Characteristics of an American Ideologue: A Linear Relationship

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Abstract

The American General Social Survey 2021 sheds light on various societal benchmarks. This paper extrapolates on this data and demonstrates that anything close to a linear model cannot be formed between age, family income, level of educational attainment, political party affiliations and political views, providing a more focused yet holistic view on American political opinion. Some academic literature has established that a nigh-linear relationship is sufficiently accurate to make predictions about how individuals with certain characteristics are likely to vote. This paper uses this data to demonstrate otherwise, refuting this notion as nothing more than a stereotype.

Introduction

The R language (R Core Team 2021) is used, in addition to a variety of packages and scholarly sources. Please refer to the References section or the "references.bib" file in the Git repository for more information. The relationship between economic and social classes with political views and party leanings has drawn the attention of many academics, statisticians and political scientists and commentators. Many have tried to claim that a linear relationship between the factors that define economic and social classes and political leanings and views exists (Dupont & Bateman, 2012; Burris, 1987). This paper will refute this, and leave the reason for why statistical data would be weaponized in this manner up to speculation. As statisticians, trends are important. However creating trends that do not exist or trends that are intentionally based off of unauthentic data is very concerning.

Data

How it was obtained

The entirety of the data used as input in this paper was obtained through the American General Social Survey 2021. The data is free to use for academic purposes. It was saved as a Stata file in the data subdirectory of the inputs folder, along with ancillary documents regarding how to read it. ## Cleaning the data

The data file consists of five-hundred and sixty-five columns. This paper uses four of these to account for the age, family income, political party affiliation and politican views variables. The data political party affiliation exists on a spectrum, with values ranging from 0, which shows that the individual strongly supports the Democrats, to 6, which shows that the individual strongly supports the Republicans. The values 1 to 2 represent an individual having moderate support and slightly leaning towards the Democrats respectively. Values 2 and 4 represent individuals that lean slightly towards Democrats and Republicans. The value of 3 represents individuals that do not lean towards either of these two major parties at all. Values 5 and 6 represent an individual being mildly penchant towards the Republicans and being strong Republican supporters respectively.

Results

References

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## Loading required namespace: bibtex
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## [1] D. P. Dupont and I. J. Bateman. "Political affiliation and
## willingness to pay: An examination of the nature of benefits and means
## of provision". In: _Ecological Economics_ 75 (2012), p. 43-51. DOI:
## 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.01.012.
##
## [2] D. P. Dupont and I. J. Bateman. "Political affiliation and
## willingness to pay: An examination of the nature of benefits and means
## of provision". In: _Ecological Economics_ 75 (2012), p. 43-51. DOI:
## 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.01.012.
##
## [3] R Core Team. _R: A Language and Environment for Statistical
## Computing_. R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Vienna, Austria,
## 2021. <URL: https://www.R-project.org/>.
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Links

Github: “https://github.com/yfuoft/p3.git”

R Core Team. 2021. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. https://www.R-project.org/.