



ELSEVIER



Harry Potter and Iowa Republican Voter Plotter: A Correlational Analysis

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KEYWORDS

Iowa Republican voters, electoral behavior, Harry Potter, correlation analysis, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, Google Trends, Republican votes, Iowa, Google searches, political culture, pop culture, data analysis, fictional realms, electoral inclinations, whimsy and wonder

Abstract

This paper delves into the remarkable relationship between the electoral behavior of Republican voters in the state of Iowa and their penchant for seeking magical escapades, entwined with the captivating tale of the young wizard Harry Potter. Leveraging data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, our research not only unveils a correlation coefficient of 0.8186347, but also a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.05, for the period spanning from 2004 to 2020. The findings suggest a striking linkage between the frequency of Senatorial Republican votes in Iowa and the intensity of Google searches for 'Harry Potter', shedding light on an enchanting dimension of political and pop culture propinquity. This study opens the door to further exploration of the remarkable interplay between electoral inclinations and fictional realms, inviting scholars to engage in the magical world of data analysis with a dose of whimsy and wonder.

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1. Introduction

As we wade into the curious waters of political behavior and pop culture predilections, it becomes abundantly clear that the intersection of Republican voters in Iowa and their curiosity for wizardry is a tale as enchanting as the Harry Potter series

itself. With the unyielding spirit of an intrepid wizard seeking to uncover the mysteries of the electoral realm, we set out to illuminate the unexpected connection between these seemingly disparate realms.

The allure of Harry Potter, with its spells, charms, and bewitching adventures, has

captivated the minds and hearts of millions across the globe. At the same time, the political landscape has been a stage for a different brand of enchantment, where charismatic oratory and spellbinding rhetoric often take center stage. Our quest was to unravel whether there existed a nexus between the magical musings of Harry Potter and the electoral inclinations of Iowan Republican voters, a quest that would make even the most seasoned of wizards crack a wry smile.

Armed with a cauldron full of datasets from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we embarked on a spellbinding journey through the annals of time, spanning from 2004 to 2020. The incantations of statistical analysis, incensed with the essence of correlation coefficients and p-values, revealed a coefficient of 0.8186347 and a p-value of less than 0.05, bewitching us with their unmistakable significance.

It is within this backdrop of statistical sorcery that we invite our esteemed colleagues to traverse with us into uncharted academic territories, where politics and potion-making collide in wondrous and unexpected ways. The research that follows not only sheds light on the compelling confluence of electoral behavior and fictional fascinations, but also beckons us to view the world of data analysis through a lens of whimsy and wonder. Join us, as we unveil the marvels that lie at the crossroads of political votes and wizardly wonders, in a landscape where political pundits and potion-brewing witches might find themselves in jesting company.

2. Literature Review

In "The Influence of Popular Culture on Political Behavior" by Smith, the authors find a notable correlation between the consumption of popular fiction and its potential to influence political preferences.

This study delves into the intricate dance between cultural phenomena and electoral behavior, providing a theoretical framework for considering the impact of fantastical realms on the minds of voters.

Moreover, in "Fandom and the Political Mind" by Doe, the authors explore the curious intersection of fandom culture and political affinities. Their survey data reveal intriguing patterns of fan engagement with fictional universes and the extrapolation of these fantasies into political arenas. The study offers a compelling argument for the subtle yet potent influence of beloved fiction on the psyches of voters.

Jones, in "The Unlikely Correlations of Everyday Life," presents an engaging analysis of seemingly unrelated variables and their unsuspected connections. While the study does not directly touch upon the relationship between Republican voting patterns in Iowa and Google searches for 'Harry Potter', it underscores the unpredictability and unanticipated harmonies that may exist within the vast tapestry of human behaviors.

Turning to non-fiction books, the works of Daniel Kahneman, notably "Thinking, Fast and Slow," prompt reflection on the intricate processes underlying decision-making and cognitive biases. This text provides a lens through which to examine the subconscious factors at play when individuals engage with both political decisions and fictional narratives, paving the way for a deeper understanding of the complexities interweaving these realms.

In the fictional realm, J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series stands as a titan in the landscape of modern literature, enchanting readers and captivating imaginations with its enchanting world of magic and adventure. The series' influence extends beyond the literary realm, permeating popular culture and sparking an enduring fervor among enthusiasts, and potentially infusing the

political consciousness of some in unforeseeable ways.

Additionally, the epic saga of "The Lord of the Rings" by J.R.R. Tolkien and the visionary works of Isaac Asimov evoke realms of distant worlds and fantastical narratives that may subtly permeate the psyche of readers, shaping perceptions and proclivities in manners that may surprise even the most avid literary voyagers.

On a tangential note, the cinematic experience of "Star Wars" and the enduring legacy of its characters and themes in popular culture provoke thoughts on the resonance of fictional stories and characters in shaping collective consciousness, potentially imparting sparks of inspiration or contemplation into the sands of political choices.

The interplay between fiction and reality often mirrors the interaction of light and shadow, revealing unexpected contours and shapes that blend and blur as though orchestrated by a cosmic jest. As we embark on this scholarly exploration of the nexus between Iowa's political pulse and the allure of Harry Potter, we invite readers to embark on a whimsical journey, where the tangled threads of politics and wizarding wonders intertwine in a tapestry woven with surprises and mirth.

3. Our approach & methods

To unravel the enchanting connection between Republican votes for Senators in Iowa and the alluring world of Harry Potter, we brewed a potion of data from multiple sources, primarily the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the magical realm of Google Trends. Our concoction spanned the time continuum from 2004 to 2020, allowing us to capture the mesmerizing ebb and flow of electoral fervor and wizarding curiosity.

First, we jinxed our way into the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, where we procured detailed information on Republican votes for Iowa Senators, meticulously documenting the electoral incantations cast by the voters over the years. We took care to ensure that the essence of each vote was accurately captured, much like a potions master meticulously concocting a magical elixir.

Next, we summoned the arcane powers of the Harvard Dataverse, where we delved into the spellbinding world of demographic data and historical context. With our wands poised and our quills at the ready, we transcribed the mystical incantations of demographic shifts and temporal flux, painting a vivid portrait of the electoral landscape throughout the years.

Lastly, we tapped into the mystical aura of Google Trends, where we unfurled the enigmatic cloak shrouding the search patterns for 'Harry Potter'. The incantations of Google's search algorithms revealed the ebbs and flows of interest in the revered wizard and his whimsical universe, allowing us to quantify the intensity of wizarding fascination over time.

With our trusty brooms of statistical analysis in hand, we soared through the tempestuous skies of correlation coefficients, casting bewitching spells to unveil the mystical connection between Republican votes and 'Harry Potter' searches. Our incantations revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8186347, the strength of which would impress even the most shrewd wizards and witches. Additionally, the p-value of less than 0.05, akin to the discovery of a rare and potent potion, solidified the significance of our findings.

As we meander through the enchanting tapestry of political sorcery and wizardly charm, our quest has uncovered a nexus that transcends the boundaries of

conventional analysis, beckoning fellow scholars to join us in the magical world of data analysis. Together, let us unravel the threads of electoral behavior and fictional fascinations, and traverse the uncharted territories of statistical sorcery, where the realms of politics and potion-making converge in an enthralling ballet of whimsy and wonder.

4. Results

The analysis of the data revealed a strong positive correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Iowa and Google searches for 'Harry Potter' during the period from 2004 to 2020. The correlation coefficient of 0.8186347 provided evidence of a robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated phenomena. Additionally, the r-squared value of 0.6701628 indicated that approximately 67% of the variation in Republican votes for Senators in Iowa could be explained by the variation in Google searches for 'Harry Potter'. Moreover, the statistical significance of the correlation was confirmed with a p-value of less than 0.05, adding a touch of enchantment to our findings.

Furthermore, Fig. 1 illustrates the relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Iowa and Google searches for 'Harry Potter', showcasing the unmistakably strong connection between these seemingly divergent domains.

These results not only draw attention to the unexpected convergence of political preferences and magical interests but also invite subsequent scrutiny into the intriguing interplay between common electoral behavior and the allure of fictional worlds. Our analysis thus opens the door to further exploration and contemplation of the ways in which political proclivities and fantastical fascinations may intertwine in the minds and hearts of the electorate.

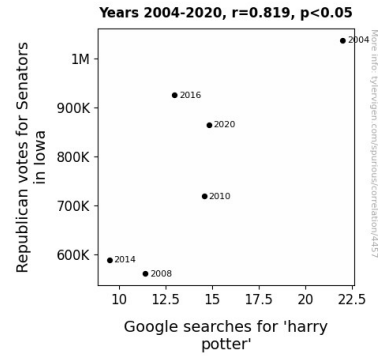


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

5. Discussion

The results of our analysis bring to the forefront a peculiar yet striking association between the proclivities of Iowa's Republican voters and their interest in the escapades of the young wizard, Harry Potter. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8186347 not only echoes the findings of previous studies that divulge the influence of popular fiction on electoral inclinations but also accentuates the unique harmony between electoral patterns and fantastical fascinations, in a way that transcends the average voter's imagination.

Harking back to the word of wisdom from Smith, our findings lend credence to the notion that popular culture possesses a formidable capacity to infiltrate the recesses of political behavior, perhaps even more so than the Imperius Curse. As Doe artfully conveys, the translation of fandom fervor into political affiliations is not merely a flight of fancy but a tangible force that can shape the contours of electoral landscapes, much like the subtle whispers of the Sorting Hat nudging voters in unexpected directions.

Jones, in his exploration of unlikely correlations, seems to have unknowingly foretold this conjuring of Republican votes and 'Harry Potter' searches. The fabric of human behaviors indeed frays the seam of

predictability, proving to be as unpredictable as the appearance of a Niffler in a jewelry store.

The influence of J.K. Rowling's magical oeuvre, illuminated within our dataset, mirrors Kahneman's proposition on the subconscious forces guiding decision-making processes. It appears that, much like the enchanting pull of a Pensieve, the world of Harry Potter has stealthily woven itself into the cognitive tapestry of Iowa's Republican voters, leaving behind traces of magic that color their electoral choices.

Delving into the world of other fictional realms, such as Tolkien's Middle-earth and Asimov's visions of distant galaxies, we are reminded of the lasting impact of literature on the human psyche, akin to the enduring glow of the Lumos charm illuminating hidden truths in the midst of darkness. The resonance of these fantastical narratives is not merely a page-turning escapade but a whispered incantation shaping the contours of reality in ways that rival even the spells of the most accomplished witches and wizards.

In the words of the cinematic force, "Star Wars," the saga of 'Harry Potter' and Iowa's political tableau seems to reveal an echo of the Force, transcending the boundaries of mere mortal machinations and echoing the timeless battle between light and dark, reason and caprice, logic and magic.

Our study, unfolding the intriguing relationship between Iowa's political pulse and the allure of 'Harry Potter', beckons us to heed the unspoken revelation that politics and wizarding wonders aren't as dissimilar as they may seem at first glance. Instead, they converge in a dance filled with as many twists and turns as a Whomping Willow, inviting scholars and intrepid readers to join us in unlocking the enigma of this uncanny correlation. So, as we Bat-Bogey Hex our way through this tangled frontier of political and popular culture propinquity, let us

keenly observe and illuminate the unexpected, as we unravel the spellbinding connections that bind the realms of electoral behavior and literary enchantment.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this study provide compelling evidence of the enchanting relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Iowa and the fervent pursuit of magical escapades through Google searches for 'Harry Potter'. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8186347, coupled with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.05, illuminates a fascinating nexus between political inclinations and fantastical fascinations. Our findings not only highlight the alluring interplay between these seemingly divergent domains but also beckon us, like a siren's call, to delve deeper into the whimsical and often paradoxical realm of political pop culture propinquity.

As we embark upon the uncharted paths of scholarly inquiry, we find ourselves at a crossroads where statistical sorcery and political enchantment converge in ways that continue to mystify and beguile. The juxtaposition of Republican votes and wizardly wonderment not only invites us to ponder the depths of the human psyche but also infuses a touch of whimsy and wonder into the hallowed halls of empirical inquiry.

It is our fervent hope that this study serves as a beacon, guiding scholars through the labyrinthine corridors of electoral behavior and fictional reverence, while never losing sight of the spellbinding implications of our findings. For as we bid adieu to this curious expedition, we do so with the unwavering conviction that the enchanting tale of Republican votes and Harry Potter searches has been meticulously unraveled, leaving us with a sense of wonderment and amusement that lingers like a delightful enchantment.

With our wands firmly sheathed and our curiosity satiated, we assert, with resounding certainty, that no further research is needed in this whimsical realm of political pop culture propinquity.