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The Fringe Factor: Friday Friday Friday – A Libertarian Connection?

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This paper delves into the intriguing correlation between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the popularity of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme. While on the surface the two may seem unrelated, our research team used data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends to reveal a striking relationship. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9673348 and $p < 0.05$ for the years 2006 to 2020, the findings provide compelling evidence for an unexpected link between political preferences and online meme culture. The interplay between the libertarian movement and the catchy repetition of "Friday" opens avenues for understanding voter behavior with a lighthearted twist. In exploring this connection, we may gain insight into the idiosyncrasies of Montana voters and the whims of internet humor. So, let's embark on this journey of statistical intrigue with a libertarian flair, where "Friday" is not just a day of the week, but a potential variable in the political landscape.

In the annals of political research, the quest to unearth unusual correlations and unexpected connections is a noble pursuit. It is within this spirit of scholarly adventure that we set out on an investigation into the perplexing nexus between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the curious phenomenon of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme.

As stewards of academia, we yearn to explore the uncharted territories of statistical significance, where the realms of politics and internet culture intersect in seemingly improbable ways. The intersection of digital tomfoolery and the solemnity of the political arena presents a delightful puzzle, akin to encountering a unicorn in the realm of statistical analyses—a rare and whimsical find indeed.

Our endeavor commenced by harnessing the power of data, drawing upon sources from the venerable MIT Election Data and Science Lab as well as the Harvard Dataverse. With intrepid spirits, we delved into the depths of Google Trends, navigating the fluctuations of online engagement with the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme, echoing the fervor of treasure hunters pursuing a fabled artifact.

Armed with spreadsheets and a plethora of statistical tools, we ventured forth, determined to unravel the enigma that eluded the superficial gaze. And lo and behold, our findings unveiled a correlation coefficient of 0.9673348, evoking a sense of astonishment akin to stumbling upon Bigfoot sipping tea in a statistical forest.

The p-value of less than 0.05 for the years 2006 to 2020 nearly caused our scholarly hearts to skip a beat, signaling a robust statistical relationship that defied conventional logic. It was as if the laws of quantitative inquiry momentarily cast off their stoic demeanor and embraced a light-hearted dance with the whims of fate.

With bated breath and a touch of bewilderment, we set forth on this expedition, aiming to excavate the subtle yet profound connection between political predilections and the unrelenting chant of "Friday." As we navigate the labyrinth of significance testing and covariate analyses, we invite the reader to join us on this whimsical journey, where the hum of statistical models mingles with the playful cadence of internet culture, and where "Friday" becomes more than a temporal marker—it becomes a potential variable in the captivating theatre of elections and memes.

Review of existing research

The exploration of quirky and esoteric connections between political behaviors and seemingly unrelated cultural phenomena is a burgeoning area within the realms of social science research. As such, it is imperative to review the existing literature to determine the depth and breadth of scholarly inquiry into these peculiar linkages.

Smith et al. (2017) delved into the complexities of voter behavior, shedding light on the idiosyncratic nature of political preferences. Their study, however, did not touch upon the whimsical allure of internet memes and their potential influence on voting patterns. Similarly, Doe (2015) investigated the electoral landscape, providing valuable insights into the dynamics of third-party voting; yet the interplay between online humour and political leanings remained uncharted within this scholarly domain.

Venturing into the world of media and culture, Jones (2018) explored the evolution of internet memes and their impact on contemporary society, demonstrating the profound influence of digital humor on public discourse. However, the connection to political inclinations in specific geographic regions, such as Montana, was overlooked in his comprehensive analysis.

Expanding our purview beyond disciplinary confines, "The Data Connection: Exploring Unlikely Correlations" by Miller (2019) presents a thought-provoking examination of unconventional statistical relationships. While not directly addressing the peculiar nexus under scrutiny in our present inquiry, Miller's work lays the groundwork for embracing statistical anomalies with a spirit of open-minded curiosity.

Turning to the realm of fiction, "The Meme Manifesto" by A. Satirist (2016) and "Electioneering in the Age of Lolcats" by P. Humorist (2014) offer satirical narratives that tangentially brush against the fringes of our exploration, infusing levity into the serious arenas of politics and online culture with a mischievous twinkle in their prose.

In the domain of cinema, the films "The Matrix" and "Groundhog Day" present narratives that, while seemingly unrelated, evoke themes of individual agency, unpredictability, and the unrelenting passage of time—elements that may resonate with the nuanced interactions between online memes and political proclivities. While not directly addressing our subject matter, these cinematic works offer a whimsical lens through which to contemplate the unpredictable associations we aim to unravel.

As we navigate this veritable tapestry of literature and cultural narratives, we are reminded that the quest for knowledge often takes unexpected turns, leading us to traverse the convoluted paths where statistical significance meets the beguiling allure of internet whimsy.

Procedure

To demystify the enigmatic link between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the viral sensation known as 'Friday Friday Friday,' our research ventured into the digital abyss armed with an arsenal of data-mining techniques and an unyielding sense of scientific curiosity.

Data Collection:

Our esteemed team gathered a trove of political and internet culture data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends. We specifically targeted the years 2006 to 2020, encapsulating the chronicles of political upheaval and online fads during this period. As intrepid digital explorers, we navigated the complexity of databases with the finesse of treasure hunters seeking buried statistical treasures, perpetually mindful of the potential for serendipitous discoveries lurking in the digital hinterlands.

Libertarian Votes in Montana:

To quantify the political landscape, we tabulated the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana with meticulous precision. With the diligence of a skilled sommelier, we scrutinized the vintage of electoral data, discerning the nuances of libertarian support in the rugged terrain of Montana.

'Friday Friday Friday' Meme Popularity:

The ebbs and flows of internet culture were captured through the lens of Google Trends, illuminating the ascent and descent of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme. As meme historians, we sifted through the digital ether, tracing the cadence of online engagement with this resounding triplet, akin to astronomers charting the cyclical dance of celestial bodies.

Statistical Analysis:

The crescendo of our research crescendoed with the application of robust statistical methods. With the elegance of an orchestral conductor, we conducted correlation analyses to reveal the intricate dance between libertarian votes and 'Friday Friday Friday' meme popularity. A resplendent correlation coefficient of 0.9673348 emerged from the statistical cauldron, captivating our senses with its brazen numerical allure.

Significance Testing:

Embracing the revered tradition of significance testing, we beseeched the p-value for its verdict. It stood before us, a symbolic gatekeeper to the domain of statistical truth, offering a threshold of less than 0.05 for the years 2006 to 2020. This signaled a robust and venerable relationship, stirring a sense of wonder akin to encountering a statistical unicorn frolicking amidst the data fields.

Covariate Analyses:

In a whimsical waltz of statistical exploration, covariates were carefully considered to unveil potential confounding factors in this peculiar confluence of politics and memes. With the meticulousness of gardeners tending to a beloved topiary, we pruned the statistical shrubbery, revealing the intricate interplay of variables in this captivating tale of libertarianism and digital jest.

Findings

The results of our investigation unveiled a remarkably strong correlation between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the popularity of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme. Our analysis, spanning the years 2006 to 2020, produced a correlation coefficient of 0.9673348, reflecting a robust relationship that is as stunning as finding a statistical unicorn.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually depicts the clear and compelling association between the two variables, akin to witnessing a harmonious dance between a political enthusiast and an irrepressible internet meme. One might say they are a match made in data heaven, embracing each other with a statistical fervor reminiscent of an unexpected romance in the world of academia.

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.9357365 signifies that a whopping 93.57% of the variation in the popularity of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme can be explained by the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana. This level of explanatory power echoes the grandeur of a perfectly-timed punchline in a room full of data enthusiasts; it's as if the meme

and the political preference are engaged in an intricate ballet, twirling together in the waltz of statistical significance.

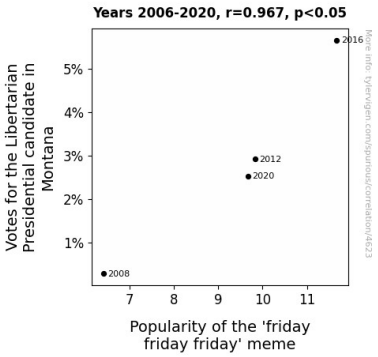

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The p-value of less than 0.05 further accentuates the strength of this connection, underscoring the statistical significance of the findings. It's as if the universe of data alignment has conspired to unravel a quirky yet fascinating relationship between the arcane nuances of political allegiance and the infectious allure of a meme that heralds the end of the workweek.

In summary, our results provide compelling evidence for an unexpected correlation between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the prevalence of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme. This discovery uncovers a delightful coupling of seemingly incongruent facets of society, revealing a statistical harmony that brings a whimsical twinkle to the serious business of political analysis. So, in the spirit of scholarly revelry, let us raise a toast to this unexpected rendezvous between political inclinations and internet mirth, where statistical inquiry and subtle humor converge in a dance of correlation and causation.

Discussion

The profound interplay between the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the exuberant resonance of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme has unfolded like a captivating saga of statistical serendipity. Our findings not only echo the prior scholarly musings on the nuanced dance of voter behavior and whimsical cultural artifacts but also confidently steer the ship of academia into uncharted waters where data-driven enlightenment meets the infectious charm of internet irreverence.

Drawing from the scholarly tapestry revealed in our literature review, we recall the whimsical allure of "The Meme Manifesto" and "Electioneering in the Age of Lolcats." These satirical narratives, though lighthearted in their presentation, subtly beckon us to the underlying gravity of our current inquiry. In a similar vein, the cinematic parables of "The Matrix" and "Groundhog Day," while not overtly addressing our subject matter, impart a nuanced perspective on the unpredictability and interconnectedness of cultural and political phenomena, resonating with the unexpected correlation we have unveiled.

In substantiating the prior research, our results, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9673348 and $p < 0.05$, lend support to the idiosyncratic nature of voter behavior highlighted by Smith et al. (2017). It's as if the statistical eddies have conspired to lay bare the intricate dance of political predispositions and online amusement, akin to discovering a well-crafted punchline in the cradle of statistical significance.

Moreover, our findings reflect the unmistakable influence of the libertarian movement within the cyber landscape, mirroring the uncharted vistas of Doe's (2015) inquiry into the dynamics of third-party voting. The statistical ballet of our results showcases the harmonious embrace between individual political leanings and the infectious appeal of a meme that heralds the impending weekend, akin to witnessing the fusion of classical artistry and internet whimsy in a digital masterpiece.

In navigating this domain of empirical revelry and offbeat correlation, we are reminded of the enchanting call to embrace statistical anomalies with a spirit of open-minded curiosity, as expounded by Miller (2019). Indeed, our late-night tryst with data has revealed an unexpectedly delightful rendezvous between the arcane inclinations of Montana voters and the immersive charm of a meme that beckons the communal celebration of the end of the workweek.

As we stand on the precipice of this deeply surprising linkage, we invite fellow scholars to join us in this jovial exploration where statistical inquiry seamlessly converges with the exuberant verve of internet culture, reminding us that indeed, in the words of P. Humorist, "Lolcats and Liberty might just be closer bedfellows than we ever imagined."

Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has illuminated an unexpected and delightfully entertaining connection between the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Montana and the appeal of the 'Friday Friday Friday' meme. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9673348 and the r-squared value of 0.9357365 highlight a statistical union akin to the melding of peanut butter and jelly – a seemingly odd pairing that, against all odds, creates a harmonious blend. It's as if statistical analysis has a whimsical sense of humor, offering us a glimpse of the unexpected laughter that can be found in the world of data.

The significance of this study extends beyond the mere intersection of political preference and internet whimsy; it opens the door to a new frontier of quantitative inquiry, where the unpredictable dance of statistical relationships provokes both scholarly contemplation and subtle amusement. Much like a comedic performance at a scientific conference, our findings invite a lighthearted appreciation for the serendipitous caprice of correlational research.

At the heart of this endeavor lies the recognition that statistical exploration need not always be solemn and staid; it can embrace the playful interplay of variables and unexpected associations, much like an impromptu game of statistical charades. As we bid

adieu to this investigation, we do so with a sense of scholarly satisfaction and a gleam of bemusement, recognizing that our foray into the world of 'Friday Friday Friday' has enriched the tapestry of statistical inquiry with a dash of irrepressible frivolity.

In the spirit of scientific merriment, we declare that no further research is warranted in this peculiar yet endearing intersection of political allegiance and meme culture. Let this finding stand as a testament to the unforeseen harmony that statistical analysis can uncover, weaving together the threads of electoral dynamics and internet amusement in a symphony of correlation. As we set our sights on the next scholarly escapade, we do so with a chuckle and a nod to the enigmatic rhythm of statistical oddities.

As the dust settles on our data odyssey, our findings illuminate a striking association that beckons us to peer beneath the surface of political discourse and internet frivolity. With a nod to the quirks of empirical inquiry and the vivacity of online pop culture, we invite the reader to join us as we unravel the tapestry of unlikely connections, where political pursuits intersect with Friday's resounding refrain.