An elementary statistical workshop course for postgraduate research students

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Postgraduate students from Arts, Humanities and Social Science subjects increasingly need a firm grounding in school- and college-level statistics. This need is only partially met by departmental research methods courses, and Mathematics and Statistics Support Centres are increasingly relied upon to provide additional statistics support for postgraduate students. This presentation reports on a workshop series designed to introduce students to the topics of descriptive statistics, graphs, hypothesis testing, and the computer package SPSS. It provides evidence that the workshops met their aims and that they were popular both in terms of student attendance and feedback. It demonstrates that such a workshop series may (a) attract attendees from a wider variety of departments than might be expected, (b) be of interest for both lectured Masters and research PhD students and (c) that it can be a good way of increasing knowledge of other forms of support available from Mathematics and Statistics Support Centres.