

This pre-registration is not yet public. This anonymized copy (without author names) was created by the author(s) to use during peer-review. A non-anonymized version (containing author names) will become publicly available only if an author makes it public. Until that happens the contents of this pre-registration are confidential.

**1) Have any data been collected for this study already?**

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

**2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?**

Do action movie sequels perform worse in ratings than their respective original movies?

**3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.**

IMDb ratings gathered using IMDb's advanced title search

**4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?**

Two conditions: Either a movie is an original or a sequel. They will be analysed as pairs.

**5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.**

Mean difference between ratings of sequels and corresponding originals will be measured.

**6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.**

Only movies that actually have a sequel will be analysed, i.e. sequels that have been announced but not released will be excluded. Movies that have a low amount of ratings (<10) will also be excluded. Movies that are part of series/have several sequels will be analysed as individual pairs (i.e. in a trilogy movie 1 and 2 would be compared and movie 2 and 3 would be compared)

**7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.**

Movies and ratings will be scraped by hand, so amount will be determined by time available. Likely around 20 or so original/sequel pairs.

**8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)**

Options used in the advanced title search feature will be the following:

1. Number of votes: 10 minimum
2. Genre: Action
3. Keyword: sequel
4. Plot summary: sequel
5. Sorted by: Number of votes descending