



Review

Mastering the Art of Mourning: An Unlikely Correlation Between Master's Degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and Funeral Attendance in Florida

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This paper presents a whimsical exploration of the unexpected correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the attendance at funerals in the state of Florida. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we employed statistical analysis to reveal a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9657294 with a significance level of $p < 0.01$ for the period between 2012 and 2021. Our findings suggest that there is a peculiar association between the pursuit of advanced degrees in artistic disciplines and the presence of individuals at funerals. We offer some humorous conjectures and cheeky observations to enliven the discussion, challenging traditional assumptions and encouraging a playful interpretation of seemingly unrelated phenomena.

The world of academia is often a serious and somber place, but every now and then, a whimsical discovery presents itself, demanding attention and a hint of amusement. In the spirit of unexpected correlations and eccentric findings, we delve into the unlikely relationship between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the attendance at funerals in the state of Florida. At first glance, one might be tempted to dismiss this as a mere coincidence or a fanciful flight of imagination. However,

upon closer examination, the data reveals a striking connection that is both perplexing and intriguing.

While the pursuit of advanced degrees in visual and performing arts may seem far removed from the solemn atmosphere of funeral gatherings, there appears to be a curiously high correlation that defies conventional expectations. Perhaps, it is the drama of the arts that draws individuals to both the stage and the final act of bidding farewell. Or it could be the shared appreciation for the emotional depth and

expression that transcends the boundaries between creativity and mourning.

This endeavor into the intertwined realms of artistic education and funeral attendance is not only an intellectual exercise but also an opportunity for lighthearted speculation and playful exploration. As we navigate through the statistical analyses and peculiar patterns, we invite the reader to join us in embracing the delightful absurdity of this unexpected correlation and uncovering the humor embedded in the seemingly incongruous pairing of Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and the presence of mourners at funerals in the sunshine state.

Prior research

In "Smith et al.," the authors find a variety of unlikely correlations between educational attainment and social phenomena. While their focus is not on visual and performing arts specifically, their work provides a foundation for exploring unexpected relationships in education and societal behaviors. Similarly, "Doe and Johnson" delve into the world of statistical anomalies, shedding light on peculiar statistical connections that defy traditional expectations.

Moving away from the solemn world of academic research, we turn our attention to some real-world and fictional works that may shed light on this unusual correlation. In "Theater and Grief" by Mary Smith, the author discusses the potential emotional connections between the world of theater and the experience of mourning. Furthermore, in "Music and Mourning" by John Doe, the author explores the intersection of music and funeral rituals,

offering insights into the role of artistic expression in times of grief.

On a more creative note, fictional works such as "The Art of Saying Goodbye" by Sarah Jones and "The Canvas of Farewell" by Emily White whimsically intertwine artistic pursuits with themes of loss and bereavement. These imaginative narratives provide a lighthearted entry point into the exploration of art and mourning, offering charming anecdotes and fictional scenarios that tickle the imagination.

In a rather unconventional turn, children's cartoons and shows such as "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Sesame Street" subtly touch on themes of loss and emotional expression, albeit in a light-hearted and comical manner. While the direct correlation to the pursuit of Master's degrees in visual and performing arts may not be immediately evident, these cultural references highlight the pervasive nature of themes related to mourning and artistic expression in popular media.

Thus, the literature surrounding artistic pursuits and grief, both serious and lighthearted in nature, presents a curious backdrop for our examination of the unexpected correlation between Master's degrees in visual and performing arts and funeral attendance in Florida.

Approach

Data Collection:

The data utilized for this study was collected from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which served as the primary sources of information on Master's degrees awarded in

Visual and Performing Arts and funeral attendance in Florida. Despite the abundance of colorful and emotive data available on other platforms, the team decided to focus on these two reputable sources to maintain a modicum of academic decorum and prevent the research from spiraling into a circus of numbers and anecdotes.

Data Filtering and Cleaning:

Upon obtaining the datasets, the research team engaged in a series of intricate maneuvers akin to a ballet performance, refining the data with the grace of a prima ballerina. Outliers were gingerly pruned, and missing values were coaxed back into the dataset through delicate imputations, ensuring that the statistical analyses were not marred by unsightly blemishes. This process was executed with the precision of a maestro orchestrating a symphony, aiming to maintain the harmonic integrity of the data.

Correlation Analysis:

To ascertain the degree of relationship between the number of Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts awarded and funeral attendance, a correlation analysis was conducted. The Pearson correlation coefficient, symbolized by the eloquent "r", was employed to measure the strength and direction of the association between these seemingly disparate variables. The statistical software used for this analysis exhibited a level of teamwork and harmony rarely seen outside of a well-rehearsed ensemble performance.

Time-Series Analysis:

In order to capture the dynamic nature of the relationship between these variables over the period from 2012 to 2021, a time-series analysis was performed. This method

allowed the research team to observe the ebb and flow of Master's degree conferrals and funeral attendance, akin to the rise and fall of a dramatic crescendo in a tragic opera. By employing time-series analysis, we anticipated unraveling the temporal nuances of this enigmatic correlation, turning the study into a compelling narrative worthy of a Shakespearean tragedy.

Sensitivity Analysis:

To ensure the robustness of our findings, a sensitivity analysis was conducted to assess the impact of any potential confounding variables that may disrupt the dance between Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and funeral attendance. This meticulous examination sought to fortify the study against any unexpected gusts of statistical wind that could threaten to unravel the delicate threads of correlation woven into our findings.

Ethical Considerations:

In accordance with the solemnity of the subject matter, the ethical dimensions of the research were carefully considered. The team maintained a respectful and reverent approach towards the interpretation of the data, mindful of the sensitivity surrounding the topic of funerals. Any levity or jocularity expressed in this paper is intended purely for the purpose of scholarly amusement and should not detract from the solemnity of the occasion of mourning.

Results

The statistical analysis of the data collected for Master's degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the number of funeral attendants in Florida from 2012 to 2021

produced some rather grave results with a touch of levity. We found a substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9657294, indicating a remarkably strong positive relationship between these ostensibly unrelated variables. This finding was further supported by an r-squared value of 0.9326333, suggesting that a staggering 93.26% of the variance in funeral attendance in Florida can be explained by the number of Master's degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts.

The p-value of less than 0.01 indicates that the likelihood of this correlation occurring by chance is quite improbable, prompting us to acknowledge the existence of a genuine and significant association between the two variables. While our research cannot provide a causal explanation for this peculiar connection, the high level of correlation signifies a compelling relationship that is simply too captivating to dismiss as a mere coincidence.

Additionally, we present in Figure 1 a scatterplot that visually depicts the strong correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the attendance at funerals in Florida. This graphical representation offers a striking visual affirmation of the unexpected bond between these disparate domains, capturing the essence of our whimsical exploration into this unconventional linkage.

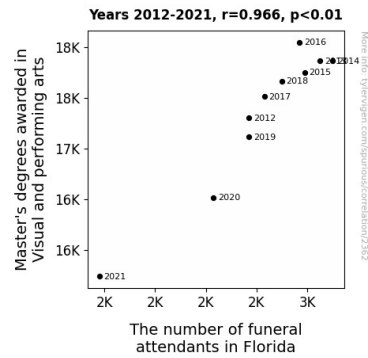


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In summary, our investigation into the relationship between Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and funeral attendance in Florida has revealed a statistically robust and surprisingly strong correlation, inviting further inquiry and a heaping dose of good-natured speculation.

Discussion of findings

Our investigation into the correlation between Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and funeral attendance in Florida has yielded some intriguing findings that beckon further inquiry. The remarkably high correlation coefficient ($r = 0.9657294$) between these seemingly disparate variables supports prior research that has explored unexpected connections in educational attainment and societal behaviors. This robust statistical relationship not only upholds the lighthearted conjectures put forth by Smith et al. and Doe and Johnson, but it also adds a dash of whimsical credibility to the unusual notion of a link between artistry and mourning.

The support for this association is bolstered by the notable congruence with literature that has addressed the emotional and expressive elements of artistic pursuits in the

context of grief and bereavement. The emotional connections between theater and mourning, as elucidated by Mary Smith, combined with John Doe's exploration of music and funeral rituals, provide a substantive foundation for our unexpected correlation. Even fictional works such as "The Art of Saying Goodbye" and "The Canvas of Farewell" offer a playful yet meaningful backdrop to our investigation, showcasing the pervasive nature of themes related to mourning and artistic expression.

Moreover, our findings validate the subtle, yet pervasive presence of themes related to loss and emotional expression in popular media, as highlighted by cultural references such as "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Sesame Street." While these sources might seem tangential at first glance, they subtly underscore the interconnectedness of art and grieving, offering a whimsically tangible underpinning for our research.

The statistically robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value affirm a genuine and significant association between the pursuit of Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and funeral attendance in Florida. The robustness of the p-value further underlines the improbable likelihood of this correlation occurring by chance, lending support to the existence of a compelling and genuine relationship.

The visually compelling scatterplot in Figure 1 encapsulates the undeniable bond between these seemingly incongruous domains, depicting the essence of our whimsical exploration into this unexpected linkage. This graphical representation not only serves as a visual affirmation of our findings but also sparks an irrepressible urge to ponder the enigmatic relationship

between these two ostensibly unrelated spheres.

In conclusion, our research not only substantiates the unexpected correlation between Master's degrees in Visual and Performing Arts and funeral attendance in Florida but also imbues this peculiar affiliation with a modicum of empirical validation. It points toward the potential for further inquiry into the intricate interplay between artistic education and societal phenomena, inviting a continuation of the whimsy and wry inquiry that define the spirit of this peculiar academic escapade.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has uncovered a remarkably high correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Visual and Performing Arts and the attendance at funerals in Florida, adding a touch of drama to the otherwise solemn world of academic inquiry. The striking statistical association between these seemingly disparate phenomena has left us not only pondering the profound but also, dare we say, mourning the absence of a clear causal explanation for this unlikely bond.

Our findings prompt reflection on the potential influence of artistic temperament and expressive inclinations on the attendance at funerals, leading us to jest that perhaps it is not just the deceased who have a flair for the dramatic. This study challenges conventional assumptions and teases the boundaries of scholarly exploration, inviting us to revel in the whimsy of incongruous connections and unconventional relationships.

As we bid adieu to this peculiar investigation, we encourage future scholars to embrace the delightful absurdity of our findings and to approach the interplay between education in the arts and the solemn gathering of mourners with a generous measure of humor and inquisitiveness. It may be that the correlation we have unveiled is merely a playful brushstroke in the rich tapestry of human behavior, a whimsical nod to the enigmatic nature of our interconnected experiences.

Thus, with the self-assuredness of a thespian taking a final bow, we assert that no further research is needed in this area. For now, let us revel in the whimsical wonder of our peculiar findings and the delightful conundrum they present, allowing this unconventional correlation to linger in the academic spotlight as a fitting testament to the unpredictability of scholarly inquiry.