

THE CORONA JUVENTOCIDE.

POLITICAL IMMUNOSENESCENCE DUE TO DISTORTED CENSUS WEIGHT AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUNG AGE COHORTS

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Abstract

According to current knowledge, the Corona VII measures of the years 2020/21 represent one of the largest and most monodimensional non-bellifera allocations of funds in human history; for the USA alone, they are in the range of the costs of the Second World War or the “War on Terror” 2001 sq. (We speak of Corona VII virus because it is the seventh coronavirus to become pathogenic for humans in a longer series of coronaviruses that had already become endemic before). What is striking about the IMF statistics on the Corona VII measures is which countries have provided by far the highest shares of GDP for equity, loans, and guarantees: It is Italy with 35.3%, Japan with 28.3% and Germany with 28.8%. These, in turn, are exactly the three countries that had the highest share of very old 80+ year olds in 2020. We suspect a correlation. Our thesis is that the fiscal and social juvenicide—not murder, but manslaughter of youth with globally at least 150 million Years of Life Lost (YLL), and in any case uncountable billions of Years of Life Damaged (YLD)—was triggered by the age- or senescence-related risk aversion of Western democracies, existing for many decades already and called “uncertainty avoidance” by Geert Hofstede. For this, we propose to apply to the political body the term immunosenescence (familiar from ageing research and used in medicine to describe the decline of the body’s immune response beyond the age of 50), and to speak of political immunosenescence. We specify, that this is a highly special case of gerontocracy, because it gives the Young Elderly 60-79 years ‘two votes’ instead of one. The mathematics of elections has changed

insidiously since 1945 due to demographic shifts in the age cohorts of many nations. The census weight of the young has declined decisively. This has direct consequences for the future capabilities of countries, as their school policies before and during the pandemic show. We can speak of a Cultural Long-Covid. From the birth rates we can see that in the near future not only the Western democracies, but also the Russian Federation and the East Asian region, here especially the People's Republic of China, will be faced with similar problems. As a result of our research, we discuss measures to strengthen the census of young age cohorts in elections, executive power and constitutions, as well as new strategies in education and arts' policy.

Key Words

Corona VII; Juventocide; Cultural Long-Covid; Age-related Risk Aversion; Uncertainty Avoidance; Political Immunosenescence; Years of Life Damaged (YLD)

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Field of research: cultural policy and art policy, cultural history including medical history.

Through constant contact with his three children and his students, the author knows the concerns about the future of the young generation, but here he gives his own opinion. He himself belongs to the Corona VII risk groups.

1. Situation: 786 million *Years of Life Damaged* (YLD) of Italy's youth.

Life, both the ontogenetic life of humans and the phylogenetic life of humanity, is a constant learning process. For this learning (with up to 50% of our body's oxygen consumption in just 2 % of its mass), our brain is excellently equipped at the giga, tera and peta levels; humanity at the yotta level. The brain consists of probably 86 billion nerve cells (8.6×10^{10} , giga-level). These are interconnected with around 125 trillion synapses (1.25×10^{14} , tera level). Unlike the computer, which only operates in a binary sense, synapses can operate in 26 dimensions. The human brain can store an estimated 2.5 quadrillion perceptual and meaningful contents (2.5×10^{15} , peta-level). Today's humanity probably stores around 19.5 septillion memes; the citizens of the People's Republic of China alone stores 3.6 septillion (1.95×10^{25} and 3.6×10^{24} respectively, Yotta level). To our knowledge, this is the first time this number appears in the scientific literature.

The number makes it understandable that national and even more so international politics are necessarily overburdened with such dimensions and are forced to exponential reductions in complexity, since even science is far from fully comprehending the complexity of the processes in the brain.¹ What we do know is that the brain grows constantly until the age of 18 and is not fully mature until about 25. During this time, the young need our special protection.

The future of humanity depends—new in every generation—on this maturing being able to take place undisturbed: “Education, prosperity, and freedom are the only guarantees for the lasting health of a people,” says Rudolf Virchow (1852).² His early epidemiological study *Die Noth im Spessart* (*Distress in the Spessart forests*)—already described in the subtitle as a “medicinal-geographical-historical sketch”—is a prime example of a holistic understanding of the medical, social, and cultural dimensions of an epidemic situation that is hardly ever achieved again today.

Virchow's study, which inspired the holistic approach of the present analysis, prompts several questions today: Has today's science, with its ever new specialisations in sub-areas, succumbed to a process of sub-complexification of its understanding of problems without being aware of this fundamental loss? Has politics shifted our education system in the last three decades—after the alleged final liberation from ideological West-East constraints and under the pressure of business-promoting branches of science—in the direction of a technician understanding of sciences, and does it not give the humanities the space they deserve? Why have hardly any of the world's democracies substantially integrated child psychiatrists, palliative physicians and cultural scientists into their Corona measures, which tend to be oriented towards the military, and thus away from Virchow's holistic approach?

There is not only learning, but also *unlearning*, a progressive deterioration of the knowledge system with aging. For example, the knowledge of death. This particular loss of knowledge of mankind in the knowledge of death is currently leading to hubris, namely the attempt to wrest the promise of eternal youth from natural events with the technical means of a highly fragile social order. In 2020/21, loss of knowledge and hubris became the trigger for a comprehensive economic, social and cultural catastrophe that affects the world's youth in particular.

¹ On lifelong learning cf. Fuchs, Eberhard; Flügge, Gabriele (2014). *Adult Neuroplasticity: More Than 40 Years of Research*. Neural Plasticity. 2014: 541870. Tomasello, Rosario; Garagnaniab, Max; Wennekers, Thomas; Pulvermüller, Friedemann (2017): *Brain connections of words, perceptions and actions: A neurobiological model of spatio-temporal semantic activation in the human cortex*. Neuropsychologia. Volume 98, April 2017, Pages 111-129.

² Virchow, Rudolf (1852): *Die Noth im Spessart: eine medicinisch-geographisch-historische Skizze* : vorgetragen in der Physikalisch-Medicinischen Gesellschaft in Würzburg am 6. und 13. März 1852. Würzburg: Aus den Verhandlungen der phys.-med. Gesellschaft Bd. III. Stahel, 1852. S. 56.

Their education, their future prosperity, their freedom have been massively curtailed by the fiscal, social and cultural juventocide. “Viewing children not from their own perspective but as a ‘means to an end’ [for third party protection] contradicts their personal dignity.”³ We speak of **juventocide** (to be well understood: manslaughter, not murder, is the primary meaning of the Latin *occisio*)⁴ as collateral damage of the Corona-VII measures, since the young generation is and will be exposed to lasting damage.⁵ All the findings presented by the WHO in autumn 2019 (see below) were not heeded and now lead to fatal statistics on this damage at UNESCO and UNICEF.

The constitutional guarantee of Article 2 (2) of the German Constitution “Everyone has the right to life and physical integrity” does not only apply to the vulnerable groups of 80+ years. Rather, it applies equally to children and young people. The figures for their hospitalisation⁶ in Germany in 2020 to 2019 respectively at the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Zurich⁷ are summarised in meagre figures:

- Increase +42 %: Type 1 diabetes cases during the 2nd lockdown.
- Increase +35 %: Abnormal weight changes.
- Increase +30 %: Diseases with a low dynamic development that were little affected by lockdown impacts.
- Increase +26.1 %: Anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa in 2nd lockdown (week 45-52).
- Increase +17 %: Adolescents who self-harm.
- Increase +15 %: Adolescents with suicidal thoughts
- Decrease -80 %: Intestinal infections in 2020 to 2019.
- Among the parents, about a quarter had light-to-severe depression (25.6%) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) symptoms (26.5%) These symptoms were more prevalent among mothers than fathers (28.5 % vs. 20,2 %).

We have tried to make this situation literarily comprehensible for the pupils of the Schlieben-Oberschule Zittau. Literarily, because there is not only simple literacy, i.e. the competence to decode the letters of a text. A far greater civilisation achievement is cultural literacy, by which we mean the ability to decode a metaphor as a metaphor. (For example, the Genesis, which the "creationists" are only able to understand mechanically, but not as a metaphor). A classic example of such an

³ Deutsche Akademie für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin [German Academy of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine] (2020-04-20): *Statement. on further restrictions on the living conditions of children and adolescents in the pandemic with the new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2)* | (2020-04-20)

⁴ Georges, Heinrich (1916): *Ausführliches lateinisch-deutsches Handwörterbuch*, Hannover, Lexem *occisio*, column 1298.

⁵ “The long months without regular classroom instruction during the pandemic not only have a negative impact on the educational progress of children and young people, but also have negative psychosocial consequences, both of which are amplified in strata of lower education and lower income. The long-term economic damage of this loss of learning is little discussed, but is probably considerable.” *Joint statement* (22.10.2021) by German Society of Paediatric Infectiology e. V. (DGPI), Professional Association of Paediatricians and Adolescents (BVKJ), German Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine (DGKJ), Society for Paediatric Pulmonology (GPP), South German Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine (SGKJ).

⁶ Greiner, Wolfgang; Witte, Julian; Batram, Manuel; Hasemann, Lena (09.09.2021): *Folgen der Pandemie in der Krankenhausversorgung 2020. DAK-Sonderanalyse im Rahmen des Kinder- und Jugendreports [Consequences of the pandemic in hospital care in 2020. DAK special analysis within the framework of the Children and Youth Report]*. University of Bielefeld for DAK, Hamburg [Deutsche Angestellten-Krankenkasse founded 1774]. <https://www.dak.de/dak/download/studie-2480806.pdf>.

⁷ Mohler-Kuo, M.; Dzemailli, S.; Foster, S.; Werlen, L.; Walitza, S. Stress and Mental Health among Children/Adolescents, Their Parents, and Young Adults during the First COVID-19 Lockdown in Switzerland. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2021, 18, 4668.

image is the image of the devil, who metaphorically stands for evil. In a literary perspective—but only in this one—it could be formulated that in the years 2020/2021 evil ruled over the world. In this sense, we have given the pupils of the Oberschule the task of independently developing the following catalogue from their experiences and thus processing their experiences in literary form:

In case the Evil would really exist (contrary to all scientific evidence), and could therefore be asked for a prescription on how the young body could favour an infection (instead of successfully fighting it), he would probably answer:

- (1) Abandon the social resonance space in which your friends provide you with pleasure and recognition!*
- (2) Beware of any training of your immune system through contact with others, but regard every fellow human being as an enemy and virus slinger!*
- (3) Move your body as little as possible, but be locked up at home and sit hour after hour in front of the digital terminal without getting your spirits going!*
- (4) Devour and swallow as much fat and sugary food as possible, and take medication afterwards!*
- (5) Stifle any hope of beauty and of a change in the situation! Was it an evil spirit that thought up the school closures and caused the number of children injured in their souls to skyrocket (or was it just the military fixation on an invisible, inaudible, intangible virus)?*
- (6sq) Now continue yourself: What else might the Evil suggest for doing even more harm?*

Covid-19 is a civilisation disease of the first order. According to the Zurich endothelial hypothesis (endotheliitis with apoptosis),^{8 9} it is directly related to the dietary habits of the modern world. The virus not only triggers pneumonia, which is then causative for further complications, but directly causes systemic endotheliitis, an inflammation of the entire endothelium in the body (the endothelium is the innermost wall layer of lymph and blood vessels) that affects all vascular beds: Heart, brain, lung and kidney vessels as well as vessels in the intestinal tract. With fatal consequences: Severe microcirculatory disorders develop that damage the heart, trigger pulmonary embolisms and vascular occlusions in the brain and intestinal tract, and can lead to multi-organ failure and even death. The endothelium of younger patients usually copes well with the attack of the viruses. Patients suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, heart failure or coronary heart disease are different; diseases that have in common that they restrict endothelial function.

Monteiro et al. (2014)¹⁰ have developed a four-level food classification recommended by the FAO,¹¹ based on the respective degree of processing of the food. Level IV can hardly be distributed in Central Africa (unlike in the richer states of South and North Africa) due to the lack of cold chains, while in Europe or North America it has become the main food consumed by many children and adolescents in Corona times. The extremely high correlation between obesity and covid susceptibility is well known; the figures for the African continent were already particularly striking in November 2020, and incidentally correspond to the experiences in hospitals from Harlem to Berlin (Fig. 1):

⁸ Varga, Zsuzsanna; Ruschitzka, Frank (2020-04-17): *Endothelial cell infection and endotheliitis in COVID-19*. Lancet April 17, 2020 <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2820%2930937-5>, Department of Cardiology, University Heart Center, Zürich. Varga Z. Endotheliitis bei COVID-19 [Endotheliitis in COVID-19]. *Pathologe*. 2020;41(Suppl 2):99-102. doi:10.1007/s00292-020-00875-9

⁹ An alternative name for the virus might thus be *Severe Endothelial Vascular Apoptotic Syndrom Corona-Virus* (SEVAS-CoV).

¹⁰ Moubarac JC, Parra DC, Cannon G, Monteiro CA. *Food Classification Systems Based on Food Processing: Significance and Implications for Policies and Actions: A Systematic Literature Review and Assessment*. *Curr Obes Rep*. 2014 Jun;3(2):256-72. doi: 10.1007/s13679-014-0092-0. PMID: 26626606.

¹¹ <https://www.fao.org/nutrition/education/food-based-dietary-guidelines/regions/countries/brazil/en/>

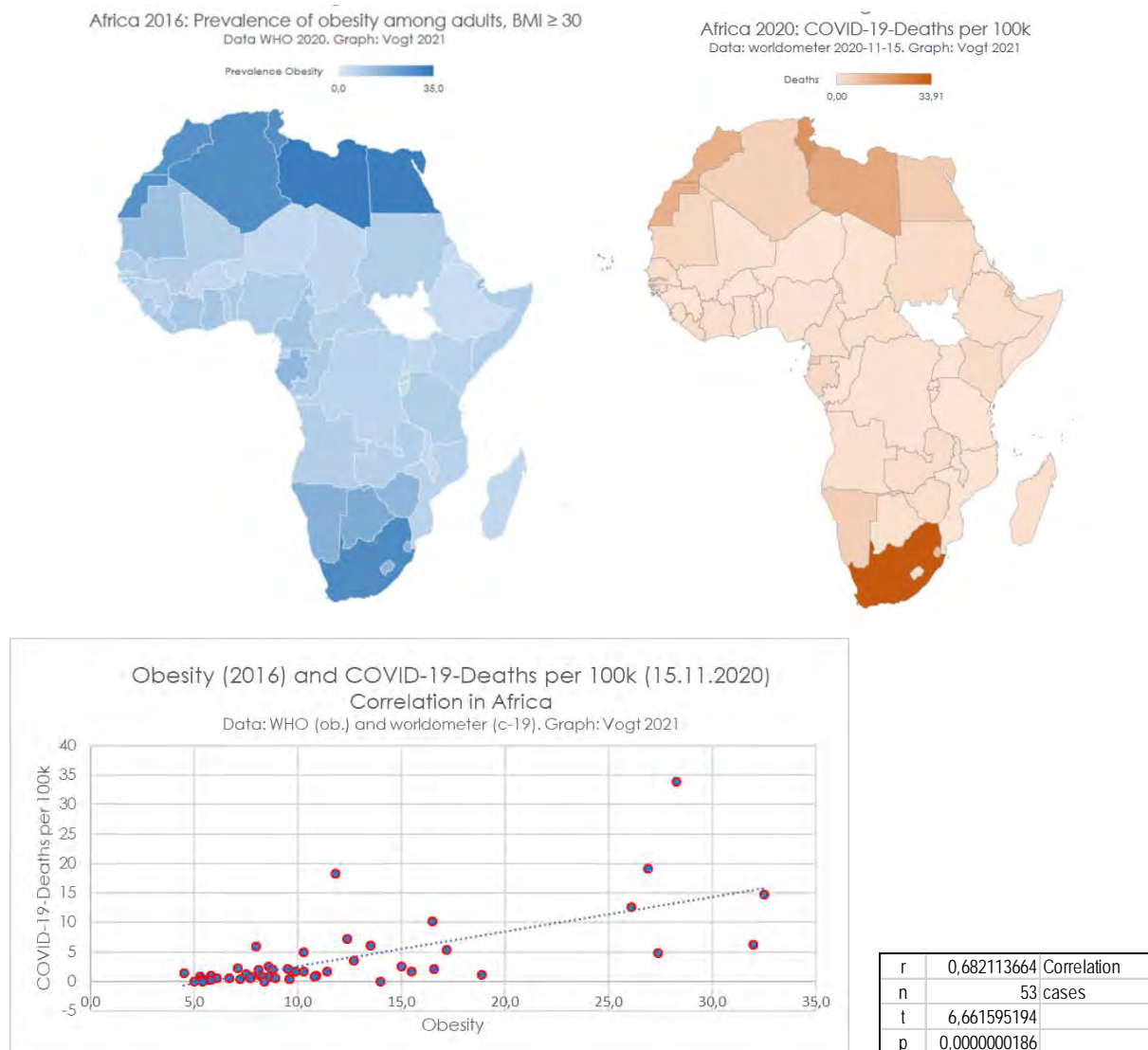


Fig. 1 Correlation 0.68211 between Obesity (2016) and Covid-19-deaths per 100k (2020-11-15) in Africa. Data: WHO 2020, worldometer 2020-11-15. Elaboration and graph: Vogt 2020.

According to our thesis, there is an inability of Western democracies, due to an ageing electorate, to systemically translate a root cause analysis into a sustainable political programme. Instead, the status quo of the economy is continued at the expense of the younger generation by taking on debt. Symptomatic of this is that so far there has been no initiative whatsoever to sustainably increase public health along the lines of the Brazilian food classification system by introducing differentiated VAT rates for the four classes. In Germany, the Federal Ministry of Finance puts the lost revenue from reduced VAT on food at 22 billion euros (Fig. 2). From this, a taxed food turnover of 183.3 billion euros can be calculated, for which the final consumers have so far paid 12.2 billion euros in VAT. If the total turnover is schematically divided into four quartiles of 45.8 billion euros each and a differentiated turnover tax of 0 %—7 %—19 %—38 % is applied, i.e. depending on the degree of industrial processing and the high degree of harmfulness for the endothelial system, a total turnover tax of 29.3 billion euros or an additional burden per consumer of 207 euros per year is calculated. This has to be put in relation (4.6 %) to the medical costs of 4,530 Euros per citizen and year to make clear the dimension of a more health-conscious diet in Germany.

Quartils	up to now	I	II	III	IV	å	∅	Health-System
bio. Euro		45,8	45,8	45,8	45,8	183,3	more per citizen	
VAT		0%	7%	19%	38%	16%		
bio. Euro	12,2	0,0	3,2	8,7	17,4	29,3	17,2	376
mio. people							83	83
per citizen							207 €	4.530 € 4,6%

Fig. 2 Theoretical division of the German food trade, which has so far been burdened with 7% VAT, into four quartiles corresponding to the four classification levels according to Monteiro et al. (2014). A differentiated VAT burdening of the four quartiles according to their industrialised degree of processing results in a VAT increase to 29.3 billion euros or an additional burden of 207 euros per year for each end consumer, or 4.7% of the previous costs of the health system of 4,398 euros per citizen.

If consumers can determine directly from their wallets whether they are eating healthily or unhealthily with highly processed industrial products, this could lead to a lasting change in mentality and could consistently reduce the *Years of Damaged Life (YDL)*¹² in all countries. But why do we look in vain for an appropriate consequence of the pandemic for sustainable public health from all parties of the democratic spectrum? Our thesis is that age-typical risk aversion has taken hold of the political system.

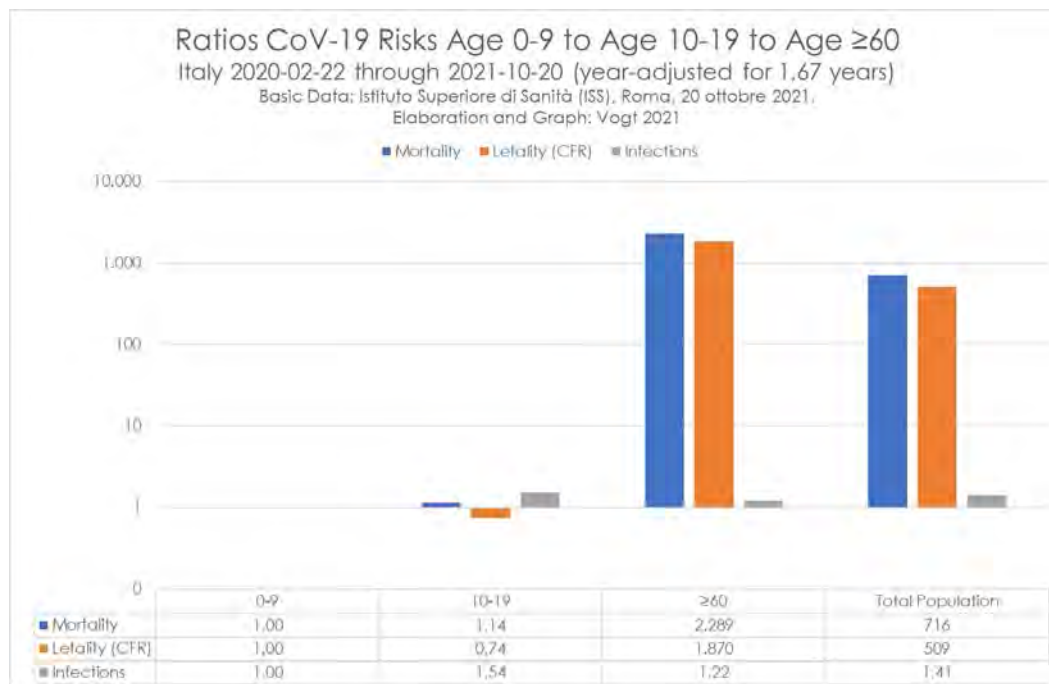
So we must not forget that COVID-19 is a very serious disease; nor must we forget that it is precisely the vulnerable elderly who are no less affected by the effects of Covid VII measures than the young;¹³ nor must we forget that the counting method used in politics and the media—from the onset of the pandemic *ad semper*—consistently undermines the counting method used in medical statistics in annual slices (or their daily equivalent). If, for example, the data provided by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, for the period 2020-02-22 to 2021-10-20 are analysed and the ISTAT data on general mortality for Italy 2019 are added, an adjustment to 1.67 years must be made in order to obtain a correct picture and to be able to make comparisons.

And above all, we must not forget that COVID-19 is a disease of the pre-exposed and here again especially of the pre-exposed elderly 60+ years; 97.1% of all Italian fatalities had one to six

¹² We adopt the concept of "Years of Damaged Life" from environmental science research and introduce it into epidemiological research: Dong, Yunshe et al. (2000). *N2O emissions from agricultural soils in the North China Plain: The effect of chemical nitrogen fertilizer and organic manure*. Journal of Environmental Sciences. 12. 463-468.

¹³ There were almost 10,000 unexplained extra deaths among people with dementia in England and Wales in April [2020], according to official figures that have prompted alarm about the severe impact of social isolation on people with the condition. The data, from the [Office for National Statistics](#), reveals that, beyond deaths directly linked to Covid-19, there were 83% more deaths from dementia than usual in April, with charities warning that a reduction in essential medical care and family visits were taking a devastating toll. A survey of 128 care homes by Alzheimer's Society reveals that 79% report that lack of social contact is causing a deterioration in the health and wellbeing of their residents with dementia. Relatives of those with dementia in care homes have spoken of their loved ones feeling confused and abandoned, stopping eating and losing the ability to speak. Samantha Benham-Hermetz, director of policy and public affairs at Alzheimer's Research UK, said the ONS data reveals a shocking increase in the number of people dying from dementia. "In the midst of this pandemic, we cannot afford to ignore the devastating impact dementia is continuing to have across our society," she said. "Every day it's becoming clearer that those living with the condition are also disproportionately affected by Covid-19," she added. "Not only are people with dementia vulnerable to the virus itself, but the circumstances of social distancing are exacerbating existing challenging dementia symptoms and compounding the impact of the condition." The Guardian, 04.06.2020

co-morbidities that could have led to death in other ways. The central risk factor is immunosenescence^{14 15} after menopause at around 50+ years in both women and men. Dying, and in particular dying from COVID-19, is a natural process related to biological exhaustion in old age and exacerbated by physical inactivity and late-civilisation anti-dietary habits. Analysing the ISS Rome data, we see that the probability of infection of the age cohorts 0-9 years (here set as 1.0) correlates substantially with that of the age cohorts 10-19 years (1.54 to 1.0) as well as the elderly 60+ years (1.22 to 1.0). The immune system of adolescents 10-19 years is even slightly better than that of children 0-9 years (case fatality rate 0.74 to 1). In adolescence, the mortality rate is never zero; in 2019, there were 1,395 deaths in the 0-9 years age group and 858 deaths in the 10-19 years age group in Italy. Compared to the 595,012 deaths in the 60+ years age group, the latter was a three-hundredfold higher than child deaths in terms of the respective population. However, the death rate from COVID -19 in relation to the population is higher by a factor of two thousand (2,289) than the statistically insignificant intensive care and death rate in the age groups 0-19 years with 15 and 20 deaths respectively (Fig. 3). One to two thousand, that is the risk of the young in relation to the risk of the elderly 60+ years.¹⁶



¹⁴ “The umbrella term ‘immunosenescence’ is applied to describe age-associated failing systemic immunity and is believed to contribute to the increased incidence and severity of infectious disease in old animals and people.” Pawelec G, Larbi A, Derhovanessian(2010): E. *Senescence of the human immune system*. J Comp Pathol. 2010 Jan;142 Suppl 1:S39-44. doi: 10.1016/j.jcpa.2009.09.005. Epub 2009 Nov 8. PMID: 19897208.

¹⁵ “Changes in the immune system are considered to have a critical role in the decline seen with age, since many infectious diseases may no longer kill an individual, but may contribute to more subtle overall changes. So the impact of infections in older individuals should not be measured only in terms of direct mortality rates, but also by their contribution to the ‘indirect’ mortality rate and to changes in the quality of life.” Aspinall R, Pitts D, Lapenna A, Mitchell W. *Immunity in the elderly: the role of the thymus*. J Comp Pathol. 2010 Jan;142 Suppl 1:S111-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jcpa.2009.10.022. Epub 2009 Dec 1. PMID: 19954794.

¹⁶ A meta-study from December 2020 puts the ratio at one in ten thousand. Levin AT, Hanage WP, Owusu-Boaitey N, Cochran KB, Walsh SP, Meyerowitz-Katz G. *Assessing the age specificity of infection fatality rates for COVID-19: systematic review, meta-analysis, and public policy implications*. Eur J Epidemiol. 2020 Dec;35(12):1123-1138. doi: 10.1007/s10654-020-00698-1. Epub 2020 Dec 8. PMID: 33289900; PMCID: PMC7721859.

Fig. 3 Ratios CoV-19 Risks Age 0-9 to Age 10-19 to Age ≥ 60 in Italy 2020-02-22 through 2021-10-20 (year-adjusted for 1,67 years). Basic Data: Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Roma, 20 ottobre 2021. Elaboration and Graph: Vogt 2021

Is this data new and only now available? No, in Italy the scientific monitoring system was set up at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome as of 22.01.2020, six days before the first observed COVID-19 case. Already on 11.03.2020, the ISS published a first lethality calculation according to age groups. The ISS calculation of 18.03.2020 shows a remarkable forecast reliability with the ISS data of 04.12.2021; the deviations are minimal (Fig. 4). It was precisely this 18.03.2020—with its highly problematic staged images from Bergamo¹⁷—that Italy designated as the *National Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Corona virus epidemic* one year later.¹⁸

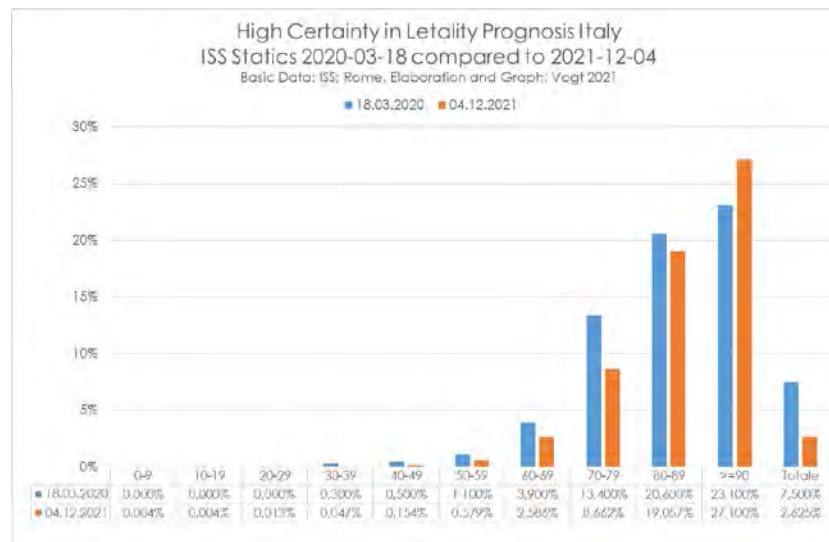


Fig. 4 High Certainty in Lethality Prognosis Italy. ISS Statics 2020-03-18 compared to 2021-12-04. Basic Data: ISS; Rome. Elaboration and Graph: Vogt 2021

To order a nationwide *lockdown* is—according to the Merriam-Webster’s definition,¹⁹ to lock up prisoners in solitary cells in case of revolt, based on a Chicago prison strategy of 1973—to turn the entire country into a prison. Italy had already closed all schools and universities on 06.03.2020²⁰ and is thus the European state that was the first to import the lockdown methods of the Chinese central state also for those age groups that were not substantially affected by the epidemic even according to the state of knowledge at the time. The situation in Italy is therefore the focus of this paper.

It was not until one and a half years later, on 19 November 2021, that the Federal Constitutional Court in Germany decided on an overriding right of children and young people to school education in the schools themselves in community with their classmates: “From Article 2 (1) in conjunction with Article 7 (1) of the German Constitution follows a right of children and young people vis-à-vis the state to support and promote their development into an independent personality also in the community through school education (right to school education). [...] The right to school education also includes a right of defence against measures which restrict the currently

¹⁷ Fehrenbach, Frank (2020-07-01): *Über das „Bild aus Bergamo“, oder: „The common bond is the movie theatre“*. ZISpotlight, Munich <https://www.zispotlight.de/frank-fehrenbach-ueber-das-bild-aus-bergamo-oder-the-common-bond-is-the-movie-theatre/>

¹⁸ <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2021-03-18;35!vig=>

¹⁹ Merriam-Webster: Lexem *lockdown*: “the confinement of prisoners to their cells for all or most of the day as a temporary security measure (1973)”.

²⁰ Cf. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/22/20A01807/sg>: recante misure urgenti in materia di contenimento e gestione dell'emergenza epidemologica da COVID-19, applicabili sull'intero territorio nazionale.

opened and also perceived educational offer of a school without changing the school system as such, which was created in the formulation of Article 7 (1) of the German Constitution”.²¹ An analogous decision is still missing in Italy.

What is fatal about the Italian Corona VII policy is that it does not consider the remaining life expectancy. Cumulatively, the 0-19 cohort has 786 million years of life ahead of it, or 32% of the total life expectancy of Italian citizens. The 65+ cohort, on the other hand, has only 185 million or 8% (Fig. 5). Young people and their future should therefore be given four times as much attention as the elderly in political planning, even in a pandemic situation. All the more so as we know that the regions of northern Italy around Bergamo, which were almost exclusively affected by the first Corona outbreak, were affected within an inversion weather situation with strong NO₂ pollution²² from the late consequences of an industrialisation that was not environmentally sound, i.e. from a fatally short-sighted policy that could only be repaired with a gigantic infrastructure programme. Northern Italy is a fatal example of how misguided environmental and industrial policies have increased the susceptibility to disease of the elderly in particular, and the vulnerability and lethality of this age group is therefore partly to be blamed on the respective national missing environmental policies. In addition, the regional government ordered the transfer of Covid patients back to old people’s homes.



Fig. 5 Cumulated life expectancy Italy 2021. Ages 0-19: 786.775.008 (32%) . Ages 20-64: 1.451.862.249 (60%). Ages 65+: 185.630.263 (8% of 2.424.267.520) Data: ISTAT 2021. Elaboration and Graph: Vogt 2021

For Germany, Bernd Raffelhüschen (2020)²³ calculates the life years gained by the lockdown to a total of 178,431 years (with a more distant life expectancy of 2.9 years due to pre-existing conditions). For the 6.3 per cent economic slump initially predicted at the time, he regresses real GDP

²¹ Bundesverfassungsgericht (2021-11-19): *Leitsätze zum Beschluss des Ersten Senats vom 19. November 2021 Bundesnotbremse II (Schulschließungen)* - 1 BvR 971/21 -- 1 BvR 1069/21 (222 Seiten). https://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/SharedDocs/Entscheidungen/DE/2021/11/rs20211119_1bvr097121.html

²² Ogen, Yaron (2020): *Assessing nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels as a contributing factor to coronavirus (COVID-19) fatality*. Science of The Total Environment, Volume 726, 15 July 2020, 138605. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.138605>

²³ Raffelhüschen, Bernd (2020): *Verhältnismäßigkeit in der Pandemie: Geht das?* [Manuskript Freiburg i.B.] Berechnungen des Forschungszentrums Generationenverträge auf Grundlage von Daten des RKI, der Johns Hopkins University, des IHME sowie Statistischen Bundesamtes und Hanlon et al. (2020). Cf. Hanlon, P., Chadwick, F., Shah, A., Wood, R., Minton, J., McCartney, G., Fischbacher, C., Mair, F. S., Husmeier, D., Matthiopoulos, J. und D. McAllister (2020). *COVID-19 – exploring the implications of long-term condition type and extent of multimorbidity on years of life lost: a modelling study*, Wellcome Open Research, 5, 75. Klarman, H. E., Francis, J. und G. D. Rosenthal (1968). *Cost Effectiveness Analysis Applied to the Treatment of Chronic Renal Disease*, Medical Care, 6(1), 48-54.

growth per capita on life expectancy using the formula: $\ln(LEt) = c + \beta \ln(BIPt_{real}) + \epsilon t$ and concludes: “It can be roughly estimated that one per cent real per capita growth (equivalent to a technical progress rate of the same amount), increases the life expectancy of the population on average by about 0.9 months (= 27 days). In terms of the current population, this means that the economic growth slump caused by the Corona measures will induce a minimum of 3.7 and a maximum of 37 million lost life years. This is a multiple of what has been preserved in life years through the lockdown.”—A minimum of twenty times and a maximum of two hundred times. For Italy’s youth, it might be appropriate to speak of 786 million *Years of Damaged Life* (YLD) instead of the *Years of Lost Life* (YLL) commonly used in medical research.

2. The Tropicalisation of our Hemisphere and the “War” (Macron) against a Virus

The pandemic was essentially a war of images and appealing imagery in dramatic exaggeration. The shape, colouring and shadow effects of the images of the SARS-CoV-2 virus commonly used worldwide are pure fiction. They were professionally designed by Alissa Eckert and Dan Higgins as early as January 2020 (i.e. many weeks before the WHO’s pandemic warning) in order to give the virus and the threat it poses an “identity” that can be conveyed visually, as they stated in a New York Times interview.²⁴ As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have created a visual icon of global insecurity. This contrasts sharply with the soberly presented 2016 standard medical knowledge on coronaviruses (Fig. 6).

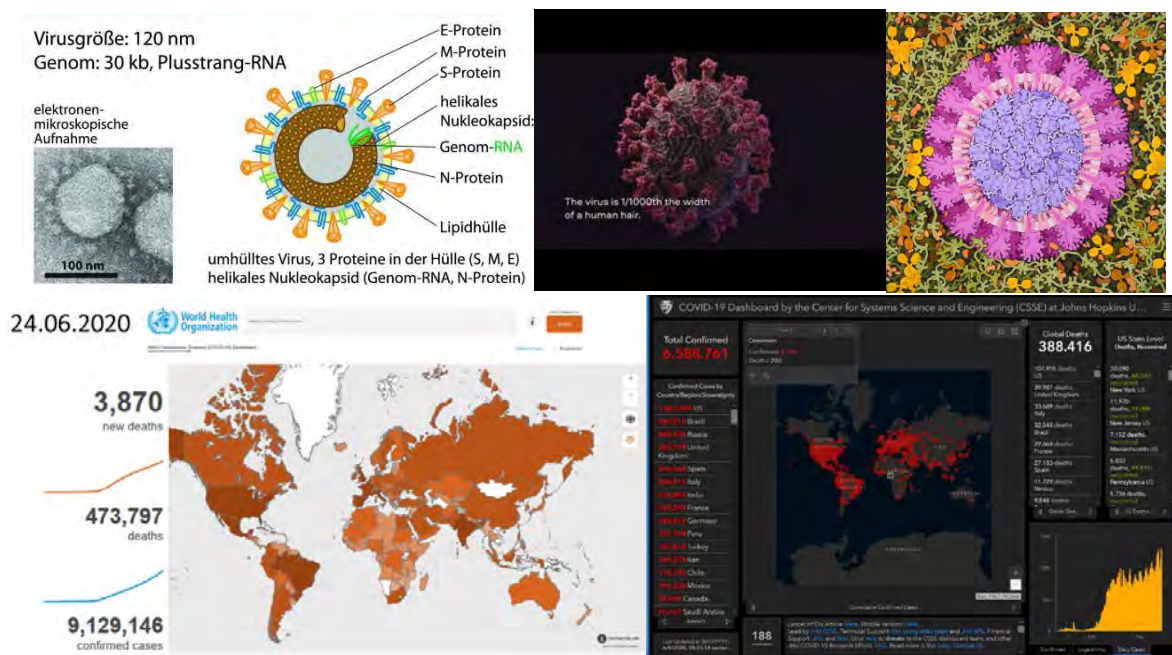


Fig. 6 (a) Soberly presented medical standard knowledge 2016 on coronaviruses from Ziebuhr (2016). versus (b) Pictorial icon of global uncertainty by Alissa Eckert, Dan Higgins, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (01/2020). versus (c) Illustration based on available scientific knowledge (08/2020) by David S. Goodsell, RCSB Protein Data Bank; , doi: 10.2210/rcsb_pdb/goodsell-gallery-01, cf. Goodsell DS, Voigt M, Zardecki C, Burley SK (2020) Integrative illustration for coronavirus outreach. *PLoS Biol* 18(8): e3000815. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000815>. versus (d) Sober graphical representation of the pandemic by WHO as of 24.06.2020. versus (e) Dramatic exaggeration by blood red effects against a black death background in the Johns Hopkins dashboard as of 04.06.2020.

²⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/01/health/coronavirus-illustration-cdc.html>

Several thousand corona viruses (CoV) are known to science as a family in two subfamilies with one or four genera within the order Nidovirales.²⁵ So far, six and now a seventh of them have become pathogenic for humans according to the current state of knowledge, which is why we speak of human coronavirus VII (hCoV 7 or *Corona-VII* for short) in the following. The four anthroponotic²⁶ (i.e. transmitted from human to human) coronaviruses 229E alpha, NL63 alpha, OC43 beta, HKU1 beta have been endemic in Europe for some time. In 2016, a medical textbook listed the following items as standard knowledge (which was then surprisingly lost in 2020) that these four had already been responsible for about 5-30 % of all acute respiratory diseases:²⁷

Human coronaviruses cause acute respiratory illnesses that usually run smoothly, but occasionally lead to severe pneumonia, especially in the case of existing comorbidity or infections with specific human beta coronaviruses. Causative involvement in gastroenteritis is possible. Infections with the human coronaviruses (HCoV) NL63, 229E, OC43 and HKU1 occur mainly in the winter months and are responsible for about 5-30 % of all acute respiratory illnesses. Infections typically lead to rhinitis, conjunctivitis, pharyngitis, and occasionally otitis media or laryngotracheitis. Involvement of the lower respiratory tract is more common than was assumed a few years ago. Inpatient treatment of patients with acute infections of the lower respiratory tract (pneumonia, bronchiolitis, bronchitis) is due to coronaviruses in about 8% of children (5% of adults). Infections in infancy with HCoV-NL63 often also lead to laryngotracheitis (pseudocroup). Acute exacerbations of bronchial asthma due to coronavirus infections have been described frequently. The cyclical recurrence of certain coronavirus strains at intervals of a few years is typical. Co-infections of coronaviruses with other respiratory viruses (especially rhinoviruses, enteroviruses and parainfluenza viruses) are relatively frequent and then lead to a much more severe clinical picture, not infrequently also to hospital treatment. More than 80 % of all adults have antibodies against human coronaviruses. However, previous infections do not leave a long-lasting immunity, so that reinfections with the same pathogen are possible after only 1 year. Newborns usually have coronavirus-specific antibodies that are no longer detectable after 3 months. Seroconversion usually occurs before the end of the 3rd year of life.

After MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV [now SARS-CoV-1], which are also zoonotic (i.e. originally transmitted from animals to humans), SARS-CoV-2 (or the disease COVID-19 triggered by the virus) is only a small epoch in what is expected to be a long chain of subsequent pandemics. The Sanaga River in Cameroon (Fig. 7) marks the border between SIV-negative and SIV-positive chimpanzees, from the latter of which the HIV-1 virus that jumped to humans around 1920 came to the USA via the Caribbean around 1971. In recent years, virologist Nathan Wolfe has discovered a large number of new zoonotic viruses among both mammals and humans in the jungles of Central Africa: “We predict with confidence that Covid-19 will not be the last viral pandemic.”^{28 29}

Population growth and deforestation also increase human-animal interaction. Eugene T Richardson (2020)³⁰ recalls John Donne’s lines “No man is an island, / entire of itself; / each is a piece of

²⁵ Cf. Koonin et al. (2019): *International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses ICTV Proposal 2019.006G*. <https://talk.ictvonline.org/ictv/proposals/2019.006G.zip>

²⁶ In English: *anthroponotic*. In German a neologism. Cf. the ambiguous terminology of zoono-anthropozoonoses (from animal to human) versus anthro-zoonoses (from human to animal):: Hubálek, Zdenek (2003): *Emerging Human Infectious Diseases: Anthroponoses, Zoonoses, and Sapronoses*. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2003;9(3):403-404.

²⁷ Ziebuhr J. (2016): *Coronaviren*. *Medizinische Mikrobiologie und Infektiologie*. 2016 : 479–482. doi: 10.1007/978-3-662-48678-8_58. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7176174/>

²⁸ Washington Post 2020-03-16

²⁹ Disease X represents the knowledge that a serious international epidemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease, and so the R&D Blueprint explicitly seeks to enable cross-cutting R&D preparedness that is also relevant for an unknown ‘Disease X’ [now: X₁] as far as possible.” WHO: *2018 Annual review of diseases prioritized under the Research and Development Blueprint*. Informal consultation 6-7 February 2018 Geneva, Switzerland. Zitat aus <http://origin.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/en/> [22.05.2020].

³⁰ Richardson ET: *Pandemicity, COVID-19 and the limits of public health, science*. *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e002571. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2020-002571



the continent, / a part of the main.” (1624), pointing to the very significant role of the Global North in producing and reproducing structural injustice. In just two decades, a whole series of zoonotic pandemics have broken out. Nicola Decaro et al. (2020)³¹ point to the tropicalisation of our hemisphere and thus to the high importance of an understanding of the tropics and their inhabitants. What may have been exotic in the past is now directly part of the One World. In view of the long known high mutability frequency of coronaviruses,³² the global community will have to adjust to the same coexistence with the virus as it is already proving with the extraordinarily diverse family of Coronaviridae, specifically with the additional six human CoV since the so-called Russian ‘flu’³³ in 1889 and with the thousands of non-human CoV.³⁴

Fig. 7 Chimpanzee and young on Île Pongo in the Sanaga River, Cameroon, Réserve de Faune Douala Edéa, 3° 36' 42.08" N, 9° 54' 2.304" E, Photo: M. Vogt 2020-03-15.

However, there is no reason for “apocalyptic fears, stripped of hope” (Edgar Weiß). It is the viruses to which we owe human life, from the placenta to the immune system. In the open system of our physical homeostasis (the maintenance of largely constant conditions), the human genome accounts for only about 0.5 % of the DNA that constitutes us. The metagenome, on the other hand - viruses as

³¹ “Climate changes that are intensifying in this first quarter of the 21st century are favouring the spread of vector-borne diseases through increasing the proliferation of vectors and predisposing to their occupation of new ecological niches. The emergence in temperate climate areas such as Europe of vector-borne diseases caused by viruses considered exotic until few years ago (West Nile virus, Usutu virus, Chikungunya virus) accounts for a progressive geographic expansion of tropical diseases thanks to the ongoing phenomenon of tropicalisation.”

Decaro et al.: *Novel human coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2): A lesson from animal coronaviruses*. *Veterinary Microbiology* 244 (2020) 108693.

³² Coronaviruses are well equipped to adapt rapidly to changing ecological niches by the high mutation rate of their RNA genome (about 10^{-4} nucleotide substitution/site/year) and high recombination frequencies.” Vijgen et al. (2005): *Complete Genomic Sequence of Human Coronavirus OC43: Molecular Clock Analysis Suggests a Relatively Recent Zoonotic Coronavirus Transmission Event*. *J Virol.* 2005 Feb; 79(3): 1595–1604.

³³ Speculative but consistent attribution by Vijgen et al. (2005).

³⁴ <https://talk.ictvonline.org/taxonomy/>

well as bacteria, fungi, archaea, protozoa and parasites - accounts for about 90 % of the cells of our humanome and about 99.5% of its DNA.

Through microbial exposure to vaginal germs during the birth process as well as through subsequent skin-to-skin contact, the newborn child is immersed in the mother's metagenome and also adopts essential parameters of her immune system postnatally. Just as the individual immune system needs daily training, contact with peers and the wider environment is an essential part of mutual immune training, especially up to the age of ten. For the constant training of the child's autoimmune system, contact with those 150 or so people who, according to anthropology research,³⁵ still make up the immediate social environment of every human being, plays an essential role. The consequences of school closures and compulsory masking can be observed in autumn 2021 in a sudden increase in the susceptibility of European schoolchildren to viral and bacterial diseases.

However, science is only at the beginning regarding the function of the mesobiome or sociobiome—the metagenome of these 150 people. Could it be that we need these 150 people not only as our personal resonance space, but in the sense of John Donne (“No man is an island, / entire of itself; / each is a piece of the continent, / a part of the main.”, 1624) also as a social co-infection space that is essential for training our immune system? What consequences this has for public health is largely unexplored, since—unlike Virchow's warning—the “social production of poor health” (Azetsop 2016)³⁶ is not the focus of individual-fixated medical research. Through its individual-fixated and sociality-blind misconceptions,³⁷ research has indirectly contributed significantly to pandemic mismanagement.

In Fig. 8, we give indicative data of the Lockdown Corona VII measures on the human meso- or sociobiome, based on an approximation of the dimensions of the human holobiont, meso- or sociobiome and humanome in relation to each other and to the Gaia mass. We assume an average global body weight of 61.87 kg per human (in scientific terminology 6.19 times 10 to the power of 1, i.e. 6.19E+0.1 kg). Its volume is 6.13 times 10 to the minus 11 cubic kilometres (6.13E-11) - mathematically speaking, the entire human race fits into half a cubic kilometre. The human body has 30 quadrillion cells (3.00E+13) and a similar number of bacteria plus ten times as many viruses (8.8E+14). This can be extrapolated (column 3) to the average anthropological group size of 150 people and (column 5) to the whole of humanity.

The total number of viruses in the 7.8 billion human bodies amounts to 2.98 yotta (2.89E+24), which of course is only a fraction of the worldwide amount of viruses and is beyond human understanding and thus beyond human access. The numbers point to the necessary humility of humans in the face of natural events.

³⁵ Meißelbach, Christoph (2016): *Wie sind Menschen eigentlich? Anthropologisch begründete Möglichkeiten und Grenzen von Migrantenkulturation aus Sicht der evolutionären Anthropologie*. In: Vogt et al. (2016). *Ankommen in der deutschen Lebenswelt. Migranten-Enkulturation und regionale Resilienz in der Einen Welt*. Europäisches Journal für Minderheitenfragen EJM Vol. 9 No. 1-2 2016. Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, pp 157-174. From anthropological research, the order of 150 persons is known as the typical size of tribal units. However, whether this order of magnitude also applies with regard to modern patterns of relationships and interaction in very different class- and milieu-specific social conditions, not to mention differences in rural and metropolitan forms of life, would have to be investigated empirically in more detail. Likewise, what role individual and collective migration movements play in the variability of social relationship and interaction patterns. We suspect a greater variability in this respect, seen from the perspective of the individual. (We thank Anton Sterbling for the comment).

³⁶ Azetsop Jacquineau (2016): *Epidemiological Research, Individualism, and Public Health*. In: G.G. Preparata (ed.), *New Directions for Catholic Social and Political Research. Humanity vs. Hyper-Modernity*. Springer.

³⁷ Dörner, Klaus (2002): *Gesundheitssystem: In der Fortschrittsfalle*. Deutsches Ärzteblatt 2002; 99(38): A-2462 / B-2104 / C-1970.

Influence of the Lockdown Corona VII measures on the human mesobiome or sociobiome; indicative data					
	Individual Human Holobiont	Mesobiom or Sociobiom (ingroup 150 persons)	Reduced Sociobiom (10% of 150 persons)	Humanom (World Population)	Gaia
<i>Units per 2021-02-20</i>	61,87 kg			7.845.826.575	
Weight (kilograms)	6,19E+01	9,28E+03	9,28E+02	4,85E+11	
Volume (km ³)	6,13E-11	9,19E-09	9,19E-10	4,81E-01	
genom	2,20E+04	3,30E+06	3,30E+05	1,73E+14	
Human cells	3,00E+13	4,50E+15	4,50E+14	2,35E+23	
Bacteria	3,80E+13	5,70E+15	5,70E+14	2,98E+23	
Virom	3,80E+14	5,70E+16	5,70E+15	2,98E+24	
<i>Share of Global Microbiom</i>	3,80E-17	5,70E-15	5,70E-16	2,98E-07	1,00E+30
<i>Share of Global Virom</i>	3,80E-19	5,70E-17	5,70E-18	2,98E-09	1,00E+33
<i>Mass Gaia to presumed ordinary mass universe</i>					5,97E-30

Fig. 8 Indicative data of the Lockdown Corona VII measures on the human mesobiom or sociobiom, based on an approximation of the dimensions of the human holobiont, mesobiom or sociobiom, and humanom in relation to each other and to Gaia mass. Vogt (2021) based on (1) Sender R, Fuchs S, Milo R (2016) *Revised Estimates for the Number of Human and Bacteria Cells in the Body*. PLoS Biol 14(8): e1002533; (2) Meißelbach, Christoph (2016): *Wie sind Menschen eigentlich? Anthropologisch begründete Möglichkeiten und Grenzen von Migrantenkulturation aus Sicht der evolutionären Anthropologie*. In Vogt et al. (2016). *Ankommen in der deutschen Lebenswelt. Migranten-Enkulturation und regionale Resilienz in der Einen Welt*. Europäisches Journal für Minderheitenfragen EJM Vol. 9 No. 1-2 2016. Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, pp 157-174. Table: Vogt 2021.

But this is only the biological level, which points to the absolute necessity of the resonance space through peers for children and adolescents. In addition, there is the social level, the maturing of intellect and responsibility in this very resonance space. Both dimensions were largely ignored during the elderly-centred Corona VII measures of 2020/21.

The “war” against the virus declared by French President Macron³⁸ and many others represents, according to current knowledge, one of the largest and most monodimensional non-bellucose allocations of resources in human history. By way of comparison, and in each case calculated for the US only, the cost of World War II was US\$5.104 trillion,³⁹ the cost of the “War on Terror” following the attacks of 11 September 2001 over the two decades to 2021 plus applications for 2022 to be US\$5.843 trillion (both in constant FY2021 dollars).⁴⁰ In contrast, the International

³⁸ Macron begins his *Adresse aux Français du Président de la République Emmanuel Macron 16 mars 2020* with the education system: « Le Gouvernement a pris, comme je vous l'avais annoncé, des dispositions fermes pour freiner la propagation du virus. Les crèches, les écoles, les collèges, les lycées, les universités sont fermées depuis ce jour. [...] Nous sommes en guerre, en guerre sanitaire, certes : nous ne luttons ni contre une armée, ni contre une autre Nation. Mais l'ennemi est là, invisible, insaisissable, qui progresse. Et cela requiert notre mobilisation générale. Nous sommes en guerre. Toute l'action du Gouvernement et du Parlement doit être désormais tournée vers le combat contre l'épidémie. De jour comme de nuit, rien ne doit nous en divertir. | he government has taken firm measures, as I announced, to curb the spread of the virus. The nurseries, schools, colleges, high schools and universities have been closed since today. [...] We are at war, in a sanitary war, certainly: we are not fighting against an army, nor against another Nation. But the enemy is there, invisible, elusive, advancing. And this requires our general mobilisation. We are at war. All the action of the Government and Parliament must henceforth be directed towards the fight against the epidemic. Day and night, nothing must distract us from this. » <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/03/16/adresse-aux-francais-covid19>.

³⁹ Data: Congressional Research Service RS22926. [deflated: Vogt 2021].

⁴⁰ Brown University Costs of War project: *Total War Appropriations and War-Related Spending FY2001 through FY2020*; <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/figures/2019/budgetary-costs-post-911-wars-through-fy2020-64-trillion>. Confer Stiglitz, Joseph E., and Linda J. Bilmes of Harvard University's Kennedy School: *The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict*. W.W. Norton, 2008. “Bilmes estimates the United States has committed to

Monetary Fund calculates that the Corona VII measures of the United States of America for the one and a half years from January 2020 to June 2021 amount to US\$ 5.739 trillion, only for the above-the-line measures of additional spending and foregone revenue. To these must be added another US\$0.510 trillion for the below-the-line measures and contingent liabilities from guarantees. Together, this is US\$ 6.249 trillion, or more than the entire WW II or the previous two decades of the War on Terror. However, these are figures for the US alone (Fig. 9).

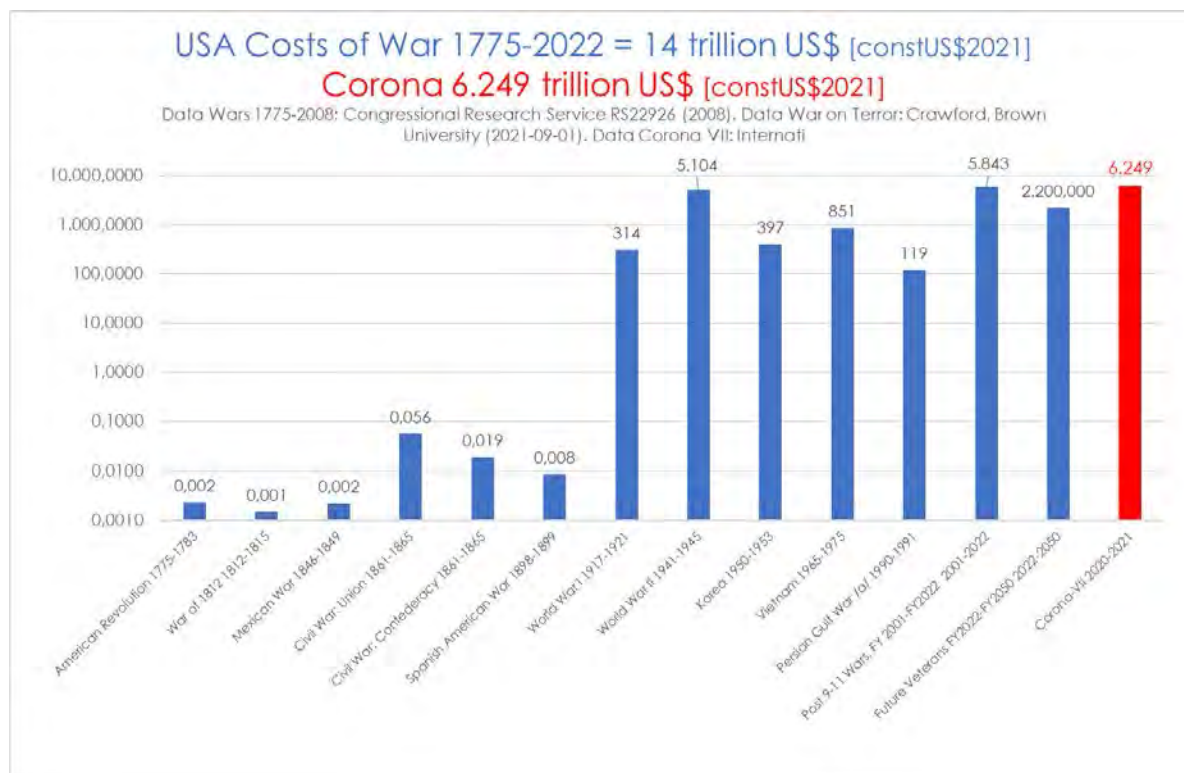


Fig. 9 USA Costs of War 1775-2022 including Veterans 2022-2050 = 14.828 trillion US\$ [constUS\$2021] versus costs of War on Corona 6.429 trillion US\$ [constUS\$2021]. Data Wars 1775-2008: Congressional Research Service RS22926 (2008). Data War on Terror: Crawford, Brown University (2021-09-01). Data Corona VII: International Monetary Fund (2021). Graph & deflated: Vogt 2021

For the global government Corona VII measures (Fig. 10), the IMF estimates a volume of US\$ 16.034 trillion by March 2021, not counting the damage to property and human lives. The total damage to the global economy of US\$26 trillion for the years 2020-2024 (approx. 6% GDP p.a.) already projected by Avenir Suisse in October 2020 could possibly be significantly exceeded.⁴¹ In fact, global public debt has increased by US\$49.4 trillion or +28% to US\$226 trillion or 256% of global GDP in 2020 (IMF 2021-12-15).

pay in health care, disability, burial and other costs for roughly 4 million Afghanistan and Iraq veterans: \$1.6 to \$1.8 trillion” [cit. AP July 12, 2021].

⁴¹ According to the classical tripartite division of Karl Gunnar Mannerheim Silverstolpe [Gunnar Westin Silverstolpe 1891-1975; in: Silverstolpe, K. Gunnar: *Världskrigets kostnader*. Ekonomisk Tidskrift Årg. 17, häft 10 (1915), pp. 329-338] a distinction would have to be made between government war expenditure, the value of property destroyed or damaged by acts of war, and human losses expressed in terms of capital value. In 1947, Silverstolpe calculated these costs for WWII (converted to constant dollars FY 2020) to be 6.3 and 1.4 and 2.4 respectively, together 10.2 trillion dollars [quoted from: Schönmann, O. (1948): *Was hat der zweiten Weltkrieg gekostet?* In: Pionier: Zeitschrift für die Übermittlungstruppen. Volume (Year): 21 (1948), Issue 1]. A corresponding three-way division would have to be made for the costs or effects of the Corona measures in 2020/21.

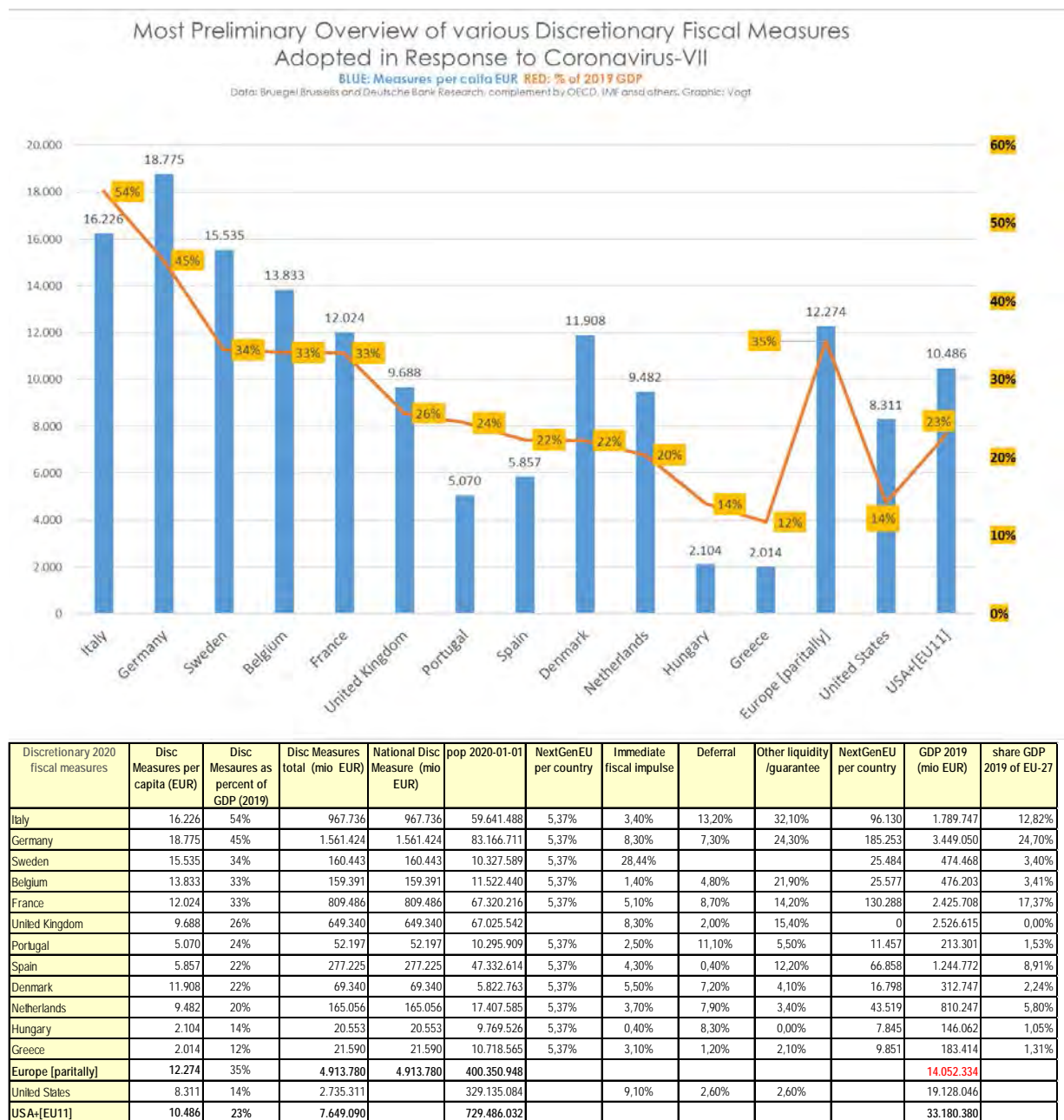
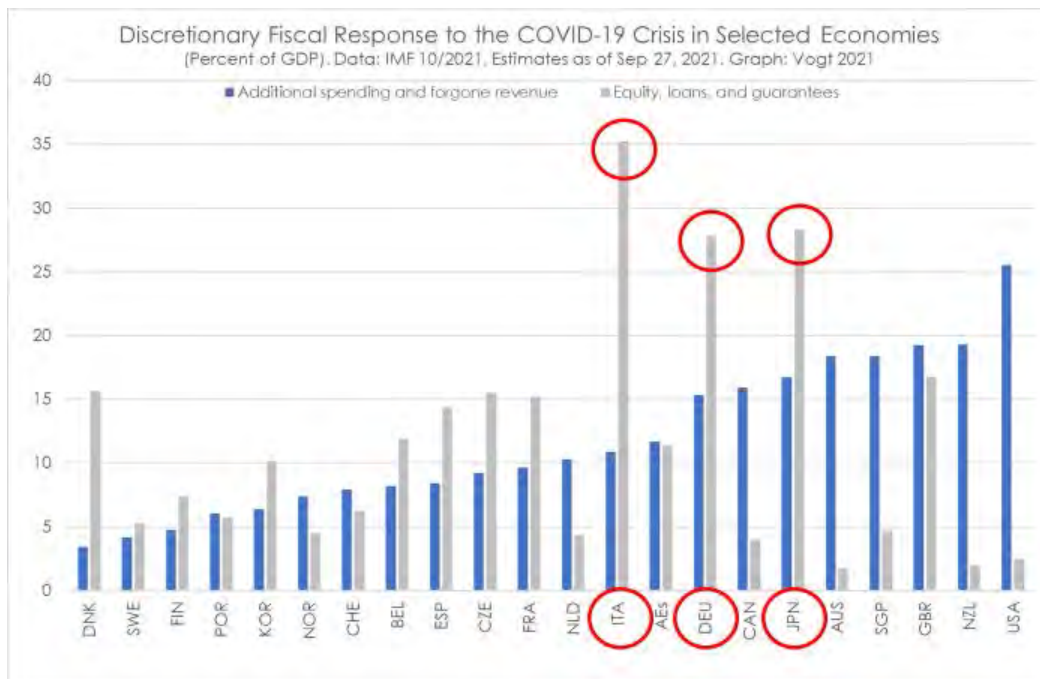


Fig. 10 Most Preliminary Overview of various Discretionary Fiscal Measures adopted in response to Coronavirus-VII. Measures per capita in Euro, and measures as ratio of GDP. Data: Bruegel 2020 Brussels and Deutsche Bank research 2020, complement by OECD, IMF and others. Graphic: Vogt 2021.

What is striking about the IMF statistics is which countries spent by far the highest shares of GDP on equity, loans, and guarantees (Fig. 11): it is Italy with 35.3%, Japan with 28.3% and Germany with 27.8% (without additional spending and forgone revenues. These, in turn, are exactly the three countries that had the highest share of very old 80+ year olds in 2020. We suspect a correlation.



Data: IMF 10/2021; OECD 12/2021	Corona VII Discretionary Fiscal Response (in Trillion US\$)	% GDP	US\$ per capita	av. net income 2020 (US\$ p.c.)	ratio C-VII spending / net income p.a.	Each Citizen's Monthly loan instalment 30 years	percent C-VII loan installment of net income
Germany	1,647	43,11	19.786	28.211	70%	161,52	7%
Italy	0,870	46,15	14.611	24.166	60%	138,37	7%
Japan	2,273	45,05	18.070	27.927	65%	159,90	7%

Fig. 11 (a) Total Discretionary Fiscal Response to the COVID-19 Crisis in Selected Economies (Percent of GDP); equity, loans, guarantees, plus additional spending and forgone revenues. Data: Estimates as of Sep 27, 2021. Database of Country Fiscal Measures in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and IMF staff estimates. Data: IMF 10/2021, Estimates as of Sep 27, 2021. Graph: Vogt 2021.
 (b) Each citizen's theoretical monthly loan instalment over 30 years at an interest rate of 5.58% (Deutsche Bundesbank 07.12.2021 for private consumer loans) for the Corona VII Discretionary Fiscal Response Germany, Italy, Japan in trillions, as percent of GDP, as US\$ per capita and in relation to average net income 2020. Data: IMF 10/2021, OECD 12/2021. Graph: Vogt 2021.

The worldwide costs of the Corona VII measures of approximately 24 trillion Swiss francs (Avenir Suisse 2020, Deutsche Bank Research 2020) must be borne by the generation of the young. In the case of the young Italians, according to the interest rates of the German Bundesbank of 07.1.2.2021 for private consumer loans, it could be calculated that each of them would have to pay 140 euros a month or 7% of their net income for their entire future working life; only for interest and repayment of the Italian Corona VII measures 2020/21 (Fig. 11b). With a national debt of 155.81% (2020) of GDP 2.573 trillion euros, it is ultimately the “common man” who pays the bill, much more than the rich.

Even more serious than the economic ruin of the community of states are the psychological and social consequences of the measures. *Social distancing* is contrary to human nature. The juventocide is essentially a (non-justiciable) theft of the resonance space.

Our thesis is that the fiscal, social and cultural juventocide was triggered by senescence-related risk aversion. For this we propose the term political immunosenescence. The mathematics of elections has been insidiously altered since 1945 by demographic shifts in the age cohorts of many nations. The census weight of the young has decreased decisively. This has direct consequences for the future capabilities of countries, as their school policies before and during the pandemic show. We propose as a term for this to speak of a *cultural Long-Covid*.

3. Confidence and Social Dys-Distancing as the basis of our civilisation.



Fig. 12 Ritualised proximity through music and dance in the Bronze Age. Bronze ceremonial belt VIII.-VII.c. BC, Satovle-Nabaghrebi burial ground, Georgia, outline drawing (Mtskheta Museum) and photo (M. Vogt).

Trust and a sense of closeness are the stuff of which human dignity, mental health and collective intelligence are made, and by which human beings overcome their ancestral instinct to distance themselves.⁴² Since the beginning of human history, art has served as an instrument of ritualised closeness (cf. the Bronze Age belt in Fig. 12). Both neurocognitive and philosophical⁴³ research have shown that only on the basis of closeness can children learn to speak and think enculturally.⁴⁴ That only in this way can adults be enabled to play a meritocratic role in their community.⁴⁵ That the elderly can die calmly (“high-touch instead of high-tech” is the name of the St. Gallen palliative approach).⁴⁶ The paradigm of *social distancing*, which sees in fellow human beings primarily a virus-spreading threat, is fundamentally incompatible with our civilisation and our psyche.⁴⁷ In this respect, humanity cannot reinvent itself, at least not as humanity and neither in Africa nor in Europe nor in America. (In civilisations whose monopolies of power are based on Lenin’s dictum “control is better” and on the suppression of minorities, this may be different for the time being).

Trust and a sense of closeness are at the centre of the three ideological systems (a) Christianity, (b) capitalism and, at least the one so far, (c) science. According to Giorgio Agamben,⁴⁸ these still jointly shaped the early 21st century *prä coronam* (in Europe as well as in Africa and America); but *post coronam*, according to Agamben, medical science will now outstrip the other two.

(a) Mutual trust between people and trust of people in themselves is the key concept in Paul, the inventor of Christianity. He uses “faith, hope, charity” in verse 13 of the 1st Letter to the

⁴² Leonhard, Karl (1972): *Biopsychologie der endogenen Psychosen*, Leipzig, 65.

⁴³ Buber, Martin (1923): *Ich und Du*, Leipzig. Levinas, Emmanuel (1961): *Totalité et Infini*, Den Haag. Tischner, Józef (1982): *Etyka solidarności i Homo sovieticus*, Paris [*Ethik der Solidarität. Prinzipien einer Hoffnung*, Graz 1982].

⁴⁴ Cf. on the state of enculturation research Vogt et al. (2016): *Ankommen in der deutschen Lebenswelt. Migranten-Enculturation und regionale Resilienz in der Einen Welt*. Europäisches Journal für Minderheitenfragen Vol. 9 No. 1-2 2016. Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag.

⁴⁵ Fundamental to the differentiation between *mask - prosopon - person*. Weihe, Richard (2004): *Die Paradoxie der Maske. Geschichte einer Form*. München. Vgl. auch: Vernant, Jean-Pierre (1989): *L'individu, la mort, l'amour. Soi-même et l'Autre en Grèce ancienne*, Paris.

⁴⁶ Schelosky, Susanne (2011): *Zwanzig Jahre Palliative Care St. Gallen 15. September 2011*. Universimed, Wien.

⁴⁷ Javed N, Khawaja H, Malik J, Ahmed Z. *Endocrine dysfunction in psychology during social distancing measures*. Bratisl Lek Listy. 2020;121(12):878-880. doi: 10.4149/BLL_2020_144. PMID: 33300357

⁴⁸ Agamben, Giorgio (2020): *La medicina come religione*. <https://www.quodlibet.it/giorgio-agamben-la-medicina-come-religione> [20.05.2020].

Corinthians to describe people's faith in one another, their hope in one another, their commitment to one another (mind you, without any reference to God, the usual translation of "πίστις" as "faith in God" is wrong).⁴⁹

(b) One of the earliest and most complex definitions of money comes from Malta. On a bronze coin with no metal value of its own, the Grand Master of the Order of Malta had a promise minted in 1565: "*Non [est] aes, sed fides* | [This is] not ore, but trust". Even today, pension funds and Wall Street have no other, less immaterial basis.⁵⁰



Fig. 13 *non aes sed fides* | not copper but trust. Copper coinage issued by the Order of St John in Malta which were used in Malta from 1566 to 1827.

In the ancient world, money was issued and coins minted in temples, i.e. the places where the community worshipped its unifying, common, trust-giving "gods". The fact that Sotheby and Co. had to stop their auctions in the context of the Corona pandemic is related to the irreplaceability of the price-driving pre-evening talks; "*Non [est] ars, sed fides*" also applies to the art market.

(c) In our ageing society, the medical profession and the recognition it enjoys play a crucial role. The core of the artfully⁵¹ constructed *Hippocratic Oath*,⁵² which has been the basis of medical professional documents in many countries since 1804, is the fourfold interdependent building of trust in the medical profession. First, the future doctor invokes self-confidence under the double protection of the gods and his own skill (clauses 1, 5, 9). Secondly, confidence within the medical profession (paragraph 2). Thirdly, the trust between doctor and patient that is only possible on this twofold basis (paragraph 8 as well as 3-4, 6-7). And fourthly, trust between doctor and society, provided that ethical standards are followed (paragraph 9). It would be absurd if doctors out of all people would now lend their hand to banish the paradigm of trust and closeness from society. But are we not on the verge of this expulsion?

In modern medical research, the concept of confidence has been elevated to the gold standard by the *confidence interval* 95, i.e. a maximum deviation of 5 % with random repetition of the strictly scientific experimental design also in the social science field. (As a counter term, we propose the term *Corona Dysconfidence Interval* for the assessment of the consequences of political Corona VII measures for children and young people).

⁴⁹ The ancient Greek *πίστις* (πίστις) has a social, not a theological connotation. *Νυνὶ δὲ μένει πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη, τὰ τρία ταῦτα μείζων δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη* (Westcott-Hort); *nunc autem manet fides spes caritas tria haec maior autem his est caritas* (Vulgate); *But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but love is greatest among them.* (Luther 1545); *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity.* (King James Version). Cf. on the personification of the *πίστις* Mt 18.20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (King James Version).

⁵⁰ On money as institutionalised trust see Sokol, Jan (2003): *Was ist Geld?* In: Matthias Theodor Vogt, Jan Sokol, Eugeniusz Tomiczek (Hrsg.): *Kulturen in Begegnung. Bericht über das Collegium Pontes Görlitz-Zgorzelec-Zbořelec 2003.* Wrocław und Görlitz 2005. CZ: *Co jsou peníze?* Sociologický ústav AV ČR, Praha 2004. S. 509–518]. Cf. Aristoteles *Nikomachische Ethik*, V.8. 1133b.

⁵¹ Probably singular in linguistic history is the fourfold negation in number 4: "Οὐ δώσω δὲ οὐδὲ φάρμακον οὐδὲν αἰτηθεὶς θανάσιμον, οὐδὲ ὑφηγήσομαι ζυμβουλίην τοιήνδε. | I will not, however, and not at all (and) give to nobody as (to this) prayed a deadly remedy, nor will I show such advice", Gehring and Mattli translation, *Schweizerische Ärztezeitung* 2016;97(23):854-856.

⁵² The Hippocratic Oath has only been documented since the first century AD and may have a Christian ethic as its basis, not an Aegean one from 400 BC. Cf. Edelstein, Ludwig (1943): *The Hippocratic Oath: Text, Translation, Interpretation*, Bulletin of the history of medicine. No 1. 1943. supplements. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press.

The fact that trust and a sense of closeness are the stuff from which human beings derive their dignity and mental health also applies in reverse: *social distancing* makes dying a horror. A lack of closeness (*social dys-distancing*) makes it impossible for children to learn to speak fully. Non-verbal communication plays a decisive role in children's learning. According to some estimates, non-verbal communication accounts for two-thirds of communication acts in adults, and possibly even more in children. Facial expressions and lip movements play a crucial role. By requiring both children and their parents to wear masks, we deprive children of a central part of their competence training. We inflict the loss of hearing on young people; in the 1980s—long before the pandemic—24% of Germany's young men had such severe hearing impairments that they could not be called up for military service and had to and still have to face corresponding difficulties in social and professional life.

Viral illness can also lead to a loss of confidence in life. One of the most prominent cases is the Spanish court painter Francisco de Goya. After a life-threatening illness with complete deafness,⁵³ his style changed from the representative classical to the black romantic inwardness of the autobiographical print series "El sueño de la razón produce monstruos | The sleep of reason gives birth to monsters" (1797), widely acclaimed up to the present day. Figuratively speaking, in 2020 around the globe the "sleep of reason" has led to the loss of many people's confidence in life; not due to the virus itself, but due to the panic fear of the corona virus SARS-hCoV-2, a fear which has itself become a 'virus'. The politics of many countries have taken an active part in this.

4. Rationality-based policy addressing the prefrontal cortex, versus fear-based policy addressing the amygdala.

There are two types of politics:

(a) One type of politics is based on sober analysis and addresses the centre of reason in the frontal cortex, the prefrontal cortex. It starts from the concept of the responsible citizen, his lived citizenship and his expertise.⁵⁴

(b) The other kind of politics is based on fear and targets the amygdala, the fear centre in the brain. The amygdala is the instrument of power of authoritarian systems of rule on all continents. Amygdala researcher Hans-Christian Pape has pointed out that three concepts need to be distinguished: Fright, Fear and Anxiety.⁵⁵ Politics addressing the amygdala is dangerous for a democracy, as it leads to states of panic that can no longer be controlled by the patient/citizen and may hand him over to demagoguery (whether from the right is scientifically debatable).⁵⁶ The fearful emotional

⁵³ Mackowiak suspects mumps, parotitis epidemica with encephalitis and damage to the vestibulochlear nerve. Mackowiak, Philipp A. (2013): *El Sordo*. In: *Diagnosing Giants*. Oxford University Press. pp82–96.

⁵⁴ Cf. at length Vogt et al. (2016): *Ankommen*, Kapitel 1 Kulturpolitik, S: 61–188.

⁵⁵ "Fright is a reflexive reaction to a certain event. [...] Fear is [...] important. It prepares us to ward off or escape that potential danger. It is a very basic behavioural strategy that is present in almost all vertebrates and ensures their survival. Fear is an exaggerated fear response. It can occur without there being a direct trigger, and to an outsider the reaction is often incomprehensible." The place of publication is structurally interesting for the communication of science to the general public in the interplay of new media: www.dasGehirn.info—A project of the Gemeinnützige Hertie-Stiftung, the Neurowissenschaftliche Gesellschaft e.V. [President: Prof. Dr. Albert Ludolph, Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare Medizin, Berlin], in cooperation with the ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe. Here: *Fear ensures our survival*, 25.07.2011. <https://www.dasgehirn.info/denken/emotion/furcht-sichert-unser-ueberleben> [22.05.2020]

⁵⁶ Compare a Brazilian study ("Intelligence had a positive impact on political centrality. "Heiner Rindermann et al. (2012): *Political orientations, intelligence and education*. Intelligence. Volume 40, Issue 2, March-April 2012, Pages 217-225. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intell.2011.11.005>) with a British study ("We found that greater liberalism was

charging of politics favours enemy images and undermines the (previous) model of deliberative democracy, which had relied on a rationalisation of discourses and a universalistic ethic.⁵⁷

While the so-called Cold War of 1947-1989 had created a comparatively stable pattern of order consisting of two conflicting alliance systems, the first quarter of the 21st century is increasingly characterised by the power struggle between the USA and the People's Republic of China. On the one hand, these are strongly intertwined. On the other hand, both are too weak on their own to be able to create a stable pattern of order or at least to continue to guarantee the previous functioning of the supranational organisations WTO, WHO, WFP, UN Security Council, etc. At the same time, however, they make it impossible for all to continue. At the same time, however, they make it impossible for all other third states such as the Russian Federation, the European Union, Turkey, Iran, etc. to fit into stable patterns of order and thus tend to force them into asymmetrical spaces of action.

For the corresponding action of the Russian Federation, we propose—in an inversion of Joseph Nye⁵⁸—the term *negative soft power*. The theory for its policy approach, which deliberately dismantles cohesion, was unfolded in the 'Gerasimov Doctrine'. The Russian Federation's Chief of General Staff, Valery Gerasimov, had analysed, among other things, the Western interventions in Libya against Ghadafi and received essential ideas from it. He developed a script for Russian military operations, which he published in the *Военно-промышленный курьер* / *Military-Industrial Kurier* in February 2013.⁵⁹ "It uses, as in a fable by Aesop, the term defence for questions of attack" (Mark Galeotti) and subsumes under military policy the "realisation of events of information-based confrontation [propaganda] and special operations [...] under the guise of peacemaking activities." Gerasimov states that through political and economic pressure, massive propaganda, incitement of protests by the local population, "covert military means" and special forces, "even a flourishing state can be transformed in the course of months or even days into the arena of a bitter armed conflict and sink into a web of chaos, humanitarian disaster and civil war." Western outrage against the Russian Federation's soft power strategies is, however, ill-founded, as from the Iraq misstatement by the US to the French interventions in Syria⁶⁰ and Libya to the deliberate confusion of justice and mercy by some churches, the West operates similarly.

associated with increased gray matter volume in the anterior cingulate cortex, whereas greater conservatism was associated with increased volume of the right amygdala. These results could be replicated in an independent sample of additional participants. Our results extend previous observations that political attitudes reflect differences in self-regulatory conflict monitoring and emotional face recognition by showing that such attitudes are reflected in human brain structure." Ryota Kanai et al.: *Political Orientations Are Correlated with Brain Structure in Young Adults*. *Current Biology* 21, 677-680, April 26, 2011. DOI 10.1016/j.cub.2011.03.017).

⁵⁷ Vogt, Markus (2017): *Politische Emotionen als moraltheoretische Herausforderung*, in: *Münchener Theologische Zeitschrift* 68 (4-2017), 292-305.

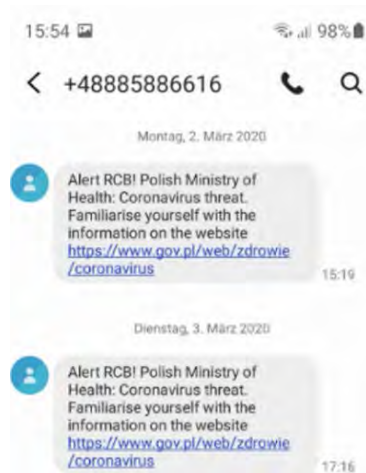
⁵⁸ Nye, Joseph S. (1990): *Soft Power*. In: *Foreign Policy*, 80 (3), 153-171. Ders. (2004): *Soft Power. The means to success in world politics*. New York, PublicAffairs.

⁵⁹ English translation of the full article at Galeotti, Mark (2014): *The 'Gerasimov Doctrine' and Russian Non-Linear War*. Commented edition of Gerasimov. <http://inmoscowsshadows.wordpress.com/2014/07/06/the-gerasimov-doctrine-and-russian-non-linear-war> [31.08.2014]. Geras[s]imov, General Valery, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation (2013): *The Value of Science in Prediction*. Moskau, *Военно-промышленный курьер*, *Military-Industrial Kurier*, February 27.

⁶⁰ Vogt et al. (2016), *Ankommen*, p46, footnote 30; Malbrunot, Georges; Chesno, Christian (2014): *Les Chemins de Damas – Le dossier noir de la relation franco-syrienne*. Paris: Robert Laffont. Cf. on the context Leukefeld, Karin: *Bashar al-Assad. Ein Feind wird gemacht*. In: *Feindbilder und Konflikteskalation*. Dossier Nr. 80. Wissenschaft & Frieden 2015-4: *Deutsche Verantwortung – Zäsur oder Kontinuität?* Bonn 2015

The “web of chaos and humanitarian catastrophe in which even a flourishing state could sink in the course of months or even days” (Gerassimov) is the shortest conceivable description of the effect of Corona VII, and even more so of Corona VII measures, on the majority of the world’s states, both in the Global South and the Global North. Even if the People’s Republic of China stands as the far-reaching winner of the measures, this effect is so far-reaching that it could only be achieved from within the states themselves, not through any propaganda campaign from outside, no matter how elaborate.

Asymmetrical warfare against foreigners, whether conquerors or states, has a long tradition. The term “guerrilla” (little war) comes from the Spanish uprising against Napoleon’s troops that Goya put into the picture. What is completely new, however, (at least within the democratic fabric of Europe, but not within the Mongol legacy in Russia from 1241 to the present,⁶¹ or the *Red Scare* heritage of the USA), is the use of fear politics against the citizens of one’s own state, as was seen in the Corona crisis.



In Poland, at the beginning of March 2020, the government informed all mobile phone owners every afternoon by SMS with the text “Alert RCB! Polish Ministry of Health: Coronavirus threat. Familiarise yourself with the information on the website <https://www.gov.pl/web/zdrowie/coronavirus>” (Fig. 14). In April 2020, the same Polish government replaced the postmaster with a military man and passed a law on mandatory and effectively uncontrollable postal voting for the election of the president in the middle of the corona crisis, almost getting away with it.

Fig. 14 Daily SMS from the Polish government “Alert RCB! Polish Ministry of Health: Coronavirus threat.” Source: Screenshot M. Vogt [20.05.2020].

In Austria, the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Minister of Health and Minister of the Interior were joined by civil servants and health experts at the meeting of the Ministry of Health’s “Corona” task force at the Austrian Chancellery on 12 March 2020. According to the minutes,⁶² The then Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz was concerned that he did not yet sense any real concern on the part of the population. In response, Herwig Kollaritsch, a tropical medicine specialist, said that the population must be made aware that this is a potentially fatal disease and not a simple flu. According to the minutes, Kollaritsch cited the communication on the British measles epidemic of the 1990s as an example. There, the fear of the population was played on. And the minutes go on to say: “In

⁶¹ Michail Schischkin in: Fritz Pleitgen, Michail Schischkin (2019): *Frieden oder Krieg. Russland und der Westen – eine Annäherung*. München 2019. Shishkin's thesis is original and worthy of discussion insofar as it could explain the fundamental non-inclusion of Russian territory either in the Byzantine positive legal system (continental Europe, Japan, Africa, South America) or the Anglo-Saxon case law system presumably borrowed from Arabia, while the Mongolian system (the ruler is always right and creates the law) is still applied today in the People's Republic of China.

⁶² Reproduction after <https://zackzack.at/2020/04/27/haelt-regierung-corona-fuer-nicht-viel-gefaehrlicher-als-grippe-protokoll-wirft-brisante-fragen-auf/>. Excerpt documented under https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EWm_L-7XY-AIBq7g?format=jpg&name=small. Cf. also the Executive Summary of the Expert Council, which was deleted by the Ministry itself, at <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&crct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj2hdraqczpAh-WksKQKHPrAuYQFjAAegQIBhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.oesterreich.gv.at%2Fdam%2Fjcr%3Aa9ba0dbb-fc05-4b6f-a7cb-ecb8b6842364%2FExecutive%2520Summary%2520Covid19%2520v2.pdf&usg=AOvVaw17ufsI09hDu4IvHILNM5HTW>

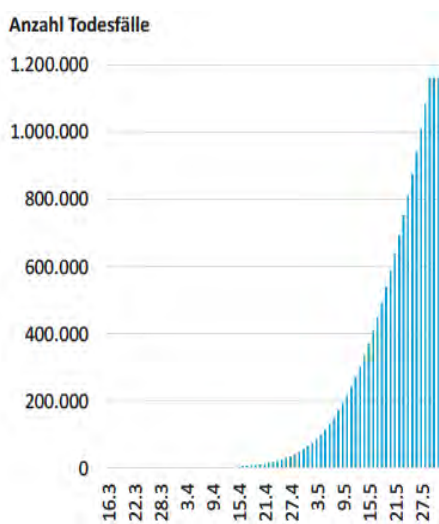
short, it is made clear that people should be afraid of infection [!] or afraid of parents/grandparents dying. On the other hand, the fear of food shortages, power cuts, etc. should be taken away from the population.” (Fig. 15).

Bezugnehmend auf die Kommunikation gebe es als Beispiel die Masernepidemie der 90er in Großbritannien. Dort habe man mit der Angst der Bevölkerung gespielt. Daran anknüpfend, müsse man der Bevölkerung (vor allem der vulnerablen Gruppe) klarmachen, dass es sich um eine potentiell tödliche Krankheit handle und nicht mit der einfachen Grippe vergleich sei. Die Sterblichkeit sei demnach zwischen 10 – 15 % höher. Zudem gelte es, die Apotheken hinsichtlich Triage einzubinden.

Kurz verdeutlicht, dass die Menschen vor einer Ansteckung Angst haben sollen bzw. Angst davor, dass Eltern/Großeltern sterben. Hingegen sei die Angst vor Lebensmittelknappheit, Stromausfällen etc. der Bevölkerung zu nehmen.

Fig. 15 Extract from the minutes of the Corona Crisis Staff meeting on 12 March at the Austrian Ministry of Health, Vienna. Ref. 20, statements by tropical medicine expert Herwig Kollaritsch and Chancellor Sebastian Kurz (ÖVP): “People should be afraid that their parents or grandparents might die.” Source: https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EWm_L-7XYAIBq7g?format=jpg&name=small.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung commented: “Kurz is internationally known for his apocalyptic rhetoric. The state of emergency dressed up in words is a central component of his success. That was already true for the refugee crisis. And it applies even more to the “fight” against Corona, which is being waged primarily with war rhetoric. While in Sweden they appeal to reason, in this country they take the path of fear. Why is that? Are Austrians actually more capable of fear than of reason? When you ask someone in Austria what reason actually is, do they mean: a kind of bondage, in the sense of: “We all have to be reasonable now” (equivalent to the ÖVP credo “fold your hands and keep your mouth shut”), or do they mean critical personal responsibility based on enlightenment. It is to be feared the former.”⁶³



In Germany, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, for Construction and Home Affairs, with the involvement of China experts, unfolded a systematic fear policy with explicit inclusion of children in its strategy paper of 22.03.2020. (p. 13: “In order to achieve the desired shock effect, the concrete effects of an infection on human society must be made clear: [...] If [children] infect their parents, and one of them dies in agony at home, and they feel they are to blame because, for example, they forgot to wash their hands after playing, it is the most horrible thing a child can ever experience”).⁶⁴ An exponential graph by the Federal Ministry of the Interior dated 22 March 2020 decided Germany’s social and economic fate. For 27 May 2020, it predicted 1,159,441 German deaths (Fig. 16).

Fig. 16 An exponential graph by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, for Construction and Home Affairs dated 22 March 2020. [BMI]: “How we get COVID-19 under control.” Berlin, 22 March 2020, “VS-NUR FÜR DEN DIENSTGEBRAUCH” (VS-For official use only).

⁶³ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 30.04.2020

⁶⁴ <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/veroeffentlichungen/2020/corona/szenarienpapier-covid19.html>

In this sense, the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden spread a fear that could not be supported by the figures when it presented a “special evaluation” of the deaths in Germany in 2020 compared to the years 2016-19 as of 8 May 2020 (Fig. 17). It showed for the period 01.01. to 12.04.2020 an [with 3% statistically not particularly significant] under-mortality of -8,809 deaths (or -1,201 for the period since the first Corona deaths 01.03.) or for the full-year period 13.04.2019 -12.04.2020 an [with 0.1% statistically clearly insignificant] excess-mortality of +1,159 deaths. However, the press release of the Federal Statistical Office⁶⁵ and the media reports based on it extrapolated the last three weeks of the reporting period under the heading “excess mortality”. This is manipulation by the state and not compatible with the requirements of the Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act.

This Polish, Austrian and German administrative action is far remote from policy #a, which is based on sober analysis and addresses the centre of rationality in the frontal cortex, the prefrontal cortex. It is at such points that the *dysconfidence interval* of citizens vis-à-vis their state, familiar to many African citizens, sets in when the state does not protect them as mandated, but seeks to manipulate them. A ‘tropicalisation’ of our hemisphere can be observed not only in the area of climate, but also in politics.

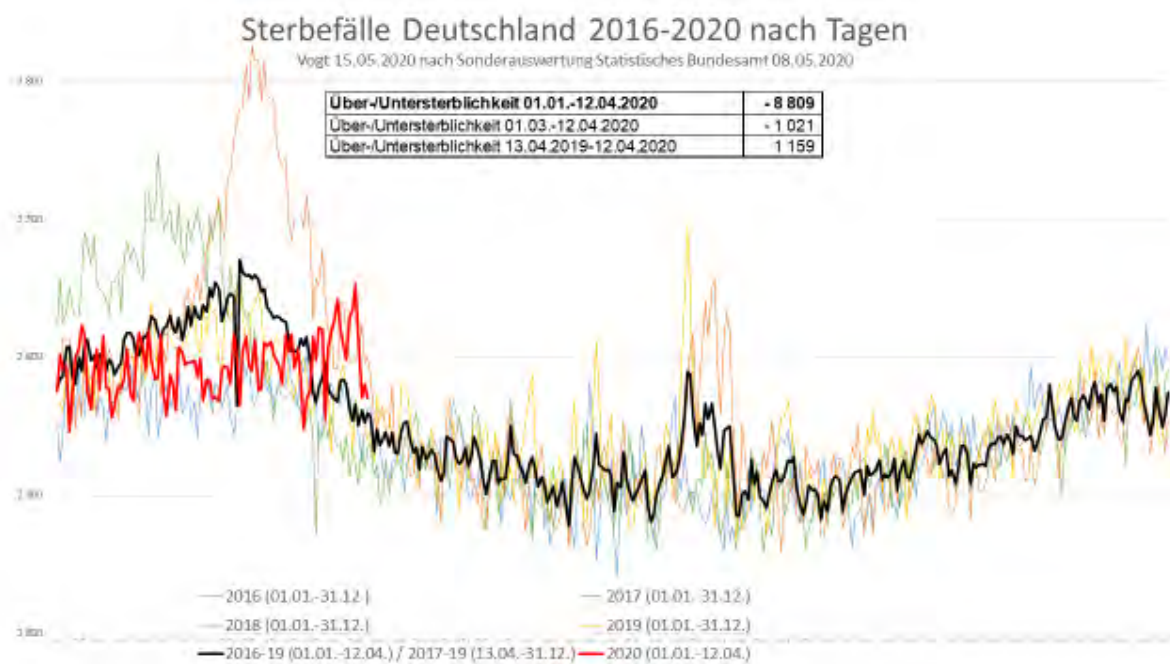


Fig. 17 Fatalities in Germany 2016-2020 by days. Source: Vogt 15.05.2020 according to special evaluation by Federal Statistical Office 08.05.2020

The situation is no different in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) keeps statistics under the heading *Excess Mortality* for the 171 weeks between 01/01/2017 and 09/05/2020, resulting in excess mortality in 1 week in early 2017, 6 weeks in early 2018 and 7 weeks in March to May 2020. In the long under-mortality periods of the further 157 weeks, 0.0 is given as “Percent Excess” (for example in Fig. 18 under 25/08/2018) instead of correctly listing the corresponding negative number.

⁶⁵ https://www.destatis.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/05/PD20_162_12621.html

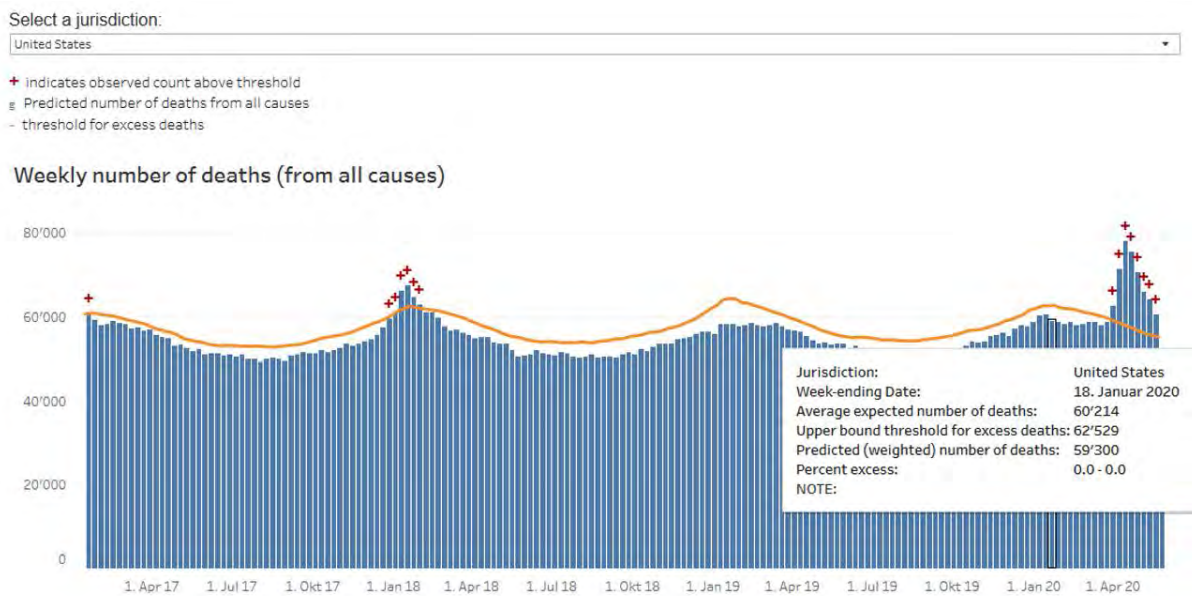


Fig. 18 Fatalities USA 01.01.2017-09.05.2020. In the long under-mortality periods, 0.0 is given as Percent Excess instead of a negative number. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm [24.05.2020].

In view of such official inaccuracies and in view of the high level of uncertainty among large sections of the population, it is not surprising that conspiracy theories are circulating. In contrast, the seriousness of the social upheavals triggered by SARS-CoV-19 cannot be emphasised seriously enough.

Who gets to say? In the current German debate, what the New York Times had put in a nutshell on 10 May 2020, namely the need for a discursive differentiation between the “medical ending” and the “social ending” of an epidemic, is becoming apparent.⁶⁶

When will the Covid-19 pandemic end? And how? According to historians, pandemics typically have two types of endings: the medical, which occurs when the incidence and death rates plummet, and the social, when the epidemic of fear about the disease wanes. “When people ask, ‘When will this end?’, they are asking about the social ending,” said Dr. Jeremy Greene, a historian of medicine at Johns Hopkins. In other words, an end can occur not because a disease has been vanquished but because people grow tired of panic mode and learn to live with a disease. Allan Brandt, a Harvard historian, said something similar was happening with Covid-19: “As we have seen in the debate about opening the economy, many questions about the so-called end are determined not by medical and public health data but by sociopolitical processes.” Endings “are very, very messy,” said Dora Vargha, a historian at the University of Exeter. “Looking back, we have a weak narrative. For whom does the epidemic end, and who gets to say?”

5. The loss of knowledge about death.

The range of scientific perspectives of Ioannidis, Streeck and others were already available around 16 March 2020. It was not considered by Imperial College, German Federal Ministry of the Interior and other policy advisors. Completely independent of the dispute that has raged since then between non-clinical virologists on the one hand, social epidemiologists, palliative physicians, pedagogues, economists, humanities scholars and constitutional lawyers on the other, the question remains essential: Why was it possible in the United Kingdom, in the USA, in Germany and in all the other

⁶⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/10/health/coronavirus-plague-pandemic-history.html>

countries for exponential graphics with a million-death miscalculation to be believed by politicians and to be pan-hysterically propagated by the media?

Culturally, the cause is comparatively simple, though extremely consequential for the lives of millions worldwide. “We have lost sight of the fact that we are mortal. We can prolong life through prosperity, hygiene and good medical care, but death is inevitable in the end. When the inevitable death of all living things that makes room for the next generation fades from consciousness, we as a society overreact in situations like Corona.” (Barbara Rucha).⁶⁷ In contrast, death in the Corona hysteria is seen as a unique, absolute catastrophe, as something that must be prevented at all costs, and this attitude clouds the view of realities.

Allahu akbar—God is great, they say in many parts of Asia and Africa. In Europe, on the other hand, the view of super-mortalities and also sub-mortalities has been severely lost. We forget that nature gives humans an averagely healthy body with a functioning immune system only up to the age of about 50. Every year that we live in health beyond this age is largely due to medical progress. But this does not change the statistical reliability of a mortality of one hundred and zero period, which neither man nor mankind is able to change: Whoever is born, must die. From a cultural point of view, the decisive factor is how calmly or how panic-stricken one deals with this very finding. Especially in that part of the world where faith in God^{68 69} has been replaced by faith in science,⁷⁰ people tend to panic. The connection of the loss of trust in God with the loss of the view of “death as a friend” (A. Rethel 1851) has gained new poignancy through the current resilience discussion.⁷¹

What Hans Rosling states in “Factfulness” (2018) for the outdated-false view of the Global South, which lags some sixty years behind current developments, also applies to the worldwide development of death figures: As the Fig. 19 shows, today the region with the most annual deaths (in Central Asia it is 1,400 per 100,000 inhabitants) is twice as well off as the then EC members in 1969 (2,500). Mankind has achieved great things, especially in medicine, but ‘we’ are not grateful:

⁶⁷ Barbara Rucha, Leipzig, Mail 2020-04-24 to Matthias Theodor Vogt.

⁶⁸ Zuckermann, Phil (2007): *Atheism, contemporary numbers and patterns*, in: *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, edited by Michael Martin, New York: Cambridge University Press, S. 47 – 65.

⁶⁹ Western Europe was significantly less net positive regionally (4%) than the rest of the world where overall net positivity is 37 %. (Net score refers to the total percentage of respondents who believe religion plays a positive role in their country minus those who believe it plays a negative one.)” WIN-Gallup International (2014): *Does Religion Play a Positive Role?* Zurich. <https://docplayer.net/17561453-Irish-version-does-religion-play-a-positive-role.html> [20.05.2020].

⁷⁰ Valadier P. (1999) *Science as New Religion*. In: Babich B.E. (eds) *Nietzsche, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science*. Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, vol 204. Springer, Dordrecht. Agamben, Giorgio (2020): *La medicina come religione*. Quodlibet Macerata.

⁷¹ Cf. to “Tolerance of Ambiguity | Ambiguitätstoleranz” Stangl, Elias D. (2016): *Resilienz durch Glauben? Die Entwicklung psychischer Widerstandskraft bei Erwachsenen*, München (S. 215) sowie allgemein zu Glaube und Resilienz Sedmak, Clemens (2013): *Innerlichkeit und Kraft. Studie über epistemische Resilienz*, Freiburg/Br.; Vogt, Markus; Schneider, Martin (2016a) (Hg.): *Theologische und ethische Dimensionen von Resilienz*, Themenheft der Münchener Theologischen Zeitschrift 3/2016; Vogt, Markus; Schneider, Martin (2016b): *Zauberwort Resilienz. Analysen zum interdisziplinären Gehalt eines schillernden Begriffs*, in: Münchener Theologische Zeitschrift 67 (3-2016), 180-194. Wir danken Markus Vogt, München, für die Hinweise.

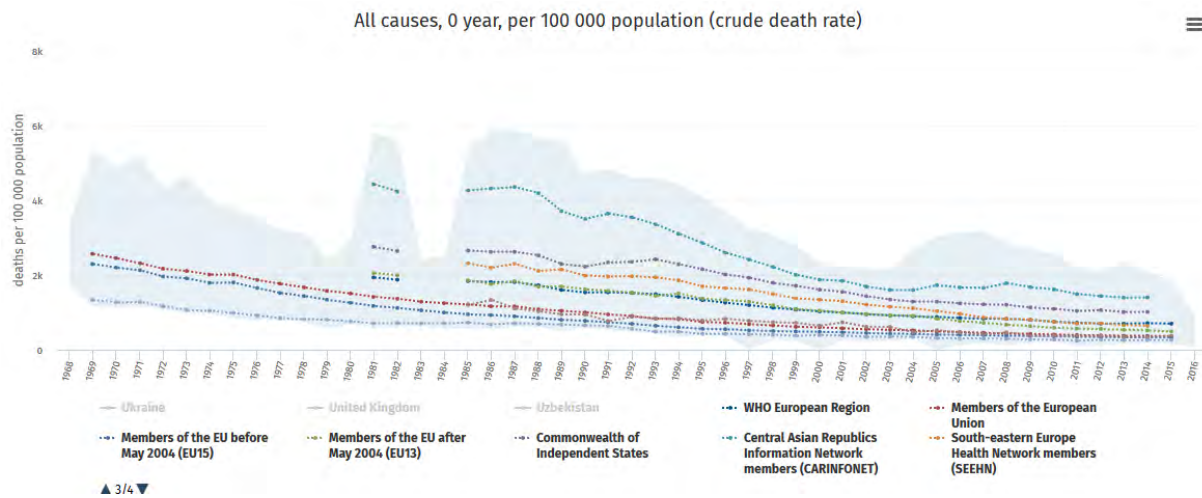


Fig. 19 Mortality EU15, Central Asia and others 1969–2016 all causes per 100.000. WHO (2020) https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/indicators/hfamdb_99-cdr-0-year-all-causes-per-100-000/visualizations/#id=29305

The following graph Fig. 20 shows Italy, Spain, France in the same time corridor (1969-2016). In Italy, death rates have decreased from 3,000 to 300 per 100,000 by a factor of ten. In other words, also as a result of the reduction in child and youth mortality, personal encounters with the phenomenon of death on the street or among acquaintances have decreased by 90%. In the context of SARS-COV-2, governments have now apparently opened the “war” (Emanuel Macron) against the remaining 10%. In Silicon Valley, Aubrey de Grey considers the belief in the insuperability of death obsolete and death not a metaphysical problem but a technical one. The hubris is obvious. It has taken its revenge, just like in the biblical story of the Tower of Babel.

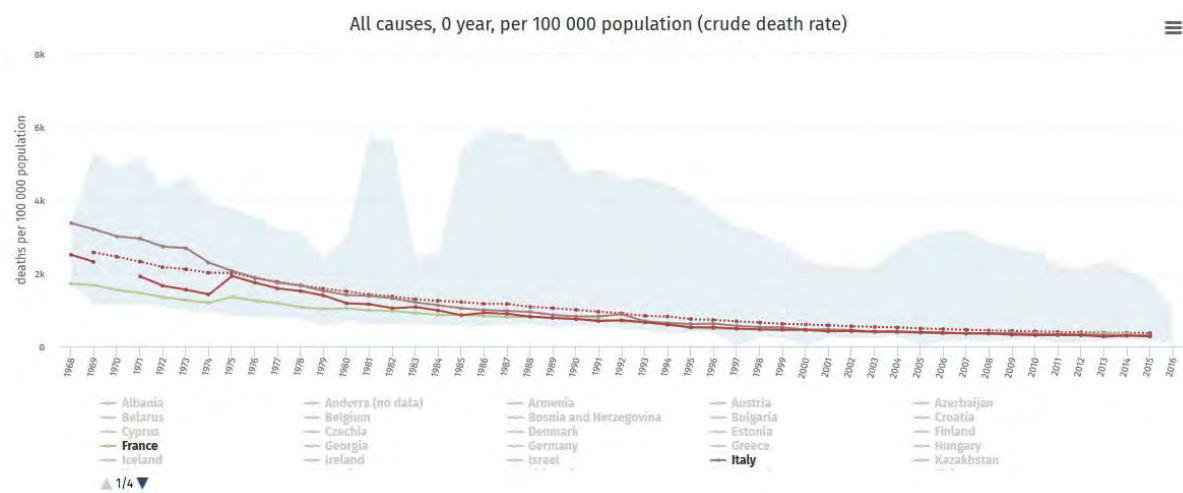


Fig. 20 Mortality France, Italy 1969–2016 all causes per 100.000. https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/indicators/hfamdb_99-cdr-0-year-all-causes-per-100-000/visualizations/#id=29305

Unlike in Germany, for the vast majority of people in sub-Saharan Africa there is no choice between, on the one hand, an intensive care bed with equipment costs of 85,000 euros⁷² or 1,265 euros a day⁷³ and, on the other hand, dying. “Outsmarting death, becoming immortal—Africa does

⁷² <https://www.dkgev.de/dkg/presse/details/78-milliarden-euro-angebliche-zusatzfinanzierung-der-kliniken-haelt-einem-faktencheck-nicht-stand/> [20.05.2020]

⁷³ Zahlen von 2008. <https://www.springermedizin.de/der-anaesthesist/7944590> [20.05.2020]

not live this dream”,⁷⁴ at least not technically. Here, the death of the young, the old and the sick is an inseparable part of life. Culturally, Africa is better equipped to deal with the phenomenon of death than Europe.

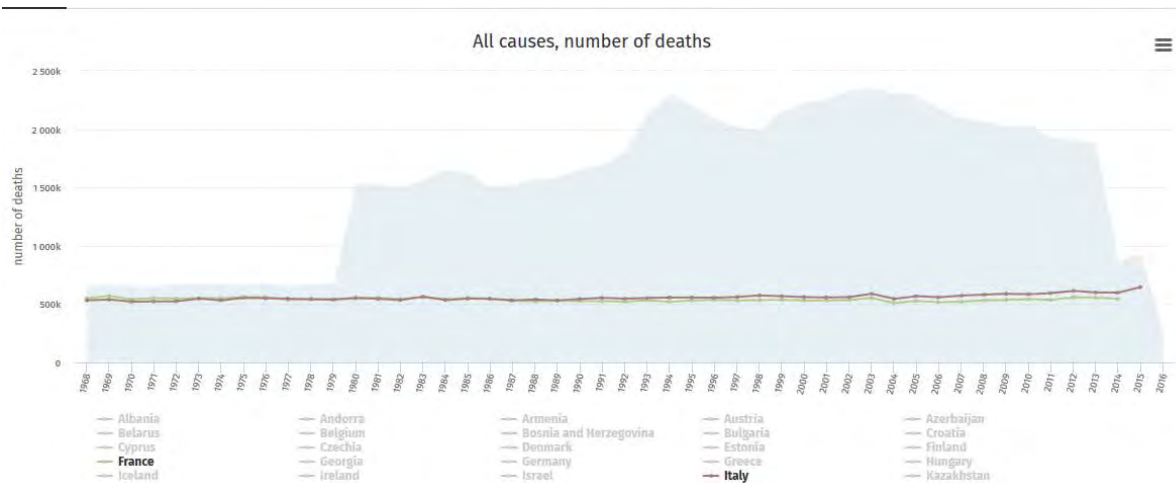


Fig. 21 Mortality France, Italy 1969–2016 all causes. https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/indicators/hfamdb_98-deaths-all-causes/visualizations/#id=29302

However, the above statistics for Europe are only a relative truth. As graph no. Fig. 21 shows, the absolute number of deaths actually remained constant at 500,000 per year, both in France and in Italy.

The increase in deaths in Italy from 598,000 (2015) to 640,000 (2016), corresponding to an excess mortality of 50,000 or 10%, was not noticed by the media abroad, quite differently from then Corona VII fatalities 2020 (75,891 fatalities due to or with Corona VII among a total of 746,146 fatalities that year at an excess mortality of 100,526 over the 2015–2019 median.). The non-perception of 2016 at that time is largely related to the media system and its coverage.

Political expediencies are crucial, for example the fact that Europe’s prosperity is based on a series of exploitative systems.⁷⁵ The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia stated as late as 2015: “Following the opening of labour markets triggered by the EU, competition in the construction sector has intensified. Precarious employment and subcontractor systems put pressure on companies offering fair work.”⁷⁶ The rebuilding of Berlin as the capital of reunified Germany was largely done by foreign construction workers, including from Portugal, who worked below legal standards. Only very hesitantly did the state assign its own customs to carry out controls against the subcontractor and sub-subcontractor system. In the case of the German slaughterhouses, such controls were only triggered by massive Corona rates in 2020; the cheap meat had an extremely high political status until then. A similar situation applies to the exploitative system of the likewise Central and Eastern European harvest workers in Germany. The slave system of African and Near Eastern harvest workers in Italy is obviously firmly in the joint hands of the Nigerian mafia⁷⁷ and

⁷⁴ Leoš Janáček, see below.

⁷⁵ Szaniszló, Inocent-Mária V. OP (ed., 2021): *Invisible migrant workers and visible human rights*, Angelicum Press, Roma 2021. Vogt, Matthias Theodor (2021): *On the threshold to visibility and dignity. The long story of Polish migrants at Görlitz/Zgorzelec with special emphasis on the role of the Roman Catholic and the Evangelical United Churches*. In: Szaniszló OP (ed., 2021): *Invisible migrant workers*.

⁷⁶ *Handwerksbericht der Landesregierung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Basis 2015*. Düsseldorf. S. 31.

⁷⁷ Cf. Palmisano, Leonardo (2019): *Ascia Nera-la brutale intelligenza della mafia nigeriana*, Fandango, Roma. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2012): *Nigeria: The Black Axe confraternity, also known as the Neo-Black Movement of*

the Camorra-Ndrangheta mafia. Certain re-legalisations and improvements in the hygiene, housing and contractual situation were only triggered by Corona. Corona VII did not bring about any significant improvements in the sex workers' system.⁷⁸

Most important in the Corona VII context is the care of the elderly of Western Europe. It is largely in the hands of Central and Eastern European women who take turns, for example, in a two-month system, and who would risk their domestic social entitlements by legalising their Western European work. What was not reported in the media was the panic caused by these same media. When the *Alert!* messages from Poland (Fig. 14) and the other home countries reached the elderly care workers working in northern Italy, they took the next bus home in flight, abandoning the elderly - in the country with the highest average age in Europe and the second highest in the world, a major trigger of the northern Italian Corona VII crisis along with NO₂ inversion weather,⁷⁹ a European top ranking in Sepsis-related antibiotic resistance⁸⁰ and the transport of infected people from hospitals to old people's homes.

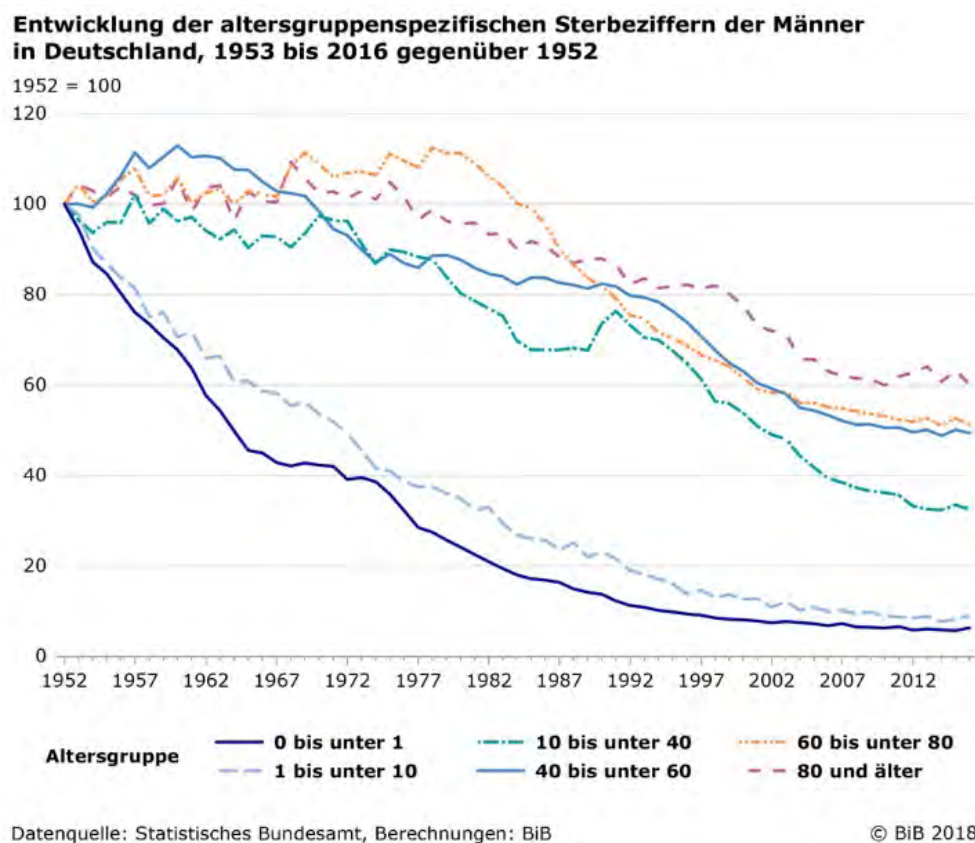


Fig. 22 Development of age-group-specific male death rates in Germany, 1953 to 2016, compared to 1952. <https://www.bib.bund.de/DE/Fakten/Fakt/S08-Altersspezifische-Sterbeziffern-Maenner-ab-1952.html?nn=9992046>.

Africa, including their rituals, oaths of secrecy, and use of symbols or particular signs; whether they use force to recruit individuals (2009-November 2012).

⁷⁸ http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20141208_messaggio-xlvi-giornata-mondiale-pace-2015.html.

⁷⁹ Ogen, Yaron (2020): *Assessing nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels as a contributing factor to coronavirus (COVID-19) fatality*. Science of the Total Environment 726 (2020) 138605. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.138605>.

⁸⁰ Greece 63.9% or two thirds of the population, Romania 29.5%, Italy 26.8%, France 0.5%, Germany 0.4%, Iceland 0.0 %. <https://atlas.ecdc.europa.eu/public/index.aspx?Dataset=27&HealthTopic=4>

The difference between the two graphs (Fig. 19 and Fig. 21) can be explained by the tremendous increase in life expectancy. Freely adapted from Paul Celan, one has to state soberly: ‘Death is—still—a master *in* Germany’. Germany has to deal with almost one million deaths every year, and deals with them (2019: 939 500).⁸¹ The figure results from the mathematical ratio of the so-called distant life expectancy from the age of 65 (2017: 17.8 for men and 21 for women) with an extremely reduced frequency of deaths of children and young people and a population of 83,149,300 (as of 30.09.2019). It is not the 2,552 deaths per day that are astonishing, but rather that Germany in both East and West, and then collectively, has managed to push death rates among 60-79 year elderly down to only 60% of the 1952 level, creating the entirely new age group of often enough sprightly and energetic young oldies under 80 (Fig. 22). Increased life expectancy is a result of increased prosperity. It had—we repeat: fortunately!—European countries to pass on the surplus to their elderly 65+, who in Germany account for 50% of the total health system expenditure of 376 billion euros. So where do we get these funds from? As a result of the anti-Corona VII measures, do we now also have to reduce the health system by 20% or more, just like the entire infrastructure?

The non-holistic pandemic measures that were initiated without cultural sensitivity have not listened to the main affected group of the elderly, have taken the whole of society hostage in a complex triage, have brought the care of the normal sick to a standstill (in Germany with alienation of the medical profession due to last year’s quarterly figures regardless of the massive absence of the media-panic frightened clientele), have had extreme follow-up consequences for public health,⁸² have triggered serious collateral effects in the global South, have severely impaired public assets and thus the future of the already pensionless younger generation.

6. Thinking through Macron’s “declaration of war” on the phenomenon of death with the means of art.

Although everyone is talking about Albert Camus’ *Plague*, the European cultural scene has hardly addressed three works that deal with the abolition of death and use the means of art to think through Macron’s “declaration of war” on the phenomenon of “death”. We recommend deciphering current events in the light of these works of art.

(a) In 2005, the Portuguese Nobel Prize winner for literature José Saramago published *As intermitências da morte*,⁸³ which “reconciles with dying by illustrating what it would be like without death”.

In his new novel *Death with Interruptions*, the almost eighty-five-year-old takes this game [of similes and also-rans, as in *The City of the Blind*] to the extreme and lives out a bold fantasy of omnipotence: He abolishes death without further ado. There is simply no more dying, at the stroke of twelve on New Year’s Eve in an entire country. Firemen pull the dying out of burning houses, but they just keep breathing, for days, weeks, months. Accident victims suddenly refuse to die. Those who are able to live, on the other hand, breathe a spontaneous sigh of relief because no impending end slows them down. Only the church representatives are at a loss and fear for their theological core, because where there is no death, there is no resurrection. [...] A literary dance of death, which, because it

⁸¹ Federal Statistical Office. *Preliminary results*, as of 24.04.2020.

⁸² Galea S. et al.: *The Mental Health Consequences of COVID-19 and Physical Distancing. The Need for Prevention and Early Intervention*. JAMA Internal Medicine Published online April 10, 2020

⁸³ Which means both “flashes / blinking lights of death” and “interruptions of death”. Swedish as *Dödens nycker* [The Whims of Death] 2005, German as *Eine Zeit ohne Tod* 2007, English as *Death with Interruptions*, 2008

reconciles with dying by illustrating what it would be like without death, also stands in the tradition of the *memento mori*, but breaks it playfully.⁸⁴

(b) In 1922, the Czech composer Leoš Janáček met the eternally young Elina Makropulos in the comedy *Věc Makropulos* (The Makropulos Affair) by Karel Čapek: “To cheat death, to become immortal - this dream is as old as the history of mankind. But is it really worth striving to live forever? Isn’t it precisely finiteness that makes life valuable in the first place?”

In the course of his work on the opera, he developed compassion for his title character, who had had to live so long and endure her endless loneliness. “I want everyone to be fond of her in the end,” he wrote. “I can’t do it without love.” [...] To cheat death, to become immortal - this dream is as old as the history of mankind. But is it really worth striving to live forever? Isn’t it precisely finiteness that makes life valuable in the first place? At least that is what Emilia Marty learns. An elixir to prolong life was tested on her - and she has been living for 337 years now in changing countries under changing names (her original name was Elina Makropulos) and identities. The effect of the elixir begins to wear off, and at first “Marty”, as the singer is also admiringly called, is willing to use any means to get the lost recipe for the potion; she also uses her irresistible erotic attraction for this purpose, and men of all ages lose their heads in rows because of her, while she herself remains completely cold emotionally. But when the recipe finally comes back into her possession, she realises that she doesn’t want to go on living at all: “This terrible loneliness! You get tired of the good, tired of the bad.... And you feel that the soul inside you has died.”⁸⁵

(c) One of the highlights of contemporary music theatre is *Le Grand Macabre* (1978) by the Hungarian composer György Ligeti after Michel de Ghelderode: “Death as a hero, but perhaps only a minor juggler, the broken and yet happily thriving, boozy, whored-up world of the imaginary ‘Breughelland’“. The work harks back to a puppet play by Flemish author Michel de Ghelderode, *La Farce de la Mort qui faillit trépasser* (The Farce of Death Who Almost Died 1924/25), the model for his own *La Balade du Grand Macabre* (The Ballad of the Great Macabre 1934).

The supposedly impending end of the world, a comet exploding near the earth - the story is set in a fantasy land: Breughelland. There, the Great Macabre Necrotzar appears and announces the end of the world. Whether he means it or not is hard to figure out. The fact is that the inhabitants of the threatened territory do everything they can to make the most of the remaining time for all the sensual pleasures of life. Naked existential fear and panic are juxtaposed with erotically savouring pleasure. Ligeti’s full-length stage work “Le Grand Macabre” was written between 1974 and 1977 based on the play “La Ballade du Grand Macabre” by the Belgian Michel de Ghelderode (1898 - 1962). György Ligeti (1923 - 2006) was fascinated by de Ghelderode’s play: “It was tailor-made for my musical-dramatic ideas: an end of the world that doesn’t really happen, death as a hero who is perhaps only a small juggler, the broken and yet happily thriving, drunken, whored world of the imaginary ‘Breughelland’“. The premiere took place in 1978 at the Royal Opera in Stockholm. The version revised by Ligeti himself, which will also be the basis of the Chemnitz production, was first performed at the Salzburg Festival in 1997. The absurdly disrespectful persiflage of a Last Judgement is also musically marked by parody. The classical orchestra is augmented by a lot of percussion and keyboard instruments. It begins with a

⁸⁴ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 10.10.2007.

⁸⁵ Theaterkompas, Neuss 15.September 2019.

car horn overture, places slapstick and improvisation next to complex row structures and cluster formations and does not shy away from lustily expressed crudities. The internationally renowned painter and sculptor Georg Baselitz has taken on the design of the stage set.⁸⁶

All three works deal with a crucial difference: that between the promise of dignity, for example in Article 1 of the German Constitution, on the one hand, and an understanding of life as a mechanistic phenomenon, as in the strategy paper of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, on the other. The promise of dignity requires continued dialogue, especially between different age groups. In this sense, in 2019 young German adults dealt with the connection between *Death and New Life* (*Tod und Neues Leben*) in a variety of smaller art projects.⁸⁷ Anthropologically, they are inseparable, but in a world of glossy media with their cover images of eternal youth, their connection is consistently faded out and the difference between physical, mental and spiritual maturation⁸⁸ is negated.

In the context of the much-discussed thesis in medical circles of pneumonia as *the old man's best friend* (incorrect quotation of William Osler 1892),⁸⁹ emphatic reference should be made to the complaint of palliative medicine that it had been excluded from the federal government's deliberations: "All ethical principles that we know are violated. According to a Chinese study, [we doctors] can actually save only three percent of those affected, 97 percent die despite maximum therapy - [...] a large number of those who are saved, after two to three weeks of ventilation, remain severely disabled. [...] [According to studies,] 91 percent of those questioned would reject measures that come with the high risk of disability. [At] Aachen University Hospital⁹⁰ [the] main cause of death was that patients refused ventilation themselves, knowing full well that they could die as a result." (Matthias Thöns).⁹¹

A possible basis for discussion of *death as a friend* is offered by Alfred Rethel in the 1848 homonym print name and in the interpretation of the print by Lionel von Donop (1889),⁹² which at first glance does not fit the present day: "In a touching way and in mild reconciliation balancing out the gruesome impressions, 'Death as a Friend' [1848] comes to us at the artist's hand. In a high tower chamber, transfigured by the rays of the departing sun, the aged Thürmer, his withered hands folded in prayer, has fallen blissfully asleep on his armchair. How often did he accompany the homecoming of an earth pilgrim in the city with the festive sounds of his bell! Now Death himself is at his service, serious and pensive, but a merciful and intimate friend, for he knows that he brings blessed rest and eternal peace to weary old age."



Fig. 23 Alfred Rethel: *Der Tod als Freund* (*Death as a Friend*), 1848.

⁸⁶ Theater Chemnitz 28.09.2013.

⁸⁷ <https://kultur.org/forschungen/tod-und-neues-leben/>.

⁸⁸ Vogt, Matthias Theodor; Fondis, Kristina; Menzen, Karl-Heinz; Thiele, Gisela (2017): *Kunst und Demenz. Ein Leit-faden für Modellprojekte*. Institut für kulturelle Infrastruktur Sachsen, Görlitz.

⁸⁹ "In children and in healthy adults the outlook is good. In the debilitated, in drunkards and in the aged the chances are against recovery. So fatal is it in the latter class [i.e. the elderly] that it has been termed the natural end of the old man." Osler, W. *The principles and practice of Medicine* 1892, 1st edition. Cf. Rijkers, G.T., Pelton, S.I. *The old man's friend*. *Pneumonia* 10,8 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41479-018-0052-7>

⁹⁰ In the study of Heinsberg patients by Dreher, M. et al. *Charakteristik von 50 hospitalisierten COVID-19-Patienten mit und ohne ARDS* [acute respiratory distress syndrome]. *Dtsch Arztebl Int* 2020; 117: 271-8; DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2020.0271.

⁹¹ Deutschlandfunk 11.04.2020.

⁹² Donop, Lionel von(1889): *Allgemeine Deutschen Biographie*, Band 28, 1889, S. 255-273

7. The Oxford Index of the global strangulation of societies by their own governments.

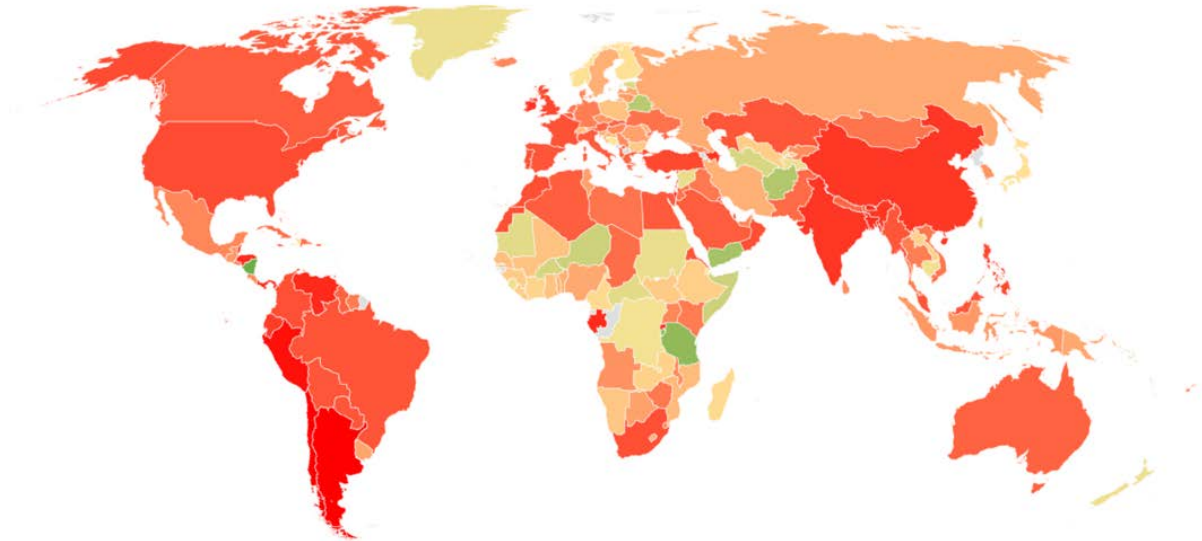


Fig. 24 Worldwide Strangulation of Societies by their own governments 2020-01-01 to 2021-02-28.
Data: Stringency Index (2021-02-28). Graph: Vogt 2021.

Since the spring of 2020, even democratically elected governments around the world have followed the Chinese example by imposing measures on their populations in favour of the minority of the elderly and at the expense of the minority of the young.

The terminology used by the Western analysts is telling. Oxford University has developed an index for the Corona measures of governments and coined an appropriate term for them: *stringency*. In Latin, *stringere* means to tie up, to bind together; the same root can be traced back to Latin *strangulare* or Greek *strangalūn* (στραγγαλοῦν) ‘to strangle, to suffocate’ (Pfeifer et al. 1993). If one wants to orientate oneself on its ancient basic meaning, the Oxford term thus means: *Index of the worldwide strangulation of societies by their own governments*. To our knowledge, there has never been such a global strangulation of social, cultural and economic life in history outside of war events as there has been since January 2020 (Fig. 24).

The central problem with the Oxford Research Group’s use of the term “stringency” is that none of these governments could cite science-based recommendations for their Corona VII actions in 2020. The exact opposite was the case. Due to the consistent lack of evidence, both the World Health Organization and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control had explicitly recommended against deep *non-pharmaceutical public health measures*. Except in the case of a pandemic on the scale of the Spanish flu. As a result of the speculative—and too late retracted—calculations of Imperial College, the case then arose in March 2020 that exactly such magnitudes were predicted without the British government seeking a second opinion, unlike the Swedish and initially the Dutch.

In 2009, the ECDC Stockholm presented a meta-study on pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical public health measures, which looked for scientifically robust evidence for all conceivable

public health measures, but did not find any. None of the measures were rated Grade A,⁹³ most of them Grade C.⁹⁴ As a result, the agency issued an urgent warning against all measures except hand washing, stating: “some possible community measures (proactive school closures, home working, etc.), though probably reducing transmission, can be more costly and disruptive than the effects of the pandemic itself.”⁹⁵ The ECDC was proved right with its warning.

On 19 September 2019,⁹⁶ the WHO presented a meta-study prepared by the University of Hong Kong:⁹⁷ It came to a similarly devastating conclusion as the ECDC study, both in terms of effectiveness and collateral damage and the “balance of benefits and harms”.

Fig. 25 groups the 152 “stringency” countries, giving an overview of all the countries in the world with their school closures in the period 01.01.2020–28.02.2021.

It is striking firstly that there is a worldwide uniformity in the shift from the green zone (with comparatively few or mild measures) to the red zone (with an average stringency greater than 50 out of 100 points). The tipping point is 16 March. Secondly, it is striking that the seven regions are evenly matched in terms of measure intensity; the median for Africa is 83% of the country average and for Western Pacific 110%, with only insignificant deviations overall.

Young people are the most affected by the stringency. Their schools have been closed to a significant extent - contrary to the determination of the global community, which was confirmed once again in 2019.

Schools were closed at around 80 % in the two Americas over the 14 months from January 2020 to February 2021, 54.3 % in Europe, slightly more in Hungary at 56.3 %, most restrictive in Ukraine at 79 %, least in Belarus at 2 %. In Finland, schools were reopened after two months, as the devastating impact on the most vulnerable pupils in particular became clear (Fig. 26).

⁹³ “Evidence of effectiveness: A, B and C represent strongly, reasonably and poorly evidence-based recommendations, respectively. Grade A: Systematic reviews where there are diverse primary studies to draw from (not primarily modelling), well-designed epidemiologic studies or especially experimental studies (randomised controlled trials.”

⁹⁴ “Represents evidence based on case reports, small poorly controlled observational studies, poorly substantiated larger studies, application of knowledge of mode of transmission, infectiousness period etc. Cm refers to modelling with few or poor quality primary data.”)

⁹⁵ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2009): *Technical Report. Guide to public health measures to reduce the impact of influenza pandemics in Europe: ‘The ECDC Menu’*. Stockholm, September 2009, S. 7 ff.

⁹⁶ One month before the later much-discussed World Military Games in Wuhan 18-27 October 2019. https://www.milspport.one/site/English_Version_of_the_invitation_to_the_7th_CISM_World_Gamespdf-en-16316-2.html.

⁹⁷ World Health Organisation (2019-09-19): *Non-pharmaceutical public health measures for mitigating the risk and impact of epidemic and pandemic influenza*. <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1257621/retrieve>

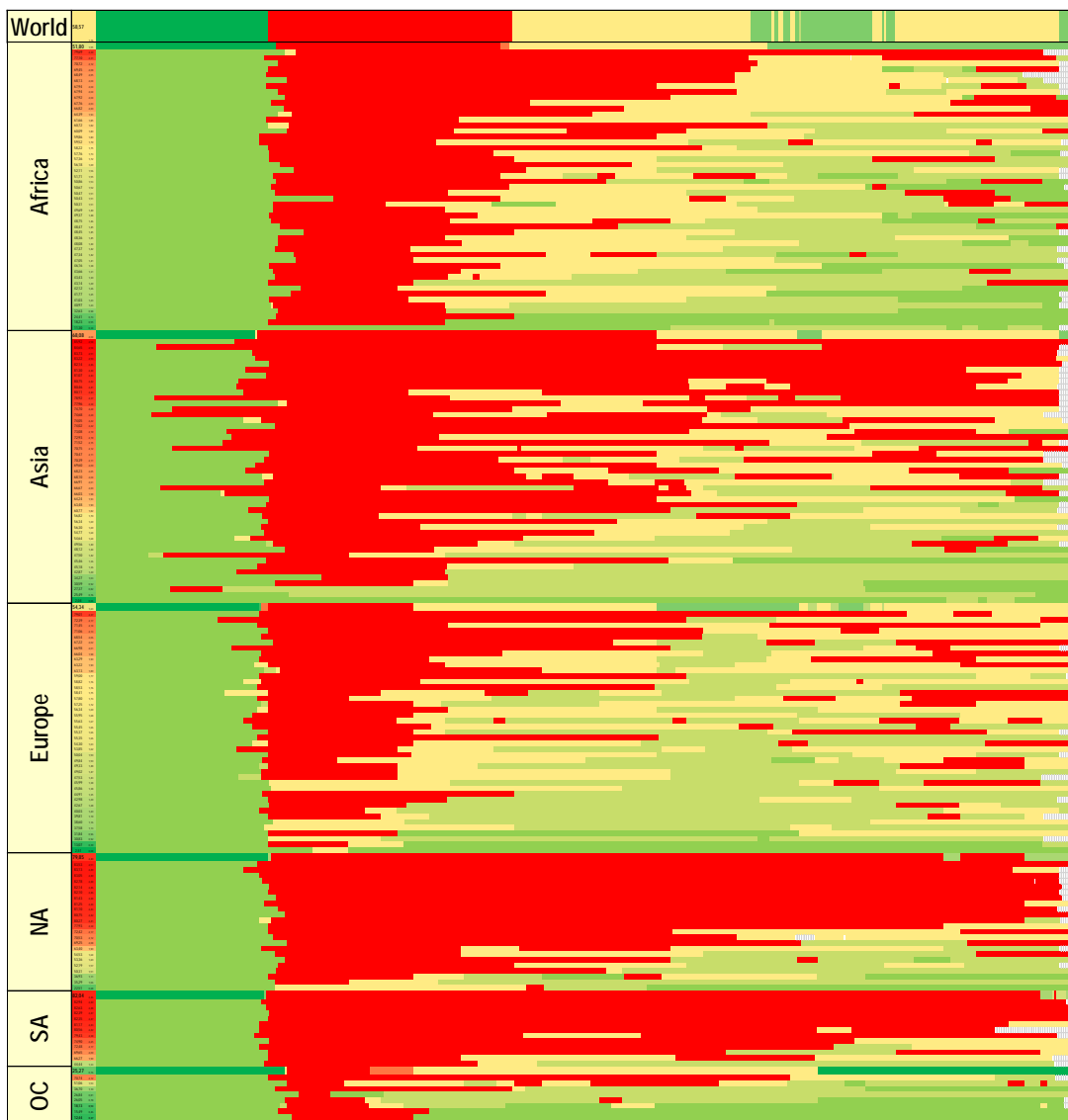
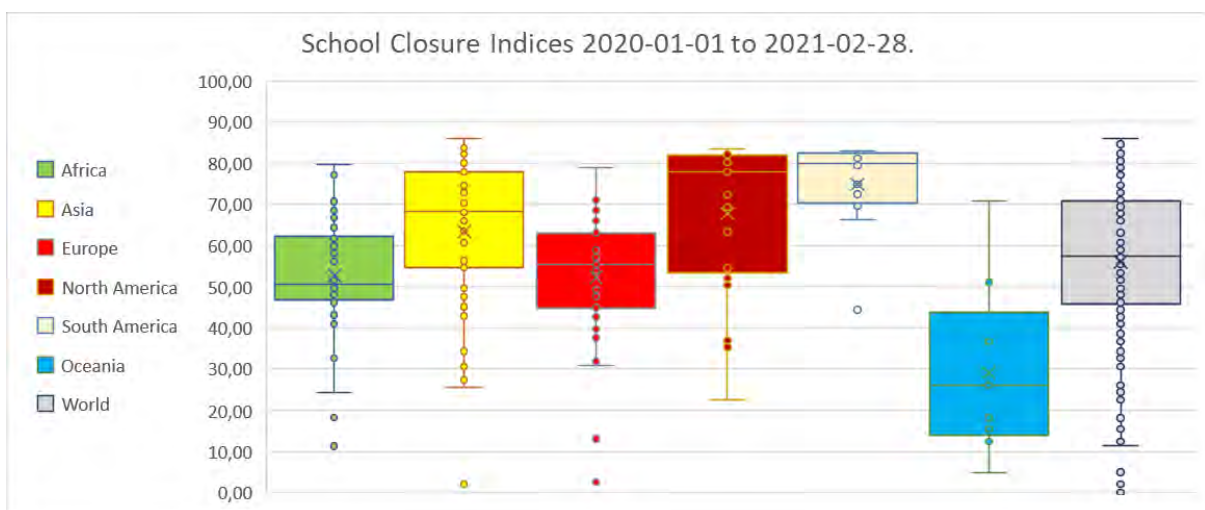


Fig. 25 School Closures worldwide 2020-01-01 to 2021-02-28. Hungary 56,3, Europe median 54,3, Europe max 79 Ukraine, min 2 Belorussia.Data: Oxford Stringency Index (2021-02-28). Graph: Vogt 2021.



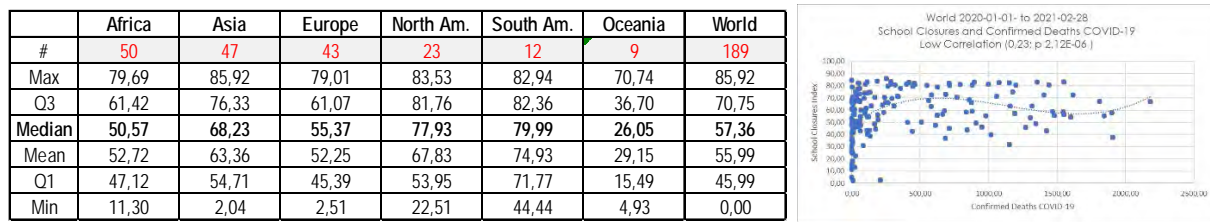


Fig. 26 (a) Graph and (b) Figures: School Closures by continent 2020-01-01 to 2021-02-28 max—Q3—Median—Mean—Q1—Min per continent. (c) Low Correlation (0,23; p 2,12E-06) between School Closures and Confirmed Deaths COVID-19 World 2020-01-01- to 2021-02-28. Data: The Oxford Stringency Index (2021-02-28). Calculation and Graph: Vogt 2021.

UNESCO has recorded partial or full closures day by day. If one assigns a -1.0 for each day of closure and a reduction to +0.5 for each partial day of closure with a view to the uncatchability of learning achievements, the result is an overall loss of -33% for Sweden, -65% for Germany and -97% for Italy. At the individual level, one month of learning loss corresponds to a lifetime income loss of 1%, so Italy’s youth lose about 14% of their lifetime income according to previous empirical measures (Fig. 27).

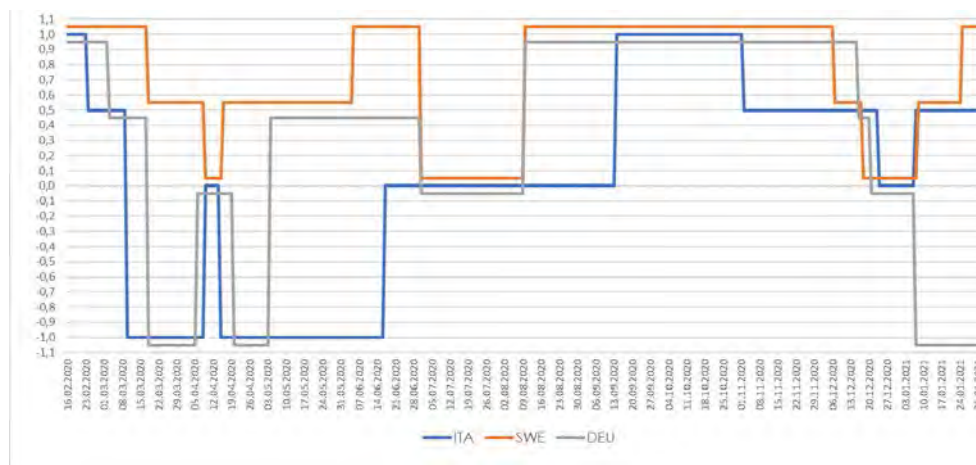


Fig. 27 Educational losses in schools in Italy (-97%), Sweden (-33%), and Germany (-65%) due to COVID-19 Lockdowns. Key: Fully open 1.0; Partially open 0.5; Academic break 0.0; Closed due to COVID -1.0. Data: UNESCO (2021): 2020-02-16 through 2021-02-02, Calculation and Graph: Vogt 2021.

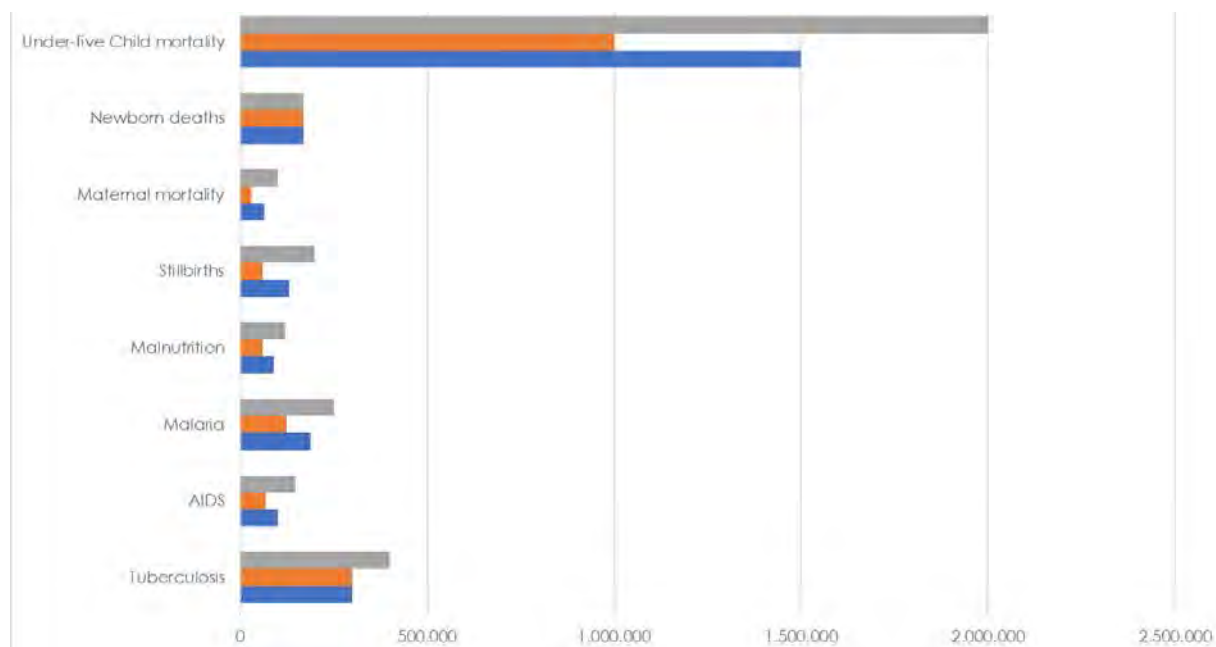
The policy demanded extreme acts of solidarity from young people and at the same time violated the motto of intergenerational justice “in unitate Robur -in unity strong” (Badische Landeskirche). With *Fratelli tutti* (2020-10-03), in the middle of the Corona crisis Pope Francis has assigned not only intercultural justice but also intergenerational justice a high rank within Catholic social teaching.

8. First estimates for health damage to the global community.

“When we lockdown, we cause deaths in the developing world to prolong lives in the developed world.” (Broadbent in *The Lancet* 19.06.2020)⁹⁸ A look beyond Europe shows the extent of the damage done to the global community by the Corona measures. The Karolinska Institute Stockholm (Peterson & Ekström 2021) has calculated that the approximately 2.5 million registered COVID-19 deaths at the time were offset by another estimated 2.5 million deaths from interventions (other researchers arrive at 3.9 million), most of them among children: with infant mortality

⁹⁸ Broadbent A, Walker D, Chalkidou K, Sullivan R, Glassman A. *Lockdown is not egalitarian: the costs fall on the global poor. Lancet.* 2020;396(10243):21-22. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31422-7

from omitted vaccinations, from starvation after their parents failed to feed them informally as day labourers, from a doubling of malaria deaths. At the same time, there is (as we can see by now) neither high covid mortality nor significant excess mortality in sub-Saharan Africa (Fig. 28).



Peterson, Ekström 2021-03-03: midpoint summation of 2,5 million deaths from the "indirect" effects of reduced health care utilization					
	Estimation	min	max	others' min	others' max
Tuberculosis	300.000	300.000	400.000	300.000	400.000
AIDS	100.000	69.000	148.000	69.000	148.000
Malaria	187.500	125.000	250.000	520.000	768.000
Malnutrition	90.000	60.000	120.000	60.000	120.000
Stillbirths	130.000	60.000	200.000	60.000	200.000
Maternal mortality	65.000	30.000	100.000	30.000	100.000
Newborn deaths	168.000	168.000	168.000	168.000	168.000
Under-five Child mortality	1.500.000	1.000.000	2.000.000	1.000.000	2.000.000
	2.540.500	1.812.000	3.386.000	2.207.000	3.904.000

Fig. 28 Stefan Swartling Peterson och Anna Mia Ekström, Karolinska Stockholm 2021-03-03: Midpoint summation of 2,5 million deaths globally (min. 1,8; max, 3,4 mio) from the "indirect" effects of reduced health care utilization. Data: Peterson & Ekström 2021. Calculation and Graph: Vogt 2021.

At the same time, there is neither high covid mortality nor significant excess mortality in sub-Saharan Africa (so far, anyway) outside South Africa. Together with its Ethiopian partners, the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich has presented a study according to which the SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence among medical personnel in Addis Ababa has risen to 53.7 % in February 2021, in Jimma to 56.1 % in February 2021, in rural regions to 31 % in March 2021. Apparently due to the good immune system, the Corona infection is usually not even noticed. Consequently,

the prevalence in Africa is quite different from what the few tests can provide. The authors of the study recommend switching to booster vaccination only.⁹⁹

The consequences of a locally inappropriate adoption of prescriptions from the Global North to Africa have been precisely predicted by Jacquineau Azetsop: “Liberal individualism cannot be used as the methodological and ethical basis for epidemiological research and public health policy formulation because it obscures the social production of poor health and fails to serve as a basis for social justice in health promotion efforts.”¹⁰⁰ This is especially true for intergenerational justice.

9. The lacking prioritisation of government spending in favour of the young.

The Italian state plunders the young. This is ethically not justified (cf. Francesco I: *Fratelli tutti* 2020¹⁰¹). In the Corona-VII crisis, the Italian state is committing juventocid, ruining the young and so destroying the country’s social and economic future, instead of going beyond the horizons of its voters’ life. How is the pension consumption at the expenses of the young ethically justified? What about those who have not started to work?

When we have a look on the true ratio, which is the share governments will spend on education from their tax revenue, we see Africa and Latin America very much on top—they spend up to 45% of all taxes for education (Fig. 29).¹⁰² This is an enormous investing in the future of these countries.

⁹⁹ Gudina E K*, Ali S*, Girma E, Gize A, Tegene B, Hundie G B, Sime, W T, Ambachew R, Gebreyohannis A, Bekele M, Bakuli A, Elsbernd K, Merkt S, Contento L, Hoelscher M, Hasenauer J, Wieser A*, Kroidl A*: *Seroepidemiology and model-based prediction of SARS-CoV-2 in Ethiopia: longitudinal cohort study among front-line hospital workers and communities*, The Lancet Global Health 2021; 9: e1517–27. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(21\)00386-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(21)00386-7/fulltext); <https://www.lmu-klinikum.de/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/sars-cov-2-verbretung-in-athiopien-stark-unterschatzt/0c78b78b67abbcb3>

¹⁰⁰ Azetsop Jacquineau (2016): *Epidemiological Research, Individualism, and Public Health*. In: G.G. Preparata (ed.), *New Directions for Catholic Social and Political Research. Humanity vs. Hyper-Modernity*. Springer.

¹⁰¹ Lettera Enciclica “Fratelli tutti” del Santo Padre Francesco sulla fraternità e l’amicizia sociale 2020-10-03; IT: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html; DE: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/de/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html; EN: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

¹⁰² From the point of view of youth policy, another indicator would also be relevant, namely a comparison between education and military expenditure, taking into account the state’s share of GDP. We have explained this elsewhere for a comparison of the three Caucasus republics with each other and with the Federal Republic of Germany. In the decade 1996–2007, military expenditure in the Caucasus grew by a factor of seven from around US\$233 million to US\$1,453 million. In 2007, the year before the South Ossetia conflict, the ratio of education to defence spending as a share of GDP was 3.1% to 5.8% in Georgia, 2.1% to 6.5% in Azerbaijan, and 3.2% to 2.4% in Armenia. In Germany, on the other hand, education spending at 6.5% was considerably higher than defence spending at 1.1%. Vogt, Matthias Theodor (2010): *Innere Sicherheit am Berg der Sprachen. Rahmenbedingungen von Mehrheitspolitik im Kaukasus* [Internal Security on the Mountain of Languages. Framework Conditions of Majority Politics in the Caucasus]. In: Vogt et al. (ed.): *Der Fremde als Bereicherung*. [The stranger as enrichment]. Proceedings of the Collegium PONTES. Volume V. Frankfurt am Main etc. 2010, p212.

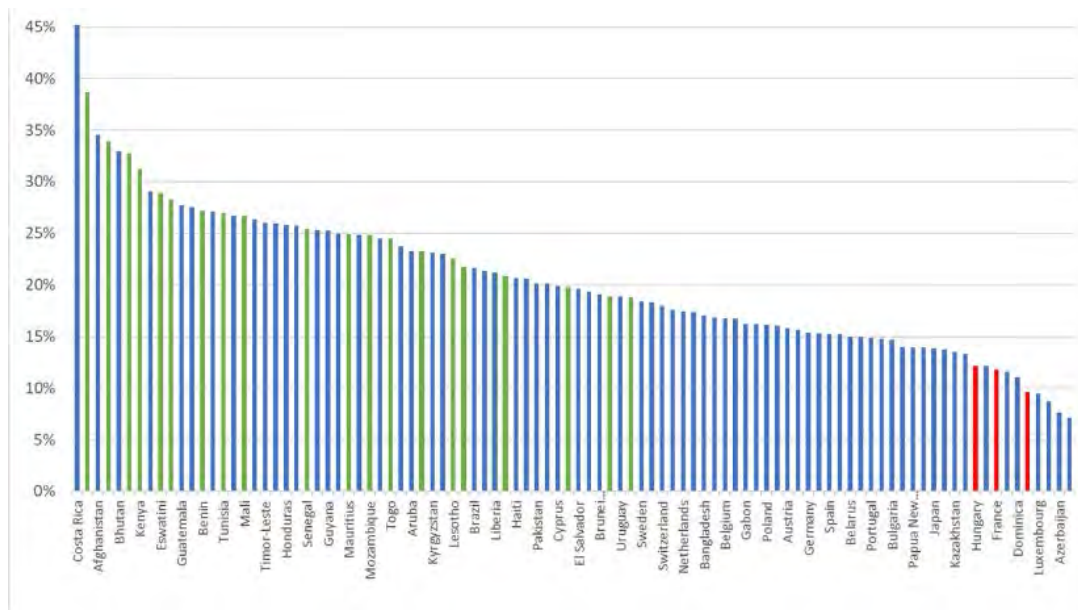
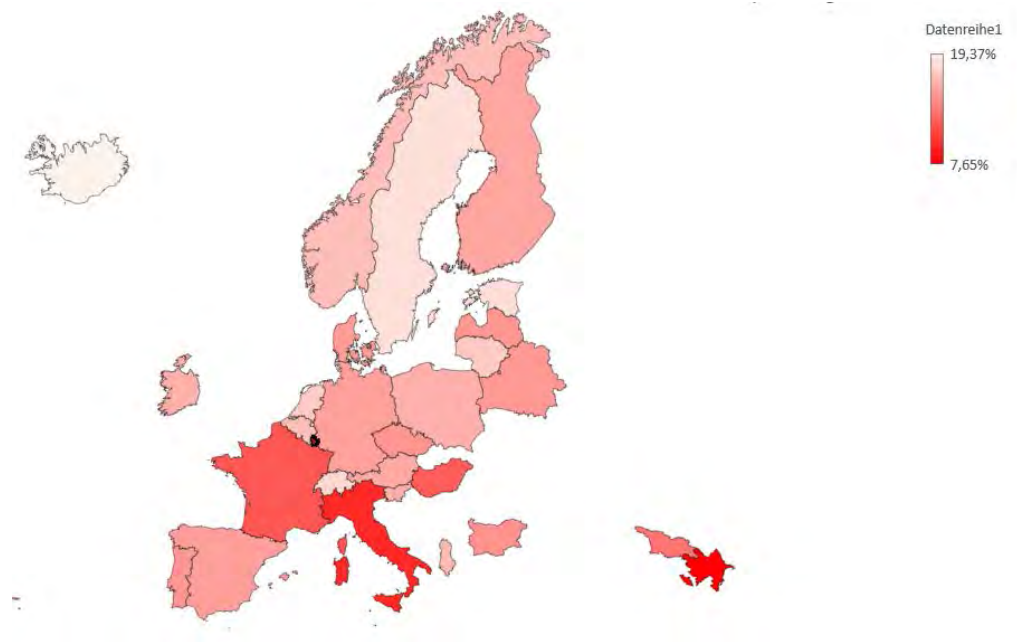


Fig. 29 World: National Governments' Spending on Education as Share of national Tax 'revenue'.
 Data: UNESCO and ICTD / UN-WIDER Government Revenue Dataset 2020. Marked in red: Hungary, France, Italy.
 Calculation and Graph: Vogt 2021.

But in Europe, if we take a look at Hungary or France or Italy, we see them in a rather low position, similar to Azerbaijan. In Europe, Iceland, Sweden and Estonia are at the top. Almost 20% of their tax revenues go to education, investing in their youth and the future of their countries (Fig. 30).



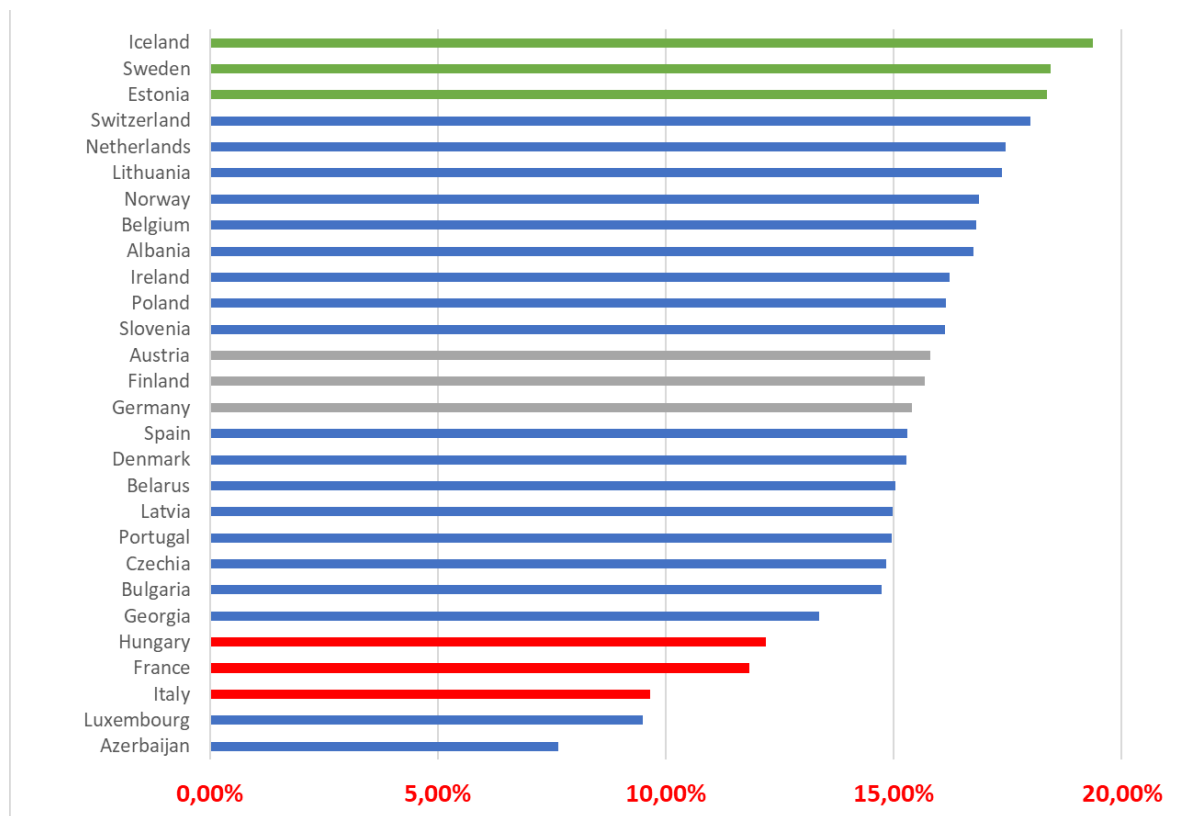


Fig. 30 Europe: National Governments' Spending on Education as Share of national Tax revenue.
Data: UNESCO and ICTD / UNU-WIDER 2020. Calculation and Graph: Vogt 2021.

Human capital (Fig. 31) is defined by the World Bank as those resources associated with the knowledge and skills of individuals. They are a critical component of economic and social development. Angrist et al. (2021) comment on data measuring human capital using global data on average education (2000-2017): "These data [...] demonstrate a substantial gap in the formation of human capital: students are in school, but do not learn enough."¹⁰³ On the General Outcome given by Angrist (math, reading, science; both sexes), we see that Hungary, Germany and Iceland are almost identical at scoring (511–519–526), but none of them can compete with Singapore (583).

Since the future of girls is the most decisive factor for Human Development, we show a world map for the Female Reading harmonized outcome. Maximum is Hong Kong, SAR China 579. Minimum is Uganda 226 and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa as well as Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen; countries of male adult ignorance about their girls' future Human Capital. How can women participate in politics without having learned to read when they were girls?

¹⁰³ Angrist, N., Djankov, S., Goldberg, P.K. et al.: Measuring human capital using global learning data. [based on World Bank 2021 data]. *Nature* 592, 403–408 (2021): <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03323-7> [2021-05-21].

Female Reading Harmonized Outcome (2012 or nearest)

Max: Hong Kong, SAR China 579. Q3: Latvia 518. Mean: Dominican Republic 427. Q1: Solomon Islands 349. Min: Uganda 226.
Data: World Bank, Angrist et al. 2021. Elaboration and graph: Vogt 2021

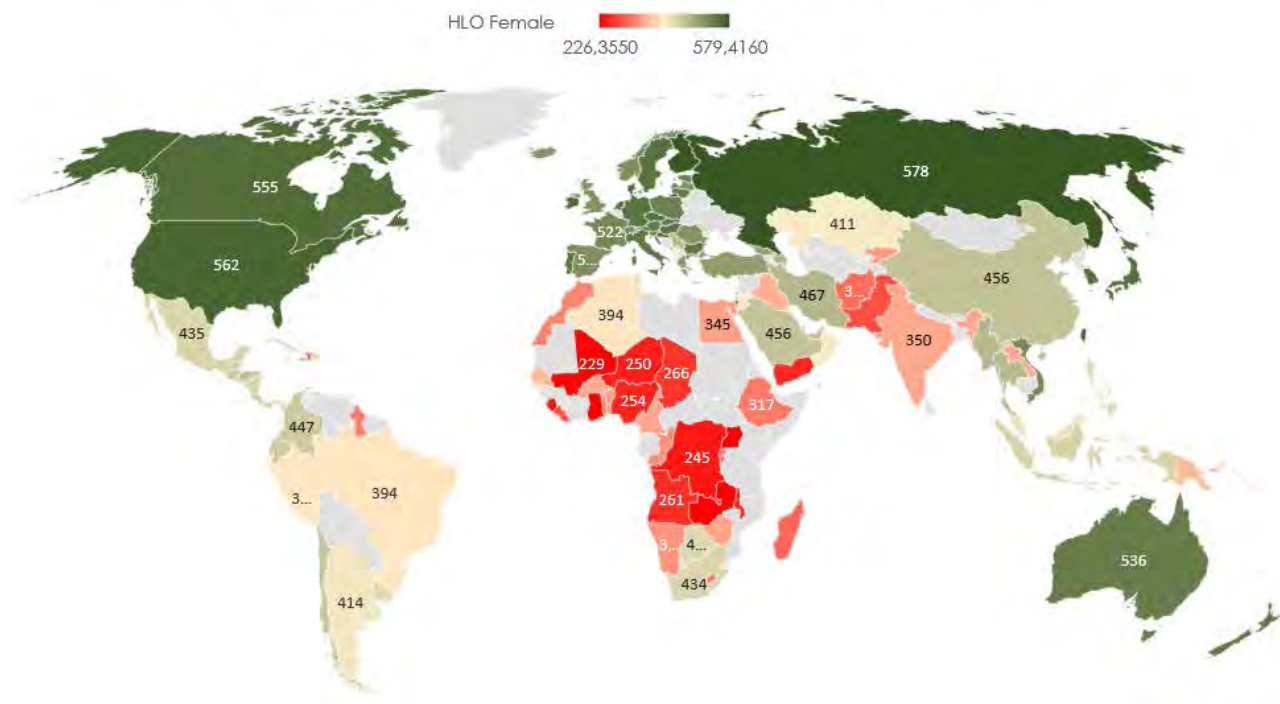


Fig. 31 Female Reading Harmonized Outcome (2012 or nearest). Max: Hong Kong, SAR China 579.
Q3: Latvia 518. Mean: Dominican Republic 427. Q1: Solomon Islands 349. Min: Uganda 226.
Data: World Bank, Angrist et al. 2021. Elaboration and graph: Vogt 2021

10. One person, no vote. The political implications of societal immunosenescence.

In Europe, the “intertemporally disproportionate loss of freedom” (Lepsius 2021-05-07) of the young through the Corona VII measures is an indirect consequence of demographic shifts. To take Görlitz on Germany’s border with Poland as a typical example: It is one of the cities where, in the course of just thirty years, the proportion of over-eighty-year-olds has increased extremely: it has virtually tripled from 4.09% in 1990 to 11.05% at present (Fig. 32a). The group of women aged 81 is the largest of all the age cohorts in Görlitz (Fig. 32b). Due to the emigration of the young to West Germany and the remaining of the elderly in Görlitz, the number of deaths in the crucial age group 85+ years has increased linearly year after year and thus the total number of deaths, while it has remained stable in all other age groups (Fig. 32c). The almost complete lack of protection of the vulnerable age group 85+ years in the Corona pandemic then marked a singular excess mortality in the months 11/2020 - 01/2021, one of the top positions in Germany (Fig. 32d). The proportion of youngs between 0 and 19 years, on the other hand, has almost halved in Görlitz from almost 20% (1990) to around 10% at present. By 2035, it is assumed, the proportion of the working-age population 20-64 will fall to below 50% and the proportion of the population actually working will be around 30%. This is not economically and socially feasible; value chains, the tax system and the pension system must be rebalanced.

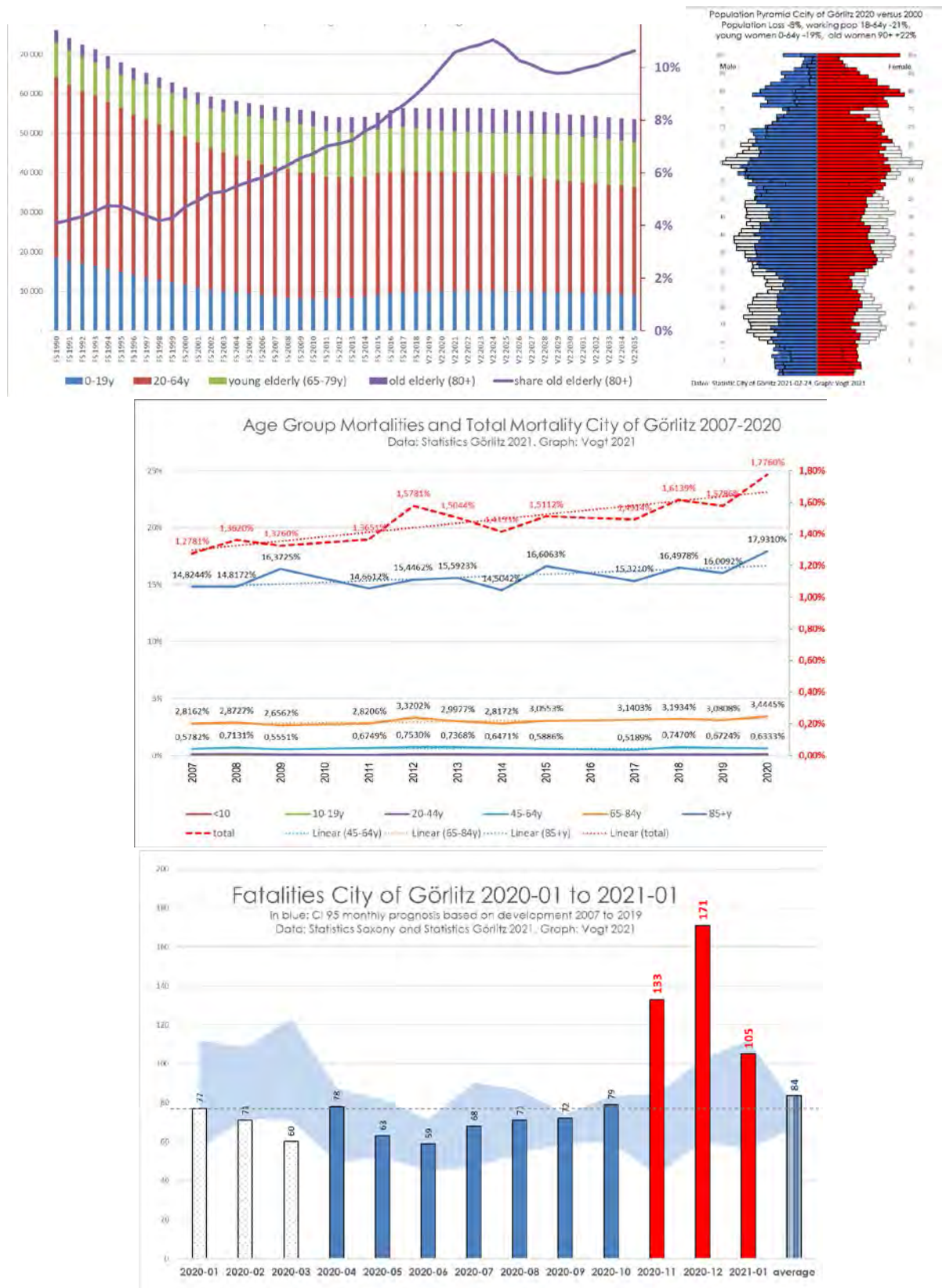


Fig. 32 (a) Tripling of the proportion of people aged over eighty in Görlitz from 1990 to 2018 and forecast 2019 to 2035 (4.09% to 11.05%). (b) Age pyramid Görlitz 2000 versus 2020. (c) Age group-specific mortality and mortality total Görlitz 2007 to 2020. (d) Fatalities Görlitz 01/2020 to 01/2021.
 Data: Statistisches Landesamt Sachsen V2020, City of Görlitz 2021. Elaboration and graph: Vogt 2021

The principle of “one person, one vote”, which is crucial for democracies, is decisively violated by this demographic shift. For the cohorts 0-17 years, their personal dignity is generally protected by the constitution, but in the political arena, “one person, no vote” applies to them. Due to the gerontocratic dominance of old voters in combination with a four- or five-year electoral period (which rewards short-term strategies and punishes long-term strategies), democracies fall behind authoritarian and centrally controlled states due to electoral mathematics.

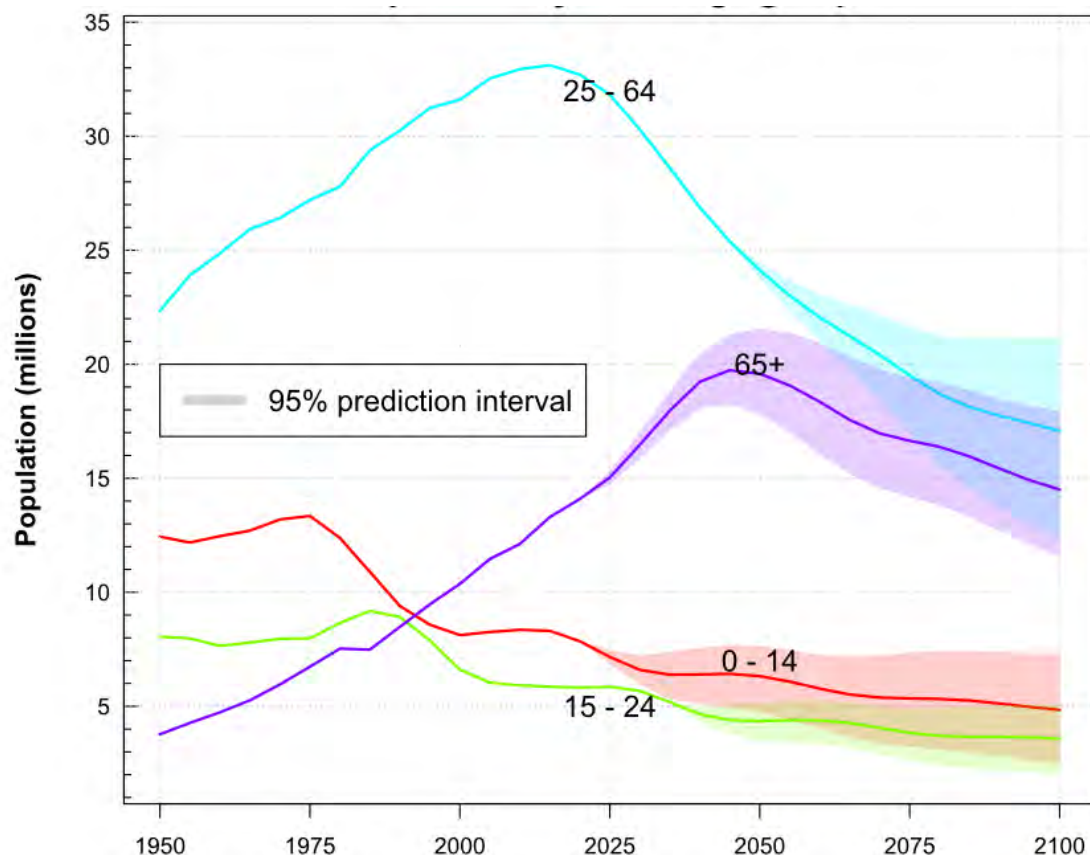


Fig. 33 Italy, population by broad age groups. After 2050, the number of Italian pensioners will almost equal the number of people in the working age. Data and Graph: United Nations World Population Prospects 2019

The decisive factor here is the mental impact of immunosenescence.¹⁰⁴ Young people are not only physically capable of taking risks. Above all, they are willing to take risks. Societies can use this to expand their resource base. The ancient Greeks and the ancient Carthaginians sent young men and women out to sea in the spring to found new colonies. Crossing the sea with its storms and waves is a risk; landing on a coast with possibly hostile natives is a risk; settling in an unknown natural environment with unknown diseases is a risk, as in later times the Swabian settlers in the Russian Caucasus, for example, sobered to discover. But when you are twenty years young, you laugh at the risk. If you look at worldwide statistics, you will see that it is especially young men in their twenties who die because they drive riskily or because they set off laughing into the unknown or

¹⁰⁴ Pawelec G, Larbi A, Derhovanessian E (2019): *Senescence of the Human Immune System*, J. Comp. Path. 2010, Vol. 142, S39eS44. Aspinall R, Pitts D, Lapenna A, Mitchell W: *Immunity in the Elderly: The Role of the Thymus*. J. Comp. Path. 2010, Vol. 142, S111eS115. Cf. Chigangaidze & Chinyenze 2021; Okun 1976, Barsky et al. 1997, Tymula et al. 2012, Bonsang et al. 2015, Dohmen et al. 2017.

because they commit suicide.¹⁰⁵ (in Italy, the mortality rate for young men 20-29 is twice that of young men 10-19 and almost three times that of young women 20-29).

But when you are old, you avoid the risk. The elderly hold their lives and the few remaining years sacred. So you don't go abroad, you don't found new colonies, you take pills and pay insurance. *Seneces* become risk averse. This is physiologically inherent. Older people are risk-averse because of their immunosenescence; their immune systems begin to show systemic weaknesses and they are urged to be more cautious if they want to survive. South Korea had a median population age of less than 20 years as recently as 1975; today it is 45 years; by 2060, the United Nations predicts a median age of almost 60 years (Fig. 34). This in turn has implications for politics.

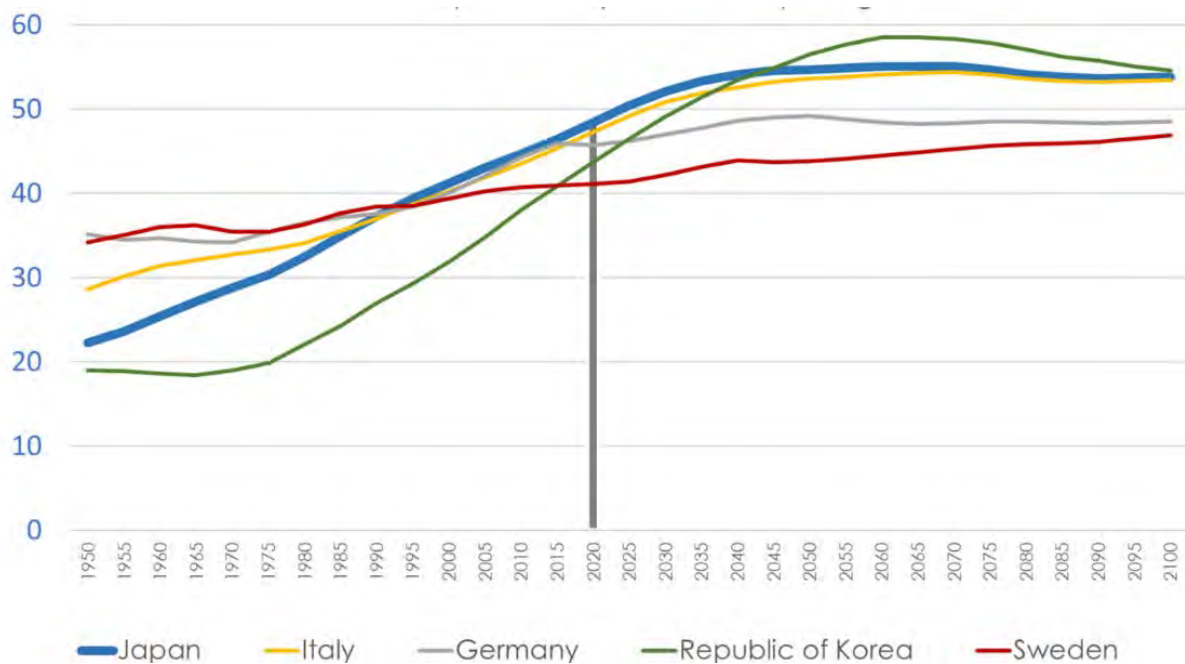


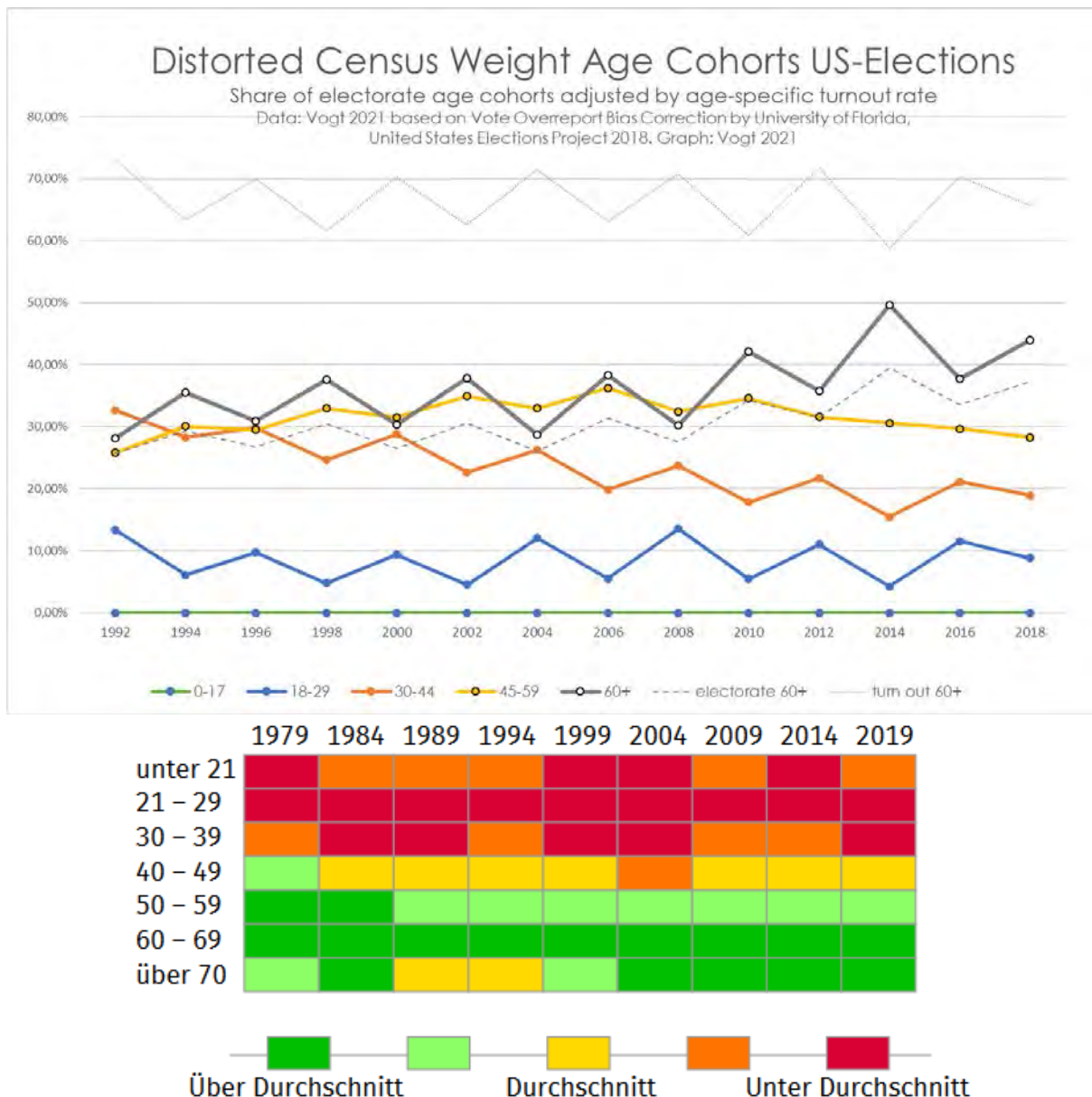
Fig. 34 Median age of the total population 1950-2020-2100. 2020: Japan 48.4; Italy 47.3; Germany 45.7.
Data: United Nations World Population Prospects 2019. Graph: Vogt 2021.

In the USA, the population 0-17 years is excluded from the elections, the population 18-29 is predominantly abstinent from voting, the populations 30-44 and 45-59 participate less and less, while the population 60+ already accounted for 50% of the votes cast in 2014. The situation is similar in Germany and Switzerland. In proportion to their share of the population, this development fundamentally violates the democratic principle of “one person, one vote”: the new principle of *one elder person, one and a half votes* applies already now (Fig. 35b).¹⁰⁶ In Switzerland, the principle of *one elder person, two votes* was already achieved in 2010 in the ratio of the voting group 66-75 years to the voting group 18-25 years (Fig. 35c)

¹⁰⁵ Suicides in Germany 2020: men 6,944 (75.27%), women 2,262 (24.46%). Data: Destatis 2021.

¹⁰⁶ The over-representation of the cohorts 50+ years compared to the cohorts 18-49 years amounted to +50.8% in the 2019 European election: after +32% in the 2004 European election, so that in 2050 it would be around 100% extrapolated and then would lead to the principle of “one elder person, two votes”. If one includes the 25.8% over-representation of voters due to the exclusion of young people and citizens of other countries, the over-representation of the cohorts 50+ in the 2019 European election was already +63.9% and would already amount to +100% in 2039.

Since democracy follows a very specific mathematics (McDonald 2019),¹⁰⁷ the Distorted Census Weight has extreme effects on the voter orientation of politicians. A politician who wants to be re-elected must first and foremost satisfy the fears and hopes of the old and the very old. He would not be re-elected if he put the hopes and fears of the young and the very-young at the centre of his election promises. This is the political-demographic background to why so few countries in Europe are investing in a sustainable social and economic future and why pension and health care for the old is swallowing up ever larger shares of the gross national product. Risk aversion triumphs ever more strongly from election to election (Fig. 35a).



¹⁰⁷ McDonald Michael P. (2019; *CPS Vote Over-Report and Non-Response Bias Correction*. University of Florida. <http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/cps-methodology>

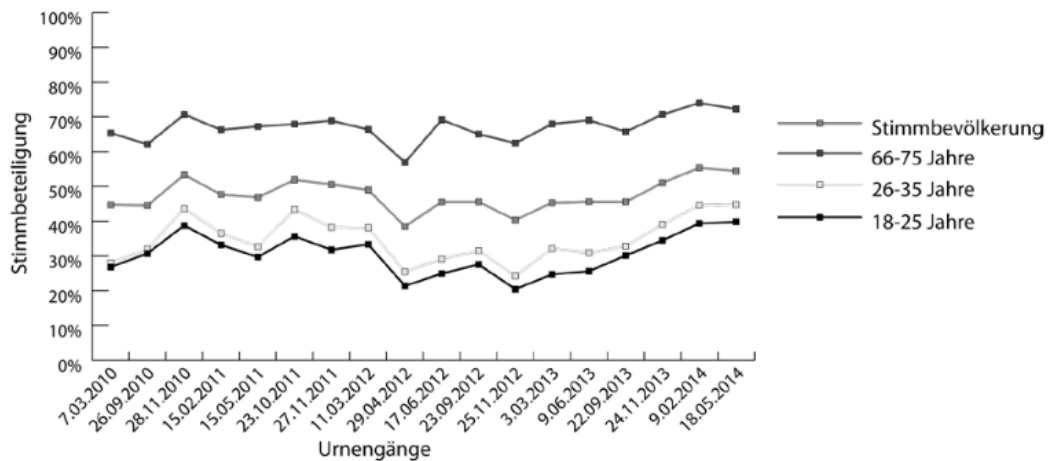


Fig. 35 Distorted census weight age cohorts:
 (a) US-elections. Share of electorate age cohorts adjusted by age-specific turnout rate.
 Data: Vogt 2021 based on (McDonald 2019). Graph: Vogt 2021.
 (b) Turnout by age group in European elections 1979 to 2019.
 Data and graph: Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal Election Commissioner 2019.
 (c) Age Cohorts' Participation in Swiss Direct Democracy 2010 to 2014.
 Data and Graphic: Dermont & Stadelmann-Steffen 2014.

It was from Italy that the adoption of the Chinese Corona measures to Europe started in 2020. Italy has been a particularly glaring example of Distorted Census Weight before. The median age of the resident population in Italy is 47.2 years, that of foreigners 39.4 years, that of citizens consequently 47.8 years, that of eligible voters 53.2 years, that of effective voters 53.7 years. 40% of Italian women voters are over 60 years old. One third of the state budget is spent on pensions, a substantial part of which is paid for by an ever-renewed national debt that will only be paid for in the future by today's young. This background makes it understandable why, in the Corona crisis, politicians placed the protection of the old at the centre of action (without being able to provide it), while the sacrifices of the young were hardly addressed.

Distortions in Political Representation Italy	Persons		Mean Age	Median Age	Share 60+	Share 60+ Male	Share 60+ Female	Overrepresentation 60+	Overrepresentation 60+ Male	Overrepresentation 60+ Female
Population 2020-01-01	59.641.488	100,0%	45,8	47,2	29,8%	27,3%	32,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Foreigners	5.039.637	8,4%	35,3	39,4	8,8%	6,1%	11,3%	-21,0%	-21,1%	-20,9%
Citizens	54.601.851	91,6%	46,7	47,8	31,7%	29,2%	34,1%	1,9%	1,9%	1,9%
Minor Citizens	8.427.283	14,1%	9,8	12,5	0,0%					
Electorate	46.174.568	77,4%	53,5	53,2	37,5%	34,9%	39,9%	7,7%	7,6%	7,8%
Non Voters	13.806.975	23,1%	54,4	54,1	40,6%			10,8%		
Voting Persons	32.367.593	54,3%	53,1	52,9	36,2%			6,4%		
Census Weight	32.367.593	54,3%	53,5	53,7	38,9%			9,2%		
New System	[63.029.134]	--	41,8	40,9	[27,5%]	[25,1%]	[29,7%]	[-2,3%]	[-4,7%]	[0,0%]

All figures indicative due to weak data basis

Fig. 36 Distortions in Political Representation in Italy per 2020-01-01 median age population 47.2 years, census weight 53.7 years. All figures indicative due to weak data basis. Data and Graph: Vogt 2021.

During the Cold War, gerontocracy, the rule of the old, was a familiar term for the political style of the Soviet Politburo. In fact, the average age of the Politburo has steadily increased in a linear fashion from 37.0 years (1918) to 66.6 years (1975). (In 2050, if the same linearity had been con-

tinued, the average age would have been 100 years, had not the then 54-year-old Gorbachov triggered his too-late modernisation policy in 1985, without being able to prevent the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991). Taagepera notes in his study of Politburo age structures: “Stalin’s Politburo members were on the average ten years younger than Roosevelt’s Cabinet members. Khrushchev’s Politburo was in age on a par with Eisenhower’s Cabinet. Brezhnev’s Politburo has tended to be five years older than Nixon’s Cabinet.”¹⁰⁸ In Germany, the much-apostrophised rejuvenation of the German Bundestag in the 20th legislative period 2021-2025 is marginal; the average age of MPs 1990-2021 was 49.3 years and is now 47.3 years. Since December 2021, executive policy-making is in the hands of a now 63-year-old chancellor; opposition policy-making in the hands of a now 66-year-old; the average age of their party members in 2021 is 61 (CDU), 60 (CSU), 60 (SPD). It is the class of young oldies 60-79 years old that holds power in the hands of the electorate and the elected. Here, too, applies what Taagepera noted in his studies: “Irrespective of historical circumstances, age itself has an effect on the mind. Creativity, inventiveness, and speed of reaction may decrease with age.”¹⁰⁹ We might add for Germany the cases of Berlin airport, Hamburg philharmonics, Stuttgart train station, North-South electricity link—No country in the world should be afraid of suffering harm from uncreative, uninventive and slow-reacting Germany 2022, forced into an uncreative and uninspired reactionary rigidity at the expense of its own youth by the interplay between its self-referential non-altruistic moral demands and its self-invented and no less self-referential bureaucracy.

The state and social crisis triggered by the Corona VII measures is essentially explained by the new principle of *one elder person, one and a half votes* and by the fact that firstly the class of young oldies aged 60-79 does not belong to the directly vulnerable, but is under the immediate spell of the intimidating state forecasts, and secondly has virtually no active influence on generating the gross national product instead it does consume others’ labour. The next ‘event of the century’ will take place outside their life horizon; building up reserves for it, as the Swiss finance minister could proudly claim for his country, is not a political priority for them. The result is an increase in public debt of +8.98% of GDP in all countries worldwide in 2021 to 2019, significantly more in the West and in China, but only +1,8 in in Switzerland with its federal structure. As stated above, the global public debt has increased by US\$49.4 trillion or +28% to US\$226 trillion or 256% of global GDP in 2020 (IMF 2021-12-15). Who cares?

¹⁰⁸ Tangepera R, Chapman RD. A note on the ageing of the Politburo. *Sov Stud.* 1977;29(2):296-305

¹⁰⁹ Tangepera R, Chapman RD. A note on the ageing of the Politburo. *Sov Stud.* 1977;29(2):296-305.

CoV-19: General Government Gross Debt 2021 vs. 2019: Average +8.98% of GDP
 United States 22,19, United Kingdom 21,85, Japan 16,85, Italy 15,85, France 15,84,
 China 14,94, Germany 10,57, Sweden 5,05, Switzerland 1,80.
 Data: IMF 2021-12-17. Graph: Vogt 2021



Fig. 37 Corona VII: General Government Gross Debt Variation 2021 vs. 2019: Average +8.98% of GDP. United States 22,19, United Kingdom 21,85, Japan 16,85, Italy 15,85, France 15,84, China 14,94, Germany 10,57, Sweden 5,05, Switzerland 1,80. Data: IMF 2021-12-17. Elaboration and Graph: Vogt 2021

11. Potential post-coronam exit strategies in order to strengthen the human capital of the next generation.

As a result of the crisis of Western democracies triggered by the Corona VII measures, principles of election and political representation need to be rethought in order to achieve a lowering of the “Uncertainty Avoidance Index” (Geert Hofstede). The principle of “one person, one vote”, which is crucial for democracies, requires a radical improvement of the Youngs’ political valence. There are three different ways to achieve this, which can be thought of separately or together.

(A1) The principle would be restored at the legislative level if a proxy right of parents to vote for their children were introduced, the “Demeny voting” (Warren C. Sanderson 2007 after *Paul Demeny* 1986).¹¹⁰ If we calculate this, using Italy as an example (see Fig. 36), the Census median would fall, however not sufficiently. As we have calculated below, only with a doubled ward suffrage for both the mother and the father would the Census suffrage fall to 40.9 years, i.e. into the range where parents are still active in school and kindergarten. Such a new two-tier voting system (a citizen of full age receives his or her ballot paper and a second one for his or her underage child, may be in a different colour) takes up the basic idea of voting rights from before 1918: Concern for *small, medium, large* or even *no* property was gratified in the three-class suffrage (actually a four-

¹¹⁰ Sanderson (2007): *A Near Electoral Majority of Pensioners*. Population and Development Review, Volume 33, Issue 3, pages 543–554, September 2007. Cf. Demeny, P. (1986): *Pronatalist Policies in Low-Fertility Countries: Patterns, Performance and Prospects*, Population and Development Review, vol. 12 (supplement): 335–358.

class suffrage, including the excluded) with denial or differently weighted voting rights. In *Demery Voting*, a country's youth are considered its most precious 'property'. There is an intense family law and economic debate on this,¹¹¹ and some obstacles should be pointed out. First, it is not said that two-tier voting will increase the motivation of parent cohorts to actually exercise their right to vote. Secondly, it is not said that they do not put the possibly divergent self-interest of their generation at the centre of their voting decision on both ballot papers, so that their children would not be served. Thirdly, preference would now be given to parties that correspond to the gesture of this generation and neglect the interests of other generations; Scylla might therefore be replaced by Charybdis.

(A2) The principle would be restored at the executive level if the state school spokesperson were included in every state executive cabinet for one year each, with the right to speak and vote, and equipped with a scientific office, with the task of examining every bill or ordinance for its long-term sustainability. A conceivable honorarium would be a desired place of study or vocational training, underpinned by a well-funded state scholarship for the entire period of study.

Unlike an extension of universal suffrage to young people or even children, whose brains still have to grow to satisfy the principle of rational decision-making, the state school spokespersons are young but already experienced negotiators whose voice should be taken seriously, especially if they are given self-determined access to science-based information. *Speakers for Future* would be a good name for their office, their task would be to fight against the risk aversion of the older ones.

We strongly recommend that this proposal be reviewed and implemented. This measure would be cheap, easy and quick to implement and would correspond exactly to the current urge of adolescents to participate in political practice, especially if it were discussed at one of the plenary sessions of the European Council and later perhaps even the United Nations and issued as a recommendation to all member states.

(A3) The principle would be restored at the constitutional level if, firstly, the principle of the fundamental right to *empowerment & capability* (Martha Nußbaum, Amartya Sen: *Human Development and Capability* 2004) through school and extracurricular education in the circle of peers (see above German Federal Constitutional Court 19.11.2021) were included in the constitution in question and, secondly, this were underpinned in the same place with a claim to financial endowment measured as a share of national tax revenue in the dimension of Iceland (see above). Let us recall that Italy is at the bottom of the list of Europe's major democracies in education policy. For Italy to be fit for the future, the funding of the hopelessly underfinanced school system, and especially of extracurricular education, would have to double in order to reach Swiss or Scandinavian levels.

Western democracies should always bear in mind that the Corona challenges are symptomatic for their demographic crisis which urgently calls not for a fictional juvenilization of their dominating elderly, but for an intergenerational dialogue in order to mix experience and curiosity. The Corona VII manslaughter on their youngs' psyche might result fatal in the long term without anti-distortional measures soon to come.

¹¹¹ Hermann, U: *Ökonomische Analyse eines Kindwahlrechts*, Saarbrücken, südwestdeutscher verlag, http://www.diss.fu-berlin.de/diss/receive/FUDISS_thesis_000000021349?lang=en

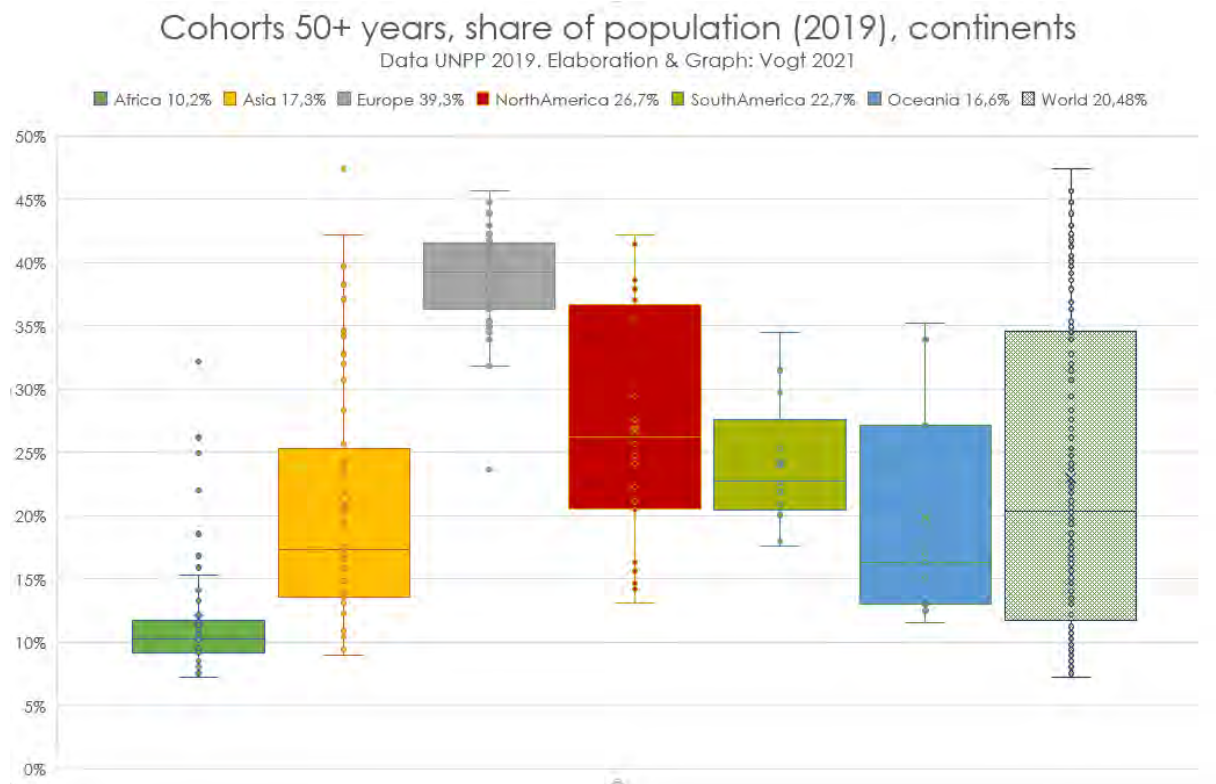


Fig. 38 Cohorts 50+ years, share of population (2019), continents.
Data UNPP 2019. Elaboration & Graph: Vogt 2021

(B1) The situation is different for resource economies like the Russian Federation and for central states like the People's Republic of China.

In central states, it is not political governance as such that is the problem, but the fact that the country is in danger of running out of young people to secure the aspired social, cultural, economic and ecological hegemony of their country. In China, it will require considerable effort to positively establish the three-child policy, now also valid for Han Chinese, as a new paradigm among the population, after long decades of prenatalicide,¹¹² surpassed only by India, and a shift in standards for the princely endowment of one's own offspring, which is perceived as necessary. The *tang pin* refusal to perform (lying lifestyle) by parts of Chinese youth due to their disillusionment with the country's work culture, which is often perceived as oppressive, counteracts the introduction of the social credit system and exacerbates the situation even more. Whoever knows China from the inside (as the author does) knows that the Western view fundamentally underestimates the complexity of internal Chinese soft engineering.

(B2) In resource economies such as the Russian Federation, new talents in the population at large may simply not be necessary in the short term to secure the privileges of the elite. But the resources oil, gas etc. are finite and their end of use has been heralded by the world community. Resource economies will therefore also have to adjust in the medium term to Rudolf Virchow's sentence "Education, prosperity and freedom are the only guarantees for the lasting health of a people" and therefore turn to their youth and their human capital as the most important resource. Michael D. Gordon has shown in *Scientific Babel* (2015)¹¹³ what an impressive race to catch up to

¹¹² *Prenatocide*, because predominantly abortion of female foetuses, otherwise it would be *prenatocide* when aborting male foetuses.

¹¹³ Gordin, **Michael D.: *Scientific Babel: How Science Was Done Before and After Global English***. Chicago. Fig. 0.1, p6.

the world status of the Russian language of science, the Soviet educational system had managed to achieve from 1930 to 1970; far ahead of the German, French and Japanese languages of science, and how then, however, the collapse of the Soviet system in 1991 had already become linguistically apparent in the two decades before. The decline of the Russian educational system is shown by the comparison of performance in the Mathematics Olympiads with 14 wins in the 27 games 1963-1991 (52%) to 1.5 wins in the 30 games 1992-2021 (5% or ten times less; with a quarter smaller country area and half the population).

Before 24 February 2022, in the manuscript of this article, we were still hopeful about what might happen:

Symbolically and in terms of feasibility, 25 December 2041 (the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Russian Federation) would be a conceivable target date for a renewed *Young Russians for Future strategy*. In terms of global politics and cultural history, it would be worth considering using this strategy for comprehensive school partnerships with the rest of Europe and as a soft power strategy for Russia's own youth, in memory of the opening of the Russian space to Europe under Peter I (*Imperator totius Russiae* 2 November 1721), in order to reduce the dependence on the People's Republic of China, which is currently becoming ever more acute due to a lack of intellectual resources.

In the context of the Russian war against Ukraine, such a strategy no longer seems feasible. The readiness of the rest of Europe for school partnerships has developed towards zero, and internally the shortage of skilled workers has increased considerably (the state-owned news agency Interfax speaks of 100,000 emigrating IT specialists for the month of April 2022 alone).¹¹⁴ Demographically (and not only militarily, ecologically and in terms of foreign policy), the Russian Federation has manoeuvred itself into a strongly increased dependence on the People's Republic of China as a result of the Ukraine war. The latter, in turn, is no less under demographic constraints with a view to the end of the XXI century. The peak of Asian growth, especially that of the People's Republic, had already been passed by the turn of the millennium 2000.

¹¹⁴ <https://www.interfax.ru/digital/830581>. Москва. 22 марта 2022: Р.А.ЭЖ прогнозировала отъезд до 100 тысяч IT-специалистов из РФ в апреле.

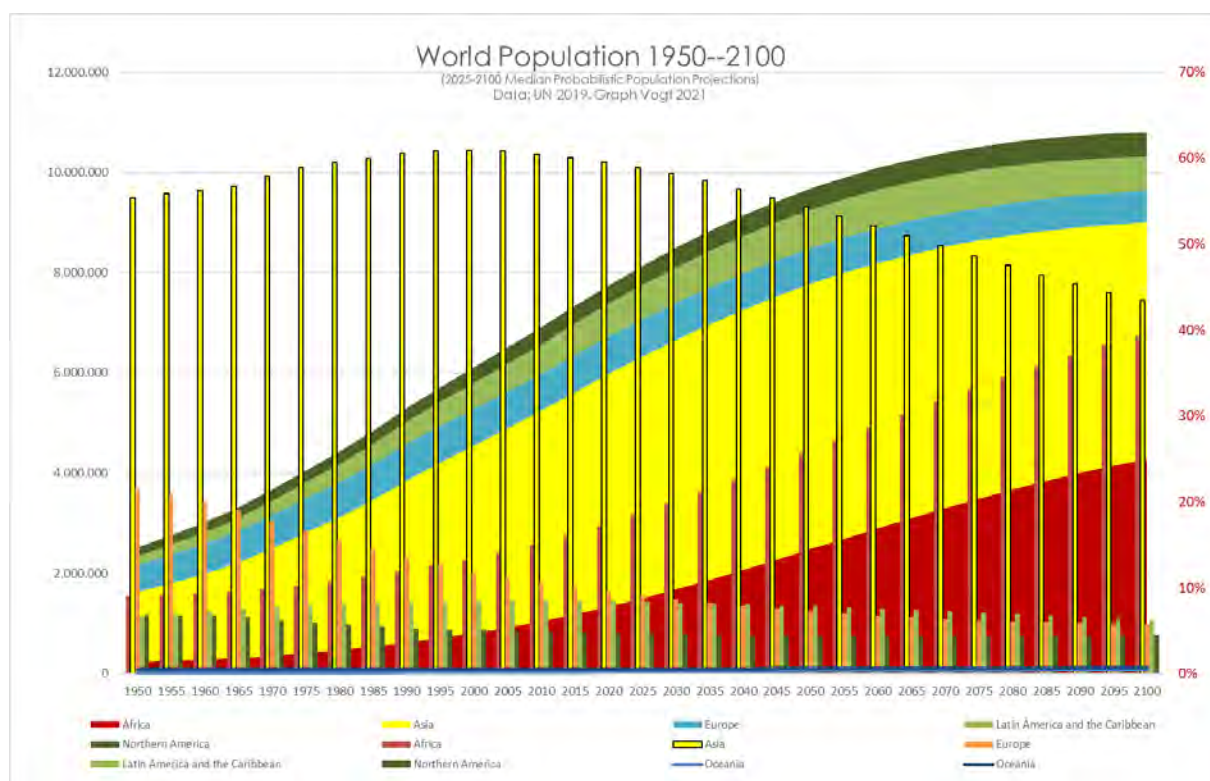


Fig. 39 World Population 1950--2100 (2025-2100 Median Probabilistic Population Projections).
Data: UN 2019. Graph Vogt 2021

(C) In the Western democracies, on the other hand, the sober figures on the impact of Corona VII measures on children and young people as well as on their parents and educators and not least on the elderly, speak a powerful language. Nevertheless, even under these impressions, the conclusion of Mechthild Charlotte Luise Lohan in her *Historical outline of syphilis in the context of its socio-cultural significance for society in the German-speaking world (Historischer Abriss der Syphilis im Kontext mit ihrer gesellschaftlichen Bedeutung für die Gesellschaft im deutschsprachigem Raum, Graz 2016)*, which goes far beyond the day, should not be forgotten: “Although bringing disease and death, syphilis nevertheless shows itself in the mirror of time to be an innovative element, further developing and shaping society. Its renewed rise in incidence can be seen as a new societal challenge. Better, more effective and more targeted forms of prevention are thus needed.” Sustainable prevention requires the involvement of younger people in policy-making and society-developing. But how to make the younger ones fit again? And with them the other age groups?

It is crucial to strengthen the resilience of all sections of the population and all age groups. Art as an instrument of ritualised closeness can play a decisive role in this.¹¹⁵ The lesson to be

¹¹⁵ In this sense, the Latvian National Museum of Art offers a meditative art experience in its «Labsajūtas maršruts | Route of Wellbeing | Маршрут хорошего самочувствия» (which is particularly popular in the Russian-language version): “Now, when mental well-being has become one of the most significant issues of our [...], there is a growing awareness of the importance of paying attention to the health of both the body and the mind. In response, the project team wants to highlight the potential of art and art museums to promote a positive, soothing, and harmonizing personal experience.” Una Sedleniece and others. www.lnmm.lv. Press release 13.12.2021. <http://www.lnmm.lv/ru/lnmm/prensa/novosti/4114-audioprojekt-latvieskogh-natsionalnogho-khudozhi-estviennogho-muzieia-marshrut-khoroshiegho-samochuvstvia-priglashaiet-priobriesti-mieditativno-khudozhi-estviennyi-opyt>

learned from the Corona VII pandemic is what Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said when she came to power on 30 November 2021:

Kulturen har en nyckelroll i samhällets återstart. Kulturen tar oss människor utanför oss själva och närmre varandra. | Culture will play a key role in society's restart. Culture takes us outside of ourselves and brings us closer together. A free and independent cultural sector is fundamental to any successful democratic society. Support to theatres, museums, visual arts and design, film, libraries, orchestras, concert halls and dance groups throughout the country will be reinforced. [...] The Sweden we will build together, with respect for each other, is a stronger Sweden.¹¹⁶

This is a new tone. After the end of the ideological West-East conflict, which was hyped up as the “end of history” (Fukuyama 1989), politics in Western democracies reduced the arts to the role of “nice-to-have amenities”, to desirable conveniences without a higher purpose. This is why the evidence-based proof of the comparatively favourable intervention costs of music therapy and other artistic forms of treatment compared to pharmaceutical interventions, gathered by the WHO and its programme *Cultural contexts of health and well-being*, has not yet been implemented legislatively, neither in Japan, nor in Italy, nor in Germany.

In the meantime, the arts have gained a powerful advocate in the WHO.¹¹⁷ In 2019, it explicitly called for the recognition of the effectiveness and co-financing of artistic and art therapy programmes by health insurance systems: “Acknowledging the growing evidencebase for the role of the arts in improving health and well-being. Support the implementation of arts interventions for which there is a strong evidence base [...] Strengthening structures and mechanisms for collaboration between the culture, social care and health sectors, such as introducing programmes that are cofinanced by different budgets.”¹¹⁸

Compared to the situation in 2019, when the WHO made this demand, the situation has changed dramatically. We are in a kind of post-war situation with extensive post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) of our children and young people, according to the evidence-based evidence cited above. Europe's democracies should therefore remember the partnership that the US Department of Defense entered into with the US National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2012. Through

¹¹⁶ Regeringsförklaring avgiven av statsminister Magdalena Andersson | Statement of Government Policy delivered by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, 30 November 2021.

<https://www.regeringen.se/tal/2021/11/regeringsforklaring-avgiven-av-statsminister-magdalena-andersson/> | [https://www.government.se/speeches/2021/11/statement-of-government-policy-delivered-by--prime-minister-magdalena-andersson/_\[2022-02-01\]](https://www.government.se/speeches/2021/11/statement-of-government-policy-delivered-by--prime-minister-magdalena-andersson/_[2022-02-01])

¹¹⁷ „Arts interventions, such as singing in a choir to improve chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, are considered non-invasive, low-risk treatment options and are increasingly being used by Member States to supplement more traditional biomedical treatments.. [...] Awareness of cultural contexts has always been central to the work of WHO. [...] understanding community resilience and well-being in the face of poor health and economic hardship, cultural context invariably plays an important and increasingly recognized role. The challenge is to take a systematic approach to research on how culture affects perceptions, access and experiences of health and well-being. For an effective approach, relevant work from the wider social sciences must be considered, including medical anthropology and history. The humanities, including cultural and literary studies, are also important, particularly when such research can shed light on the subjective human experiences of health.”

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/behavioural-and-cultural-insights-for-health/cultural-contexts-of-health-and-well-being> [2022-02-01]

¹¹⁸ Fancourt, Daisy; Finn, Saoirse (2019): *What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review*. Health Evidence Network synthesis report 67. WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, pp VIIsq. <https://euro.sharefile.com/share/view/s643d468658d46a4a>, <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/sections/fact-sheets/2019/fact-sheet-what-is-the-evidence-on-the-role-of-the-arts-in-improving-health-and-well-being-in-the-who-european-region>. [2022-02-01]

this NEA *Military Healing Arts Network*,¹¹⁹ creative arts therapies were offered to active military personnel to better address the complex needs of injured military personnel with PTSD. The success proved this approach right (Jone 2019).¹²⁰

What our societies urgently need post coronam as a resonating space for the health of our future, namely for the health of our children and young people, is the support of the arts in the “social production of good health” in the sense of Jacqueline Azetsop (2016), who died far too early from COVID 19.¹²¹

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¹¹⁹ <https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/creative-forces>.

¹²⁰ Jone, Jacqueline P; Drassc, Jessica M.; Kaimal, Girija (2019): *Art therapy for military service members with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury: Three case reports highlighting trajectories of treatment and recovery*. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, Vol 63, 2019, pp 18-30, ISSN 0197-4556, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aip.2019.04.004>.

¹²¹ Azetsop Jacquelineau (2016): *Epidemiological Research, Individualism, and Public Health*. In: G.G. Preparata (ed.), *New Directions for Catholic Social and Political Research. Humanity vs. Hyper-Modernity*. Springer.

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