

DAGitty.net, v3.0

DAGitty.net is open source software to create and analyze directed acyclic graphs (DAGs). Once users become familiar with setting up (creating) DAGs, the interface is an easier and more flexible method of drawing DAGs than, say, the drawing tools in Microsoft Word. The real utility of DAGitty.net, however, is its analytic capability. Notably, the software can analyze very complex DAGs and assist users in the identification of minimally sufficient sets of variables for adjustment in order to estimate the total causal effect of exposure on disease, as well as direct effects. Follow the steps below to create your own DAG.

Note: Because DAGitty.net is relatively new and open source, you might encounter various deficiencies in terms of browser compatibility, cryptic error messages, or help availability. In other words, there may be bugs. If you cannot get the program to run in your computing environment, you might try another browser, seek assistance from a colleague, or try another computer. The developer, Dr. Johannes Textor, is also interested in hearing about bugs such that his team can address them. His e-mail address is on the website or you can tweet him.

1) Go to DAGitty.net

2) Click on Version “3.0: Released 2019-01-09”

This will take you to the web-based version of the software. We don't recommend trying to download the application for offline use.

The screenshot shows the DAGitty website in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays 'www.dagitty.net'. The website header reads 'DAGitty — draw and analyze causal diagrams'. Below the header, a paragraph describes DAGitty as a browser-based environment for creating, editing, and analyzing causal diagrams. A table with four columns—Launch, Download, Learn, and Code—provides options for using the software. The 'Launch' column features a button labeled 'Launch DAGitty online in your browser.' The 'Download' column has a button labeled 'Download DAGitty's source for offline use.' The 'Learn' column includes a link to 'Learn more about DAGs and DAGitty.' The 'Code' column mentions that the R package 'dagitty' is available on CRAN or github. To the right of the table, a 'Versions' section lists available versions, with version 3.0 (Released 2019-01-09) highlighted by a red arrow. The bottom of the page shows a tweet link and a Windows taskbar with the time 8:39 AM.

Launch	Download	Learn	Code
 Launch DAGitty online in your browser.	 Download DAGitty's source for offline use.	 Learn more about DAGs and DAGitty.	 The R package "dagitty" is available on CRAN or github.

DAGitty is developed and maintained by Johannes Textor (Tumor Immunology Lab and Institute for Computing and Information Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen).

Versions
The following versions of DAGitty are available:

- Development version
Recent development snapshot. May contain new features, but could also contain new bugs.
- Experimental version
Most recent development snapshot. May not even work.
- 3.0: Released 2019-01-09
- 2.3: Released 2015-08-19
- 2.2: Released 2014-10-30
- 2.1: Released 2014-02-06
- 2.0: Released 2013-02-12
- 1.1: Released 2011-11-29
- 1.0: Released 2011-03-24
- 0.9b: Released 2010-11-24
- 0.9a: Released 2010-09-01

3) To create a new DAG: click on Model/New model

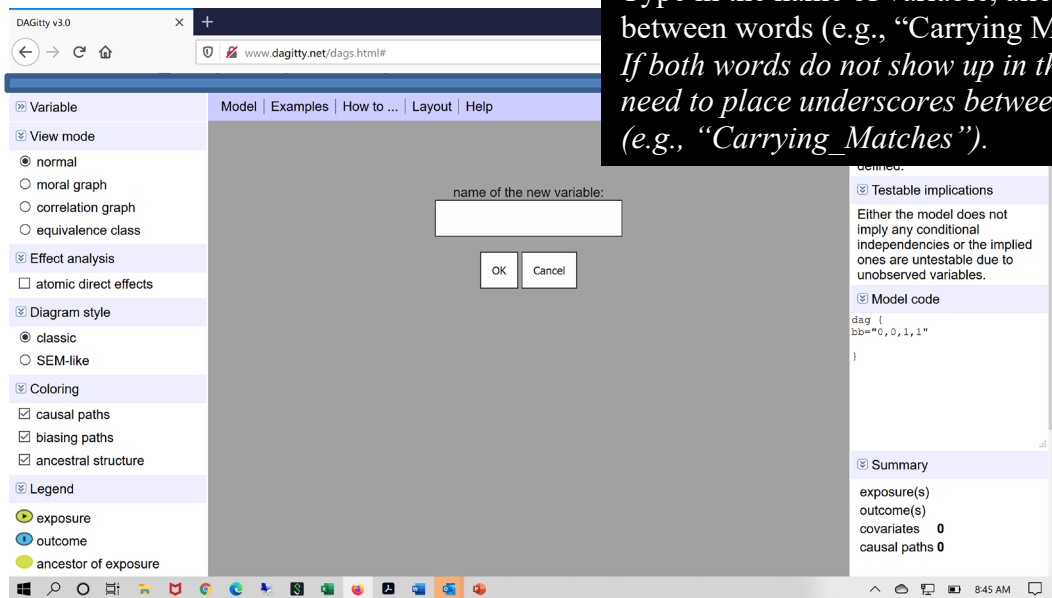
The screenshot shows the DAGitty v3.0 web interface. A red arrow points to the 'New model' option in the 'Model' menu. The interface includes a left sidebar with various settings like 'View mode', 'Effect analysis', 'Diagram style', 'Coloring', and 'Legend'. The main area displays a causal diagram with nodes E (exposure), Z (intermediate), B (covariate), and D (outcome). The right sidebar shows 'Causal effect identification' with 'Adjustment (total effect)' selected, 'Testable implications' listing conditional independences, 'Model code' in R syntax, and a 'Summary' section.

You may get a message from your browser that the site is “using a scripted window to ask you for information. If you trust this website, click here to allow scripted windows...”. Go ahead and click on this message to proceed and click on “Allow Scripted Windows” when prompted.

4) Click anywhere in the blank space

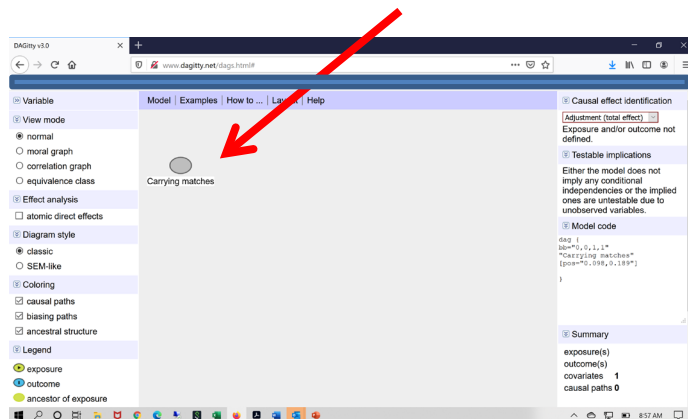
The screenshot shows the DAGitty v3.0 web interface with a blank workspace. A red arrow points to the central area where a new diagram can be created. The left sidebar and right sidebar are visible, showing the same settings and analysis options as in the previous screenshot.

5) Enter the exposure variable

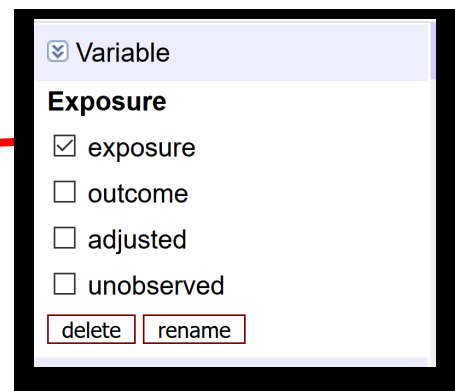
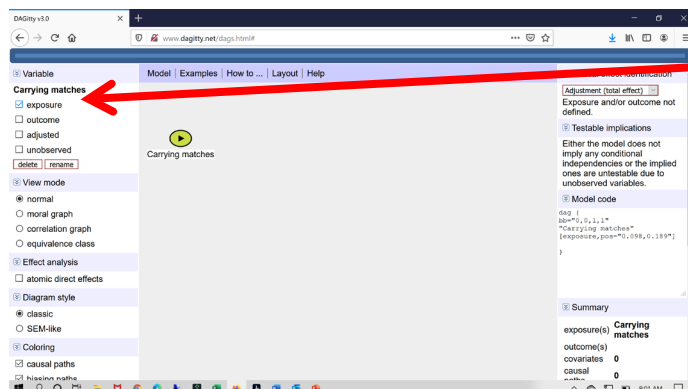


Type in the name of variable, allowing for spaces between words (e.g., “Carrying Matches”).
If both words do not show up in the DAG, you may need to place underscores between the words (e.g., “Carrying_Matches”).

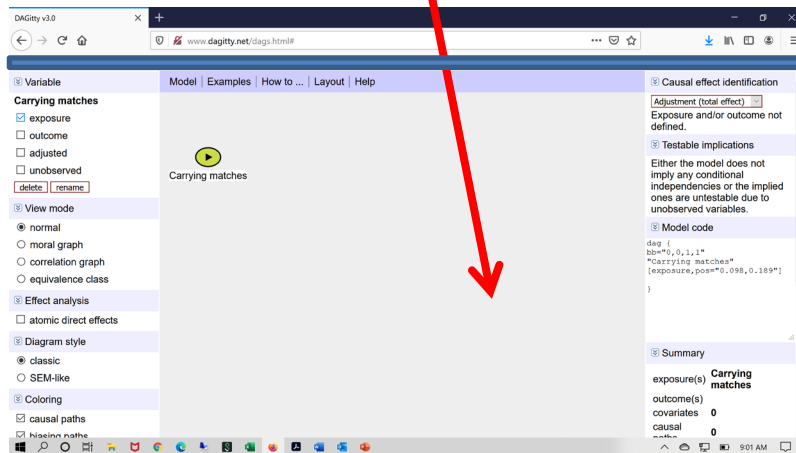
5a) Set your variable as the exposure: Click on your variable



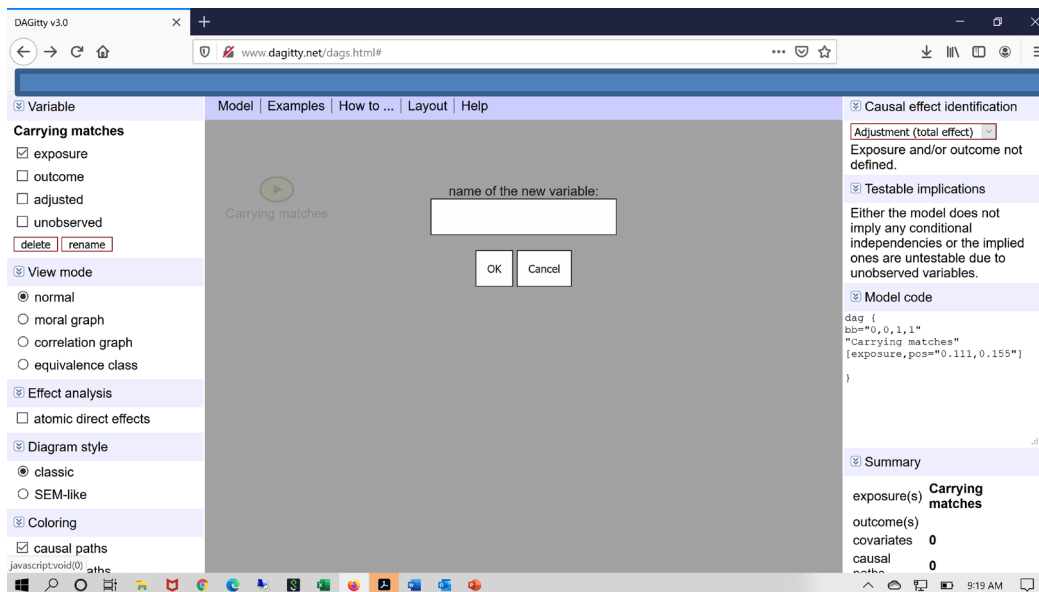
5b) Mark “exposure”



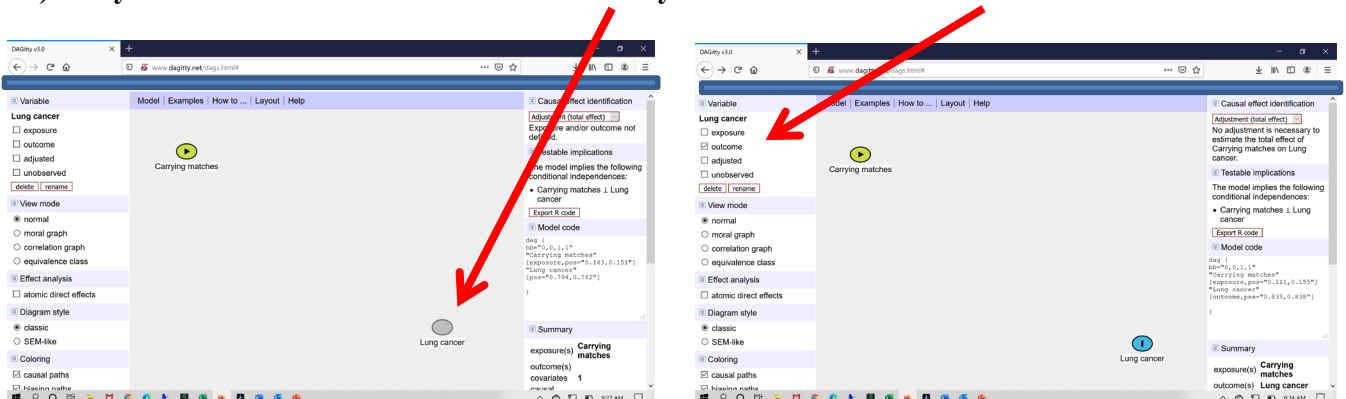
6) Click anywhere in the blank space again



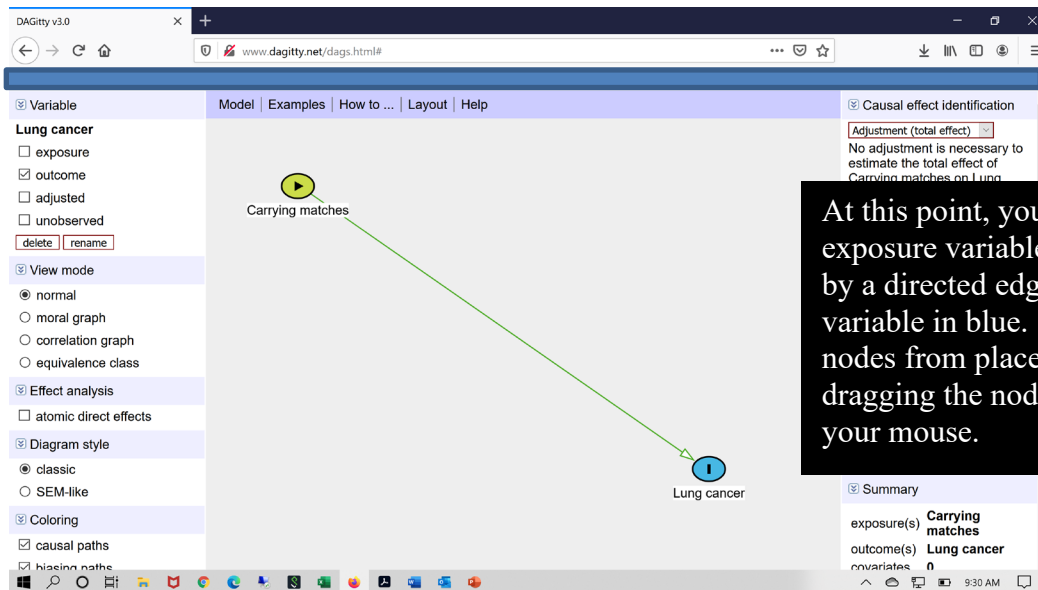
7) Enter the outcome variable



7a) Set your variable as the outcome: Click on your variable and mark “outcome”



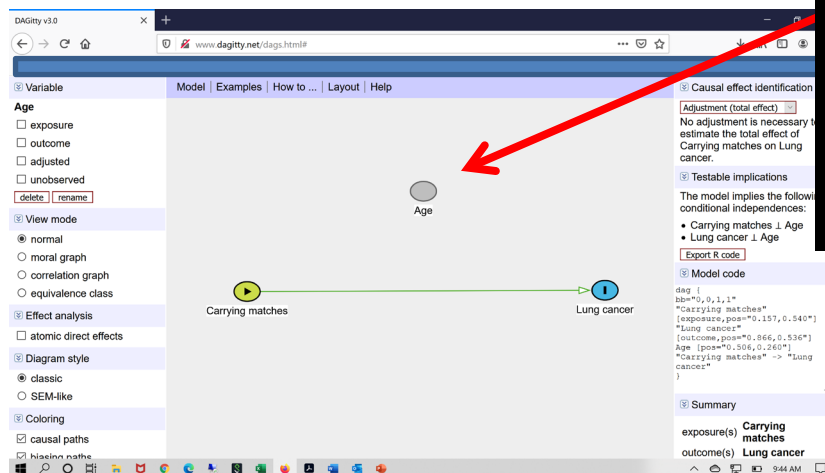
8) Connect your variables: click on your exposure and then, click on your outcome



At this point, you should see the exposure variable in green connected by a directed edge to the outcome variable in blue. You can move the nodes from place to place by simply dragging the node on the screen with your mouse.

9) Adding other nodes and edges:

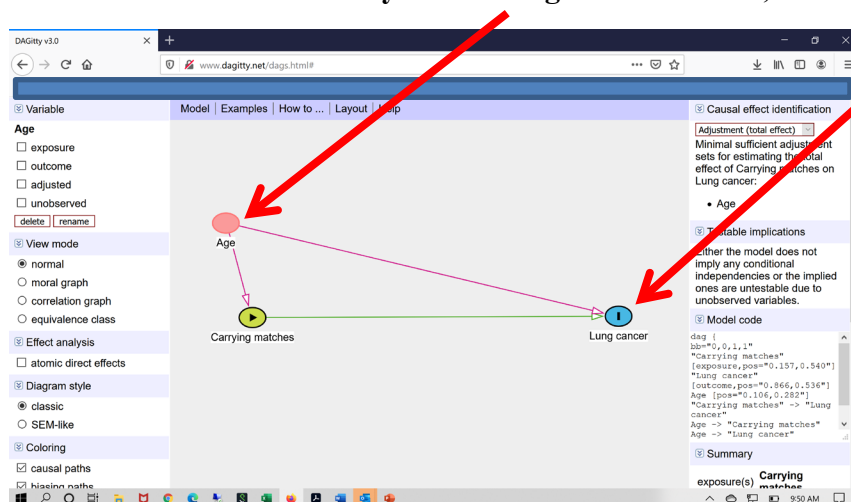
- **NEW NODE:** Click anywhere in blank space and enter the variable name for your new node



Your new node will appear on the canvas.

NOTE: at any time, you can reformat the DAG by clicking on a node with your mouse and moving it around.

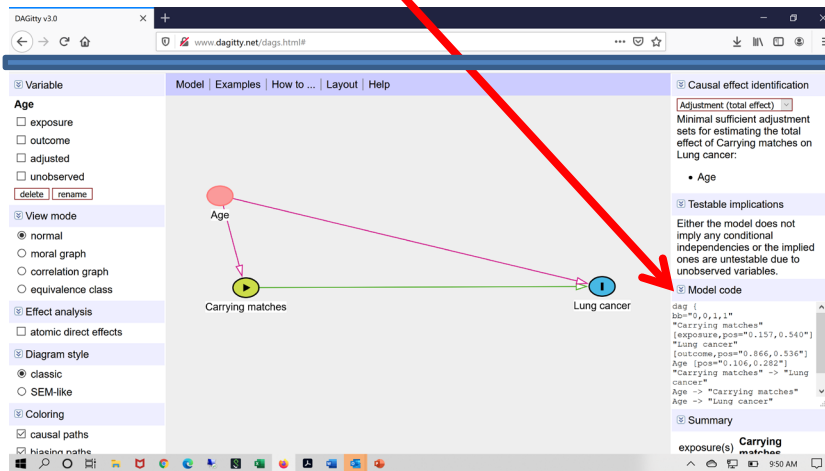
- **NEW EDGE:** Click on your starting node and then, click on the end node



9) Saving a DAG: 2 options

OPTION 1

Copy the Model code and paste the “code” in a document (e.g., MS Word) to save it.

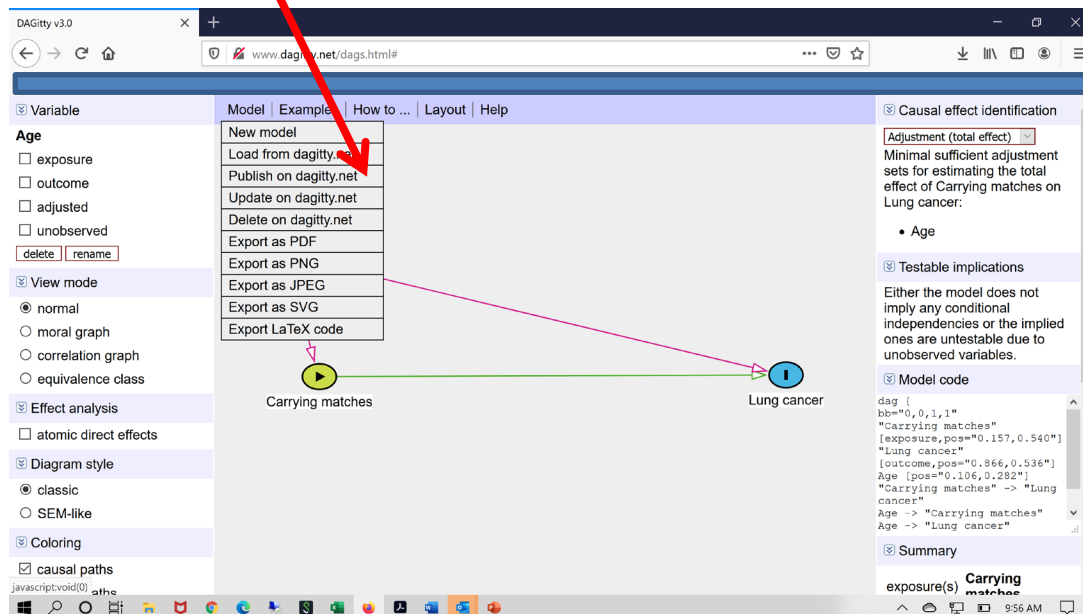


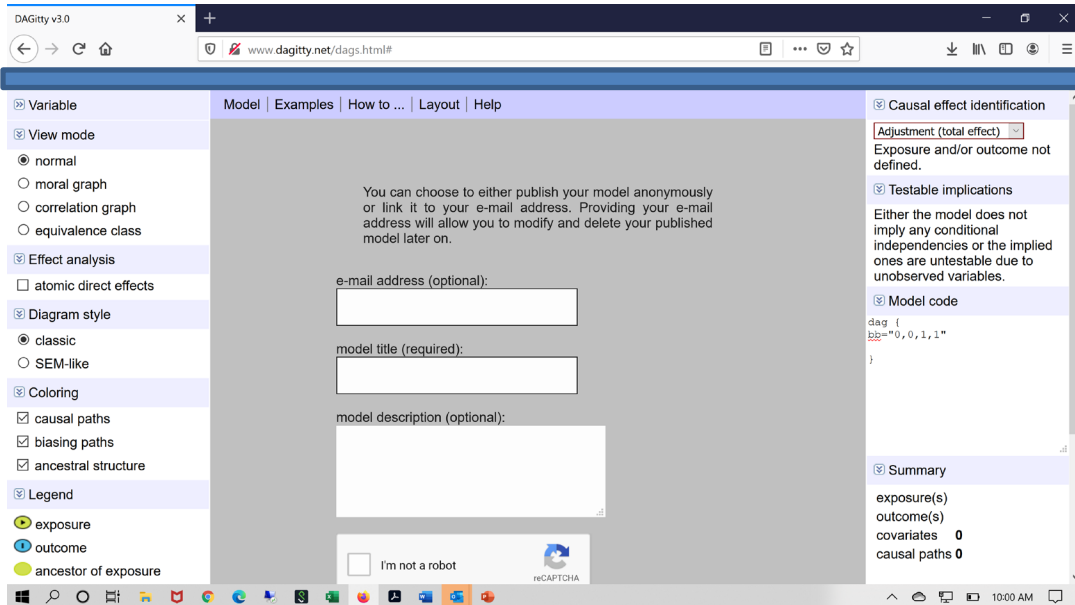
LATER: to resurrect your saved DAG, open a new DAGitty.net window and paste the saved “code” into the Model code box (i.e., replace the sample text in the box with your “text data”) and click **Update DAG**.

You have modified the model code. To draw the modified model, click here: [Update DAG](#)

OPTION 2

Click on Model/Publish on Dagitty.net, then name your DAG (model title)
Optional: Link it to your e-mail address. Providing your e-mail address will allow you to modify and delete your published model later on.





Write down/save the URL pathway (e.g., dagitty.net/mLOUxP). This is saving the DAG on the Dagitty.net server. *We have every reason to believe that this is secure, but if you have a highly confidential DAG you might want to be cautious.*

To later resurrect your saved DAG: click on **Model/Load from Dagitty.net** and enter your URL.

10) Saving your DAG as an image file/Printing a DAG

- Click on Model
- Export as a PDF, png, jpeg, svg

Be aware of the default folder where your browser typically saves downloads.

