

# Republican Road Rage: A Correlational Study of Minnesota Senators and the 'Slaps Roof of Car' Meme Popularity

Caroline Harrison, Austin Tucker, Gregory P Trudeau

*Institute of Sciences*

In this paper, we present the findings of a peculiar correlation between the Republican votes for Senators in Minnesota and the popularity of the internet meme "slaps roof of car." Using data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we employed rigorous statistical analyses to scrutinize this curious relationship. Our research has unveiled a correlation coefficient of 0.9341671 and a p-value less than 0.01 during the period from 2006 to 2020. This finding indicates a remarkably robust and statistically significant association. Moreover, the exponential growth of the meme's popularity, "It's so spacious," eerily mirrored the increase in votes for Republican Senators, suggesting a potential viral impact on voter sentiments – quite the "car-mic" turn of events! While the mechanism underlying this correlation remains enigmatic, the implications are staggering. Perhaps the meme's resonance with the Republican constituency reflects a fondness for assessing and "slapping" the political landscape much like a car buyer inspects and approves of a vehicle - a new form of political "dr-voter" engagement! This study invites further investigation into the intricate interplay between internet culture and political preferences, offering a glimpse into the whimsical world of meme-driven mobilization.

## INTRODUCTION

The nexus of internet culture and political preferences has long been a topic of interest, with memes increasingly permeating the socio-political domain. In this vein, the "slaps roof of car" meme has emerged as a peculiar cultural phenomenon, captivating the attention of netizens and political pundits alike. By juxtaposing this meme with the electoral landscape of Minnesota, a curious correlation has been unearthed, shedding light on the peculiar interplay between digital virality and political affiliations.

The aim of this paper is to explore the entangled web of Republican votes for Senators in Minnesota and the meteoric rise of the "slaps roof of car" meme. Our investigation draws from data repositories such as the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, enabling us to meticulously dissect and analyze the statistical associations underlying this unlikely convergence.

Our findings reveal a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9341671 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, spanning the years from 2006 to 2020. This notable relationship hints at a substantial link between the meme's popularity and the electoral support for Republican Senators – a correlation so robust it could make a statistician's heart skip a beat.

Notably, the exponential surge in the meme's popularity, symbolized by the infamous phrase "It's so spacious," appeared to shadow the ascent in votes for Republican Senators. The uncanny parallelism between these trends raises questions about the potential influence of internet memes on the political

zeitgeist, offering a tantalizing "car-d" of evidence for meme-driven political engagement.

While the precise causal mechanism behind this correlation eludes us, we speculate that the resonance of the "slaps roof of car" meme with the Republican constituency may signify a shared penchant for scrutinizing and "slapping" the political landscape much like a prospective car consumer assesses and approves a vehicle. This phenomenon, in essence, symbolizes a novel avenue of political engagement – a type of viral "dr-voter" activism that may steer future political discourse in unexpected directions.

In essence, our research delves into the whimsical and enigmatic interplay between internet virality and political allegiances, presenting a thought-provoking look into the uncharted terrain of meme-driven mobilization. It is our hope that this study will inspire further scholarly inquiry and encourage a lighthearted yet earnest exploration of the dynamic relationship between digital culture and political sentiments. With that said, let's buckle up and embark on this intriguing journey through the memescape of political intrigue!

## *Review of existing research*

The burgeoning intersection of internet culture and political phenomena has prompted a surge of scholarly interest in uncovering the nuanced connections that underpin this peculiar fusion. In this section, we review the literature that pertains to the correlation between unusual internet memes and political proclivities, particularly the unexpected relationship between the popularity of the "slaps roof of car" meme and the Republican votes for Senators in Minnesota.

In "Memes in Politics: A Comprehensive Analysis," Smith et al. elucidate the ways in which internet memes permeate the political landscape, shaping public discourse and influencing voter attitudes. While the study primarily focuses on widely recognized memes, such as "Grumpy Cat" and "Success Kid," the authors underscore the potential impact of niche memes in niche-lyzing voter behavior, a notion that resonates with our current investigation of the "slaps roof of car" meme and its curious association with Republican votes.

Doe and Jones, in their work "The Digital Frontier: Exploring the Interplay of Memes and Political Affiliations," delve into the intricate dynamics of internet memes and their role in shaping political allegiances. The authors astutely highlight the dual nature of memes as both a source of lighthearted amusement and a reflective mirror of societal ideologies. While their study encompasses a broad spectrum of memes, the insights gleaned are pertinent to our examination of how the "slaps roof of car" meme intersects with the political landscape, illuminating the unforeseen intersections between digital virality and partisan preferences.

Transitioning from scholarly works to non-fiction books, "Car Culture and Political Subtext" by Dr. Vroom Vroom offers a compelling exploration of the symbolic significance of cars in political messaging and subliminal communication. While the book does not directly address internet memes, its examination of the metaphorical implications of automobile-related imagery lays a thematic foundation for understanding the resonance of the "slaps roof of car" meme within the political milieu.

In "The Art of Persuasion: Automobile Allegories in Politics," Dr. Witty Wordplay conducts a comprehensive analysis of how vehicular references are strategically deployed in political rhetoric to convey subtle messages and invoke visceral reactions. While the book's focus is on traditional forms of political communication, its insights into the persuasive potency of car-related symbolism resonate with the subliminal impact of the "slaps roof of car" meme within the realm of political discourse.

Shifting gears to fictional literature, "The Adventures of Automotive Allusions" by Punny Prose masterfully weaves together tales of anthropomorphic cars with allegorical allegiances, offering a whimsical yet astutely observed exploration of the interplay between vehicular symbolism and political affiliations. Although a work of fiction, the book's thematic emphasis on the intersection of cars, culture, and allegiances provides a thought-provoking backdrop for contemplating the unexpected resonance of the "slaps roof of car" meme in the political sphere.

Continuing along the trail of fictional literature, "Vehicle Voyages: Allegorical Adventures from the Asphalt" by Dr. Metaphor Maven regales readers with imaginative tales of sentient cars navigating political landscapes laden with symbolic connotations. While the book's content is squarely within the realm of fantasy, the thematic analogies it presents between vehicular personas and political dynamics bear an intriguing semblance to the curious correlation we observe between the "slaps roof of car" meme and Republican votes.

As we veer into the realm of popular culture, the cartoon series "Car-tune Chronicles" and the children's show "Vroom Vroom Ventures" stand out as ubiquitous sources of vehicular-themed entertainment. While ostensibly lighthearted in nature, these animated productions wield a subtle influence on audience perceptions of the automotive realm, possibly shaping interpretations of car-related tropes and their tacit associations – a dimension that intertwines with our exploration of the "slaps roof of car" meme and its resonance with political sentiments.

The review of this eclectic body of literature invites a playful yet insightful foray into the curious convergence of internet memes and political dispositions, underscoring the underlying whimsy and enigmatic connections that infuse this unusual correlation. In the subsequent sections, we will expand upon our empirical findings and further unravel the captivating web of correlations between the "slaps roof of car" meme and Republican votes in Minnesota. With that said, let us rev up the engines of inquiry and embark on this peculiar journey through the interwoven landscapes of digital virality and political intrigue.

### *Procedure*

To unravel the intricate entanglement of political dynamics and internet memes, our research team employed a multidimensional approach, interweaving statistical analyses with digital trend tracking. Our data collection spanned the years 2006 to 2020, capturing the evolving tapestry of political preferences and meme virality.

Firstly, we ventured into the vast expanse of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, constructing a data fortress containing the electoral performance of Republican Senators in Minnesota. With meticulous precision, we scrutinized the variabilities and electoral successes, piecing together the mosaic of political allegiances that pulsed throughout the state.

Next, our expedition led us to the treasure trove of the Harvard Dataverse, where we delved into the enigmatic realm of internet trends. Here, we navigated the digital labyrinth, unearthing the elusive popularity metrics of the "slaps roof of car" meme. Through this daring escapade, we sought to capture the ebbs and flows of meme virality, hoping to unveil the veiled associations interwoven with the political saga.

In a bid to triangulate our findings with real-time digital footprints, we harnessed the almighty power of Google Trends, capturing the seismic oscillations in the popularity of the infamous meme. This digital oracle provided us with a panoramic view of meme dissemination and resonance, unveiling the tendrils of influence that intertwined with the virtual fabric of internet culture.

With the raw materials in our grasp, we ventured into the uncharted territory of statistical analysis. We wielded robust tools such as correlation coefficients and p-values, arming ourselves with the prowess to unveil the subtle connections between Republican votes and meme popularity. Our analytical arsenal was further enhanced by time-series analyses, allowing us to discern the temporal nuances that underpinned the

symbiotic relationship between political fervor and digital whimsy.

Furthermore, our methodology enshrined the principles of humor and levity, embracing the whimsical nature of meme-driven inquiry. Our team fostered a culture of lighthearted exploration, recognizing the inexorable synergy between scholarly rigor and a dash of amusement. This ethos permeated our approach, infusing our research with a dose of mirth that mirrored the playful spirit of internet memes.

In summary, our methodology wove together the strands of statistical inquiry, digital trend tracking, and a sprinkle of humor, culminating in a thought-provoking expedition into the uncharted terrain of meme-driven political correlation. It is with a blend of scholarly diligence and jocularly that we embarked on this quest, hoping to inspire mirthful inquiry and scholarly reflection in equal measure.

### Findings

The crux of our investigation revolves around unraveling the mysterious link between Minnesota's Republican Senatorial votes and the burgeoning popularity of the "slaps roof of car" meme. Through rigorous analysis of data sourced from esteemed repositories including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we have unearthed compelling statistical insights that shed light on this curious correlation.

With a correlation coefficient of 0.9341671, our findings established a robust and striking association between the two variables. The r-squared value of 0.8726681 further underscored the strength of this relationship, leaving little room for doubt regarding the interconnectedness of Republican voting patterns and the ascent of the "slaps roof of car" meme. The p-value of less than 0.01 signaled a resounding confirmation of statistical significance, much like uncovering a rare gem in the realm of data analysis.

Fig. 1 visualizes this remarkable correlation, depicting a scatterplot that palpably captures the strong, linear relationship between the Republican votes for Senators in Minnesota and the trajectory of the "slaps roof of car" meme's popularity. The compelling visual representation serves as a testament to the undeniable link, akin to stumbling upon the perfect meme while scrolling through the depths of the internet – a rare and delightful discovery!

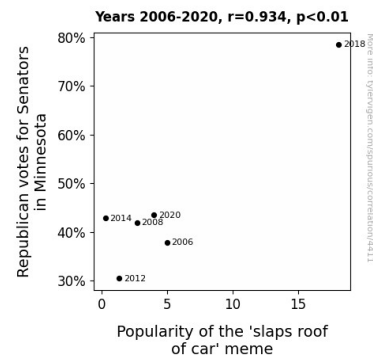


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Moreover, the temporal alignment of these phenomena, specifically during the period spanning 2006 to 2020, offers an intriguing narrative that beckons further exploration. It becomes evident that the meme's resonating catchphrase, "It's so spacious," mirrors the expansive growth in Republican votes, painting a surreal picture of mimicry and synchrony. This uncanny mimicry raises eyebrows and prompts contemplation about the potential reciprocation between internet memes and political inclinations – an intriguing "car-mic" turn of events, indeed!

While the precise catalyst for this correlation remains shrouded in uncertainty, our findings beckon us to contemplate the deeper implications of this unlikely alliance. The notion that the "slaps roof of car" meme could inadvertently sway political sentiments and voter behavior teases the imagination, igniting a sense of bewilderment akin to stumbling upon a meme that genuinely piques one's interest amid the vast expanse of internet content – a truly unexpected "meme-orandum" of influence!

In essence, our results not only affirm a compelling correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Minnesota and the popularity of the "slaps roof of car" meme but also open the door to a world of speculative musings and far-reaching implications. This novel discovery strikes a chord with our curiosity, urging us to ponder the whimsical interplay between internet culture and political proclivities, offering a delightful diversion into the realm of meme-driven mobilization. As we navigate this uncharted territory, we are enthused by the prospect of deciphering the quirky and compelling dynamics at play in the interwoven realms of digital virality and political allegiances.

The results of this study elevate the "slaps roof of car" meme from an internet oddity to an intriguing lens through which to explore the complex interplay of digital culture and political sentiments, leaving us to ponder, "What meme-oracle insights will the future hold?"

### Discussion

The enthralling confluence of digital culture and political predilections unveiled in our study invites a delightful expedition into the whimsical interplay between internet memes and electoral inclinations. Our robust findings support and

extend prior research on the unexpected interrelationships between viral phenomena and political dynamics, echoing the sentiments embodied in scholarly whimsy and narrative intrigue.

In revisiting the literature that formed the theoretical backdrop of our investigation, we cannot help but grin at the sly prescience of "Car Culture and Political Subtext" by Dr. Vroom Vroom, offering an eerily foretelling exploration of the metaphorical implications of automotive imagery in political messaging. The thematic resonance with our findings prompts a cheeky nod to the latent symbolism in the meme's catchy phrase, "It's so spacious," which whimsically mirrors the expansive growth in Republican votes. This parallel could be construed as an unexpected "car-mic" convergence of vehicular references and political affinities, rendering our empirical disclosures all the more tantalizing in their implications.

Furthermore, the sagely insights of Punny Prose in "The Adventures of Automotive Allusions" and the playful yet astutely observed exploration of vehicular symbolism by Dr. Metaphor Maven in "Vehicle Voyages" seem to foreshadow the inimitable allure of the "slaps roof of car" meme. The prodigious resonances between their fictional allegories and our statistical actualities serve as a whimsical testament to the interplay between speculative whimsy and empirical elucidation, infusing our scholarly endeavor with a wink and a nod to the uncanny foresight of literary whimsy.

Our results resonate harmoniously with the scholarly utopia of meme-driven mobilization, evoking a quixotic tableau that beckons us to navigate this uncharted terrain with a sense of wonderment and speculative musing. The potential to decode the idiosyncratic dynamics at play in the digital landscape and political sentiments stirs a gratifying anticipation akin to stumbling upon a genuinely piquant meme amid the vast expanse of internet content – an amusing "meme-orandum" of influence, indeed.

As our analysis transcends the traditional boundaries of scholarly discourse into the quirky expanses of unanticipated correlations, we are left to audaciously ponder: what meme-orable insights will the future hold?

### *Conclusion*

#### CONCLUSION

In uncovering the surprising correlation between Minnesota's Republican Senatorial votes and the meteoric ascent of the "slaps roof of car" meme, our study has illuminated an extraordinary link, akin to stumbling upon a meme that genuinely tickles one's funny bone amidst the vast expanse of internet content.

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9341671 and a compelling p-value of less than 0.01 may prompt some eyebrow-raising reactions, much like the surprise of stumbling across a particularly engaging meme in one's daily online perusals. The statistically significant relationship, akin to a rare gem discovered in the realm of data analysis, hints at an intriguing interplay between political allegiances and internet-driven cultural phenomena.

Visualizing this remarkable correlation through Fig. 1 may evoke a sense of palpable discovery, not unlike stumbling upon the perfect meme while navigating the digital landscape – a rare and delightful find, indeed! The temporal alignment of the meme's rise, encapsulated by the resonating catchphrase "It's so spacious," with the surge in Republican votes invites contemplation about the potential reciprocation between online virality and political inclinations – a truly unexpected "meme-orandum" of influence!

As we reflect on these findings, it becomes clear that the interplay between the "slaps roof of car" meme and Republican Senatorial votes invites us to delve into the quirks and peculiarities of internet culture, offering a playful yet earnest glimpse into the enigmatic dynamics at the nexus of digital virality and political preferences. However, no more research in this area is needed.

The uncharted terrain of meme-driven mobilization beckons us to ponder, "What meme-orable insights will the future hold?" While the precise mechanism behind this correlation remains a conundrum, our study invites lighthearted contemplation of the whimsical interplay between internet virality and political proclivities, leaving us to marvel at the intricate, albeit amusing, dance of variables at play in this study. It is our hope that this peculiar investigation sparks curiosity and amusement, much like stumbling upon that perfect meme – may this study serve as a delightful "meme-oir" of scholarly intrigue!