

# **POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND ACADEMIC MAJOR**

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# INTRODUCTION

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- Gauging the correlation between political views and student's major
- Measuring economic, social, and political viewpoints
- Test stereotypes
- Humanities vs. Quantitative effect
- Compare with similar studies done (e.g Univ. of Minnesota study)



# SO FAR...

$$\hat{p} = \frac{1}{2}, z = 1.96 \text{ (assuming 95\% confidence)}$$

$$n \geq \frac{Nn_0}{N + n_0} \rightarrow \frac{(6178)(384)}{6178 + 384} = 362$$

- Sample size of 362 individuals
- Samples were collected based on the following list: CIT, SCS, MCS, CFA, Tepper+Econ majors, SDS+Stats majors, Humanities majors

## SO FAR...

- Given that our prior probabilities of our groups are equal, choosing to stratify our sample space would not present a significant advantage, and may even be disadvantageous.
- Post stratification will ensue after data collection is complete.

# COMMUNICATION METHODOLOGY

- Respondents were strenuously sampled from CMU's Student Directory (c-book) *(ouch...)*
- Filtered online directory by school, then proceeded to randomly select undergraduate majors
- Interdisciplinary majors excluded from sampling frame

# COMMUNICATION METHODOLOGY

- Selected subjects were manually compiled into lists using andrew webmail tools
- Subjects were emailed with surveymonkey link, and incentivized with a chance to win a *fabulous* prize



# SURVEY 'MALFUNCTIONS'

- Survey was prone to miscopying andrew webmail addresses
- Online student directory does not clearly distinguish between undergrads and graduate students
- Initial email failed to mention course name
- Failed to require andrew id if subject desired to participate in the raffle...oops

# QUICK FIXES

- Accidental miscopying of andrew email addresses is inevitable in all surveys...our efforts will be more meticulous from here on out.
- Exclusion of ambiguous class status of students
- Updated email includes class name
- Adjusted survey to require andrew id should subject seek participation in raffle.
- You're welcome.



# RESPONSE STATISTICS

- Survey time frame: 5 days (thus far)
  - Start: Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - End: Ongoing
  - Total started survey: 76
  - Total completed survey: 61 (80.3%)
  - Response rate: 21%
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# RESPONSE STATISTICS (ANALYSIS)

- Shortage of respondents from CFA
  - Possible non-response bias: art/drama majors are not interested in politics
  - *Method Of Response Enhancement (MORE)*: send more emails to increase CFA representation, others wherever needed
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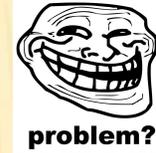
# ACHIEVEMENTS

- Reasonable response rate – it could have been worse
  - Key insight into response tendencies
  - Took on a 5 person project with only 2 people
  - Hold your applause 😊
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# IN CONCLUSION...

- Cutoff date for data collection: TBA
  - Though target cutoff for data collection is end of next week
  - Post stratification: determining if the difference in scores of the schools are significant
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# POST-ANALYSIS



- Each question will be coded to allow for numerical analysis
- Coded questions ease the process of distinguishing political attitudes
- Further analysis will establish a relationship between primary major and political beliefs
- Only data from successfully completed surveys will be analyzed

**STORYTIME...**

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**THE END.**

Questions?

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