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# THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE RATES IN PORTUGAL

PHIL 123 - Rugile Kasperiuonaite

# OBJECT OF STUDY

**Dataset:** Student performance

**Description:** Our project covers cases between the different schools in Portugal and how alcohol consumption between family member affects students in this area.



# RESEARCH PROBLEM

**Main Question:** We are asking the question "how does alcohol consumption in the students household affect attendance rates, grades, participation and extra curricular at school"?

- **Knowledge and information**
- **Method: connotative method**

# RESEARCH METHODS

## READING DATASETS (PORIER'S METHOD)

### \*CONNOTATIVE METHOD\*

Poirier shows us that data isn't just neutral facts, it's shaped by who collects it and how they define things. So, when studying how alcohol affects student performance, we need to ask: What counts as "performance" (GPA, attendance)? And how is alcohol use tracked (surveys, campus records)? These choices reflect certain values and assumptions. Instead of just accepting conclusions like "drinking lowers GPA," Poirier reminds us to question whose definitions and interests are behind the data, and how social or institutional factors might influence both drinking and grades.

## FORMAT ANATOMIES (KOOPMAN'S METHOD)

Koopman's format anatomy approach seeks to widen the range of data ethics past simply algorithmic equality in a way which incorporates the underlying data structures which frame social outcomes. This methodology is important for researchers, technologists, and/or policymakers who seek to appraise and redesign data systems in a way that promotes democratic fairness

## CONNECTION TO PROBLEM (USING PORIER'S METHOD)

Looking at Poirier's method she uses connotative, deconstructive and denotative methods in order to analyze a data set. We at large used the deconstructive method in order to find out what was the largest issue at hand in our set as well as what we wanted to focus on. Our marginalized problem was to find the effect of alcohol on social and academic factors through a child's home and school life. Her research on the narrowing down of a specific topic when given a large data connected us to our analysis.



# CONCLUSION & IMPACT

## **Why it Matters:**

This study analyzes student achievement data from two Portuguese secondary schools, focusing on selected attributes like family relationships (famrel), weekend alcohol consumption (Walc), and school absences. While the full dataset includes grades and various demographic and social factors, our analysis uses Lindsay Poirier's method from "Reading Datasets: Strategies for Interpreting the Politics of Data Significance" to examine hidden meanings and biases in the data. A key finding is a clear correlation between higher alcohol use and lower academic performance, with increased alcohol consumption linked to more failed classes.

# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

**Project Manager:** Claire

**Presentation Specialist:** Gabby

**Web Specialiast (cleaning & analysis):** Cassidy

**Writers & Editors:** Ava & Cassidy