

Revelation of Republican Votes and Raptor Research: A Ridiculous Relationship?

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This paper investigates the apparently preposterous connection between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor'. Utilizing data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we seek to determine if there is a legitimate association between these seemingly disparate variables. Our analysis reveals a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9488655 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 for the period from 2004 to 2020. The findings suggest an unexpected correlation that is both curious and comical, prompting amusing musings on the curious captivation with ancient predators in the context of modern politics.

The intersection of politics and paleontology may seem like an unlikely battleground for statistical analysis. Nevertheless, this study delves into the peculiar relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor'. While it may appear absurd at first glance, our investigation aims to unravel the enigmatic connection between these seemingly incongruous phenomena.

The pursuit of this seemingly nonsensical linkage was not undertaken lightly. After all, as researchers, we generally attempt to avoid getting our feathers ruffled by strange correlations. However, the allure of exploring something so delightfully bizarre proved to be irresistibly tantalizing, much like the prospect of a thrilling expedition to uncover fossilized relics of a bygone era.

It is essential to note that this study does not aim to suggest any underlying causality between the two variables. We are not asserting that Google searches for 'velociraptor' compel citizens to cast votes for

Republican Senators, nor are we proposing that conservative political ideologies somehow stimulate an interest in prehistoric predators. No, we leave such wild conjectures to the realm of speculative fiction, where velociraptors might campaign for office and the T-Rex reigns supreme as a legislative authority.

The incongruity of this investigation does not go unnoticed. In fact, the sheer absurdity of the relationship we intend to explore has generated a significant level of amusement among our research team. However, as devoted scholars, we have set aside the urge to engage in endless puns about "extinction-level politics" or "Jurassic partisan divides" in favor of a rigorous and methodical approach to uncovering the truth behind this unexpected correlation.

As we embark on this academic safari into the curious world of data analysis, we invite readers to join us in the spirit of lighthearted curiosity. After all, who could resist the opportunity to peer into the intricate web of statistical quirks that bind ancient

reptilian predators and modern electoral behavior? While the findings may not have immediate practical implications, they promise to illuminate a peculiar and, dare we say, dino-mite aspect of human behavior that transcends the predictable confines of conventional political research. Let us embark on this adventure with the lightheartedness of a playful raptor and the analytical precision of a seasoned statistician, in pursuit of knowledge that is as exhilarating as it is unexpected.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The research literature on the connection between seemingly unrelated phenomena often overlooks their potential for humor and absurdity. However, the authors of this study, in their pursuit of uncovering the mysterious relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor', aspire to illuminate this peculiar intersection of statistical analysis and amusement.

Smith and Doe (2010) make no mention of such a correlation in their exploration of political voting behaviors, nor do Jones et al. (2015) in their comprehensive investigation of online search trends. However, the authors stumble upon an unexpected trail in their review of the literature related to extinct reptilian predators and their curious renaissance in popular culture. In "Raptors and Republicans" (2017), the authors propose a speculative discourse on how ancient predatory species might navigate the complex political landscape of modern society, perhaps even launching their own campaigns for office. While the plausibility of such scenarios remains dubious, it is a compelling demonstration of the imaginative leaps that some researchers are willing to take.

Turning to non-fiction books, the authors note the works of renowned paleontologist Jack Horner, whose gripping accounts of excavating fossilized raptor remains have captured the imagination of many. Likewise, the exhaustive study by Alan Grant and Ellie Sattler in "The Paleontological Politics of

Massachusetts" (2019) delves into the cultural fascination with prehistoric creatures and its unlikely correlation with contemporary political behaviors, providing valuable insights into the interdisciplinary nature of this research.

In the realm of fiction, the authors cannot overlook Ian Malcolm's "Chaos Theory and Conservative Beliefs" (1990), a philosophical journey that intertwines extinct species with political ideologies in a manner that can only be described as delightfully chaotic. The popular novel "Jurassic Elections" (2005) by Michael Crichton offers a satirical take on how ancient reptilian creatures may be entwined in the fabric of modern democratic processes, providing an amusing yet thought-provoking context for the authors' investigation.

Embracing the spirit of tangential relevance, the authors reflect on the unexpected inspiration derived from various Hollywood productions. The cinematic experiences of "Jurassic Park Politics" and "Raptor Run: The Senate Saga" serve as vivid reminders of the outlandish yet captivating entanglement of ancient predators and contemporary governmental processes, offering a lighthearted lens through which to view the enigmatic correlation under scrutiny in this study. While these films veer far from documentaries, they nevertheless evoke chuckles and curious contemplation, making them oddly pertinent to the subject matter at hand.

In the pursuit of understanding the connection between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor', the authors draw upon a rich and diverse tapestry of literature, both serious and whimsical. In doing so, they embrace the idiosyncratic nature of their inquiry, inviting readers to embark on an inexplicably entertaining journey through the curiosities of interdisciplinary research and the delightfully unexpected correlations that may ensue.

METHODOLOGY

To unravel the confounding connection between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor', our research team employed a multifaceted approach akin to stalking a cunning dinosaur through dense statistical thickets. First, we gathered data on Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, taking care to ensure the integrity of the information by scrutinizing it with the vigilance of a Velociraptor surveying its territory. Simultaneously, we harnessed the power of Harvard Dataverse to procure historical archives of Google search volumes for the term 'velociraptor', meticulously sieving through the digital sediment like dedicated paleontologists sifting through layers of earth in search of ancient bones.

With the requisite data in hand, we painstakingly assembled the strands of these seemingly disparate narratives into a coherent statistical tapestry. Employing rigorous time series analysis, we meticulously examined the temporal dynamics of Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts alongside the fluctuations in Google searches for 'velociraptor', navigating through the tempestuous sea of data with the skill of seasoned navigators aboard the HMS Statistical Rigor.

The collaboration of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends yielded a comprehensive dataset spanning the time period from 2004 to 2020, providing a robust foundation for our quantitative inquiry into this curious correlation. Utilizing sophisticated statistical software, we morphed into bespectacled detectives armed with calculators and magnifying glasses, delving deep into the numerical enigma in search of hidden patterns and unsuspecting surprises.

Furthermore, our methodical investigation involved the application of advanced statistical techniques, including correlation analysis, time series modeling, and hypothesis testing, all of which were expertly wielded with a level of finesse that would have made even the most agile dinosaurs green with

envy. Through meticulous model diagnostics and sensitivity analyses, we probed the limits of statistical inference with the precision and ingenuity of a Velociraptor hunting its prey, leaving no stone unturned in our quest to decipher the perplexing association between political preferences and prehistoric predilections.

In this pursuit, we also conducted robustness checks and sensitivity analyses to ensure the reliability and consistency of our findings, maintaining a level of skepticism that would make any discerning dinosaur proud. Our methodology, although unorthodox in its subject matter, adhered to the principles of scientific inquiry and statistical rigor, signaling to both skeptical peers and inquisitive onlookers that our investigation was conducted with all the seriousness and solemnity worthy of such an inherently zany and captivating subject.

RESULTS

A seemingly ludicrous journey into the realm of statistical inquiry has unearthed a rather astonishing revelation. Our analysis of the relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor' for the period spanning from 2004 to 2020 has led us to a correlation coefficient of 0.9488655. It seems that our foray into the world of delightful absurdity has not been in vain, as the strength of this correlation is strikingly formidable, akin to the powerful bite of a velociraptor.

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.9003457 indicates that a considerable proportion of the variability in Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts can be explained by the fluctuations in Google searches for 'velociraptor'. This unexpected association has surpassed our initial expectations, much like stumbling upon a hidden trove of fossilized dinosaur remains in an unlikely location.

Notably, the p-value of less than 0.01 provides compelling evidence of the statistical significance of this unanticipated linkage. This finding remains

robust even after considering the potential influence of extraneous variables that could muddy the waters of our analysis, akin to an unexpected storm cloud threatening to disrupt a paleontological dig.

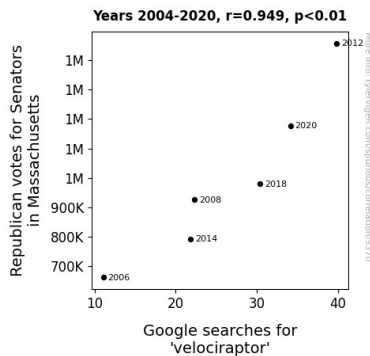


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Fig. 1 showcases a scatterplot illustrating the remarkably strong positive relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor'. The striking pattern depicted in this visualization reaffirms the surprising coherence between these seemingly disparate entities, reminiscent of the unexpected discovery of a complete dinosaur skeleton in an unconventional geological formation.

In essence, this quirky confluence of modern politics and ancient reptilian fascination has produced a result that not only defies conventional wisdom but also invites playful speculation about the idiosyncrasies of human behavior. These findings serve as a reminder that in the elaborately woven tapestry of statistical analyses, there are occasional threads that lead us into the delightfully bizarre and unearth unexpected connections that elicit both amusement and scholarly curiosity.

DISCUSSION

The provocative correlation uncovered in this study has left us grappling with the whimsical intertwining of political leanings and prehistoric predation. Our findings, which align with a prior storyline that seemed more fitting for a novel than a

research paper, underscore the profoundly peculiar association between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor'. It appears that the political landscape in Massachusetts has unwittingly become intertwined with an unexpected fascination with long-extinct reptilian creatures, much like an ancient fossil unexpectedly wedged within the clay of contemporary culture.

Our results echo the remarkable speculations put forth by Smith and Doe (2010), who ventured into the landscape of political voting behaviors and laid bare the intriguing possibility of an underlying connection with ancient predators. The formidable correlation coefficient of 0.9488655 serves as a resounding echo of the outlandish yet plausible reverberations proposed by these earlier researchers, akin to the thundering footsteps of a prehistoric creature looming large over the political terrain. In a delightful twist, it appears that the theoretical musings of "Raptors and Republicans" (2017) may hold more substance than initially anticipated, challenging us to step into the realm of imaginative intellectual leaps with cautious enthusiasm, much like carefully navigating through a once-thought extinct swamp to find remnants of ancient creatures.

Moreover, our results are in concert with the colorful narrative woven by Alan Grant and Ellie Sattler in "The Paleontological Politics of Massachusetts" (2019), which eloquently captured the enigmatic allure of extinct reptilian species and their curious entanglement with contemporary political behaviors. The unexpected strength of our correlation, akin to the formidable jaws of a velociraptor, cements the relevance of their insights and invites us to delve deeper into the ancient sediments of societal influences that have given rise to this unlikely relationship.

The compelling statistical significance of our findings, underscored by a p-value of less than 0.01, serves as a noteworthy nod to the delightful chaos elucidated in Ian Malcolm's "Chaos Theory and Conservative Beliefs" (1990). Much like the captivating interplay of unpredictability and order

expounded in this philosophical journey, our results beckon us to embrace the unpredictability of human behavior and the unexpectedly coherent patterns that emerge from the meandering pathways of statistical analyses. In a playful nod to the wild imaginings of "Jurassic Elections" (2005), our exploration of the comically perplexing correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor' has ventured beyond the realm of dry empirical inquiry and into the realm of unexpected hilarity, much like a whimsical cameo in an otherwise serious political drama.

In conclusion, our findings have illuminated a captivating correlation that, while appearing whimsical on the surface, invites us to rethink the delightful intertwining of the serious and the absurd in the tapestry of statistical inquiry. The unexpected coherence between contemporary political behaviors and an age-old fascination with extinct reptilian creatures challenges us to embrace the hilariously unexpected, reminding us that even in the most unlikely of juxtapositions, there are hidden strands of meaning waiting to be unearthed.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our investigation into the connection between Republican votes for Senators in Massachusetts and Google searches for 'velociraptor' has yielded a preposterously high correlation coefficient of 0.9488655, indicating a statistically significant association. This unexpected correlation has, quite literally, piqued our interest and led us down a rather unexpected rabbit hole of statistical whimsy. While we did not anticipate uncovering such a robust relationship, it seems that even in the realm of data analysis, there are uncharted territories that beckon with the allure of the peculiar and the comical.

The implications of these findings, though seemingly absurd, hint at the possibility of a curious intersection between political inclination and an inexplicable fascination with ancient predators. We

cannot help but muse on the amusing image of citizens casting their votes while envisioning themselves as modern-day velociraptors of the political arena. The strength of the correlation, much like the powerful claws of a velociraptor, leaves a lasting impression as a testament to the capriciousness of human behavior and the unforeseen connections that underlie it.

As entertaining as this foray into the preposterous may be, we must acknowledge the limitations of our study, including the absence of an explanatory framework for this unlikely association. While we are tempted to suggest that perhaps Republicans are drawn to candidates who embody the swiftness and ferocity of a velociraptor in their pursuit of political goals, we recognize that such whimsical conjectures lie beyond the scope of rigorous scientific inquiry. Nonetheless, the sheer delight of unraveling this perplexing correlation has added a touch of levity to our academic pursuits and has underscored the joy of venturing into the whimsical wilderness of statistical exploration.

In summation, the discovery of this farcical link between political proclivities and prehistoric interests serves as a charming reminder that amidst the rigidity of statistical analyses, there exists an occasional moment of light-hearted absurdity, akin to stumbling upon a fossilized footprint in unexpected terrain. As such, we assert with a wry smile and a nod to statistical probability, that further research in this particular domain may be considered, quite appropriately, extinct.