

Creative Innovation: Happy, Healthy, Wealthy, or Wise?

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Introduction

As a concept, innovation requires tackling problems in new, creative ways. There are many discussions concerning the concepts of innovation and creativity in terms of breakthroughs in technology, disruption by the gig economy, advances in treating diseases, and more. However, how can innovation be defined in a quantitative manner, and are creative nations by definition also more innovative?

Problem Definition

Based on research by Lopez-Claros & Mata (8) as well as others, innovation as a concept is notoriously difficult to quantify accurately. Is innovation impacted by educational, personal, financial, and societal structures of a nation? How can all of these relationships be effectively compared in an understandable way? We intend to address those questions by determining innovation across the world utilizing a variety of measures (including creative, economic, human, and cultural), comparing our findings against an existing innovation index (19), and then craft a means to visually break down the “what”, “why”, and “how” of innovation at a country level in an interactive manner. Our visualization will also be able to contrast each country’s level of innovation to data concerning health (life expectancy), wealth (GDP), wisdom (education), and happiness (quality of life), or a combination thereof. This is an important question to explore because innovation is an essential component to a country’s development and has the potential to improve quality of life across the board. By understanding what factors contribute to innovation and recognizing its relationship to a nation’s development, we can seek to encourage those factors.

Research Survey

How is innovation quantified? Many measurements have been attempted up to today, including relating the quantity of innovation in a nation to available social capital (1), human capital (2), entrepreneurial orientation & cultural values (3), non-business factors in public and household sectors (4), creativity itself through the generation of a “bohemian” index based on data around performing arts, museums, and more (5), financial markets (6), and resources including investments and seed funding (7). These findings could prove useful to us when building out our innovation index as they provide a wide view into the kinds of factors that have been examined in the past. Others have taken a more comprehensive approach, generating innovation indices based on governmental policies and institutions of several nations (8), or combining a large number of innovation predictors across research, business, and economic sectors into a single synthetic variable (9). These studies are relevant to us as the indices described can be used to compare against our own index. Researchers also spent time focusing on entrepreneurship, which has also been shown to play a significant role in innovation - though the effect was impacted substantially by differences in cultural norms (3). Similarly, the presence of foreign owned companies in a nation (10) and as well as relationships built between subsidiaries of a foreign company and its host (11) also show demonstrable increases in the measure. While interesting, factors such as entrepreneurship, cultural norms, and foreign-owned investment are not a focus of our work. Researchers also discovered that country-specific factors play a role in

innovation - for example, it has been shown that lower income countries produce a wider variation of solutions to problems (12), and that the concept of “innovation” in general varies based on economic context when comparing OECD versus developing nations (13). These factors will certainly play a role in our work as we look to create an innovation index that is valid for all nations regardless of economics or level of development.

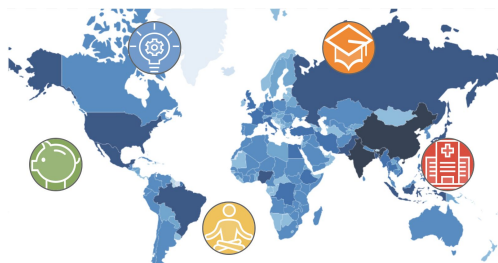
Quantifying creativity as a concept has been explored via analysis of a similarly wide set of parameters. Pratt & Jeffcutt, for example, found that a set of 13 discrete creative industries such as film and recorded music can be used as an organizing mechanism for predictive attributes (14), while others found that a single mechanism, such as export performance, had an impact on creativity (15). Looking at creative industries will be useful when computing our innovation index. Additionally, research has shown how certain metrics related to innovation (such as income and education) impact each other positively (16), and whether happiness is correlated to creativity (17). These two studies show relationships to measures of innovation and creativity, and therefore will prove useful to us due to our focus in those areas. Innovation is difficult to quantify; as research has demonstrated, there are many factors that can affect the measure, and they vary by nation. Starting with creativity/cultural factors is our way to lessen the impact of economics on developing nations. Through this seven week analysis, we plan to measure innovation through a number of factors tied to both economic and non-economic factors, and then try to identify predictors at a country level. Data will be gathered from a variety of sources and then reduced through the use of regression and graph analysis to compute an innovation index, which can then be used to compare countries in the common measures described below. New in our

approach is combining a mix of sources including both creative fields such as film and music and economically-significant measures, like patents. Our visualization will allow users to view not only our index, but the related measures of life expectancy, GDP, quality of life, and education alone or combined. This approach will be extremely useful to government officials in developing countries as well as investors across the world as they look to build a global marketplace. If successful, a new way of computing innovation through creativity will be introduced. We will be able to validate our findings by comparing them with the Global Innovation Index (19). Through research, we discovered that many existing studies lacked recent data which could have a significant impact in how innovation is measured due to the global spread of technology, including Saint Paul & Verdier (16), Almeida & Phene (11), Dahkli & DeClercq (2), DiPietro & Anoruo (15), and Pratt & Jeffcutt (14), while other studies limited their focus to only a few usually wealthy and/or developed nations, including Dachs et al. (10), Rauch et al. (3), Williams & McGuire (18), and Griffiths et al. (7) which impacts the validity of the data on a worldwide scale. Others still compared variables that could introduce unexpected outliers in the data depending on the nation, including Fagerberg et al. (13), Lopez-Claros & Mata (8), Lee et al. (5), Crespo & Crespo (12), Roszko-Wójtowicz & Białek (9), Gault (4), and Polatcan et al. (1). Others focused on only one factor, which reduces the potential for identifying multiple factors contributing to findings, including Hsu et al. (6) and Ceci & Kumar (17).

Proposed Method

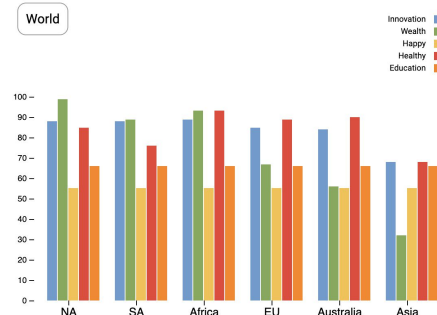
Due to the number and diverse amount of data being analyzed for this effort, our method requires several different approaches. First, we plan to combine and clean and merge the datasets to generate a single large dataset organized by country

for years 1950 to 2020. We will utilize PCA/feature extraction to determine the most relevant predictors for innovation. A supervised learning approach (such as regression) will be implemented to compute a potential response variable; we will be utilizing the Global Innovation Index (19) as a benchmark in order to check our results against existing measures. Further checking will be done via an unsupervised model (like clustering), in which nations with similar levels of innovation will be grouped together. This will enable us to modify our index: if we find unexpected results (e.g. Venezuela being grouped with the USA, Europe, or Hong Kong based on a set of factors), we will do further analysis, as needed, to minimize the gap between the results of the supervised and unsupervised models. Additionally, we found that several of our datasets contain incomplete information related to certain nations. In order to compensate for this, we will be calculating and utilizing an adjacency matrix containing the nations of the world. This will allow us to make certain assumptions about countries for which our data is incomplete and interpolate the results. The final results will be fed into a visualization that will group nations by level of innovation, and allow users to compare innovation as a measure against several common indicators (GDP, life expectancy, satisfaction, education).



In this sample visualization, icons in each of the circles can be pressed to refresh the map with respect to values of the corresponding icon's index (wealth /

education / health / happiness and innovation, with darker colors indicating larger values - the values themselves will also be displayable).



A bar chart for regions showing indices next to each other will also be utilized (the above is an example). When a user clicks on a specified region (Africa, Americas, etc.), the graph will refresh to show the countries in that region. A click on a specified country will show a graph listing values for the five different measures (health, happiness, wealth, education, innovation). We are also exploring other ways of showcasing this information to the user in a meaningful way and have prototyped several of them in JavaScript using D3.

Innovations for this Methodology

This methodology will provide several benefits / distinct innovations to the existing body of research, including:

- Information is easily consumable and interactive
- Cultural and economic measures are taken into account when examining innovation
- Users can easily deduce which related measures are correlated most with innovation for a given nation or region.

In terms of the value of our experiments, based on our research survey, many existing studies focused either on a small

subset of nations, limiting the scope of the accuracy of their findings, or instead focused on a small subset of variables emphasizing either economics or culture - not both. We're hoping to address both in our analysis and experiments.

Testbed

Concerning our testbed, we will be utilizing Python and R for data cleaning and analysis, D3/JavaScript for visualization, and CSV files for data storage and access. We are combining elements from several publicly available datasets measuring economic and cultural factors in order to compute our findings; a full list is available in the References area of our document. In order to measure the results, we are investigating a variety of metrics, including R2, RMSE, MAE, etc. to assess the impact of innovation. This enables us to be flexible in approaches beyond linear regression. The application of clustering will serve as a check on our supervised model to determine if our results are sufficient at measuring innovation. We are trying to measure predictive factors that could be used to signal "innovativeness" in a nation, as well as a numeric metric representing "innovativeness" itself. We will be using the Global Innovation Index (19) as our control in order to serve as a check on our findings.

Evaluation / Experiments

- We intend to define a potential metric for innovativeness (through a single factor or aggregation).
- We will be comparing the effects of including/excluding cultural indicators in a supervised model, with the potential innovativeness metric as the response variable, and use feature extraction to determine the most significant factors.
- Finally, we will use an unsupervised model (e.g. clustering) to group

countries and determine the factors that should be used in the analysis. If these factors are correlated with innovation (based on our previous experiment), does the clustering analysis reflect those findings?

Data cleaning and analysis is ongoing and results are under construction at this time.

Distribution of Team Member Effort

All team members contributed an equal amount of effort.

Plan of Activities (Old)

Research	All	30h
Proposal Paper	Michael	10h
Data Collect / Clean	Marc	25h
Data Integration	Ricardo/ Minkwon	25h
Deployment	Ricardo / Minkwon	10h
UI Visualization	Lisa / Cathy	35h
Data Analysis	Everyone	30h
Progress Report	Michael	5h
Final Paper	Michael	20h
Slides / Presentation	Cathy / Marc	15h
Project Management	Cathy	10h
Poster	Lisa	10h

Plan of Activities (new - reflects work in progress or yet to be completed)

Data Integration	Ricardo/ Minkwon / Marc	25h
UI Visualization	Lisa / Cathy	35h
Data Analysis	Everyone	30h
Final Paper	Michael	20h
Project Management	Cathy	15h
Poster	Lisa	10h

Results & Conclusions

Under construction.

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Heilmeier Questions [HQ]

Proposal must answer all 9 of these, or we lose a ton of points. Michael (Miggs) will combine the answers to these as part of Project Summary and Research Survey.

1. What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no

jargon. We are trying to discover through data analysis the definition of what makes a nation innovative, as well as common factors that could influence the innovativeness of nations around the world (economics, lifestyle, education, health). We do not know for sure if these links exist; we are looking to discover the answer through this project.

2. How is it done today; what are the limits of current practice? *There are many ways in which innovation of a nation can be measured; we are hoping to utilize a variety of measures to produce a unique picture of what makes a nation innovative as well as identifying potential factors that could have contributed to that result (either correlative or causative).*
3. What's new in your approach? Why will it be successful? *We are utilizing a unique combination of datasets [EXAMPLES] to define the concept of what makes a nation innovative as well as investigating other factors in new ways. Our visualization will express this information in an easily-digestible format which will effectively communicate a large degree of information to users.*
4. Who cares? *Government officials and potential investors in developing areas of the world would find this data interesting in terms of understanding how and where to focus potential investment.*
5. If you're successful, what difference and impact will it make, and how do you measure them (e.g., via user studies, experiments, ground truth data, etc.)? *Our tool would be useful for research and investment purposes to identify characteristics of developing nations that could be primed for significant investment.*

(NOTE: We should look carefully at certain nations in Africa and SE Asia which are currently receiving large investments in infrastructure and technology and see how those changes are impacting those nations based on our innovation index). We could verify the data through identifying whether the increasing the related factors for innovation show an improvement in our innovation index. We could complement this further data analysis with user studies, etc.

6. What are the risks and payoffs? *Risks: causation versus correlation - are the measures we are taking actually responsible for innovation, or is innovation responsible for the increases in those measures (e.g. better innovation in medicine leads to better health outcomes)? Recency of studies. However, if a direct link can be proven out through the analysis of the provided data, this could provide a unique viewpoint into how and where to invest in nations around the world.*
7. How much will it cost? *We are using publicly available datasets and research in the preparation and development of our project; the only real cost is time.*
8. How long will it take? *Based on the deliverable timelines of our project, the maximum amount of time this analysis will take is approximately eight weeks.*
9. What are the midterm and final "exams" to check for success? How will progress be measured? *The first checkpoint will be building the innovation index itself and beginning to compare that number against other related datasets. The visualization which showcases innovation of nations around the world and the potential factors*

related to that finding will serve as the final deliverable.

Paper Author s, Title, Year	Main Idea	Useful or Not & Why	Shortcoming s	Categ ory
Polatc an, M., & Balci, A. (2019) . Social Capital Wealth as a Predictor of Innovative Climate in Schools. <i>International Journal of Contemporary Educational Research</i> , 6(1), 183-194.	Relationship found between social capital and innovative climate	Interesting, potentially applicable in the measures for health; mental health in particular (social capital <-> mental health)	Measuring social capital at societal level is difficult	QI
Cresp	Conditions	Could be	Findings	DF

o, N. F., & Crespo, C. F. (2016). Global innovation index: Moving beyond the absolute value of ranking with a fuzzy-set analysis. <i>Journal of Business Research</i> , 69(11), 5265-5271.	for increased innovation are different between countries of varying incomes (low income has higher variation in solutions)	used to explain differences in findings between low and high income countries, may necessitate further breaking apart of results	appropriate criteria to divide countries. Where is the 'cutoff'?	
Dakhli, M., & De Clercq, D. (2004). Human capital	Human capital versus innovation (measures like patent	Human capital has been shown to affect innovation	Small dataset (59 countries)	QI

, social capital, and innovation: a multi-country study. <i>Entrepreneurship & regional development</i> , 16(2), 107-128.	s, expenditures, high-tech export)	measures		
Rauch, A., Frese, M., Wang, Z. M., & Unger, J. (2010). National cultural values, firm's cultural orientations,	Investigated entrepreneurial orientation and cultural values, relationship to innovation	Again, useful measures for looking at creativity and innovation	Another small dataset, but data uncovered is more detailed than most resources so far.	QI

innovation, and performance: testing cultural universals and specific contingencies across five countries. <i>Frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research</i> , 30(15), 4.				
Pratt, A. C., & Jeffcutt, P. (2009). <i>Creativity, innovation and the cultural</i>	Cultural economy consists of creative industries that contribute to innovation]	13 creative industries cited as contributors to predicting innovation	Based on 2009 data, so may be limited in terms of 'big tech', may require updati	QC

economy. Routledge.			ng	
Dachs, B., Ebersberger, B., & Lööf, H. (2008). The innovative performance of foreign-owned enterprises in small open economies. <i>The Journal of Technology Transfer</i> , 33(4), 393-406.	Relationship between foreign ownership and innovation.	Measurable predictive feature.	Small dataset (5 Nordic countries).	QI
Fagerberg, J., Srholec, M., & Versp	Innovation means different things based	Can use different attributes to predict	One model may not cover all cases	DF

agen, B. (2010) . Innovation and economic development. In <i>Handbook of the Economics of Innovation</i> (Vol. 2, pp. 833-872). North-Holland.	on economic context (OECD vs developing countries)	innovation		
William R. DiPietro, Emmanuel Anoruo, Creativity, innovation, and export performance, Journal of	Export performance has a positive relationship with creative activity	Relates creative activity to economic growth	A bit out of date - exports are digital more often now	QC

Policy Modeling, Volume 28, Issue 2, 2006, Pages 133-139, ISSN 0161-8938				
López-Claros A., Mata Y.N. (2010) The Innovation Capacity Index: Factors, Policies, and Institutions Driving Country Innovation. In: <i>The Innovation for Development</i>	Innovation Capacity Index (ICI) computes innovation based on policies and institutions.	Well-defined framework of measuring innovation that we can use as a starting point.	Doesn't factor in all of what we're looking at. Policies and institutions vary based on nations.	QI

nt Repor t 2009– 2010. Palgra ve Macm illan, Londo n				
Sam Youl Lee, Richar d Florid a & Gary Gates (2010) Innov ation, Huma n Capita l, and Creati vity, Intern ationa l Revie w of Public Admin istrati on, 14:3, 13-24	Innova tion is a joint produc t of human capital and creativ ity.	Measu res of creativ ity (bohe mian index) and diversi ty (gay index) are gener ated.	Only focuse s on human capital . What other factors are at play?	QI
Willia ms, L.K., McGui re,	NA	NA	NA	

S.J. Econo mic creati vity and innov ation imple menta tion: the entrep reneur ial driver s of growt h? Evide nce from 63 countr ies. Small Bus Econ 34, 391–4 12 (2010) .				
Hsu, P., Tian, X., & Xu, Y. (2014). Finan cial devel opme nt and	Relati onship betwe en financi al market and techno logical innova tion	Econo mics is shown to influen ce tech innova tion (paten ts & R+D expen	There may be other metric s that could impact these measu res.	QI

innovation: Cross-country evidence. <i>Journal of Financial Economics</i> , 112(1), 116-135.		ses)		
Almeida, P., & Phene, A. (2004). Subsidies and Knowledge Creation: The Influence of the MNC and Host Country on Innovation. <i>Strategic Management</i>	Innovation relationship with technological richness of int'l companies, subsidiary knowledge related to host country, technical diversity with host country	Maps back to papers showing relationship between level of innovation and foreign companies (foreign ownership)	Old data	QI

<i>Journal</i> , 25(8/9), 847-864.				
Griffiths, M., Gundry, L., Kickul, J. and Muñoz Fernandez, A. (2009), "Innovation ecology as a precursor to entrepreneurial growth: A cross-country empirical investigation", <i>Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development</i> , Vol. 16 No. 3, pp.	Governmental, economic, and technological factors in innovation (resources, human capital, seed funding)	New variables like seed funding introduced.	Old data, 1995-2005	QI

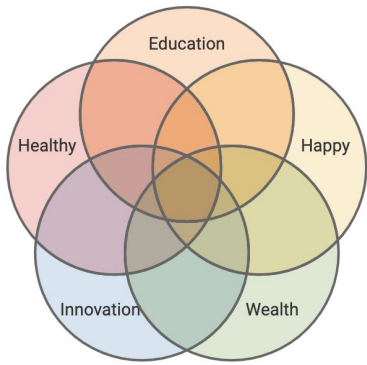
375-390.				
Saint-Paul, G., & Verdier, T. (1993). Education, democracy and growth. <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , 42(2), 399-407.	Paper gives a formula on how their statistics follow that voting, education, growth and income rise together.	We want to look at relationships between wealth and education, this shows they rise together	Old data (90s and before)	
Gault, F. (2018). Defining and measuring innovation in all sectors of the economy. <i>Research policy</i> , 47(3),	applies a systems approach to measure innovation across all economic sectors, not just the business sector	we can extend our analysis to other types of innovation, including public sector and household sector innovation.	lack of consistent datasets across countries across sectors	QI

617-622.		Especially important as developing countries have smaller business sectors.		
Roszkó-Wójcik, E., & Białek, J. (2016). A multivariate approach in measuring innovation performance. <i>Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci, časopis za</i>	it is a good idea to combine similar innovation predictors into a synthetic variable through the use of cluster or factor analysis in order to avoid collinearity.	this provides a methodology to derive the most impactful variables	this was done using European data, will attempt to extend this to other regions.	

<p>ekono msku teoriju i praks u-Pro ceedi ngs of Rijeka Facult y of Econo mics, Journ al of Econo mics and Busin ess, 34(2), 443-4 79.</p>				
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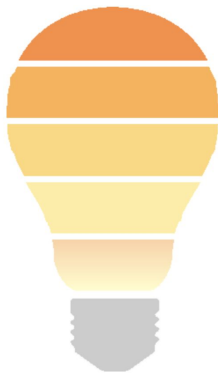


Finding the influx point of average income and level of education that jumps the country into “innovative”. If we find there’s a gulf between innovative and not, we can find the other values. Finding a statement that someone can compare to themselves individually makes this more impactful.



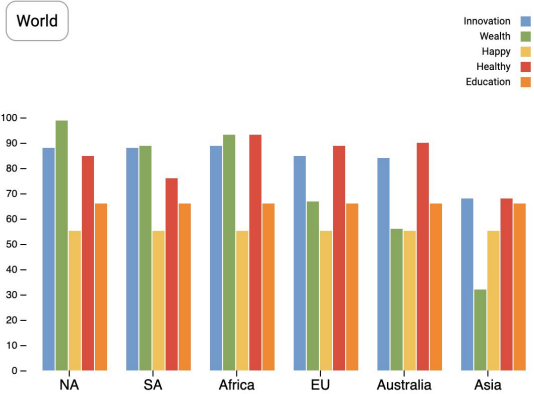
Visualization Concepts

These visual concepts are ideas that may be implemented given time and possibility.



Innovation “pie chart”, show the top 5-10 countries and everyone else as a slice of the lightbulb. This gives the main point of innovation and who is doing the best at innovating in the world.

Depending on what and how many indices we have, have a venn diagram show an example of each section in the graph that fits those overlaps. Above example with 5 circles. Having a graph like this points examples of countries at different levels on each of the indices.



A bar chart for regions showing indices next to each other. Easy to combine their indices from each country located in the region to look at a glance. This is an example of a bar graph with multiple bars per region. When you click the region, it shows the countries in that region itself. When you click on the country itself it shows only that country information for the five different bars (health, happy, wealth, education, innovation).

Amazon Alexa Skill: Alexa, according to the Poloclub...

- Who is the world's most innovative country?
- What region of the world is most innovative?
- What country is happy, healthy, wealthy and wise?
 - Is that same country the most innovative?



Icons in each of the circles that can be pressed to show values of their indices between wealth / education / health / mental health and innovation, each button is the information you turn on or off in the main graph. The main graph could be a map. This is the most interactive graph where all information would be available to the user.

Testbed

Your testbed is how you are performing an experiment.

>> I'm assuming that each experiment will have its own testbed? One of the TAs listed these 6 items that a testbed should consist of. I put in values that, for the most part, can be used for each of our experiments.

1. Tools used: Python; D3; csv files
2. Data set \ subset of dataset used: TBD - based on what Minkwon, Marc, and Ricardo decide
3. What you are using to measure the results:

- Adjusted R2 (assuming we're doing a regression): Does adjusted R2 increase as cultural indicators are added to a base model (which has economic indicators).
- Clustering model: compare the results of the clusters with the results of the supervised model (if the supervised model returns numbers, then to categorize those). Serves as a rough check for supervised model and to determine if the response variable used for the model is sufficient in representing innovation.

4. What results you are trying to measure
 - Trying to determine the predictors/factors that could be used to indicate the innovativeness of a country
 - Determine/define a metric for innovativeness
5. Any controls in place
 - Not sure. If anything, we can use the model with economic/financial data only as one of our controls, and compare those models with those that add cultural indicators.
6. Any other details about how you are setting up a reproducible experiment:

- Using publicly available data
- Setting the randomness seed to return reproducible results from the models
- Documenting the cleansing process (possibly making assumptions about countries that we don't have much data for / interpolation) and the models

List of experiments:

- Define a potential metric for innovativeness (through a single factor or aggregation).
- Comparing the effects of including/excluding cultural

indicators in a supervised model, with the potential innovativeness metric as the response variable. Use feature extraction to determine the best factors to use.

- Using an unsupervised model (clustering?) to group countries and determine the factors that should be used in the clustering analysis. If these factors are correlated with innovation, does the clustering analysis reflect that?

- To deal with the response variable (a bunch of different factors; one or a aggregate of different variables)
- Determine if the variable is sufficient for response indicator for innovation or if need to be joined

2.Cultural + Economic >> clustering/unsupervised

- Serves as a rough check for the results of the supervised/to check the response variable
- Don't have a good innovation measure
 - Visualization is useful here

3.Country node distance >> making assumptions about countries that we don't have much data for / interpolation

20200321 Meeting Notes

-PCA/feature extraction to determine most relevant predictor variables (probably tied to the supervised models)

-Split up economic and cultural datasets

- Potential benchmark -- global innovation indicator

>>Potential: Do cultural indicators add to the model -- do just economic and see if adding cultural adds value

1.Economic + cultural >> regression/supervised