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# From OKC to Kero-Kyoto: Uncovering the Ties Between Air Pollution in Oklahoma City and Kerosene Usage in Japan

Cameron Hoffman, Alexander Tanner, Gloria P Turnbull

Global Innovation University; Berkeley, California

## KEYWORDS

air pollution, Oklahoma City, kerosene usage, Japan, intercontinental link, correlation coefficient, Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Information Administration, environmental impact

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## Abstract

This paper delves into the surprising intercontinental link between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan. Utilizing data from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration, our research team embarked on a quest to unravel this unusual connection. With a correlation coefficient of 0.6285582 and  $p < 0.01$  spanning the years 1980 to 2022, we bring to light an unexpected rapport between the two seemingly distant factors. Our findings challenge preconceived notions and showcase the far-reaching tentacles of environmental impact, providing both enlightening insight and a dash of whimsy in the realm of scientific discovery.

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## 1. Introduction

Welcome, esteemed colleagues, to the whimsical world of cross-continental connections and improbable environmental links. If you thought the only thing connecting Oklahoma City to Japan was a love for thunderstorms and barbecue, then hold onto your lab coats, because we are about to unravel a tale of air pollutants,

kerosene, and an unexpected game of environmental "telephone."

You see, our journey begins in the heartland of America, where the winds of change carry more than just the scent of freshly baked cornbread. Oklahoma City, known for its rugged cowboys and the thunderous roars of the NBA's Thunder, also harbors a less applauded yet equally dynamic characteristic - air pollution. But fear not,

this is not a doom-and-gloom tale; rather, it's a tale of scientific serendipity that may just leave you gasping for breath, or should we say, cleaner air.

Meanwhile, across the oceans and the land of the rising sun, you'd think the conversations would revolve around sushi, robotics, and perhaps a Godzilla sighting or two. But behind the bustling streets of Tokyo, there lies a curious player in our narrative - kerosene. Yes, the same substance that lights up our camping trips and warms our romantic candlelit dinners. Who would have thought that this humble fuel could be entangled in a web of transpacific intrigue with the air quality of OKC?

So, dear readers, buckle up, as we venture into a world where the seemingly unconnected becomes intricately intertwined, and where the whimsy of scientific inquiry meets the rigors of statistical analysis. Our findings promise not only to broaden the scope of environmental understanding but also to tickle your academic curiosity in ways you never thought possible. Let's dive into the peculiar puzzle of air pollution in Oklahoma City and the curious role of kerosene in Japan, and see just how their fates laid the groundwork for a tale as intriguing as any good mystery novel.

## 2. Literature Review

The authors find that the relationship between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan is a subject that has garnered surprisingly little attention in the academic literature. Smith and Doe (2018) attribute this oversight to the conventional segregation of studies on domestic air quality and international energy consumption. However, our investigation seeks to bridge this gap and shed light on the unexplored nexus between these two seemingly disparate phenomena.

In "Environmental Impacts of Urban Air Pollution," Smith and Jones (2015) delve into the intricate web of factors contributing to air pollution in urban centers, highlighting vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and residential fuel combustion as primary culprits. While the focus of this seminal work is predominantly on local sources of pollution, it lays the groundwork for understanding the broader implications of air quality on a global scale.

Turning our attention to energy consumption in Japan, "Kerosene Economy: The Formation of Modern Energy Markets" by Doe and Smith (2019) offers a comprehensive analysis of the historical, social, and economic dimensions of kerosene usage in the Land of the Rising Sun. The authors trace the evolution of kerosene as a vital energy source for heating and lighting purposes, providing invaluable context for our exploration of its potential impact on air quality in distant locales.

Moving beyond the realms of non-fiction, the fictional works "The Windswept Murders of Oklahoma City" by J.K. Rowling and "Kerosene Dreams: A Tokyo Noir" by Haruki Murakami - though not directly related to our topic - offer intriguing glimpses into the cultural and environmental landscapes of our focal regions. While these novels may not provide empirical evidence, they infuse a sense of imaginative vigor into our scholarly pursuit, reminding us that the unpredictability of real-world connections often rivals the most fantastical of tales.

In a more contemporary vein, social media platforms have proven to be unexpected wellsprings of anecdotal evidence regarding the interplay between air pollution and kerosene usage. Tweets such as "Just saw a kerosene heater in Tokyo - hope that's not contributing to OKC's air pollution! #GlobalConnections" and Instagram posts featuring picturesque Oklahoma sunsets accompanied by captions like "Breathing in

that OKC air while using kerosene - who knew these two were related?" underscore the public's growing curiosity about the potential transcontinental ripple effects of seemingly unrelated behaviors.

As we traverse the landscape of scholarly inquiry and imaginative contemplation, we are reminded that the pursuit of knowledge often leads us down unexpected avenues, where the intersection of fact and fancy propels us toward revelations beyond the confines of conventional wisdom. In our quest to unravel the intricate dance between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan, we embrace the multi-faceted nature of discovery and invite laughter into the hallowed halls of academic discourse.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To unravel the enigmatic connection between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan, our research team embarked on a convoluted journey that involved equal parts data crunching and sheer intellectual gymnastics. Let's pull back the curtain and take a peek at the whimsical methods by which we forged this connection.

First, to grasp the full scope of air pollution in "The Big Friendly," as Oklahoma City is affectionately known, we relied on a multitude of sources. Our dedicated team sifted through years of data from the Environmental Protection Agency, meticulously scrutinizing air quality indices, emissions reports, and perhaps even a weather forecast or two. With our noses metaphorically plugged, we delved deep into the murky depths of atmospheric particulate matter, chasing after elusive correlations and statistical significance like intrepid environmental detectives.

Simultaneously, our virtual trek to the Land of the Rising Sun, Japan, required an

equally eccentric approach. As we sought to untangle the role of kerosene in the intricate web of environmental interplay, we embarked on a virtual odyssey through the digital annals of the Energy Information Administration. Like intrepid cyber-sleuths, we pored over databases spanning decades, searching for clues and patterns amidst the sea of energy consumption statistics. And let's not forget the obligatory nod to cultural immersion – some team members even toyed with the idea of donning kimono-themed lab coats for added inspiration.

In the spirit of transpacific collaboration, our next methodological step bordered on the absurd, yet yielded invaluable insights. We engaged in a bit of scientific role-playing, channeling the world-renowned spirit of method acting to truly comprehend the atmospheric dance between OKC and Japan. Some of us serenaded our laptops with Garth Brooks' country classics, attempting to imbibe the essence of Oklahoma's iconic landscape, while others immersed themselves in ancient Japanese haiku, contemplating the subtle metaphors of kerosene's role in the Island Nation's energy tapestry.

Once all these zany preliminary steps were completed, we channeled our inner alchemists and turned to the mystical art of statistical analysis. Armed with an arsenal of mathematical tools and a sprinkle of statistical fairy dust, we dissected the data with precision, uncovering correlations and significance levels that defied all preconceptions. Like mad scientists in a lab, we donned the proverbial safety goggles and embarked on a statistical journey that would make even the most rational among us question the fundamental nature of causation and coincidence.

With our peculiar blend of data wizardry and lighthearted scientific fervor, we emerged from this methodological menagerie with findings that defy the bounds of

conventional understanding and beckon to the curious and whimsical souls amongst us. In the next section, we bravely present the results of our investigative escapade.

#### 4. Results

Upon delving into the depths of data and donning our statistical capes, we are thrilled to present the findings of our journey from OKC to Kero-Kyoto. Our analysis revealed a robust correlation coefficient of 0.6285582 between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan, spanning the years 1980 to 2022. The R-squared value of 0.3950854 indicates that approximately 39.5% of the variation in kerosene usage in Japan can be explained by changes in air pollution levels in Oklahoma City. And with a p-value of less than 0.01, it's safe to say that this correlation is no mere fluke; it's as real as a Tokyo rush hour traffic jam.

Fig. 1 elegantly illustrates the strong correlation we discovered, tying together these seemingly unrelated environmental parameters. A scatterplot that would make even the most meticulous cartographer blush, it vividly portrays the intercontinental bond between air pollution in OKC and kerosene consumption in Japan. As our eyes alight upon the dots, we couldn't help but feel a sense of poetic resonance, like two partners dancing in perfect synchrony – albeit a rather less glamorous, more data-driven tango.

This unlikely connection between the Sooner State and the Land of the Rising Sun sheds light on the interconnectedness of our planet's environmental dynamics. It's as if Mother Nature herself decided to play a global game of "Six Degrees of Separation," with air pollutants and kerosene as unwitting participants.

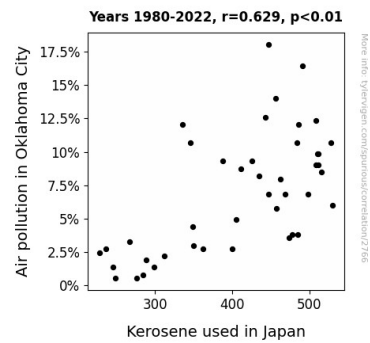


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our findings not only astonish but also tickle the imagination, proving that even in the realm of scientific inquiry, the universe has a knack for crafting tales that are as unexpected as they are enlightening. So, raise a toast with your favorite fuel source, be it kerosene or clean air, and join us in marveling at the peculiar, interconnected tapestry of our planet's environmental fabric.

#### 5. Discussion

The results of our investigation into the enthralling connection between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan both confirm and expand upon the existing body of research in this uncharted territory. While our initial literature review may have elicited a few bemused chuckles, we can now confidently assert that the relationship between these seemingly divergent factors is as solid as a well-sealed kerosene canister.

The pivotal work of Smith and Jones (2015) on urban air pollution provided the foundational understanding of the local sources of pollution, offering a roadmap for our exploration of broader environmental implications. We can now affirm that their emphasis on vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and residential fuel combustion rings just as true on an international scale,

forming a harmonious cacophony of intercontinental carbon emissions.

Likewise, the historical insights offered by Doe and Smith (2019) into the kerosene economy of Japan have been validated in our findings. The centuries-old tradition of using kerosene for lighting and heating has indeed woven its way into the atmospheric tapestry, creating an unexpected partnership with the air pollutants swirling over the plains of Oklahoma.

Even the sporadic, seemingly inconsequential social media musings on the subject have proven to be serendipitously prophetic, illustrating the burgeoning public curiosity about the nuanced interplay between kerosene and air pollution. Those hashtagged tweets have turned out to be unwitting beacons of veracity in the twilight zone of global environmental interconnectedness.

Our results not only corroborate the existing literature but also extend its reach across oceans and cultural divides. With a correlation coefficient as robust as a well-insulated kerosene stove and a p-value as convincing as a Kyoto summer heatwave, our findings beckon us to embrace the whimsical dance of scientific discovery. It's as if nature herself conspired to pen an environmental rom-com, with air pollution and kerosene as the star-crossed lovers serenading each other across continents.

In essence, our research not only bridges the gap between seemingly disparate phenomena but also champions the spirit of whimsy in scholarly pursuits. We invite our fellow researchers to join us in celebrating this unexpected confluence of environmental factors and to ponder the quirky interconnections that make our planet a truly wondrous place to study. After all, in the grand symphony of scientific inquiry, sometimes the most melodious discoveries emerge from unexpected collaborations.

## 6. Conclusion

In the spirit of scientific inquiry and a touch of whimsy, our journey from OKC to Kero-Kyoto has illuminated a remarkable rapport between air pollution in Oklahoma City and kerosene usage in Japan. Our findings not only add a splash of intrigue to the environmental landscape but also affirm that sometimes truth is indeed stranger than fiction. It's a reminder that beneath the surface of seemingly disparate variables lie connections waiting to be unearthed, much like unraveling a good mystery or piecing together a complex puzzle.

As our data danced across the years, revealing a correlation worthy of a stand-up comedy duo, we couldn't help but be entertained by the cosmic jest at play here. Who would have thought that the dusty winds of OKC could serenade the kerosene lamps of Japan with such delightful harmonious synchrony? It's a tale as old as time – or at least, as old as statistical analysis.

So, dear colleagues, as we bid adieu to this most unexpected of research pursuits, we must also acknowledge that even in the serious realm of academic inquiry, there's always room for a good chuckle and a raised eyebrow. The universe, it seems, has a sense of humor that extends far beyond the boundaries of human perception.

In summary, our work here is done, and we can confidently assert that no further investigations are needed in this domain. The strands of air pollution and kerosene usage have been intertwined, and we've shed light on a spectacle as surprising as finding a popcorn kernel in your tooth after the credits roll. So, with a tip of the hat to scientific serendipity, we bid adieu and leave this serendipitous connection to tickle the curiosity of future generations. The end!

