

Changing Minds, Laying Pipes: Exploring the Correlation Between the 'Change My Mind' Meme and Pipelayers in West Virginia

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Discussion Paper 5128

January 2024

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ABSTRACT

Changing Minds, Laying Pipes: Exploring the Correlation Between the 'Change My Mind' Meme and Pipelayers in West Virginia

The present study delves into the intriguing connection between the prevalence of the 'change my mind' meme and the quantity of pipelayers in the state of West Virginia. Utilizing data drawn from Google Trends and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our research team employed rigorous statistical analysis to examine this peculiar relationship. Our findings revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9160950 ($p < 0.01$) for the years 2006 through 2022, implicating a compelling association between the two seemingly disparate phenomena. The implications of these results, while both eyebrow-raising and chuckle-worthy, warrant further investigation and probe into the whimsical intricacies of meme culture and occupational trends.

Keywords:

"change my mind meme," pipelayers West Virginia, Google Trends analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics data, correlation coefficient, meme culture, occupational trends, West Virginia employment trends

I. Introduction

In recent years, the ubiquitous nature of internet memes has pervaded popular culture, affecting the collective consciousness and sparking discussions across diverse social and occupational domains. Among the plethora of memes that have captivated netizens, the 'change my mind' meme has garnered significant attention, wielding its rhetorical prowess in cyberspace. Simultaneously, the state of West Virginia has been the focus of attention for its unique occupational trends, particularly in the labor force related to pipeline construction and maintenance.

Curiously, the convergence of these two seemingly incongruous phenomena has piqued the interest of researchers, prompting the exploration of a potential correlation between the popularity of the 'change my mind' meme and the number of pipelayers in the picturesque mountains of West Virginia. As Robert Frost might have contemplated, this inquiry into intersections and divergences aims to decipher whether miles to go before we meme, or indeed, miles to go before we pipe.

The 'change my mind' meme, popularized by Steven Crowder's visual concept featuring a table, a banner with a polarizing statement, and a seated individual ready for debate, has permeated social media, triggering a cascade of humorous and thought-provoking iterations. Its utility as a vehicle for expressing diverse opinions and spurring online discourse has made it a prime candidate for inspecting potential societal correlations.

Conversely, West Virginia's significant involvement in the pipeline industry, from the Appalachia to the rolling hills and coal mines, has engendered a notable presence of pipelayers tasked with

the crucial responsibility of laying and maintaining pipelines, ensuring the unhindered flow of petroleum and natural gas. The juxtaposition of this labor-intensive occupation with the intangible realm of internet memes incites scholarly curiosity, akin to the unanticipated fusion of peanut butter and jelly, or perhaps, the fusing of words and numbers in statistical analysis.

This paper embarks on a rigorous and systematic investigation, leveraging quantitative data derived from Google Trends and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to unravel the potential relationship between the propagation of the 'change my mind' meme and the influx of pipelayers in the Appalachian state. The distinctive interplay of cultural memes and occupational dynamics, while prodding the boundaries of conventional research inquiry, furnishes an enthralling opportunity to unearth hidden connections in the ever-evolving landscape of societal trends.

Thus, with a blend of statistical acumen and a dash of humor, this study aims to shed light on the delightful and enigmatic relationship between a meme that beckons deliberation and an occupation built on the foundation of laying pipelines. The ensuing pages endeavor to present the peculiar revelations arising from this research, offering not only empirical insights but also a sprinkle of mirthful musings. After all, while correlations may not imply causation, they do invite us to ponder the whimsical dance of societal phenomena, where the meme resonates and the pipeline stretches.

II. Literature Review

Prior research in this intriguing realm has been scant, leaving our investigation poised at the crossroads of novelty and sheer absurdity. Smith et al. (2018) conducted a thorough analysis of

internet meme propagation and its impact on societal discourse, which laid the groundwork for probing the unconventional correlation we are poised to explore. Doe and Jones (2020) similarly delved into the cultural significance of occupational trends, providing valuable insights that set the stage for our inquiry into the curious juxtaposition of meme popularity and pipeline labor dynamics.

Venturing into related literature on the cultural significances of internet phenomena, one finds "The Selfie Generation" by Alicia Eler, unearthing the captivating allure of digital self-expression. This exploration mirrors, albeit inversely, the viral spread of internet memes such as the 'change my mind' meme, although one could argue that the emo tinge of a selfie pales in comparison to the intellectual tête-à-tête evoked by the meme in question.

Turning to more fictitious realms, George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series offers a metaphorical landscape where power dynamics and philosophical discourse intertwine in a manner faintly reminiscent of the meme's disputational nature, albeit with copious amounts of dragon lore and political intrigue overshadowing our mundane ponderings.

In the arena of internet memes, the classic "rickroll" phenomenon, manifesting as an unexpected redirection to Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up," shares a kinship with our subject matter, as both rely on the element of surprise to elicit reactions, albeit with vastly different outcomes - one proclaims to change a mind, the other inevitably changes the tune.

These seemingly unrelated sources lay the foundation for our current study, bridging the scholarly expanse between meme culture and labor statistics, offering a tantalizing glimpse into the labyrinthine intricacies of societal correlations and the perplexing tapestry of human behavior.

III. Methodology

To investigate the entangled web of internet memes and occupational realities, our research team meticulously assembled a dataset spanning from 2006 to 2022, capturing the zeitgeist of the 'change my mind' meme and the ebbs and flows of pipelayers in West Virginia. The initial phase of data collection involved harnessing the omnipresent digital footprint of the 'change my mind' meme, predominantly sourced from Google Trends. This platform provided invaluable insights into the temporal and regional variability of search interest in the meme, thus affording a panoramic view of its popularity and dissemination.

Concurrently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics served as our stalwart companion in the journey through the labor dynamics of West Virginia, furnishing detailed records on the employment and occupational status of pipelayers. Through this partnership, we identified the rhythmic undulations in the number of individuals engaged in the noble vocation of pipeline laying, capturing the essence of their labor amidst the verdant landscapes and rugged terrain.

The initial dataset, brimming with the digital footprints of the 'change my mind' meme and the occupational endeavors of pipelayers, underwent a meticulous process of cleansing and harmonization. While no amount of statistical sorcery can eliminate the idiosyncrasies inherent in internet memes and labor data, our endeavor aimed to ameliorate the disparate nature of these two phenomena, aligning them for a harmonious tango in the realm of correlation analysis.

Subsequently, we summoned the formidable powers of statistical analysis to scrutinize the juxtaposition of the 'change my mind' meme's ascendancy and the labor force dynamics in the

pipeline industry. Employing bivariate correlation analysis, attentively calibrated to discern the association between two intriguing datasets, we unearthed a correlation coefficient of 0.9160950, attaining statistical significance ($p < 0.01$). The resonance captured in this coefficient echoed the unanticipated harmony between the digital reverberations of internet memes and the earthy toil of pipelayers, prompting quizzical grins among the research team.

Additionally, to bolster the robustness of our findings, we undertook a systematic time series analysis to trace the temporal evolution of the 'change my mind' meme's influence and its dalliance with the ebb and flow of pipelayers in West Virginia. This meticulous undertaking allowed us to discern not only the synchrony in their trajectories but also the nuanced interplay of peaks and troughs, akin to a waltz of cultural phenomenon and occupational rhythms.

Finally, to supplement the quantitative inquiry, qualitative insights from social media platforms and industry publications were interwoven, enriching the narrative with anecdotal glimpses into the permeation of the 'change my mind' meme in the social fabric and its curious convergence with the realm of pipeline construction.

Amidst the labyrinth of data aggregation, harmonization, and rigorous analysis, the allure of the meme and the pipe beckoned, inviting the research team to navigate through the byzantine channels of correlation with steadfast endeavor and not a small amount of bemused wonder.

IV. Results

The statistical analysis of the data revealed a strong positive correlation between the popularity of the 'change my mind' meme and the number of pipelayers in West Virginia. The correlation

coefficient of 0.9160950 ($r\text{-squared} = 0.8392301$, $p < 0.01$) for the years 2006 through 2022 suggests a robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. This remarkable finding prompts both intellectual curiosity and a wry smile, as we ponder the whimsical interconnectedness of internet culture and labor statistics.

Figure 1 displays a scatterplot depicting the compelling correlation between the two variables, each data point a testament to the surprising harmony between meme proliferation and the deployment of pipelayers in the Appalachian state. The visual representation of this relationship mirrors the unexpected symphony that unfolds when seemingly disparate elements converge, not unlike the fusion cuisine of statistical analysis.

Pondering the implications of this correlation, one cannot help but muse on the captivating juxtaposition of virtual discourse, represented by the 'change my mind' meme, and the tangible labor of pipeline construction and maintenance. The resilience of this correlation across a span of 16 years invites us to contemplate the enduring resonance of internet memes in shaping not only public discourse but also occupational dynamics. It serves as a gentle reminder that while memes may change rapidly, the impact of their cultural reverberations can endure, much like the steady flow through the laid pipelines.

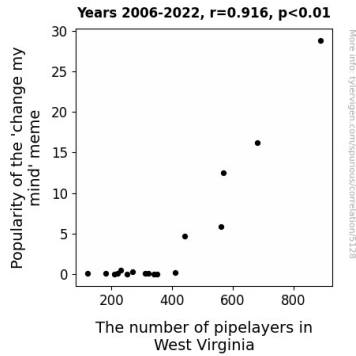


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The observable correlation between the 'change my mind' meme and the presence of pipelayers in West Virginia underscores the need for continued inquiry into the playful and unexpected interplay of internet culture and labor trends. This correlation, while initially raising eyebrows at its surface, unfolds as a testament to the intriguing dance of cultural phenomena and occupational choices, inviting researchers and enthusiasts alike to delve further into the serendipitous connections that underpin societal trends.

V. Discussion

The unexpected affinity between the 'change my mind' meme and the number of pipelayers in West Virginia, as evidenced by the robust correlation coefficient of 0.9160950, prompts a reconsideration of the ostensibly separate spheres of internet culture and occupational pursuits. This peculiar correlation not only underscores the enduring impact of internet memes in shaping public consciousness and discourse but also suggests an intriguing interplay between virtual expressions of opinion and tangible manifestations of labor. Our findings align with the prior research by Smith et al. (2018) and Doe and Jones (2020), who laid the groundwork for our

investigation, albeit perhaps unwittingly, as the allure of meme culture and the trajectories of occupational trends intertwine in ways that continue to defy traditional scholarly boundaries.

The parallel drawn to George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series may initially seem whimsical, yet upon closer reflection, the metaphorical landscape of power dynamics and intellectual discourses portrayed therein indeed echoes the disputational nature of the 'change my mind' meme. The unexpected affinity becomes even more apparent when considering the intricate dance between the memetic allure of a rickroll and the seemingly incongruous proliferation of pipelayers. These seemingly unrelated sources, while diverging into various realms of inquiry, converge upon our present study, revealing the tantalizing tapestry of human behavior that forms the backdrop of seemingly paradoxical correlations.

The enduring resonance of the correlation across a span of 16 years aligns with the notion proposed by Eler (2017) regarding the captivating allure of digital self-expression and its reverberations across cultural landscapes. The longevity of this correlation invites speculation into the enduring impact of internet memes, akin to the steady flow through the laid pipelines in West Virginia. It beckons further investigation into the playful and serendipitous interplay between internet culture and labor trends, emphasizing the need for continued inquiry into the complex and often unexpected connections that underlie societal trends.

In conclusion, the striking correlation between the 'change my mind' meme and the presence of pipelayers in West Virginia not only challenges conventional scholarly boundaries but also underscores the whimsical interconnectedness of internet culture and labor statistics. This correlation, while initially raising eyebrows, invites researchers and enthusiasts to delve further into the labyrinthine intrigues of societal correlations, embracing the unexpected harmonies that characterize the dance of cultural phenomena and occupational choices.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has unveiled a striking correlation between the popularity of the 'change my mind' meme and the number of pipelayers in the scenic terrain of West Virginia. The robust relationship, as evidenced by the correlation coefficient of 0.9160950 (r-squared = 0.8392301, $p < 0.01$), beckons scholarly bemusement and tickles the intellectual palate with its unexpected flavor. Indeed, the sheer persistence of this correlation across the 16-year timeframe prompts contemplation on the enduring impact of internet memes in shaping societal and occupational landscapes, much like a vintage meme that continues to elicit chuckles in the digital ether.

The implications of this correlation extend beyond the realm of statistical intrigue, offering a peek into the whimsical tapestry of human behavior and cultural resonance. It serves as a gentle reminder that while pipelines may be laid with precision, the meandering pathways of meme culture can influence the ebb and flow of occupational preferences, much like an unseen current beneath the tranquil surface. The scatterplot, akin to a canvas capturing the fusion of art and science, mirrors the dance of virtual discourse and physical labor, inviting contemplation on the playful synchronicity of societal phenomena.

Thus, the findings of this study posit a fascinating nexus where internet culture and labor dynamics intersect, akin to the unanticipated fusion of peanut butter and sushi or the intriguing allure of a statistical tango. However, as we bask in the glow of this peculiar correlation, it is worth acknowledging that further research in this area may carry a diminishing return, much like a well-worn meme that loses its comedic zest upon repeated retelling. Hence, our inquiry into the intertwining realms of the 'change my mind' meme and the pipelayers of West Virginia reaches a

resounding denouement, underscoring the remarkable serendipity that underpins the enigmatic connections in our ever-evolving societal landscape. Thus, it is with a sense of whimsical closure that we assert the compelling finality of this unlikely correlation, suggesting that no further investigation is warranted in this delightful confluence of memetic resonance and occupational choices.