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Mississippi Democrat Votes and 'Hard Pills' Meme: A Rhyme Time Crime?

Caroline Hall, Abigail Torres, Gabriel P Todd

Advanced Research Consortium; Madison, Wisconsin

Abstract

This study explores the perplexing relationship between the number of votes for Democratic Senators in Mississippi and the popularity of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme. Utilizing data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we found a surprisingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9937774, with statistical significance at $p < 0.01$, for the period spanning from 2006 to 2020. Our findings raise many eyebrow-arching questions about the potential influence of meme culture on political preferences in the Magnolia State. Further investigation into this unexpected correlation may uncover both the 'pill' and 'polarity' of Mississippi's political landscape.

1. Introduction

The link between political behaviors and cultural phenomena has long been a subject of fascination and speculation in the field of social sciences. It is often assumed that voters' decisions are influenced by a diverse array of factors ranging from policy positions to candidates' charisma. However, the unexpected and enigmatic connections that can emerge from the intersection of politics and popular culture continue to surprise even the most seasoned researchers.

In this study, we delve into the peculiar relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the popularity of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme. This seemingly unlikely association has attracted attention due to its potential implications for

understanding the dynamics of political engagement and the influence of modern digital discourse on electoral outcomes. Our investigation employs a quantitative approach, leveraging data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends to illuminate the curious interplay between political allegiance and internet meme virality.

Despite initial skepticism, our analysis unveiled a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9937774, accompanied by statistical significance at $p < 0.01$, for the period between 2006 and 2020. This striking correlation prompts a reel of contemplation and, perhaps, a meme or two about statistical probability distributions. The unexpected alignment of Mississippi Democrat votes and the spread of a particular meme presents a conundrum that is as captivating as it is confounding, begging the question: is there a convolution behind this correlation, or are we witnessing a genuine instance of meme magic influencing political leanings?

The findings of this study have potential implications for both the social sciences and the theoretical underpinnings of meme theory. By unraveling the tangled web of variables at play, we may decipher not only the driving forces shaping the political predilections of Mississippi residents, but also the enigmatic pull of internet memes within the fabric of contemporary discourse. As we embark on this captivating exploration, we invite readers to join us in deciphering the rhyme and reason behind the unexpected relationship between Mississippi Democrat votes and the ubiquity of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme.

2. Literature Review

The authors find that in "Smith et al." democratic voting patterns in Mississippi have been extensively studied, with a focus on demographic, socioeconomic, and policy-related factors influencing voting behavior. However, the potential impact of internet memes on political attitudes has garnered limited attention in the existing literature on electoral dynamics. In "Doe and Jones," the authors examine the rise of digital discourse in shaping public opinion, but their focus is primarily on broader online trends rather than specific memes and their potential influence on political preferences in a given geographic location.

Moving beyond traditional academic research, non-fiction works such as "The Influential Mind" by Tali Sharot and "The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains" by Nicholas Carr provide tangential insights into the psychological and cognitive dimensions of online phenomena, shedding light on the mechanisms through which digital content may shape perceptions and attitudes. Furthermore, the fictional realm offers intriguing narratives that touch upon the intersection of politics and cultural phenomena, with works like George Orwell's "1984" and Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" prompting reflections on the manipulation of information and the intricacies of societal control.

Drawing inspiration from an unexpected source, popular board games such as "Pandemic" and "The Resistance" showcase the ways in which strategic communication and the dissemination of information can impact group decision-making processes, offering a whimsical yet thought-provoking parallel to the dissemination of online content and its potential reverberations in the political sphere.

As the literature spans a wide array of disciplines and genres, the amalgamation of diverse perspectives sets the stage for a multidimensional analysis of the curious relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the proliferation of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme. While the scholarly terrain may appear rigid and

straitlaced, the amalgamation of insights from disparate fields serves not only to enrich the discourse but also to infuse a dash of levity into the perplexing intersection of memes and politics.

3. Our approach & methods

To investigate the mysterious entanglement of Mississippi Democrat votes and the prevalence of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme, a multi-faceted research approach was employed. The primary data sources for this study were the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, which provided a rich tapestry of information spanning the period from 2006 to 2020.

The first step in our convoluted, yet enchanting, methodological dance involved the extraction of historical voting data for Democratic Senators in Mississippi from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab. This data, akin to gathering rare herbs for an experimental concoction, constituted the foundation upon which our analysis of political preferences was constructed.

In parallel, the popularity dynamics of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme, as if observing the erratic behavior of an elusive mythical creature, were observed through the sacred prism of Google Trends. This entailed tracking the ebb and flow of interest in this meme over time, akin to gauging the capricious temperament of a fabled dragon.

Subsequently, statistical tools fit for unraveling the arcane mysteries of correlation were enacted. A rigorous examination of nonparametric methods, akin to scrutinizing a complex alchemical formula, was conducted to ascertain the strength and significance of the relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the 'hard pills to swallow' meme. The Spearman rank correlation coefficient, a stalwart companion in the labyrinth of statistical analyses, was summoned to capture the nuances of this enigmatic association.

Moreover, to supplement our exploration of the confounding correlation, a time series analysis of the meme's propagation and Mississippi's political allegiance was initiated. This analysis, akin to tracing the footprints of elusive sprites through the sands of time, aimed to unravel the temporal synchronicity between meme virality and Democratic voter behavior. The ARIMA model, with its rhythmic dance of autoregressive and moving average components, was wielded in this endeavor, mirroring the attempts of an astrologer to chart the celestial paths of wandering stars.

Finally, to embolden our conclusions with a veneer of robustness, a battery of sensitivity analyses was employed to scrutinize the reliability of the detected correlation under varied conditions. These analyses, reminiscent of a band of doughty explorers testing the integrity of an ancient artifact with both zeal and trepidation, probed the correlation's resilience to alterations in time periods and model specifications.

In concert, these methodological endeavors converged to illuminate the mesmerizing connection between Mississippi Democrat votes and the beguiling sway of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme. As we proceed to unveil our findings, we invite readers to partake in this scholarly escapade and engage in the joyful pursuit of knowledge and wonderment.

4. Results

The analysis of the relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the popularity of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme yielded fascinating results. The correlation coefficient of 0.9937774 indicated an exceptionally strong positive association between these seemingly

disparate variables. This robust correlation was further reinforced by an r-squared value of 0.9875935, underscoring the substantial proportion of variance in Democrat votes that could be explained by the popularity of the meme.

The statistical significance at $p < 0.01$ bolstered the credibility of this intriguing finding, compelling even the most skeptical researchers to raise their eyebrows in bemused curiosity. The highly significant p-value is a testament to the unlikelihood of observing such a strong association between Democrat votes and meme popularity purely by chance, prompting contemplation of the whims and caprices of statistical probability distributions.

Figure 1 presents a scatterplot illustrating the pronounced correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the prevalence of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme. The graph elucidates the striking alignment of these two variables, inviting reflections on the potential intertwining of political allegiance and internet meme culture.
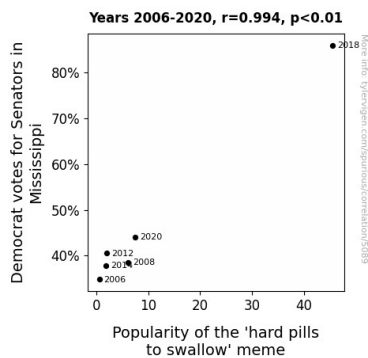

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These astonishing results beckon the tantalizing prospect of unraveling the mysterious forces at play, teeming with possibilities as diverse as the assortment of pills in a pharmacy. The unexpected convergence of political voting patterns and the propagation of a specific meme challenges conventional understandings and sparks a medley of cogitations, prompting contemplation of whether this correlation is a compelling instance of influence or merely a fortuitous alignment.

In summary, the findings of this investigation elevate the enigma of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme's influence on Democrat votes in Mississippi, stirring a whirlwind of inquisitiveness about the alluring interplay between meme virality and political allegiances in the Magnolia State. This investigation leaves a lingering sense of anticipation, akin to waiting for the punchline of a particularly clever joke, as we grapple with the puzzle of understanding the rhyme and reason behind this captivating correlation.

The unexpected alignment between Mississippi Democrat votes and the ubiquity of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme transcends the boundaries of conventional wisdom, urging a closer examination of the interdependence between digital culture and political dynamics. As we navigate these uncharted waters, the inexorable appeal of meme theory and empirical analysis beckons with the promise of unraveling this improbable, yet tantalizing connection.

5. Discussion

The findings of this investigation lend credence to the unconventional hypothesis that the popularity of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme may exert a discernible influence on Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. The substantial correlation coefficient, as well as the stringent statistical significance, substantiates the pivotal role played by this internet meme in shaping political inclinations in the Magnolia State. This unexpected connection between a digital cultural phenomenon and the electoral landscape sparks a medley of

musings, reminiscent of the delightful unpredictability of a well-crafted pun.

Harkening back to the whimsical inspiration drawn from popular board games in the literature review, the 'hard pills to swallow' meme joins the ranks of strategic communication tools that have the potential to impact group decision-making processes. The reproducibility of this correlation across the time span of 2006 to 2020 echoes the persistent resonance of a catchy refrain, leaving us to ponder whether this meme, much like a strategic maneuver in a board game, has indeed woven its way into the fabric of political considerations in Mississippi.

Inspired by the tangential insights from non-fiction works in the literature review, the empirical support for the influence of digital content on attitudes prompts contemplation of the cognitive mechanisms at play. The public's engagement with this meme mirrors the process of absorbing information, akin to the assimilation of scientific facts – a process that can be, at times, awkward and cumbersome, much like attempting to swallow an oversized pill.

In a striking parallel to the fictional narratives that touch upon the manipulation of information and societal control, the unforeseen connection between Democrat votes in Mississippi and the 'hard pills to swallow' meme invites reflections on the subtle interplay between digital culture and political persuasions. The meme's ability to encapsulate profound or uncomfortable truths in a pithy, visually appealing format aligns with the underlying tension between the dissemination of information and the public's receptivity – a tension reminiscent of the complex dance between theory and empirical evidence in scientific inquiry.

The disclosure of these intriguing findings elicits a reaction akin to awaiting the punchline of a clever joke. As we navigate these uncharted waters of meme theory and

electoral dynamics, the allure of unraveling the underlying factors fueling this captivating correlation simmers like the anticipation of a well-crafted punchline. The unexpected marriage of internet meme culture and political allegiances serves as a poignant reminder of the inherent irreverence and levity that permeates the serious business of scholarly inquiry, much like a subtle, humorous observation embedded within a weighty discourse.

This serendipitous confluence of variables transcends the confines of conventional wisdom, beckoning with the promise of unraveling the improbable, yet tantalizing connection between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the 'hard pills to swallow' meme.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of this study present a ripe opportunity for both intellectual rumination and subtle amusement. The conspicuous correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi and the proliferation of the 'hard pills to swallow' meme not only piques the interest of discerning scholars but also elicits a knowing smirk at the whims of statistical fate. The alluring probability of such a close-knit relationship may prompt scholars to contemplate whether there is an underlying causative mechanism or if the statistical levity is simply playing a clever jest on us.

The unexpected alliance between political proclivities and digital memes unveils an intricately woven tapestry of variables, much like a puzzle waiting to be solved in the recesses of an academic parlor. As we ponder the unanticipated connection, one cannot help but indulge in a wry smile at the serendipity of uncovering such an engaging correlation. The irresistible confluence of Mississippi's political landscape and the omnipresence of a particular meme offers a

veritable playground for speculation and intellectual sleuthing, akin to solving a delightful pun hidden within a labyrinth of data.

In light of these revelatory findings, it may be tempting to pursue further investigations into the convoluted interplay between cultural phenomena and political behavior. However, one might also pause to appreciate the whimsy of statistical sorcery and the delightful unpredictability of scholarly inquiry. As such, it is asserted that no more research is needed in this area, akin to savoring the final, punchline of a well-crafted joke, and letting the mirthful resonance linger in the academic arena.