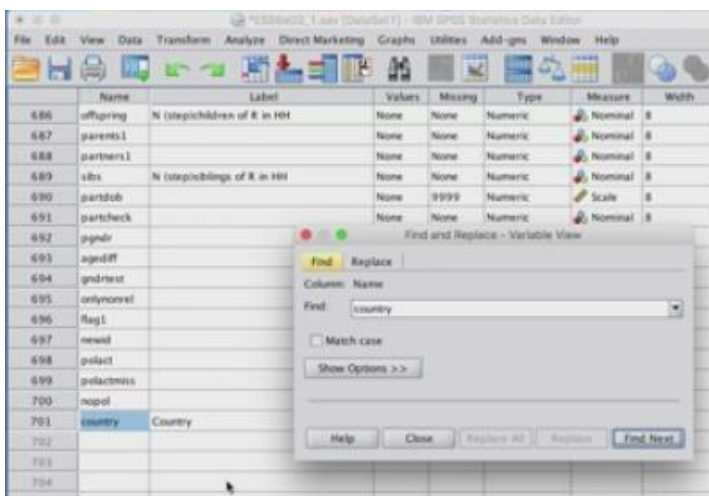| 626	pweight	Numeric
627	country	Numeric
628		

To find the new variable **[country]** JM uses an extremely laborious route by highlighting the **Name** column and clicking on (which does the same as CTRL+F):
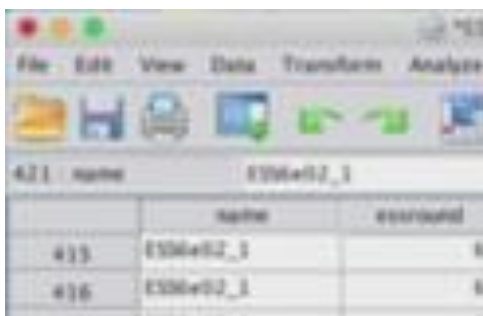
. . writes **country** in the <mark>**Find**</mark> box

. .clicks on [<u>F</u>ind Next] " . . and there it is, down at the bottom."

If you watch the video in full screen, you will see that he is breaking a cardinal rule by working on the original file **ESS6e02_3.sav**, not on a **copy**.

Comment:

Working on an original file is an **extremely dangerous practice**! In this case JM can always download the original again from the ESS site, but users working on their own data may not be so lucky.
Hopefully he copied this file to another folder and worked on that.

End of: **5.1.3:** Creating a numeric version of **[cntry]**
Back to: MacInnes (2017)