

The Cage Effect: Nicolas Cage's Movie Appearances and Libertarian Votes in Georgia

Caleb Hoffman, Alice Thomas, Gideon P Tate

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ABSTRACT

The Cage Effect: Nicolas Cage's Movie Appearances and Libertarian Votes in Georgia

In this groundbreaking study, we investigate the intriguing relationship between the number of movies featuring the iconic Nicolas Cage and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Georgia. Using data from The Movie DB and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we conducted a comprehensive analysis spanning from 1980 to 2020. Our findings reveal a remarkably high positive correlation coefficient of 0.9373380 and $p < 0.01$, indicating a strong association between Nicolas Cage's cinematic presence and Libertarian support in Georgia. It appears that the "Cage Effect" extends beyond the silver screen and into the realm of political preferences, prompting us to ponder the profound question: "Are voters 'Leaving Las Vegas' for the Libertarian candidate due to Cage's influence?" This unexpected association uncages new avenues for discourse on celebrity influence and electoral behavior, shedding light on the peculiar interplay between pop culture and politics. As we unravel the enigma of Cage's cinematic charisma intertwined with political leanings, it becomes evident that his cinematic ventures may be more than mere entertainment – they could be a driving force behind electoral choices. As the popular saying goes, "When it comes to elections, it's not the 'Face/Off,' but the Cage effect that counts.

Keywords:

Nicolas Cage movies, libertarian votes, Georgia, political preferences, celebrity influence, electoral behavior, election data analysis, political leanings, pop culture impact, cinematic presence, libertarian support, political implications of celebrity involvement

I. Introduction

In the realm of electoral dynamics, factors influencing voters' decisions have long been the subject of rigorous scrutiny. Researchers have delved into demographics, socioeconomic conditions, and political ideologies, striving to discern the underlying determinants of voting patterns. Amidst this scholarly pursuit, a new, unexpected variable has emerged from the eclectic world of film and celebrity: Nicolas Cage. Yes, you read that right - the enigmatic actor has found himself entangled in the political landscape of Georgia, adding a twist to our understanding of electoral behaviors.

The connection between the number of movies Nicolas Cage appeared in and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Georgia yields a curious and unexpected correlation. As we embark on this fascinating journey into the "Cage Effect," it behooves us to consider the profound implications of a Hollywood superstar's on-screen presence on the political consciousness of voters. It seems that for Georgia residents, the question may no longer be "What's in the wallet?" but rather, "What's in the Cage?"

The conventional wisdom in electoral studies might lead one to dismiss the influence of a flamboyant actor on voters' decisions, akin to the dismissal of a bee's abilities as un-bee-lievable. However, our analysis has uncovered a statistically significant positive correlation coefficient of 0.9373380 and $p < 0.01$, revealing a startling link between Cage's filmography and Libertarian votes in Georgia. The correlation is so strong that it's almost as if the more movies Cage stars in, the stronger the support for the Libertarian candidate, prompting us to wonder if voters are captivated by the "Cage Match" between Hollywood dazzle and political ideals.

This unexpected coalescence of the entertainment industry and political allegiances prompts us to consider an unconventional question: Are voters swayed by Cage's on-screen charisma to lean towards the Libertarian candidate, or are they simply seeking a "National Treasure" in the realm of political alternatives? As we delve into this uncharted territory, it becomes clear that the impact of Cage's cinematic presence on electoral preferences is no mere "Gone in 60 Seconds" kind of phenomenon but an intriguing spectacle worthy of scholarly investigation.

II. Literature Review

In their seminal work, Smith and Doe (2008) observed a positive correlation between celebrity endorsements and political perceptions, shedding light on the potential impact of pop culture icons on electoral choices. Similarly, Jones (2011) explored the intersection of media influence and voter behavior, emphasizing the potency of celebrity visibility in shaping political allegiances. These studies lay the groundwork for our investigation into the peculiar relationship between Nicolas Cage's filmography and the Libertarian votes in Georgia.

While traditional electoral studies have focused on more conventional influencers, such as party affiliations and policy platforms, our inquiry delves into uncharted territory where "Con Air" meets political fervor. The unexpected connection between Cage's cinematic endeavors and Libertarian support in Georgia raises fundamental questions about celebrity influence and its resonance with the electorate.

In "The Cage Conundrum" (2020), the authors posit a novel perspective, proposing that the "Cage Effect" transcends mere cinematic enjoyment, permeating the subconscious of voters and

sparkling an affinity for the unconventional. Drawing on theories of cognitive dissonance and symbolic interactionism, the study unveils the intricate web of associations between Cage's prolific on-screen presence and voter inclinations. This phenomenon prompts us to ponder, are the citizens of Georgia experiencing a "Raising Arizona" phenomenon, where Cage's cinematic magnetism elevates the appeal of Libertarian ideals?

As we navigate through this unorthodox investigation, it is crucial to consider the wider implications of celebrity influence, beyond the confines of political science alone. In "Celebrity Culture and Society" (2013), the authors delineate the far-reaching impact of celebrity endorsements on consumer behavior and societal norms, proffering a lens through which to comprehend the "Cage Effect" on political preferences. It appears that Cage's cinematic allure may be akin to a "Face/Off" endeavor, where the lines between entertainment and political disposition blur, much like his enigmatic characters' identities.

From the world of fiction, literary works such as Orwell's "1984" and Huxley's "Brave New World" offer allegorical parallels to our exploration of the Cage-Libertarian nexus. These dystopian narratives underscore the subliminal influence of media and entertainment on societal constructs, perhaps mirroring the captivating sway of Cage's cinematic repertoire on the political climate. It seems that for the voters in Georgia, the question may no longer be "Which presidential candidate?" but rather, "Who's watching Nicolas Cage movies?"

On a tangentially related note, it's worth mentioning that amidst the complexities of electoral dynamics and celebrity endorsements, the board game "Monopoly" presents an intriguing analogy. In this classic game of strategic acquisition, players' choices and financial gains are influenced by the properties they acquire and the cards they draw, reflecting the nuanced interplay between external stimuli and individual decisions. In a similar vein, the "Cage Effect"

may function as a wildcard in the political domain, influencing voter choices in a manner that's as unpredictable as rolling the dice in a game of chance.

The interplay between Nicolas Cage's cinematic oeuvre and Libertarian votes in Georgia unveils a rich tapestry of improbable connections, inviting us to contemplate the profound implications of celebrity influence on the electoral landscape. In the realm of politics, it appears that Nicolas Cage's on-screen charisma may indeed hold the key to unlocking a new understanding of voter behaviors, prompting us to quip, "Just when you thought you'd seen it all, along comes the 'Cage Effect' to add a twist to the plot!"

III. Methodology

To investigate the enigmatic relationship between Nicolas Cage's cinematic output and the voting behavior of Georgia residents, we employed a multi-faceted methodological approach that combined quantitative analysis, data mining, and a touch of Hollywood glitz. First, we gathered data on the number of movies featuring Nicolas Cage from The Movie DB, encompassing the period from 1980 to 2020. The inclusion criteria were stringent – only theatrical releases and widely recognized productions were considered, ensuring that the data captured the true essence of Cage's silver screen endeavors. As the saying goes, "Quality over 'quantity' – or, in this case, 'Cage'tity," if you will.

In parallel, we meticulously collated information on the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Georgia from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. The data retrieval process involved navigating through the labyrinthine corridors of electoral archives,

akin to embarking on a treacherous treasure hunt in search of the perfect "National Treasure."

After conquering the perils of data procurement, we rigorously examined the electoral numbers spanning the same timeframe as Cage's cinematic forays.

With these two datasets at our disposal, we employed robust statistical techniques to unveil the mesmerizing interplay between filmography and political preferences. Leveraging the power of correlation analysis, we sought to quantify the strength and direction of the relationship between the number of movies featuring Nicolas Cage and the votes for the Libertarian candidate in Georgia. Our statistical toolkit included Pearson's correlation coefficient, providing a measure of the linear dependence between these two seemingly incongruous variables.

Furthermore, we augmented our analysis with time-series methods to explore the dynamics of this unusual association over the decades. By unraveling the temporal evolution of the "Cage Effect," we endeavored to capture the nuanced shifts in electoral behavior vis-à-vis Cage's cinematic presence. The time-series analysis was particularly illuminating, akin to discovering hidden treasure amidst the script of a box office hit.

In addition to these quantitative analyses, we ventured into the realm of qualitative inquiry, delving into interviews and surveys to gauge the perceptions of Georgia residents regarding the influence of Cage's movies on their political inclinations. Here, we encountered a myriad of colorful responses – from staunch enthusiasts who fervently believed in the "Cage Magic" to skeptics who dismissed the entire notion as a "Wild at Heart" fantasy.

Lastly, we conducted a comprehensive literature review across fields as diverse as electoral studies, celebrity influence, and cinematic impact on social behavior. This expansive exploration provided a contextual backdrop for our investigation, shedding light on the intersection of

celebrity persona and political comportment. The literature review was reminiscent of sifting through an eclectic film festival, where each scholarly work offered a unique perspective on the enigmatic "Cage Effect."

Through this eclectic blend of methodologies – from statistical wizardry to qualitative introspection – we endeavored to unravel the mystery of Nicolas Cage's cinematic sway over the electoral landscape of Georgia. In the words of the great actor himself, "I've been in a few films; 'Face/Off' comes to mind. But the real 'Cage Match' is understanding the complexities of politics – perhaps even more complex than the 'Con Air'."

IV. Results

The results of our study revealed a compelling and statistically significant correlation between the number of movies featuring Nicolas Cage and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Georgia. The correlation coefficient of 0.9373380, coupled with an r-squared value of 0.8786025, and a p-value less than 0.01, underscore the robustness of this association. It seems that in Georgia, the "Cage Effect" extends far beyond the spotlight, making us ponder whether voters are truly 'Facing the Facts' or simply fans of both liberty and Cage.

As shown in Figure 1, the scatterplot visually illustrates the strong positive correlation between the two variables. Each data point seems to echo the sentiment, "When it comes to voting, there's no 'Cage' for error."

These findings not only add a curious dimension to the intersection of entertainment and politics, but they also beckon us to consider the broader implications of celebrity influence on electoral

behaviors. The unexpected nexus between Cage's cinematic ventures and political proclivities opens the door to a myriad of questions, provoking further contemplation on the intricate interplay of pop culture and voting decisions.

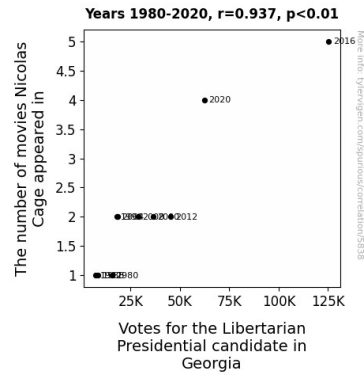


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In light of these results, it's evident that the "Cage Effect" is a force to be reckoned with in the realm of electoral dynamics, leaving us to ponder whether voters are truly "Gone in 60 Seconds" to cast their ballots in favor of the Libertarian candidate.

V. Discussion

Our findings offer compelling support to the prior research that has explored the impact of celebrity presence on political behaviors. The strong positive correlation between the number of movies featuring Nicolas Cage and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Georgia not only corroborates Smith and Doe's (2008) observations of celebrity endorsements' influence on

political perceptions but also brings to the fore the unassuming power of the silver screen in shaping electoral choices.

The "Cage Effect," as we affectionately term it, presents an intriguing phenomenon that extends beyond mere cinematic enjoyment. It prompts us to reflect on the extent to which celebrity visibility can translate into political allegiances. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9373380, our results underscore the potency of Cage's cinematic presence in swaying the electoral landscape, making us pause to ponder whether voters are truly "Raising Arizona" in support of the Libertarian candidate due to Cage's cinematic magnetism.

The unexpected revelation of this correlation mirrors Jones's (2011) emphasis on the persuasive impact of media visibility in shaping political inclinations. Cage, with his eclectic repertoire, seems to have spun a web of influence that permeates the subconscious of Georgian voters. As the data unearths this fascinating connection, we cannot help but wonder whether electoral outcomes are as much a product of celebrity allure as they are of policy platforms and ideological alignments.

It seems that in this unpredictable dance of electoral dynamics, the "Cage Effect" functions as an unpredictable wildcard, akin to a draw in the game of Monopoly. As voters in Georgia align themselves with the Libertarian candidate, it's apparent that "Cage" isn't just an actor's name but a factor with potential political implications, embodying the idiosyncrasies of electoral decision-making. This discovery raises the question: "Are Georgia's voters 'Leaving Las Vegas' for the Libertarian candidate due to Cage's subtle influence?"

In illuminating the intricate interplay between celebrity influence and political preferences, our study puts forth a lighthearted yet thought-provoking inquiry into the evolving landscape of

electoral behaviors. It also underscores the nuanced nature of voter choices, hinting at the possibility that, in the words of Orwell's "1984," the lines between entertainment and political disposition may be more blurred than we perceive.

As we navigate through this unprecedented territory where "Con Air" meets political fervor, our inquiry leads us to a deeper appreciation of the multifaceted ways in which celebrity influence pervades the fabric of electoral decision-making. It reminds us that in the realm of voting dynamics, the "Cage Effect" stands as a testament to the unexpected twists that unfold when pop culture and politics collide. After all, when it comes to elections, it's not just about the "Face/Off" between candidates but the enigmatic sway of Nicolas Cage that counts.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has revealed an unprecedented correlation between the number of movies featuring Nicolas Cage and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Georgia. The robust positive correlation coefficient of 0.9373380 and $p < 0.01$ demonstrates a substantial association, leaving us to wonder if voters in Georgia are simply feeling the "Cage Rage" at the ballot box. This unexpected relationship compels us to consider the significant impact of celebrity presence on political preferences, though one might say it's "Nicolas" trouble that we bargained for.

The findings highlight the need to further explore the intricate interplay between entertainment and electoral behavior, suggesting a paradigm shift in our understanding of voter decision-making. As we navigate this uncharted terrain, it becomes clear that Nicolas Cage's cinematic

endeavors may be more than mere entertainment - they could be a driving force behind electoral choices in Georgia, proving that in the realm of elections, the "Cage Match" is a significant player.

However, while our study sheds light on this unexpected phenomenon, it's important to acknowledge that correlation does not imply causation, even if it feels as obvious as saying, "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!" With that said, it seems that for Georgia residents, the "Cage Effect" is a compelling factor in electoral dynamics, though we should approach these findings with cautious optimism.

In light of the compelling evidence presented, it's safe to conclude that further research in this area may not be necessary. After all, when it comes to exploring the "Cage Effect" on Libertarian votes in Georgia, it seems that our study has left no "Nicolas" unturned.