

Thinking about different ways to tell any story

Laura Helmuth

Health, Science & Environment Editor

The Washington Post

Medical Mysteries



First he was hoarse. Then he couldn't chew. How one man's hunch led to the truth.

"I knew something was really wrong," Larry Weller says. He — not his doctors — requested a blood test that revealed the cause.

Sandra G. Boodman

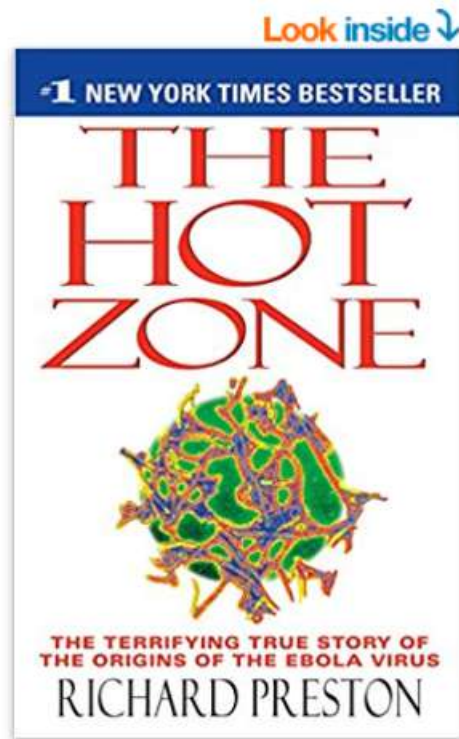


For decades, she was told she was 'just anxious.' A midair incident uncovered the truth.



Formulas are great

Horror



 Listen



The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus

Mass Market Paperback – July 20, 1995

by [Richard Preston](#) (Author)

★★★★☆ 1,770 customer reviews

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THE REALLY BIG ONE

An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when.



By Kathryn Schulz



When the 2011 earthquake and tsunami struck Tohoku, Japan, Chris Goldfinger was two hundred miles away, in the city of Kashiwa, at an international meeting on seismology. As the shaking started, everyone in the room began to laugh. Earthquakes are common in Japan—that one



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True Crime

SCIENCE

Here's How Cornell Scientist Brian Wansink Turned Shoddy Data Into Viral Studies About How We Eat

Brian Wansink won fame, funding, and influence for his science-backed advice on healthy eating. Now, emails show how the Cornell professor and his colleagues have hacked and massaged low-quality data into headline-friendly studies to “go virally big time.”



Stephanie M. Lee

BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on February 25, 2018, at 8:45 p.m. ET



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In the summer of 2013, Özge Siğirci, a young scientist in Turkey, had not yet arrived at Cornell University for her new research stint. But she already had an assignment from her future boss, Brian Wansink: Find something interesting about all-you-can-eat buffets.

Obituary

Remembering a robot

Obituary: Opportunity, a rover on Mars, was declared lost on February 12th

Its time on the red planet exceeded all expectations



Eulogy



5 QUESTIONS

Avi Selk eulogizes the long life and too-soon death of Spider 16, and what she taught us

In his elegiac profile, the Washington Post general assignment reporter talks about finding gems in previously published work, and doing it all on deadline

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October 9, 2018 Kelly Brenner



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Why Rivers No Longer Burn

The Clean Water Act is one of the greatest successes in environmental law.

By JAMES SALZMAN

DEC 10, 2012 • 5:20 AM



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Profile

Profiles in Science

A collection of “Profiles in Science” columns published in The New York Times.

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By DAVID W. BROWN



March 20, 2018

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Lists

The Ten Most Disturbing Scientific Discoveries

Scientists have come to some surprising conclusions about the world and our place in it. Are some things just better left unknown?



How-to Guide / Game / DIY

Hack Your Way To Scientific Glory



You're a social scientist with a hunch: **The U.S. economy is affected by whether Republicans or Democrats are in office.** Try to show that a connection exists, using real data going back to 1948. For your results to be publishable in an academic journal, you'll need to prove that they are "statistically significant" by achieving a low enough p-value.

1 CHOOSE A POLITICAL PARTY

Republicans

Democrats

2 DEFINE TERMS

Which politicians do you want to include?

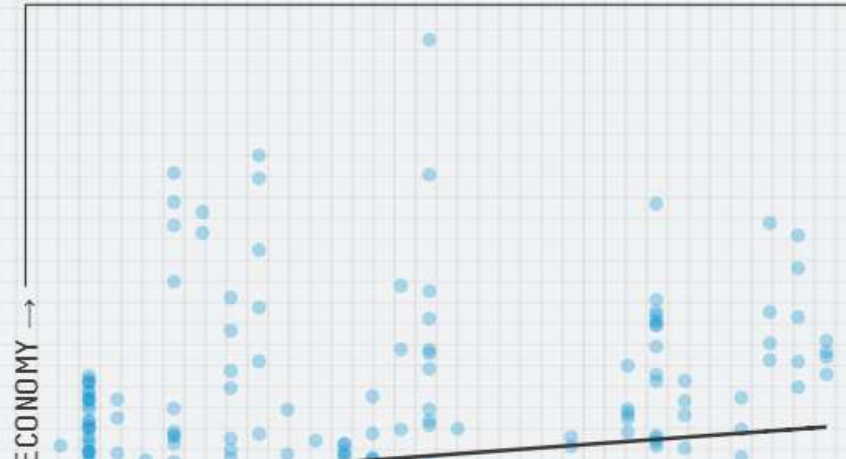
- Presidents
- Governors
- Senators
- Representatives

How do you want to measure economic performance?

- Employment
- Inflation

3 IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP?

Given how you've defined your terms, does the economy do better, worse or about the same when more Democrats are in office? Each dot below represents one month of data.



4 IS YOUR RESULT SIGNIFICANT?

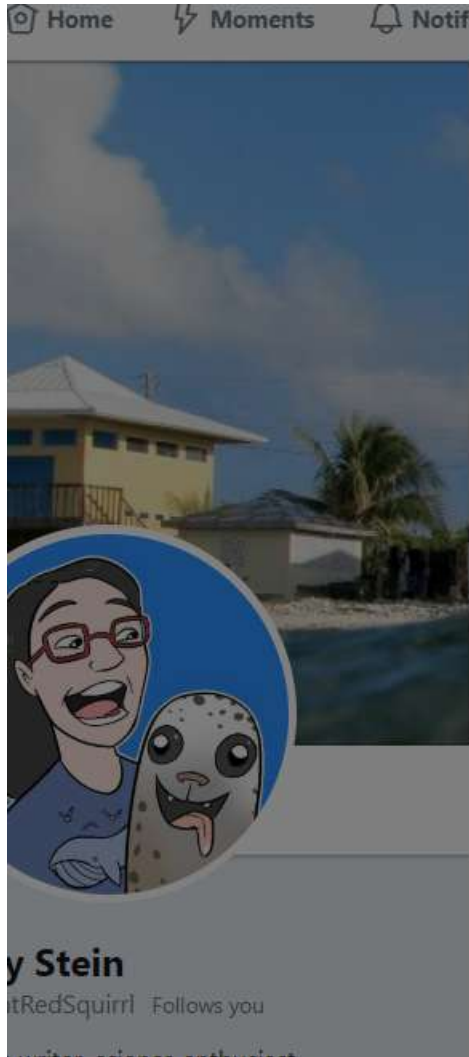
If there were no connection between the economy and politics, what is the probability that you'd get results at least as strong as yours? That probability is your p-value, and by convention, you need a **p-value of 0.05 or less** to get published.



Result: Almost

Your **0.06** p-value is close to the 0.05 threshold. Try tweaking your variables to see if you can push it over the line!

Twitter thread

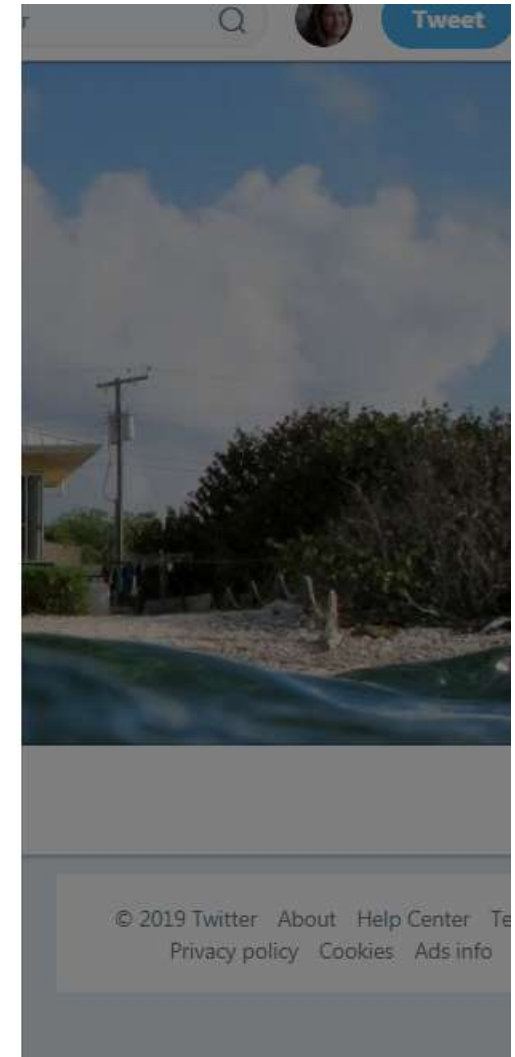


Vicky Stein
@AgentRedSquirr!

Following

In the age of Google Maps and Siri, are paper [#maps](#) obsolete?

"I just don't think that's even remotely true," said author [@betsymason](#) told me for [@newshour](#). "Maps do so much more than help you navigate." 1/12 [#thread](#)



Comic

Bee Club



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