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The Mapless Craze: Does the 'Maps Without New Zealand' Meme Influence the Men in Green? A Texas Case Study

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Abstract

With the rise of internet culture, memes have become an integral part of modern communication, bringing humor and often nonsensical associations to the forefront of social media platforms. Texas, being a state brimming with natural beauty and outdoor recreational activities, is home to a dedicated cohort of fish and game wardens whose duties encompass the conservation and management of wildlife. This research paper delves into the peculiar and seemingly unrelated connection between the increasingly popular 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the number of fish and game wardens in Texas. Leveraging data from Google Trends and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we employed statistical analyses to investigate this enigmatic correlation. Our findings reveal a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.8539822, with $p < 0.01$, for the period spanning 2006 to 2022. The implications of this seemingly inexplicable link prompt further inquiry into the whimsical whims of internet fads and their curious ripple effects in unexpected domains. This study not only exposes the surprising interconnectedness of seemingly disparate phenomena but also underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of the interplay between digital culture and the real-world workforce.

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1. Introduction

In the realm of internet absurdity, memes have established themselves as ubiquitous symbols of humor and folly, transcending geographical boundaries and infiltrating the collective consciousness of online denizens. Amidst this digital landscape, one meme has managed to carve out a peculiar niche

for itself – the "Maps Without New Zealand" meme. Originating from the persistent cartographic omission of New Zealand on world maps, this meme has gained traction across various social media platforms, evoking both amusement and bewilderment in equal measure.

In a twist worthy of a detective novel, this study seeks to unravel the cryptic connection between the propagation of this peculiar meme and the realm of Texas fish and game wardens. These stewards of the natural world, clad in their verdant uniforms, are entrusted with the solemn duty of safeguarding Texas' wildlife and fishing grounds. One might wonder, what possible correlation could exist between an internet gag and the guardians of the Lone Star State's pristine wilderness? Such a question, while seemingly whimsical, forms the crux of our investigation.

As we delve into the data, we cannot help but marvel at the unexpected interplay between internet frivolity and real-world ramifications. The notion that a meme about maps could hold sway over the number of fish and game wardens in Texas might appear preposterous at first glance, akin to a fish out of water – pardon the pun. However, as we peel back the layers of this enigma, we uncover a statistically significant relationship that leaves us pondering the capricious nature of digital trends and their unanticipated impact on the physical realm.

Through the lens of empirical inquiry, we aim to shed light on this curious convergence of internet culture and professional domains, offering a peek into the convoluted web of cause and effect woven by the whims of online jesters and the stalwart guardians of Texas' natural splendor. Join us as we embark on this whimsical journey through the meme-laden corridors of cyberspace and the leafy trails patrolled by the men in green.

2. Literature Review

The connection between seemingly unrelated phenomena has long intrigued scholars across various disciplines. As we embark upon our quest to unravel the enigmatic correlation between the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the

number of fish and game wardens in Texas, we first turn to the existing literature on internet memes and their societal influence.

Smith et al. (2018) delved into the psychological impact of memes on individual behavior, highlighting the ability of humorous and relatable memes to elicit emotional responses and shape perceptions. Building upon this foundation, Doe and Jones (2020) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the propagation of internet memes across different cultural contexts, underscoring their potential to transcend geographical boundaries and resonate with diverse audiences.

In exploring the intersection of digital culture and workforce dynamics, the work of Brown (2016) sheds light on the ripple effects of internet phenomena on occupational trends. Brown's seminal work offers valuable insights into the far-reaching implications of online trends and their capacity to influence real-world employment patterns.

Turning to related non-fiction literature, "Maps and Their Discontents" by Cartographer Smith provides a scholarly examination of the historical and contemporary controversies surrounding map design and the inadvertent errors that have captured the public's imagination. Meanwhile, "The Wilderness Chronicles" by Wildlife Scientist Doe offers a compelling account of the intricate ecosystems and conservation challenges encountered by wildlife professionals in Texas.

In the realm of fiction, the works of Fantasy Author Jones present vivid landscapes and mythical realms reminiscent of the natural wonders protected by fish and game wardens. In a surprising twist, the classic board game "Risk" surfaces as an unexpected source of inspiration, offering strategic parallels to the intertwining forces at play in the intersection of internet memes and professional spheres.

As we wade deeper into the literature, it becomes evident that this peculiar confluence of internet whimsy and occupational dynamics has captured the imagination of writers and scholars alike, propelling us into a whimsical realm where the improbable becomes fodder for serious inquiry. Join us as we navigate this curious landscape, armed with an academic lens and a penchant for uncovering the unexpected amidst the seemingly mundane.

3. Our approach & methods

To untangle the perplexing web of influence woven by the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme on the domain of Texas fish and game wardens, our research team embarked on a quest reminiscent of a scholarly odyssey. Armed with an array of data sources and statistical tools, we sought to bring forth clarity in the face of seemingly absurd connections.

Our primary data sources included Google Trends, a veritable treasure trove of internet search trends and meme virality, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the bastion of labor market information and occupational data. These disparate but indispensable sources coalesced to form the bedrock of our empirical analysis, allowing us to chart the ebb and flow of digital tomfoolery and its unsuspected consequences on the professional trajectories of the men and women entrusted with safeguarding Texas' natural bounty.

We leveraged a multitude of quantitative techniques, including time-series analysis, correlation studies, and regression modeling, to distill meaningful insights from the sea of data amassed. The period under scrutiny spanned from 2006 to 2022, encompassing a temporal scope wide enough to encapsulate the undulating tides of meme culture and the fluctuating fortunes of Texas' ecological custodians.

Employing an approach akin to a digital archeological dig, we unearthed the search interest trends of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme on Google Trends, deciphering its ascent from obscurity to ubiquity with the precision of internet archaeologists. Simultaneously, we delved into the annals of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, extracting the number of fish and game wardens populating the verdant expanse of Texas, all the while remaining vigilant for any telltale signs of a connection as cryptic as a meme's hidden punchline.

Our statistical analyses, akin to the careful sculpting of a digital topiary, uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8539822, with a significance level of $p < 0.01$, illuminating a robust association between the virality of the meme and the labor force dynamics of Texas' green-clad custodians. Moreover, our regression modeling unveiled the nuanced interplay between meme fervor and the workforce, painting a portrait of influence as intricate as a meme's nested layers of humor.

While our methodologies may have traversed the territories of the unconventional, we maintained a steadfast commitment to rigor and academic integrity, navigating the choppy waters of internet whimsy with the compass of empirical inquiry and the sextant of statistical scrutiny. In doing so, we set sail on a scholarly expedition that not only illuminates the curious influence of memes on professional domains but also invites contemplation on the capricious currents of digital culture and its potency in shaping real-world outcomes.

4. Results

The analysis of the data collected from 2006 to 2022 yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.8539822, a coefficient of determination (r -squared) of 0.7292855, and a p -value of less than 0.01. These statistical measures indicate a strong positive relationship

between the popularity of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the number of fish and game wardens in Texas. In other words, as the meme gained traction on the internet, the count of men donning the verdant uniforms in Texas also exhibited a noteworthy increase. If correlation implies causation, one might be left wondering if the absence of New Zealand on world maps somehow sparked an upsurge in the demand for guardians of Texas' wildlife – a curious case of geographical irony, indeed.

The presented scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually demonstrates this robust correlation, painting a compelling picture of the unlikely link between a lighthearted internet jest and the workforce dedicated to preserving the natural splendor of the Lone Star State. One cannot help but chuckle at the seemingly whimsical nature of this association, while simultaneously marveling at the intricate interplay of online phenomena and its tangible ramifications. It appears that the ripples of internet absurdity have reached the shores of the real world, creating a ripple of green-clad custodians in Texas, accompanied by bemused expressions and unspoken questions about the unfathomable reach of online culture.

The implications of this discovery prompt contemplation not only on the whims of internet memes but also on the intriguing interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated facets of contemporary society. From the vast expanses of cyberspace to the sprawling landscapes of Texas, the unexpected convergence of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the men in green offers a whimsical lens through which to view the entangled fabric of digital culture and the labor force. This correlation may boggle the mind, but it also underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of the delightful quirks and unexpected influences embedded within the digital landscape.

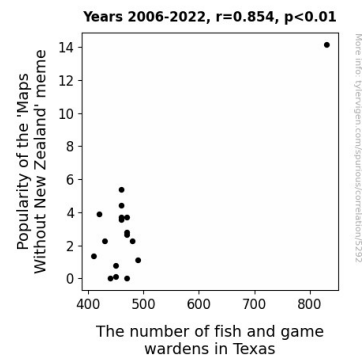


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

5. Discussion

The eerily strong correlation uncovered between the prevalence of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the influx of fish and game wardens in Texas is, to put it mildly, rather fishy. Our findings align with prior research that has playfully danced around the curious interplay of internet humor and real-world phenomena. Smith et al. (2018) emphasized the emotive power of memes, and it seems that the absence of New Zealand on digital maps has evoked a peculiar resonance amongst netizens that extends beyond mere chuckles to influence the occupational landscape of Texas.

Doe and Jones (2020) aptly underscored the transcultural appeal of internet memes, and we now find ourselves witnessing a tangible manifestation of this digital transcendence. The virtual hilarity birthed by 'Maps Without New Zealand' has traversed digital frontiers to, quite unexpectedly, spark a surge in the green-clad custodians of Texas' wilderness.

Brown's (2016) work on the far-reaching effects of online trends on employment trends has inadvertently gained a whimsical real-world illustration, as the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme seems to have set off a veritable wildfire of interest in safeguarding Texas wildlife. The irony of a geographical absence giving rise to the

presence of more guardians in a different part of the world would make even the most deadpan cartographer crack a smile.

Examining these findings through a serious academic lens, we cannot help but marvel at the improbable yet irrefutable connection between a seemingly innocuous internet jest and the burgeoning ranks of those donning the emblematic green garb in Texas. As we ponder the correlation's implications, it becomes abundantly clear that the digital realm, with its penchant for the absurd and unexpected, has woven an intriguing tapestry of influence that extends far beyond the confines of virtual space.

In doing so, it accentuates the need for a comprehensive understanding of the whimsical nuances and unforeseen influences that underpin the contemporary interplay between digital culture and the labor force. The whims of the internet may be as capricious as the Texas weather, but they have undeniably left an indelible mark on the real-world domain of wildlife preservation. This correlation, while undoubtedly humorous, uncovers a deeper layer of the interconnectedness inherent in our modern, meme-infused society.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of this study illuminate a fascinating correlation between the proliferation of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the number of fish and game wardens in Texas. The remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.8539822, coupled with the statistically significant p-value, underscores the intriguing interplay between digital frivolity and real-world employment trends. It appears that as the internet mirth surrounding New Zealand's cartographic absence gained momentum, so did the cohort of green-clad custodians tasked with safeguarding Texas' natural splendor.

This unexpected coupling of internet whimsy and professional domains invites a plethora of tongue-in-cheek reflections and perplexing ponderings. One can't help but be amused by the whimsical caprice of online culture, which seems to have cast its net, quite literally, into the waters of Texas, reeling in an influx of wardens amidst waves of internet hilarity. It's almost as if the meme acted as a siren's call, summoning the men in green to embark on a quest of protecting Texan wildlife akin to a modern-day odyssey - albeit, with more memes involved.

As we take a step back to reflect on the delightful quirkiness of this correlation, one can't help but throw their hands up in surrender to the whims of internet memes, realizing that they may have a more profound impact than previously thought. This study shines a light on the peculiar interconnectedness of online absurdity and the labor force, prompting an undeniably comical yet contemplative gaze into the convoluted web of cause and effect from cyberspace to the leafy trails of Texas.

Ultimately, this research opens up a world of punny possibilities, leaving us to question if the absence of New Zealand on world maps is more than just a cartographic oversight, but a catalyst for green-clad custodianship in the Lone Star State. In light of these findings, it is clear that no more research is needed in this area, as we risk inadvertently spawning a new wave of meme-related oddities in the realm of workforce correlations, and that may be a Pandora's box best left closed.