

# □ better title Subcultural Formulations Across Cinema and Audience Response

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How much do the genre and tropes of a movie determine cultural reaction to it? How different are gore-hounds from rom-com enjoyers? We are building out a dataset combining TV Tropes 'trope-tagging' information and Letterboxd's reviews, genre, and 'themes' tagging. We are interested in how tropes, genre, and the cultures around them form, spread, and differ. We intend to explore three major areas: how language differs across potential subcultural categories of tropes and genre, how tropes and genre conventions spread historically, and how different trope combination may behave as a branching network.

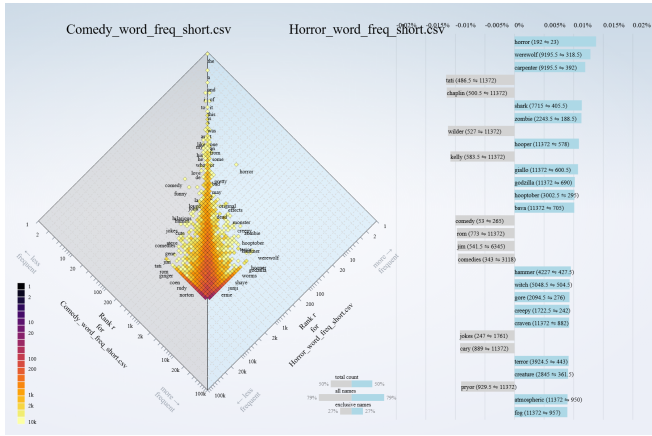


FIG. 1. Prelim results: Horror vs Comedy word usage in letterboxd reviews.  $\alpha = 0.17$

## I. Introduction

□ Introduction forthcoming

## II. Description of data sets

There are 15000 movies in the [TV Tropes Dataset](#), which "rhgarci" had previously webscraped and put on github, and more or less every movie is featured on [Letterboxd](#) (including some that don't even seem to exist), which we scrape ourselves. The tropes data includes all the tropes linked to the movie; the Letterboxd dataset includes the first eight pages of

popular comments for each movie, as well as tags for the movie's year, director(s) and genre(s), among others. The top comments are generally about 23846 characters per movie. We are considering updating this to include more comments and so more text and information.

## III. Model

□ think about models

## IV. Results

*Preliminary:* There are differences across allotaxonometer results for different genres of movies. Aside from the obvious – more references to spooky things in horror, for example – we also note a potential trend towards different styles of commentary: comedy reviews seem to more often mention both actors and directors, whereas horror movies mention directors (Carpenter, Craven) and themed challenges like "hooptober", as well as more aesthetic descriptions of the movie.

There are similar intriguing differences in other genres. For example, Western movies reviews show a large predilection for the cast and familiar western tropes such as "train." Family movies, on the other hand, talk about "kids," "children," and "Disney." But have yet to dig into all the datasets, even for this preliminary analysis.

□ Update

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## V. Concluding remarks

□ [Bring it home.](#)

## VI. Methods

We will use the allotaxonometer to calculate and visualize the difference between any two Zipfian ranked lists of components.

We are interested in doing topic modeling to see how

closely the topics that emerge from reviews resemble the genres, themes, or tropes recorded in other parts of our data.

We are interested in doing sentiment analysis to see how different genres, time periods, and tropes score in terms of sentiment, too. Though wary of sentiment analysis as a black box made by weirdos.

## Acknowledgments

We are grateful for ...

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