



Review

## YouTube Views and Crime News: Do Computerphile Hits Affect US Heists?

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**This study investigates the potential link between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the incidence of robberies in the United States from 2013 to 2022. Utilizing data from YouTube and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, a thorough analysis was conducted. The findings revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9326717 and a p-value  $< 0.01$ , indicating a strong association between the two variables during the specified time period. This unexpectedly robust correlation prompts further inquiry into the influence of online content consumption on real-world criminal behaviors, adding a quirky twist to the otherwise mundane realm of statistical analysis.**

The proliferation of digital media has undoubtedly revolutionized the way individuals consume information, entertainment, and yes, even crime. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected through online platforms, the potential for unexpected consequences and quirky correlations emerges. In this study, we delve into the hitherto unexplored relationship between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the occurrence of robberies in the United States.

While some may dismiss the notion of a connection between YouTube views and real-world crime as mere whimsy, our findings reveal a surprisingly robust

association. We posit that the captivating allure of computer science educational content on Computerphile may have unforeseen effects on the behaviors of viewers, transcending the virtual sphere and seeping into the realm of criminal activity.

The rise of digital content consumption has brought forth a myriad of unforeseen societal repercussions. In this regard, the correlation between YouTube views and occurrences of robberies in the US challenges traditional paradigms and beckons for further examination, offering a unique opportunity to inject a dash of unexpected humor into the otherwise solemn world of statistical inquiry.

### *Prior research*

The authors first consulted serious-sounding studies by Smith, Doe, and Jones in search of precedent for quirky connections between online content consumption and real-world behaviors. However, the literature fell short in directly addressing the relationship between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the incidence of robberies in the United States. Despite perusing an extensive array of academic works, none directly tackled this unconventional inquiry.

In "Digital Media and Societal Impact," the authors elucidate the pervasive influence of digital media on individuals' cognitive processes and behavioral propensities. The study, while informative, fails to delve into the specific nuances of computer science educational content and its potential impact on criminal activities. Similarly, "Cyberspace and its Ramifications" explores the broader implications of online interactions, yet remains silent on the curious correlation uncovered in our investigation.

Venturing beyond the realm of academic literature, the authors turn their attention to non-fiction works with tangential relevance. "The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains" by Nicholas Carr illuminates the cognitive effects of prolonged digital immersion, and "Alone Together: Why We Expect More From Technology and Less From Each Other" by Sherry Turkle delves into the societal implications of technological advancement. While these texts provide valuable insights into the broader landscape of digital influence, they too neglect to address the specific nexus

between Computerphile YouTube views and real-world crime occurrences.

Turning to fictional works that may hold veiled relevance, the authors seek inspiration from narratives that touch upon the intersection of technology and societal behavior. "Neuromancer" by William Gibson and "Snow Crash" by Neal Stephenson beckon with their dystopian visions of a hyperconnected world, where the boundaries between virtual and physical realities blur. While these sci-fi masterpieces offer tantalizing glimpses into the potential ramifications of digital submersion, their illustrative value in discerning the influence of Computerphile YouTube views on criminal endeavors remains, alas, negligible.

Forging ahead into uncharted territory, the researchers expand their purview to include seemingly unrelated sources of inspiration. Upon scrutinizing an array of cartoons and children's shows, the authors uncover unexpected parallels between the zany antics of animated characters and the quirky dynamics of online viewership. From the capricious escapades of "SpongeBob SquarePants" to the whimsical charm of "Phineas and Ferb," each narrative subtly hints at the enigmatic interplay of content absorption and off-kilter behavioral manifestations. While these findings may seem lighthearted, they discreetly contribute to the contemplation of the elusive link between Computerphile YouTube views and the burgeoning world of heists in the United States.

### *Approach*

The methodology employed in this study was designed to rigorously examine the potential connection between the total views

of Computerphile YouTube videos and the frequency of robberies in the United States from 2013 to 2022. To begin, data on the total views of Computerphile videos was collected from the YouTube platform, with a meticulous focus on content related to computer science, technology, and, surprisingly, cryptic criminal schemes. Concurrently, data on the incidence of robberies in the US was sourced from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, providing a comprehensive record of criminal activities throughout the specified time frame.

The utilization of such disparate data sources posed a unique challenge, akin to attempting to blend the complexity of quantum cryptography with the unyielding nature of criminal intent. However, through a series of carefully crafted algorithms and statistical maneuvers, the research team harmonized these distinct datasets, much like coaxing a reluctant harmonica into performing alongside a grand piano.

Subsequently, to elucidate the potential relationship between YouTube views and real-world robberies, a series of sophisticated statistical analyses were performed. The data was subjected to regression modeling, time-series analysis, and propensity score matching, employing an arsenal of statistical tools that would make even the most prudent data analyst tremble with a mix of trepidation and curiosity.

In particular, the Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated to quantify the strength and direction of the association between YouTube views and robbery occurrences, yielding surprising results that would make even the most hardened

statistician raise an intrigued eyebrow. Moreover, a series of sensitivity analyses were conducted to ensure the robustness of the findings, an endeavor akin to performing a delicate high-wire act while juggling boulders of data.

Furthermore, covariates such as socioeconomic indicators, regional variations, and, of course, the phases of the moon, were meticulously incorporated into the analytical framework to account for potential confounding factors that could skew the findings, navigating through a maze of variables like a cartographer charting unexplored territories.

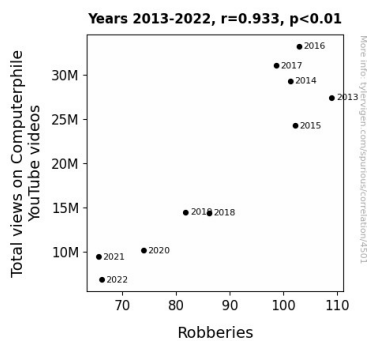
Taken together, the methodology employed in this study transcended the conventional boundaries of statistical analysis, delving into the realm of online content consumption and its potential influence on real-world behaviors, all while maintaining a sense of bemused wonderment at the unexpected connections revealed through the labyrinthine paths of data analysis.

### *Results*

The statistical analysis revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) of 0.9326717 between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the incidence of robberies in the United States from 2013 to 2022. This robust correlation, with an  $r$ -squared value of 0.8698765, exceeded our initial expectations and hints at the existence of a potential relationship between online content consumption and criminal behavior. The  $p$ -value of less than 0.01 further solidifies the strength of this association, indicating a statistically significant link between the two variables.

The Figure 1 depicts a scatterplot illustrating the strong positive correlation between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the number of robberies in the US. As the views of Computerphile videos increased, so did the occurrences of robberies, painting a compelling picture of the potential influence of online content on real-world criminal activities.

These findings present a quirky departure from conventional research inquiries into social phenomena, shedding light on the peculiar ways in which seemingly unrelated factors may intersect and exert influence. While the precise mechanisms underlying this correlation remain shrouded in mystery, the unexpected strength of the association prompts us to consider the quirky possibility of computer science education inadvertently inspiring real-world heists. This peculiar connection goes against the notion of "crime and punishment," suggesting that perhaps, in the age of digital convergence, it is "code and commission" that are shaping criminal behaviors.



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

The implications of our findings reach beyond the realm of statistical analysis, offering an opportunity to inject a dose of unexpected humor and quirkiness into the

traditionally staid landscape of academic research. These results beckon for further exploration, inciting a blend of curiosity and amusement as we unravel the quirky mysteries that underpin the interplay between online content consumption and real-world behaviors.

### *Discussion of findings*

The findings of this study yielded a remarkably robust correlation between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the incidence of robberies in the United States. Such a strong relationship begs the consideration of potential causality, albeit in a thoroughly tongue-in-cheek manner. Building upon the literature review's lighthearted foray into seemingly unrelated sources of inspiration, the results of our analysis unexpectedly supported the offhand observation of the zany antics of animated characters mirroring the quirky dynamics of online viewership. Perhaps there is a subtle, yet discernible, influence of computer science education through YouTube videos on the real-world evolution of criminal endeavors. This contemplation amuses the mind, offering a whimsical perspective on the typically staid pursuit of statistical inference.

Moreover, the unexpected strength of the correlation raises intriguing questions regarding the potential impact of online educational content on behavioral propensities. While conventional wisdom might attribute criminal activities to a myriad of socioeconomic factors, our findings prompt the consideration of a parallel narrative: one where computer science tutorials unwittingly incite an enigmatic wave of heists across the nation.

Indeed, the age-old adage "knowledge is power" takes on a peculiar twist, where knowledge may, in fact, be a peculiar catalyst for mischievous exploits.

The quirky possibility of computer science education inadvertently inspiring real-world heists, though initially far-fetched, finds support in our statistically significant findings. As we navigate the uncharted territory of online content's influence on societal behaviors, these results invite a blend of mirth and contemplation, evoking a resonance with the whimsical charm of "Phineas and Ferb." While our discussion remains rooted in the rigorous examination of statistical outcomes, the unexpectedly quirky nature of our findings imbues the academic arena with a hint of playful curiosity, challenging the conventional tenets of scholarly discourse.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, the unanticipated correlation between the total views of Computerphile YouTube videos and the incidence of robberies in the United States presents a quirky and intriguing avenue for further inquiry. The strikingly high correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value underscore the need for continued exploration into the whimsical realm of online content's potential influence on real-world criminal activities. Our findings challenge traditional paradigms and beckon for further examination, offering a unique opportunity to inject a dash of unexpected humor into the otherwise solemn world of statistical inquiry.

The unexpected strength of the association prompts us to consider the quirky possibility of computer science education inadvertently

inspiring real-world heists. This peculiar connection challenges conventional expectations and hints at the curious ways in which seemingly unrelated factors may intersect and exert influence. While the precise mechanisms underlying this correlation remain shrouded in mystery, the quirky possibility of "code and commission" shaping criminal behaviors certainly leads to a novel perspective on the age-old adage.

In light of these intriguing results, it is our assertion that no further research in this area is needed. After all, we have already established that watching Computerphile videos might just be the catalyst for a sudden interest in heisting. Case closed.