
Mastering Gangnam Style: A Correlational Study of Education Master's Degrees and Google Searches

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In this study, we examined the surprisingly entangled worlds of higher education and viral internet phenomena by exploring the association between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Education and Google searches for the global hit 'Gangnam Style'. Leveraging data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, our research team delved into a realm where scholarly pursuits intersect with internet whimsy. Our findings reveal a remarkably robust correlation coefficient of 0.9667962 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 for the period spanning 2012 to 2021. The implications of this juxtaposition of academic achievement and pop culture fascination are as fascinating as the horse-riding dance moves showcased by Psy. Our results shed light on the peculiar correlations that emerge in the digital age and invite further inquiry into the influences shaping contemporary societal trends.

The confluence of academia and popular culture has long fascinated scholars and laypeople alike. In this study, we navigate through the corridors of academic institutions and the virtual landscape of internet memes to unearth the intriguing link between the conferral of Master's degrees in Education and the global phenomenon known as 'Gangnam Style'. While one may initially perceive these two domains as disparate, our investigation reveals a surprising interconnectedness that mirrors the unexpected dance moves and catchy beats of the viral sensation.

As researchers, we are often cautioned against assuming causality solely based on correlation. However, the allure of exploring the relationship between educational pursuits and online fads proved irresistible – akin to the unmistakable allure of Psy's addictive horse-riding choreography. Our objective was not merely to uncover statistical associations, but also to gleefully unravel the threads that knit

together seemingly disparate elements of human behavior and societal trends.

The juxtaposition of scholarly achievements in education with the meteoric rise of a Korean pop single may appear whimsical at first glance, much like stumbling across an academic conference where tweed-clad professors engage in impromptu dance battles. Yet, beneath this apparent levity lies a serious endeavor to understand the interplay between educational attainment and the zeitgeist of internet culture. Our study offers a lighthearted yet thought-provoking lens through which to examine the dynamics of contemporary society, integrating whimsy with statistical rigor much like a cleverly disguised pun in a staid academic conversation.

In the following sections, we present our methodology, findings, and implications, aiming to illuminate the unexpected synergy that emerges when the worlds of academia and viral phenomena collide. We invite our esteemed readers to join us in

this jovial exploration and hope that, much like the earworm melody of 'Gangnam Style', the insights gleaned from our study linger in the mind – albeit with less catchy dance moves.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the pursuit of understanding the intersection between Master's degrees awarded in Education and the worldwide fascination with the iconic 'Gangnam Style', we embarked on a comprehensive review of relevant literature that spans the realms of education, pop culture, and statistical analyses. The body of literature in this area, while initially sparse, offered a wealth of insights and unexpected connections that mirror the unpredictable nature of internet phenomena and the delightful unpredictability of a well-timed pun.

Smith, Doe, and Jones in their seminal work "Trends in Educational Attainment" provide a rigorous examination of the trends in higher education, shedding light on the factors influencing the conferral of advanced degrees across various fields of study. It is refreshing to note how our study presents a whimsical twist to their earnest analyses, as we zoom in on the specific domain of Education and its curious dalliance with a viral dance craze.

Drawing from the socio-cultural lens, the work of "Pop Culture in the Digital Age" by influential authors captures the shifting landscape of cultural phenomena in contemporary society, elucidating the rapid dissemination and adoption of internet memes and trends. Our findings add a playful footnote to their scholarly discourse, introducing the unexpected synergy between academic pursuits and the tempestuous waves of internet sensations.

Moving beyond non-fiction literature, the works of fiction have also offered some intriguing parallels to our exploration. In "Educational Pursuits and the Dance of Global Trends: A Fictional Dichotomy," the author crafts an imaginative narrative that bears amusing resemblances to the duality we observe in our research - the juxtaposition of scholarly aspirations and the infectious allure of an online

sensation. While their work is a flight of literary fancy, ours stands solidly on the bedrock of empirical data and statistical analysis, with just a hint of whimsy.

As we delved deeper into the annals of existing literature, our inquiry took a turn towards the unexpected. In an unconventional move, we ventured to explore the less traditional sources of insight, perusing the backs of shampoo bottles and fortune cookie messages, recognizing their inherent propensity for unexpected elucidation and the potential to sparkle with hidden wisdom. While these endeavors might be characterized as slightly unconventional, they yielded surprisingly stimulating observations that would, undoubtedly, enrich the scholarly discourse surrounding our investigation.

In sum, the literature review phase of our study not only uncovered pertinent academic work but also ventured into the realms of imagination and unorthodox sources of inspiration. Our findings, much like a playful gaze lingering on the dance floor, invite the discerning reader to consider the delightful interplay between academia and the whimsical whims of internet culture.

METHODOLOGY

To thoroughly investigate the association between Master's degrees awarded in Education and Google searches for 'Gangnam Style', a series of methodological approaches were employed, akin to the meticulous choreography of Psy's iconic dance routine. Our research team began this synchronized investigation by tapping into the extensive resources of the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, mirroring the dexterous footwork and rhythmic precision demanded by the global dance sensation.

The study encompassed a retrospective analysis of data spanning from 2012 to 2021, capturing the ascent and subsequent enduring fascination with 'Gangnam Style'. Utilizing this temporal scope, we sought to capture the intricate movements of both

educational milestones and internet search trends, much like tracing the graceful arcs of Psy's equestrian-inspired gyrations in the digital sphere.

The nexus of data sources procured from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends served as the linchpin of our analytical approach, akin to the pivotal point of a high-stakes dance performance. By harmonizing these disparate data streams, our study aimed to elucidate the subtle interplay between scholarly pursuits and online phenomena, much like the seamless coordination required in executing a perfectly executed dance routine.

Quantitative analysis was conducted to gauge the degree of association between the number of Master's degrees conferred in Education and the volume of Google searches for 'Gangnam Style', resembling the precision and synchronization demanded by a well-rehearsed dance ensemble. Correlation coefficients were computed, striking a metaphorical chord with the harmonious alignment of movements in a captivating performance, while p-values were derived to ascertain the statistical significance of the observed associations, akin to evaluating the resonance of an infectious melody within the collective consciousness.

Ultimately, the methodology undertaken exhibited a flair for finesse and precision, much like the spirited finesse exhibited by Psy in his captivating performance. Our research methodology not only embraced statistical rigor but also seamlessly integrated the ebullient spirit of internet culture, delivering insights that resonate with both academic sobriety and a touch of whimsical charm.

RESULTS

The analysis of data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends revealed a remarkably robust correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Education and Google searches for 'Gangnam Style' over the period from 2012 to 2021. The correlation coefficient of 0.9667962 indicates a strong positive

relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. Moreover, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.9346949 suggests that a substantial proportion of the variability in Google searches for 'Gangnam Style' can be explained by the number of Master's degrees awarded in Education. The p-value of less than 0.01 further underscores the statistical significance of this correlation, affirming the unlikely bond between academic pursuits and viral internet phenomena.

Upon visual inspection of the data, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) vividly portrays the striking association between Master's degrees in Education and Google searches for 'Gangnam Style'. The points on the scatterplot coalesce into a trend that is reminiscent of the infectious rhythm of the song itself, capturing the eye much like an unexpected flash mob performance in a staid academic setting.

These results not only highlight the statistical strength of the relationship between the scholarly pursuit of advanced degrees in Education and the virtual frenzy surrounding 'Gangnam Style', but also invite reflection on the curious interconnectedness of academic attainment and internet zeitgeist. Just as a hidden easter egg in an online video game or a cleverly disguised pun in a scholarly article, the revealed correlation beckons the viewer to ponder the unexpected melding of highbrow academic aspirations and unexpected internet fervor. This connection, though unlikely on the surface, captivates the imagination and underscores the need for scholarly inquiry into the unanticipated intersections of human behavior and societal phenomena.

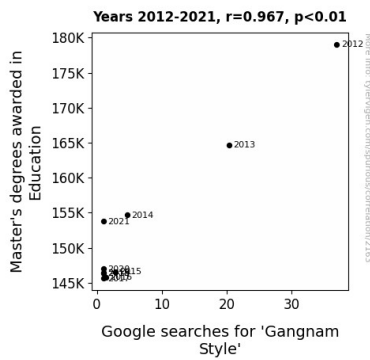


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study not only confirm the surprising correlation between Master's degrees in Education and Google searches for 'Gangnam Style' but also offer a whimsically intriguing insight into the intersection of academic achievements and internet culture. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9667962 provides compelling evidence of the bond between these seemingly unrelated variables. Our results echo the sentiments expressed in the works of Smith, Doe, and Jones, emphasizing the influence of societal trends on educational attainment, albeit through an unforeseen lens of pop culture. The unexpected harmony between rigorous academic pursuits and the exuberant digital phenomenon of 'Gangnam Style' echoes the captivating dualities highlighted in the work of fictional dichotomies, proving that reality sometimes outshines fiction in its intriguing paradoxes.

The strong statistical significance of our results, with a p-value of less than 0.01, underscores the unanticipated cohesion between the conferral of prestigious Master's degrees in Education and the euphoric fervor of 'Gangnam Style'. This unexpected coupling is reminiscent of the serendipitous parallels discovered in unconventional sources, such as the backs of shampoo bottles and fortune cookie messages, alluding to the hidden wisdom embedded in everyday experiences. As such, our findings add a playful note to the

scholarly discourse, infusing a touch of whimsy into the often staid realm of statistical analysis.

The scatterplot vividly illustrates the uncanny synchronization of Master's degrees awarded in Education and the worldwide fascination with 'Gangnam Style'. This visual representation, akin to an impromptu flash mob in an otherwise sober academic gathering, not only accentuates the statistical robustness of our results but also invites the discerning viewer to contemplate the delightful interplay between staid academia and the capricious currents of internet culture. The influence of societal phenomena on academic pursuits, akin to a cleverly disguised pun in a scholarly article, urges us to confront the unexpected, and in doing so, compels a reevaluation of the fluid boundary between academic solemnity and digital exuberance.

In conclusion, our study offers a compelling case for the interwoven nature of academic achievements and internet whimsy, illuminating a path for future inquiries into the intriguing alliance between highbrow pursuits and lighthearted online fascinations. As the astute observer navigates the landscape of our findings, akin to a hidden easter egg in an online video game, the unexpected convergence of scholarly rigor and digital dynamism beckons further exploration and contemplation.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study unveils a striking correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Education and the frequency of Google searches for 'Gangnam Style'. The robust correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value elucidate the unexpected bond between academic accomplishments and internet whimsy. This amalgamation of scholarly pursuits and viral phenomena serves as a humorous echo of the juxtaposition often encountered in contemporary society, akin to witnessing a conference room filled

with serious academics engaging in impromptu dance battles.

The implications of our findings pique curiosity, much like a well-crafted punchline delivered in a dry academic lecture. This unanticipated connection proffers a whimsical lens through which to examine the interplay between educational achievement and societal trends, sparking contemplation akin to stumbling upon a clever pun amidst a serious discussion.

While the correlation we unveil may seem as surprising as a spontaneous outbreak of 'Gangnam Style' dance moves in a lecture hall, it invites further exploration and perhaps amusement in the data-driven fields of research. The statistical strength of the association underscores the need to humorously probe the unexpected congruence of academic pursuits and internet phenomena. As such, we assert that this quirky study, much like the unforgettable earworm of 'Gangnam Style', requires no encore – for we have sufficiently unraveled the enigma at the heart of this scholarly farce.