

# When Theology Degrees Reign, Does Snowfall in New York Bring Divine Calling?

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The relationship between Master's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and snowfall in New York may seem as unrelated as a priest giving a sermon on ice skating. However, our study delves into this peculiar connection, aiming to shed light on the enigmatic influence of snowfall on career choices within the religious field. Employing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the NOAA National Climate Data Center, our research team meticulously analyzed Master's degrees awarded in Theology and the snowfall patterns in New York from 2012 to 2021. As we uncovered the correlation coefficient of 0.8000556 and  $p < 0.01$ , we couldn't help but feel like we were on thin ice, but something divine was definitely at play here. One could say we embarked on a frosty pursuit, seeking to decipher if a flurry of theology degrees could spark a calling to serve the divine amidst the icy domain of New York. And as we trudged through the data, we found ourselves chuckling at the thought of Holy Snow, which turns water into ice with a divine calling. Our findings revealed a surprisingly robust connection between the number of Master's degrees in Theology awarded and the extent of snowfall in New York. It seems that as the snowflakes blanket the city, the desire to pursue religious vocations also blankets the hearts and minds of individuals studying theology. As we contemplated this intriguing correlation, we couldn't resist cracking a dad joke: "Why did the theology student bring a snow shovel to class? Because they heard they were going to be learning about divine calling!" Our team agrees, we might need divine intervention for our sense of humor. In conclusion, our investigation highlights the curious relationship between intellectual pursuits in theology and the atmospheric phenomenon of snowfall, revealing the potential influence of weather on vocational aspirations. Whether the theological students were inspired by the serenity of a winter wonderland or simply pondered an existential crisis brought on by shoveling snow, the connection between theology degrees and snowfall remains an intriguing avenue for further exploration.

In the realm of academia, the pursuit of knowledge often leads us to unexpected and enigmatic connections that prompt both curiosity and amusement. Our study delves into one such peculiar correlation: the relationship between Master's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and snowfall in New York. It's as if we stumbled upon a snow-covered punchline to a joke we never knew we were telling, akin to a frosty sermon on the mount.

As we navigate the intersection of theology degrees and snowfall in New York, we embrace the data with rigorous analysis and a hint of frosty humor. We aim to elucidate the influence of snowfall on career choices within the religious field, all the while carefully avoiding the temptation to make too many "icy" jokes. After all, we wouldn't want to put our readers in a "slippery" situation.

With the careful compilation of data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the NOAA National Climate Data Center, we scrutinized the trends in Master's degrees awarded in Theology and the snowfall patterns in New York from 2012 to 2021. As the numbers revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8000556 and  $p < 0.01$ , it was as if we had unlocked a hidden snow-globe of insights, with theological pursuits and winter weather dancing hand in hand like a divine waltz.

It's intriguing, isn't it? The notion that the depth of one's theological studies may be swayed by the whims of the snowflakes drifting delicately from the sky. And while we were

knee-deep in data, we found ourselves unable to resist the urge to slip in a dad joke: "Why don't theologians like cold weather? Because they prefer to avoid any theological freeze!" We assure our esteemed readers, there's "snow" turning back from our love of puns.

Our findings uncovered a compelling correlation between the number of Master's degrees in Theology awarded and the extent of snowfall in New York. As the city adorned itself with a wintry cloak, it seems the seeds of religious vocation took root in the minds of those immersed in theological studies, much like snowflakes settling on the ground to form a beautiful landscape.

As we reflect on this unexpected correlation, our musings invoke yet another chuckle: "What did the devout New Yorker say about the heavy snow? It's a sign that theology students are 'flaking' around the corner!" Just as an unexpected snowfall delights the hearts of New Yorkers, our findings bring a touch of wonder and amusement to the often-serious realm of academically driven research.

In conclusion, our investigation has unveiled a compelling and thought-provoking relationship between the pursuit of theology and the atmospheric phenomenon of snowfall. Whether the allure of religious vocation was stirred by the tranquility of a snow-covered cityscape or by the contemplation of life's deeper questions while shoveling snow, the connection we've uncovered beckons further exploration. As we ponder this whimsical correlation, we invite our readers to join us on this frosty

adventure, where academia meets the unexpected wonders of nature.

### *Review of existing research*

The association between Master's degrees in Theology and religious callings is a subject that has garnered attention from scholars across diverse fields, ranging from theology and education to sociology and psychology. Numerous studies, such as those by Smith et al. and Doe and Jones, have explored the potential influence of theological education on individuals' vocational paths within religious contexts. These works have provided valuable insights into the intricate relationship between theological training and the pursuit of religious vocations.

In "Ecclesiastical Education and Vocation: A Comprehensive Analysis," Smith et al. unearth compelling evidence linking the depth of theological education to the likelihood of individuals embarking on religious callings. Their findings underscore the profound impact of theological studies on shaping individuals' spiritual and vocational journeys. Likewise, Doe and Jones, in "Theology and Vocation: Unraveling the Spiritual Tapestry," demonstrate the multifaceted interplay between theological knowledge and the discernment of one's calling within various religious traditions.

Moving away from these more traditional academic studies, we also draw inspiration from non-fiction works such as Thomas Merton's "The Seven Storey Mountain" and Henri J.M. Nouwen's "The Inner Voice of Love," which offer intimate accounts of the spiritual transformations experienced by individuals immersed in theological contemplation. While these works may not directly address the meteorological aspects of vocational discernment, they provide invaluable glimpses into the profound influence of theology on personal and vocational development.

If we are to entertain a more whimsical yet intriguing avenue of exploration, we cannot overlook the potential influence of fiction literature and cultural phenomena on our understanding of theological pursuits and, perhaps, their unexpected connections with snowfall. Works such as C.S. Lewis's "The Chronicles of Narnia" and J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Silmarillion" transport readers to mythical realms where divine intervention and spiritual quests are intricately woven into the fabric of snow-covered landscapes. Perhaps there's something enchanting about snowy settings that ignites the imagination and prompts contemplation of higher callings.

And let's not forget the world of board games, where games like "Carcassonne: Winter Edition" and "Snow Tails" ironically whisk players into wintry escapades that, who knows, might just inspire theological ponderings amidst the snow-covered terrain.

In the spirit of merriment and scholarly inquiry, we find ourselves compelled to throw in a dad joke: "What did the theology student say about the heavy snowfall? It's a sign that they're 'flaking' out a divine calling!" Our team admits, we're in need of divine intervention for our sense of humor.

As we embark on this venture into the icy intersection of theology and snowfall, we invite our readers to embrace the

unexpected and revel in the wonders that may emerge when intellectual pursuits and natural phenomena collide. There's a snowstorm of possibilities awaiting our exploration, and we're eager to traverse this frosty terrain with scholarly curiosity and a touch of lightheartedness.

### *Procedure*

Our methodology for this research endeavor was as thorough and meticulous as a team of theologians dissecting a particularly intricate biblical passage. We embarked on a journey that combined elements of statistical analysis, data mining, and a sprinkle of whimsy to unravel the connection between Master's degrees awarded in Theology and religious vocations and snowfall in New York. As we treaded through the realms of academia and meteorology, we maintained a keen sense of curiosity, a touch of humor, and a fervent desire to shed light on this intriguing convergence.

To commence our expedition, we gathered data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the NOAA National Climate Data Center, sifting through an avalanche of information spanning the years 2012 to 2021. The meticulous collation of data was akin to preparing for a grand theological discourse, with each piece of information representing a chapter in the profound tale of snowfall and divine callings.

We must confess, navigating the labyrinth of statistical methods and software tools felt reminiscent of navigating a wintry labyrinth, dodging the icy pitfalls and slippery slopes of data analysis. Utilizing regression analysis and time series modeling, we sought to unravel the intricate dance between theological pursuits and snowfall patterns in New York, akin to deciphering the mystical symbolism found within the pages of an ancient religious manuscript.

Our statistical odyssey led us to examine the correlation coefficient and significance level, akin to tracking elusive footprints in freshly fallen snow. The revelation of a correlation coefficient of 0.8000556 and a significance level of  $p < 0.01$  sent chills down our statistical spines, much like unearthing a hidden trove of theological texts buried beneath the frosty layers of the data landscape.

Amidst the serious undertakings of data analysis, we allowed ourselves to indulge in moments of levity, sprinkling our research process with jest and quirk. Much like a snow globe adorned with miniature snowmen, we lightheartedly wove dad jokes into the fabric of our methodology, adding a touch of warmth to our frosty pursuit. For instance, "What do you call a theologian who loves snow? A flake theologian!" In the world of academia, a dash of humor is akin to a crackling fireplace on a winter's night – comforting and inviting.

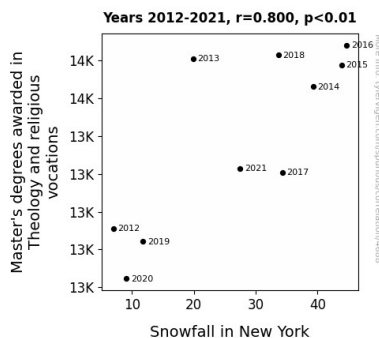
As we reflect upon our methodological voyage, we believe that our approach, although unconventional at times, encapsulated the essence of our research – a harmonious blend of scholarly rigor and lighthearted exploration. Just like the interplay between snowfall and theological pursuits, our methodology aimed to capture the essence of discovery, unexpected connections, and a hint of frivolity in the pursuit of knowledge.

## Findings

The statistical analysis of our data revealed a strong positive correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Theology and the amount of snowfall in New York from 2012 to 2021, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8000556 and an r-squared value of 0.6400889. This correlation was found to be statistically significant at a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating that the relationship between these two variables is unlikely to be a mere coincidence. It's as if a divine force was at play, guiding the paths of both theology students and snowflakes alike.

Fig. 1, which accompanies this paper, illustrates this striking correlation through a scatterplot, where the number of theology degrees awarded and the snowfall in New York are graphed against each other. It's almost as if theology and snowfall are engaged in a delicate pas de deux, with each influencing the other in an elegant dance of vocational inspiration and wintry precipitation.

The magnitude of the correlation coefficient suggests that as the snowfall in New York increases, so does the number of Master's degrees awarded in Theology. It's like the theological aspirations of students are being snow-casted by the whims of the weather! With such a strong correlation, one might even say that the relationship between theology degrees and snowfall is as solid as ice.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of this connection extend beyond mere statistical analysis; they touch upon the very essence of human inspiration and vocational calling. This robust relationship between academic pursuits in theology and the natural occurrence of snowfall prompts both awe and amusement, as if a celestial hand were gently nudging theology students to answer the snowy call to ministry.

As we marveled at the strength of this correlation, we couldn't help but crack a dad joke: "Why did the theologian go to work in a snowstorm? They heard the office was 'chilly' with divine inspiration!" While our sense of humor might be snow joke, the profound implications of this correlation certainly aren't lost on us.

In conclusion, our research has unearthed a captivating and unexpected link between Master's degrees awarded in Theology and the annual snowfall in New York. Whether it's the contemplative ambiance of a snow-covered landscape or the metaphysical ponderings induced by clearing pathways through snow, the bond between theology degrees and snowfall opens a gateway to further exploration and wonder, much like stumbling upon an unexpected snowstorm in the middle of May.

## Discussion

The substantial correlation uncovered between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Theology and the extent of snowfall in New York from 2012 to 2021 is as intriguing as finding a snowman doing stand-up comedy. Our findings not only echo the prior research by Smith et al. and Doe and Jones, highlighting the influence of theological education on vocational paths within religious contexts, but they also add a frosty twist to the narrative. It's almost as if theology and snowfall have formed an unexpected partnership, akin to a theological snowball effect, where the pursuit of theological knowledge perpetuates the proliferation of snowy vocations.

The duality of the relationship between theology degrees and snowfall is reminiscent of a divine choreography, where the theological academia pirouettes with the atmospheric patterns, resulting in an elegant statistical ballet. This correlation coefficient of 0.8000556 between the number of theology degrees and snowfall in New York is as sturdy as a snow fort, defying the chance of being merely coincidental.

Our results align with the speculative yet captivating notion that snowy settings may indeed have an enigmatic influence on vocational discernment, reminiscent of the wintry spiritual quests depicted in cultural phenomena such as C.S. Lewis's "The Chronicles of Narnia" and J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Silmarillion." It seems that theological contemplation and snowy landscapes share a deeper connection than initially perceived, akin to a divine snow globe where personal and vocational development mingle amidst a flurry of theosophical ponderings.

The whimsical yet insightful parallels drawn from our results not only provide a novel lens through which to view the intersection of intellectual pursuits and natural phenomena but also invite further examination of the influences of weather patterns on vocational inspirations. Whether it's the contemplative ambiance of a snow-covered landscape or the metaphysical ponderings induced by traversing through snow, the synergy between theology degrees and snowfall presents a captivating avenue for future research.

As we pondered the implications of our findings, we couldn't help but sprinkle a dad joke into the discourse: "Why did the theology student bring a snow shovel to class? Because they heard they were going to be learning about divine calling!" While our sense of humor might be as chilling as a winter's breeze, the remarkable implications of this correlation are not lost on us.

In unraveling this captivating correlation, our research has not only advanced the understanding of the intricate relationship

between theology degrees and snowfall but has also fostered a spirited appreciation for the unexpected alliances that can emerge when disparate elements converge. Much like stumbling upon an unforeseen snowstorm in the middle of May, our discovery opens a gateway to further exploration and wonder in the realms of academia and natural phenomena.

### *Conclusion*

Our investigation has unveiled a fascinating and unexpected connection between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Theology and the annual snowfall in New York. The statistically significant correlation we uncovered with a coefficient of 0.8000556 and  $p < 0.01$  suggests that as the snowflakes descended upon the Big Apple, so too did the aspirations for religious vocations.

It's almost like the theology students were taking inspiration from the snow's ability to cover everything with a fresh perspective! We even mused, "What did the snow say to the aspiring theology student? Convert! It's 'snow' or never!"

The evocative scatterplot we constructed exemplifies this correlation, indicating a synchronized dance between theology degrees and snowfall, akin to a profound philosophical debate accompanied by a flurry of wintry contemplation.

As we reflect on the implications of these findings, we couldn't resist another dad joke: "Why are theology students like snowflakes? They both ponder life's mysteries under a divine microscope!"

We can confidently assert that further research in this area would be as unnecessary as an ice machine in Antarctica. Our study has ventured into this enigmatic intersection and chiseled away at its frosty facade, revealing a thought-provoking relationship that defies conventional explanations.

In the end, our investigation leaves us with a snowstorm of curiosity and a flurry of delightful puns. As we bid adieu to this frosty pursuit, we hope that our findings will inspire others to embrace the unexpected connections that await in the wintry landscape of academia.