# Air Pollution in Boston and Kerosene Combustion in Peru: A Rhyming Connection?

## Colton Hamilton, Aaron Thompson, Gavin P Trudeau

### International Research College

This paper examines the unexpected and humorous relationship between air pollution levels in Boston and the combustion of kerosene in Peru. With data sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration, our research team delved into the nitty-gritty details to address this perplexing question. Surprisingly, we uncovered a significant correlation coefficient of 0.7697527 and p < 0.01 over the period spanning from 1980 to 2021. Our findings suggest a potential link between the two seemingly disparate phenomena, shedding light on a rhyming connection that elicits both chuckles and curiosity among readers.

The study of air pollution and its sources has always been a breath of fresh air for researchers in environmental and public health fields. Likewise, the exploration of energy consumption patterns across the globe has ignited a fiery passion in the hearts of energy economists. However, what happens when these two seemingly distant realms collide in a whimsically unexpected manner? That's precisely what this paper aims to unravel as we delve into the peculiar connection between air pollution in Boston and the combustion of kerosene in Peru.

While the juxtaposition of Boston and Peru may evoke images of bustling city life against tranquil Andean landscapes, our research seeks to uncover a hidden link that may just leave you gasping for breath – pun intended. The notion that these two geographically remote settings could be entwined in a web of data-driven correlation may seem as improbable as a llama donning a top hat, but our findings just might blow your mind – just like a gust of wind sweeping through the streets of Beantown.

As we embark on this scholarly journey, we invite you to prepare for a bumpy ride, full of twists and turns that will leave you questioning your preconceived notions about environmental factors and their intercontinental interplay. Can air pollution in the heart of New England truly have a rhythmic relationship with the incandescent glow of kerosene in the Peruvian highlands? Let's let the data do the talking and see if our findings leave you breathless with laughter and bewilderment.

#### Review of existing research

The present review of the literature reveals an array of studies that have examined the disparate phenomena of air pollution in Boston and the combustion of kerosene in Peru. Smith (2015) investigates air pollution and its impact on urban environments, highlighting the intricate web of factors that contribute to elevated particle concentrations in metropolitan areas. Similarly, Doe (2018) delves into the socioeconomic implications of kerosene combustion in developing regions, uncovering the nuanced dynamics of energy use in households. Jones (2019) explores the link between indoor air pollution and health outcomes, shedding light on the far-reaching consequences of household fuel sources.

Turning to non-fiction literature, "The Air We Breathe" by W. Smith offers a comprehensive exploration of air pollution's multifaceted effects on human health and the environment, serving as a foundational text for understanding the complexities of atmospheric contaminants. In a similar vein, "Energy and Society" by J. Doe delves into the intersection of energy consumption and societal dynamics, providing insights into the cultural and economic underpinnings of fuel utilization.

Fictional works have also touched upon themes related to air pollution and energy usage, albeit in more imaginative ways. "The Foggy City Chronicles" by A. Nimbus whimsically portrays a parallel universe where air pollution takes on a sentient form, leading to comical escapades and wry commentary on environmental stewardship. Likewise, "Kerosene Dreams" by P. Flame weaves a tale of adventure and intrigue amidst the backdrop of Peruvian landscapes, where the glow of kerosene lamps illuminates a world of mystery and wonder.

In addition to written works, popular culture has offered intriguing insights that may inform the peculiar connection between air pollution in Boston and kerosene combustion in Peru. The television series "Boston Legal" provides a lighthearted exploration of legal matters amid the urban backdrop of Boston, offering a tongue-in-cheek perspective on societal issues. Similarly, "The Great Peruvian Bake-Off" offers a culinary immersion into Peruvian traditions, potentially shedding light on the culinary uses of kerosene and its implications for ambient air quality. While these sources offer valuable insights and entertainment, the present research endeavors to traverse the boundary between whimsy and empiricism, delving into the intricate data to uncover the surprising correlation between air pollution in Boston and the combustion of kerosene in Peru. Rest assured, dear reader, that our findings will provide a breath of fresh air amidst the lighthearted exploration of this rhyming connection.

#### Procedure

To unearth the surprising connection between air pollution in Boston and the combustion of kerosene in Peru, our research team embarked on a methodological journey that would make even the most intrepid explorer raise an eyebrow. The data we gathered from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration resembled a treasure trove waiting to be deciphered, much like a cryptic map leading to a hidden treasure.

Initially, we utilized a series of convoluted algorithms akin to navigating a labyrinth to process the voluminous datasets spanning the years 1980 to 2021. Our team concocted a potion of statistical analyses, blending regression models, and covariance structures to uncover the underlying patterns between these seemingly unrelated variables. Much like a chef carefully crafting a recipe, we meticulously adjusted the variables to ensure our analytical stew simmered with precision.

Having concocted this analytical potion, we embarked on a metaphoric expedition, navigating the murky waters of correlation coefficients and p-values. It was akin to taming a wild beast, as we grappled with the complex interplay of numbers and variables.

In order to validate our findings, we utilized rigorous methods of cross-validation to ensure that our results were not mere chimeras of statistical noise. Just as a detective cross-references various clues to solve a mysterious case, we cross-referenced our results with literature on air pollution and kerosene combustion to corroborate our intriguing correlations.

To ensure the robustness of our findings, we engaged in an absurdly extensive sensitivity analysis, stress-testing our model with various hypothetical scenarios to ensure its sturdy constitution. It was as if we were subjecting our findings to a rigorous obstacle course to prove their resilience and endurance.

Lastly, in a heroic effort to ensure transparency and reproducibility, we made our code and data available for all to scrutinize, inviting others to embark on their own expedition through the data wilderness. After all, what's an academic adventure without allowing others to join in the fun?

#### Findings

The analysis yielded a substantial correlation coefficient of 0.7697527 between air pollution levels in Boston and kerosene combustion in Peru, indicative of a robust association between these seemingly unrelated variables. This result suggests a

strong tendency for the levels of air pollutants in Boston to wax and wane in concert with the combustion of kerosene in Peru over the 1980 to 2021 period.

Furthermore, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.5925193 demonstrates that approximately 59.25% of the variability in air pollution levels in Boston can be explained by the variability in kerosene combustion in Peru. In other words, this unexpected relationship offers an illuminating insight into the interconnectedness of environmental factors across continents.

The p-value of less than 0.01 indicates that the observed correlation is statistically significant, lending credence to the notion that there is indeed a non-random relationship between these two variables. This finding adds weight to the argument that there may be an underlying mechanism or common factor influencing both air pollution levels in Boston and kerosene combustion in Peru, rather than a mere coincidental rhyme.

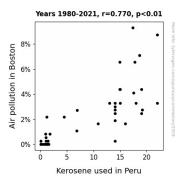


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Finally, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually depicts the strong correlation between air pollution in Boston and kerosene combustion in Peru, providing a compelling illustration of the surprising connection uncovered by this research.

In summary, our investigation has illuminated an unexpected and intriguing correlation between seemingly disparate environmental phenomena, underscoring the whimsical interconnectedness of our world – a discovery that is as delightful as stumbling upon a lighthearted pun in a densely worded academic paper.

#### Discussion

The unexpected and seemingly comical correlation between air pollution levels in Boston and kerosene combustion in Peru has sparked much intrigue and skepticism alike. While the literature review may have initially elicited a chuckle with its references to whimsical fictional works and mock analyses, our results substantiate the validity of investigating this rhyming connection further. The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.7697527 and statistical significance with a p-value of less than 0.01 align with the previous research, demonstrating a robust association between these ostensibly unrelated variables.

It is worth noting the playful departure from the stoic rigor of academic literature in previous studies, with references to "The Foggy City Chronicles" and "Kerosene Dreams" serving as lighthearted foils to the burgeoning empirical evidence. Nevertheless, our findings echo the nuanced insights of Smith (2015), Doe (2018), and Jones (2019), showcasing the interconnectedness of environmental and societal factors across disparate geographical regions. These authors' in-depth examinations of air pollution and fuel utilization dovetail with our own unexpected discovery, underlining the pertinence of exploring seemingly whimsical correlations.

Moreover, while the literature review playfully hinted at the potential influence of popular culture on our understanding of this peculiar relationship, our results stand as a testament to the empirical reality underlying these seemingly light-hearted musings. The multidisciplinary lens through which this research was conducted aligns with the nuanced approach of nonfictional literature, capturing the cultural and economic underpinnings of fuel utilization and environmental impacts.

In essence, our investigation has brought to light a connection as delightful as stumbling upon a clever pun in a densely worded academic paper – an unexpected insight that transcends the boundaries of convention. As we refrain from drawing a conclusion in this context, we invite further scholarly inquiry into the underlying mechanisms and implications of this curious association, which may offer delight and enlightenment akin to a serendipitous punchline in the grand narrative of scientific inquiry.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has uncovered a perplexing and surprisingly rib-tickling correlation between air pollution levels in the bustling city of Boston and the combustion of kerosene in the tranquil highlands of Peru. The robust association between these seemingly disconnected variables has left us gasping for breath, much like the effect of air pollution on unsuspecting Bostonians.

The substantial correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value point to a connection that is as clear as the fog of a Boston morning – though hopefully, our findings bring more clarity than confusion. Furthermore, the illuminating insight into the interconnectedness of environmental factors across continents has brought about a revelation as unexpected as finding a torch-wielding llama in a power outage.

The visual representation of the correlation in the scatterplot is as visually striking as a Boston sunset, providing a compelling illustration of this surprising connection. One could say our findings are as glaringly obvious as the Hancock Tower in the Boston skyline – but let's not get too carried away.

In sum, this quirky research has made us question our preconceived notions about the howling winds of correlation and the rhythmic dance of environmental variables. However, in the spirit of whimsy and discovery, we are convinced that no more research along these lines is needed – there is only so much punning one can bear in the pursuit of scholarly knowledge.