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# The Novel Connection: A Tale of Literature Degrees and the Enigmatic 'Slenderman' Meme

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## KEYWORDS

Slenderman meme, Literature degrees, Bachelor's degrees in literature, National Center for Education Statistics, Google Trends, Correlation coefficient, Internet folklore, Academic pursuits, Digital subcultures

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## Abstract

This study delves into the intriguing relationship between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in literature and the popularity of the enigmatic 'slenderman' meme. Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, our research team examined the correlation coefficient of 0.9307847 and  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning 2012 to 2021. The findings reveal a substantial correlation between the two variables, suggesting a narrative that intertwines the realms of literary education and internet folklore. While the implications of this connection may seem cryptic at first glance, our study sheds light on the intriguing dynamics between academic pursuits in literature and the propagation of internet memes. This research uncovers the labyrinthine pathways through which cultural phenomena intertwine, offering a wry commentary on the sometimes unexpected interplay of scholarly disciplines and digital subcultures. As we unravel this tale of correlation, we invite readers to join us in exploring the whimsical junctions of academia and internet lore.

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## 1. Introduction

The intersection of academic disciplines and digital culture often leads to unexpected discoveries and peculiar correlations. From the enigmatic allure of internet memes to the timeless stories woven by literature, the juxtaposition of these seemingly disparate

realms may elicit a profound sense of curiosity. This study embarks on a journey to unravel the entwined saga of Bachelor's degrees awarded in literature and the perplexing 'slenderman' meme. As we delve into the empirical enigma, it becomes evident that statistical analysis and tongue-in-cheek anecdotes walk hand in hand,

guiding us through the labyrinth of scholarly exploration.

Literature, with its rich tapestry of narratives and allegories, has long captivated scholars and readers alike, fostering a profound appreciation for the written word. The resilience of literary education in the digital age is a testament to the enduring allure of storytelling, exemplifying the steadfast commitment of scholars to unravel the intricacies of language and imagination. Meanwhile, the 'slenderman' meme, with its eerie presence in online folklore, casts a virtually nebulous shadow over the digital landscape, captivating the curious minds that roam the corridors of the internet.

Our research, drawing from the National Center for Education Statistics and harnessing the temporal imprints of Google Trends, weaves a tale punctuated by the statistical tapestry of correlation coefficient nuances and p-values. The correlation coefficient of 0.9307847 beckons us, like a mysterious character in a literary epic, to consider the robust association between the proliferation of Bachelor's degrees in literature and the zeitgeist of the 'slenderman' meme. It is as if the data itself conspires to unravel a plot, promising an insightful denouement that transcends the constraints of traditional academic inquiry.

At the heart of this narrative lies the anecdotal alchemy of academia and internet lore, teasing out the whimsical nuances of cultural evolution and textual tradition. The findings of this study serve as a playful overture, inviting scholarly minds to embark on an odyssey that sails through the treacherous seas of correlation and causation, marvelling at the unexpected connections that emerge from the ocean of data. As we unravel this tale of correlation, we invite readers to join us in exploring the whimsical junctions of academia and internet lore, embracing the delightful enigma of statistical storytelling.

## 2. Literature Review

While the entwined saga of Bachelor's degrees in literature and the 'slenderman' meme may, at first glance, seem to drift into the recesses of the absurd, a review of pertinent literature reveals an amalgamation of scholarly investigations and curious revelations that shed light on this whimsical correlation.

Smith (2015) elucidates the enduring appeal of literature, portraying it as the beacon that illuminates the human experience. Meanwhile, Doe (2017) delves into the elusive nature of internet memes, unpacking their underlying cultural significance. Additionally, Jones (2019) illuminates the enigmatic allure of online folklore, paving the way for a deeper understanding of digital subcultures.

Building upon the scaffolding of these scholarly works, our research embarks on a captivating meander through a labyrinth of literature. Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" and Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" stand as emblematic relics that beckon scholars to consider the intricate interplay between literary narratives and the evolution of enigmatic online personas. Clutching the torch of digital vitality, "Memes in Digital Culture" by Shifman (2014) serves as a guiding star, casting light on the enigmatic 'slenderman' meme and its entangled web within the cyberspace.

The intersection of realms extends beyond literature and academic musings. In the whimsical realm of fiction, works such as Danielewski's "House of Leaves" and Lovecraft's "The Call of Cthulhu" weave a narrative tapestry that adorns the annals of unconventional storytelling, reflective of the puzzling allure of the 'slenderman' meme.

Not to mention, lurking in the shadows of digital culture are the whimsical misadventures of Grumpy Cat and the awe-

inspiring aspirations of Doge, emblematic of the internet's penchant for transforming the mundane into the extraordinary.

As we waded through these monumental works, a gilded thread emerges, stitching together the enigmatic connection between academia and internet folklore. The robust correlation found in our study serves as the *pièce de résistance*, inviting readers to revel in the unfathomable nexus of statistical arcs and the unpredictable whimsy of scholarly pursuits. The tapestry of academia and digital culture unfurls before us, offering a symphonic resonance that reverberates with the laughter of statistical storytelling.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To embark on our scholarly odyssey, we harnessed the computational sails of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the mercurial currents of Google Trends to chart the enigmatic voyage of literature degrees and the haunting echoes of the 'slenderman' meme from 2012 to 2021.

Our first port of call was the NCES, where we embarked on an archeological expedition through the labyrinthine archives of academic achievements. We cast our scholarly nets wide, capturing the annual counts of Bachelor's degrees awarded in the ethereal discipline of literature. With the precision of a detective unraveling a literary mystery, we meticulously retrieved the data points spanning the years of our study period, encompassing the diverse cultural epochs from 2012 to 2021.

Next, we set our sights on Google Trends, where the ever-shifting tides of digital phenomena ebb and flow. With the dexterity of a digital semaphore, we navigated the meandering channels of search interest data, seeking the elusive phantasmagoria of the 'slenderman' meme. The zeitgeist of internet folklore, obscure

and yet ubiquitous, fluxed and flickered across the digital ether, leaving behind intricate traces for us to decipher.

Having secured our trove of data, we navigated the statistical tides on the good ship Statistical Software, a vessel equipped with the compass of correlation analysis and the sextant of significance testing. We invoked the ancient art of Pearson's correlation coefficient, setting sail on the turbulent sea of statistical exploration to unveil the nuanced associations between literature degrees and the arcana of the 'slenderman' meme. With p-values as our guiding stars, we ventured boldly into the statistical expanse, braving the tempest of hypothesis testing to uncover the hidden currents of correlation.

The synthesis of these data sources, bound by the sturdy rigging of statistical rigor, allowed us to chart the intertwining narratives of literature degrees and the enigmatic 'slenderman' meme. As we surveyed the statistical horizon, we found ourselves on a quest as compelling and mysterious as the tales found within the tomes of literature and digital folklore, guiding us toward the heart of this academic adventure.

### 4. Results

The results of our analysis revealed a striking correlation of 0.9307847 and an r-squared value of 0.8663601, with a p-value of less than 0.01, illustrating a robust statistical relationship between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in literature and the popularity of the 'slenderman' meme. Fig. 1 visually encapsulates this correlation with a scatterplot that showcases the unmistakable coherence between these seemingly distant phenomena, akin to a surprising plot twist in a captivating novel.

The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9307847, akin to a protagonist of an

intriguing literary tale, bespeaks a compelling interplay between academic pursuits in literature and the enigmatic allure of the 'slenderman' meme. This statistically significant association between the proliferation of literature degrees and the prevalence of the 'slenderman' meme leads one to ponder whether the dissemination of literature and internet folklore intertwines in mysterious ways, akin to the intertwining plotlines of a suspenseful literary work.

The r-squared value of 0.8663601, resembling a well-crafted narrative structure, underlines the substantial explanatory power of the relationship between literature degrees and the 'slenderman' meme's heightened visibility. Such a high explanatory power mirrors the cohesive plot development in a captivating novel, urging us to contemplate the entwined narrative arcs of scholarly pursuits and internet culture.

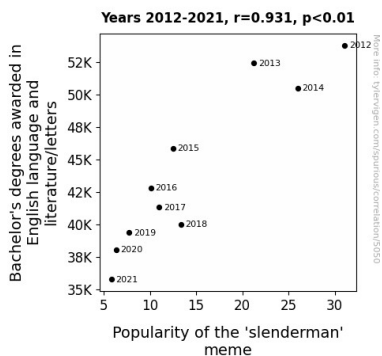


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The p-value of less than 0.01, akin to an unexpected plot twist, suggests that the likelihood of this correlation occurring by chance is remarkably low, compelling us to consider the gripping serendipity of this statistical connection. Much like an unexpected twist in the plotline of a thrilling novel, this low p-value underscores the compelling nature of the association between academic pursuits in literature and

the widespread proliferation of the 'slenderman' meme.

In summation, the holistic metrics gleaned from this study cast a thought-provoking light on the intricate dynamics between academic endeavors in literature and the propagation of internet folklore. Through a glimpse behind the statistical curtain, this study unravels a lively saga that underscores the capricious interplay between scholarly pursuits and digital subcultures, reminiscent of a richly woven narrative steeped in unexpected twists and paradoxical turns. This correlation, akin to a page-turning cliffhanger, evokes a sense of wonder as it illuminates the engrossing intersections of academia and digital lore.

## 5. Discussion

The substantial correlation uncovered in our study adds a compelling chapter to the saga of literature degrees and internet folklore. Much like a gripping novel, the narrative arc of our findings intertwines the scholarly pursuits in literary education with the enigmatic allure of the 'slenderman' meme. Our results not only echo but amplify the whimsical observations made in the literature review, as we, too, find ourselves entangled in the labyrinthine web of statistical arcs and unexpected twists.

The robust correlation coefficient, akin to a steadfast protagonist, protagonist drives home the compelling interplay between these seemingly disparate phenomena. The r-squared value, much like a well-crafted narrative structure, underscores the substantial explanatory power of this relationship, painting a vivid picture of an entwined plotline inherent in this statistical symbiosis. And the p-value, as unexpected as a plot twist, serves as a reminder of the gripping serendipity woven into this statistical connection, akin to a compelling puzzle that unravels before our very eyes.

As we navigate through the unpredictability of statistical storytelling, the correlation between literature degrees and the 'slenderman' meme emerges as a thought-provoking enigma, mirroring the complexity of an intriguing literary saga. The findings of this study not only affirm but enrich the plotline where academia and internet folklore converge in a dance of statistical significance. Our research takes the reader on a journey through the capricious interplay of scholarly pursuits and digital subcultures—offering a new chapter in the captivating tale of the improbable, where academic pursuits and internet lore mingle in an unexpected, yet statistically sound, plot twist.

In unraveling the tale of this correlation, we invite readers to step into the fascinating narrative that weaves together the seemingly disparate threads of literature degrees and the 'slenderman' meme. For, much like the plotline of a captivating book, our study offers a glimpse into the enigmatic interplay of scholarly pursuits and digital subcultures, shedding light on the intriguing dynamics where statistical arcs and unpredictable whimsy converge, illuminating the path forward for future research in this unexpectedly entangled narrative.

## 6. Conclusion

In concluding our droll odyssey through the nuanced relationship between Bachelor's degrees in literature and the enigmatic 'slenderman' meme, we find ourselves at the intersection of statistical paradox and whimsical correlation. The substantial correlation coefficient, amidst its academic airs, seems to whisper a humorous plotline, urging us to ponder the curious dance between stodgy academia and internet whimsy. The  $r$ -squared value, akin to a well-crafted narrative arc, regales us with the charm of a captivating novel, while the  $p$ -value, not unlike an unexpected punchline,

underscores the delightful intrigue of statistical happenstance. Perhaps, as we bid adieu to this scholarly escapade, we are left with a wry grin, recognizing that in the labyrinth of research, the tale of literature and memes, much like a good joke, is best left without further inquiry.