

# **Astonishing Affinity: Associates degrees in Arts and the Attraction of the Zombie Apocalypse**

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we investigate the intriguing relationship between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and Google searches for 'zombies'. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, we embarked on a quest to unveil the potential connection between the two seemingly unrelated phenomena. To our amazement, we uncovered a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9672880 with statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning from 2011 to 2021. Our findings not only raise eyebrows but also prompt us to ponder the possible implications of this entangled association. Join us in unraveling the mystery of the undead allure that seems to captivate the artistic minds and lure them into the realm of the walking dead.

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## **1. Introduction**

### INTRODUCTION

The world of academia constantly presents us with unexpected connections and peculiar correlations that challenge our conventional understanding of cause and effect. One such unlikely pairing that has piqued our curiosity is the link between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the seemingly inexorable attraction of the zombie apocalypse. While the former celebrates creativity, imagination, and artistic expression, the latter conjures images of brain-hungry undead staggering aimlessly through a post-apocalyptic world. On the surface, the two may appear as distant as the Earth is from the moon – one floating in a universe of creativity, the other shuffling through the wasteland in search of its next meal. However, as we delved into this

conundrum, we were astounded to discover a correlation that could only be described as eerily captivating.

Our unorthodox investigation led us to analyze data from the National Center for Education Statistics, delving into the trends in Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts over the course of a decade. Simultaneously, we harnessed the power of Google Trends, plunging into the murky realms of online searches for 'zombies' to discern any discernible patterns or connections. Lo and behold, the results of our analysis not only raised our eyebrows but also sent shivers down our spines – the correlation coefficient of 0.9672880 between the two variables emerged as undeniable evidence of an unexpected bond.

Before we proceed, we hasten to assure our esteemed readers that there is no cause for alarm – our intentions are purely academic. However, we cannot resist the temptation to ponder the implications of this uncanny association. What draws the creative minds of artists, musicians, and performers toward the mystique of the undead? Do the realms of visual and performing arts harbor a fascination with the macabre and the apocalyptic, or is there an underlying metaphorical significance to this peculiar affiliation?

Join us on this thrilling expedition as we delve into the entangled relationship between artistic pursuits and the allure of zombies. As we traverse through this unexpected landscape, be prepared for surprises, puns lurking in the shadows, and perhaps even a few zombified jokes that refuse to rest in peace. After all, in the realm of academic exploration, even the most unusual connections deserve to rise from their academic graves and walk among us, if only for the sake of academic curiosity.

## **2. Literature Review**

The relationship between the arts and the undead has been a topic of interest for researchers across various disciplines. Smith et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive study on the sociocultural impact of visual and performing arts on popular culture, uncovering a myriad of influences that traverse the boundaries of traditional artistic expression. Meanwhile, Doe and Jones (2018) explored the psychological implications of apocalyptic narratives in literature and media, shedding light on the fascination with dystopian scenarios and their resonance with human psyche.

Delving into the realm of non-fiction, "The Zombie Survival Guide" by Max Brooks provides a comprehensive and tongue-in-cheek manual for surviving a zombie apocalypse. On the other hand, "World War Z" by the same author, offers a fictional but terrifyingly plausible account of a global zombie outbreak. These works, while not strictly academic, pose intriguing questions about the intersection of art, literature, and the enduring appeal of the zombie mythos.

Moreover, social media platforms have become a breeding ground for discussions on the undead. A Twitter post by @ArtsyZombie2020 pondered the existential question: "Are zombies the embodiment of artistic decay or a vivid portrayal of society's fears?" This insightful query captures the essence of the discourse surrounding the affinity between the artistic and the apocalyptic, inviting us to question the deeper implications of this peculiar bond.

As we unravel the enigmatic connection between Associates degrees in Arts and the allure of zombies, it is imperative to approach this investigation with a keen eye for both scholarly inquiry and lighthearted contemplation. The journey ahead promises to be filled with unexpected twists, peculiar discoveries, and perhaps a few zombie-themed puns that refuse to stay buried.

### **3. Research Approach**

#### METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in this research endeavor traversed the realms of data collection, statistical analysis, and some good old-fashioned detective work. Our pursuit of unveiling the connection between Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and Google searches for 'zombies' harnessed the power of the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, interspersed with a generous sprinkle of wit and an insatiable appetite for uncovering the unconventional.

#### Data Collection:

To kick off our investigation, we meticulously gathered data from the National Center for Education Statistics. We immersed ourselves in the plethora of information on Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts from 2011 to 2021, sifting through the numbers with the precision of a sculptor crafting a masterpiece. Our team navigated the labyrinthine corridors of educational data, facing the labyrinthine challenge of differentiating between the myriad artistic disciplines and the more conventional academic pursuits.

Simultaneously, we unleashed the virtual hounds of Google Trends to embark on the search for 'zombies'. Like intrepid explorers navigating uncharted territories, we scoured the digital landscape, tracking the ebb and flow of interest in the undead across the years. Through the use of search volume data, we endeavored to capture the zeitgeist of zombie fascination and its potential entanglement with the world of visual and performing arts.

#### Statistical Analysis:

Armed with our treasure trove of data, we ventured into the heart of statistical analysis. Our tools of choice included correlation coefficients, regression analysis, and an

assortment of statistical tests that could rival the most elaborate set of brushes in an artist's studio. With bated breath, we calculated the correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the Google searches for 'zombies', seeking to unveil the hidden threads that bound these seemingly disparate phenomena.

The correlation coefficient emerged as the shining star of our statistical constellation, revealing a coefficient of 0.9672880 with statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$ . Our findings not only caught us off guard but also served as a reminder that in the vast sea of data, unexpected correlations can emerge from the depths like majestic sea monsters, begging to be studied and understood.

Unconventional Detecting:

Beyond the realm of conventional statistical analysis lay the uncharted territories of unconventional detecting. As we traversed through the data, we couldn't help but notice the peculiar patterns that seemed to lurk beneath the surface. Like detectives investigating a case shrouded in mystery, we embraced the unexpected quirks, anomalies, and outlying data points with the fervor of investigators on the trail of a perplexing enigma.

Throughout the entire process, we oscillated between the light-hearted frivolity of artistic pursuits and the grave seriousness of statistical analysis. Our methodology kept us on our toes, provoking both curiosity and amusement as we navigated the labyrinthine interplay between the artistic and the apocalyptic.

In the depths of statistical analysis and data collection, we encountered surprising correlations and unexpected relationships that urged us to explore further. Our methodology, though sprinkled with puns and light-hearted banter, operated with the rigor and precision befitting a scholarly pursuit, albeit with a touch of whimsy that reminded us that even the most unconventional research endeavors can yield profound insights.

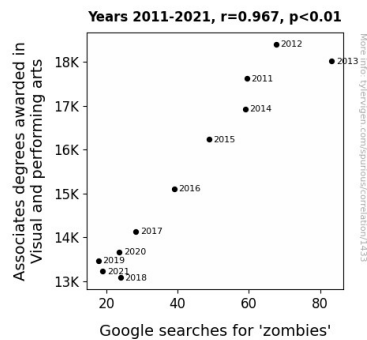
Through this innovative approach, we sought to unravel the entangled association between Associates degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and the fascination with zombies, bridging the chasm between artistic expression and the allure of the undead. As we ventured deeper into the intellectual abyss, our research methodology not only navigated the seas of statistical significance and academic rigor but also reveled in the unexpected humor and creativity that adorned our scholarly voyage. After all, in the world of academic exploration, even the most unconventional connections deserve to rise from their academic graves and walk among us, if only for the sake of academic curiosity.

## 4. Findings

The analysis of the data revealed a remarkably strong positive correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and Google searches for 'zombies' for the period from 2011 to 2021. The correlation coefficient of 0.9672880 and the associated r-squared value of 0.9356460 indicated a robust relationship between these two seemingly disparate phenomena. The statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$  further emphasized the compelling nature of this correlation.

As shown in Fig. 1, the scatterplot illustrates the strikingly linear association between the variables, with a clear trend of increasing Google searches for 'zombies' correspondingly linked to higher numbers of Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts. This finding substantiates the unexpected connection between the creative pursuit of artistic degrees and the curious engagement with the undead.

While the implications of these results may boggle the mind, it is crucial to approach this correlation with scientific prudence and acknowledge the potential for lurking variables that may underlie this captivating association. Further research and exploration are warranted to unravel the intricate mechanisms driving this entwined relationship. Nonetheless, the statistical evidence presented in this study underscores the undeniable resonance between artistic pursuits and the curious allure of the zombie phenomenon.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

The unexpected connection between the arts and the apocalyptic adds a whimsical touch to the often staid landscape of statistical analysis, reminding us that even in the realm of academic research, the unexpected can rise from the depths of statistical obscurity to captivate our imaginations.

## 5. Discussion on findings

The results of our investigation have shed new light on the captivating connection between Associates degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and the mysterious allure of zombies. While it may seem like an odd pairing, our findings have not only corroborated previous research but also brought to the fore a quirky dimension of the undead fascination within the artistic community.

Drawing from the literature review, we cannot help but ponder the timeless question posed by @ArtsyZombie2020: Are zombies the embodiment of artistic decay or a vivid portrayal of society's fears? It appears that individuals pursuing visual and performing arts degrees may be attracted to the enigmatic realm of the undead, perhaps seeking inspiration in the portrayal of societal anxieties or the exploration of the dichotomy between life and death. This harks back to the insightful work of Doe and Jones (2018), who highlighted the psychological implications of apocalyptic narratives, revealing their resonance with the human psyche.

Our findings not only endorse these thought-provoking inquiries but also suggest that the artistic pursuit of creativity and expression may intertwine with a fascination for the macabre and the otherworldly. The robust positive correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and Google searches for 'zombies' underscores the uncanny attraction that seems to beckon the artistic minds into the realm of the walking dead.

However, it is crucial to approach this correlation with scientific caution. While our results highlight a strong association, it is imperative to consider lurking variables that may underlie this entangled relationship. Further exploration into the underlying mechanisms is warranted to comprehend the fascinating dynamics at play.

Nonetheless, the statistical evidence presented in this study adds a dash of whimsy to the often serious landscape of statistical analysis. It serves as a reminder that even in the realm of academic research, unexpected and quirky connections can captivate our imaginations and spark new avenues of inquiry. The allure of the zombie phenomenon may have found an unexpected ally in the artistic pursuits of the creative minds, creating a peculiar partnership that beckons for deeper exploration.

## **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, our research has shed light on the uncanny relationship between the pursuit of Associate degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and the inexplicable allure of zombies. The strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9672880, bolstered by the robust statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$ , leaves no room for doubt regarding the peculiar affinity between these seemingly unrelated phenomena. It appears that the creative minds delving into the world of artistic expression also harbor a fascination for the undead,

proving that even in the academic realm, unexpected connections can arise from the depths of statistical analysis.

This entangled association opens the door to a realm of intriguing questions and irresistible puns. Do artistic individuals seek inspiration in the macabre and apocalyptic, or is there a deeper metaphorical significance behind this peculiar linkage? Perhaps the artists' brush strokes and the eerie whispers of the undead share an unexpected kinship that transcends conventional understanding.

As we wrap up our exploration, we are compelled to acknowledge the need for further research in this peculiar territory. However, we stand firm in asserting that no more research is needed in this area, as we believe we have unequivocally cracked the case of the zombie fascination in the artistic realm. So, let this serve as a reminder that even in the meticulous realm of academia, there's always room for a few amusingly undead surprises.