



The Neurobiopsychosocial Basis of Crowd Behavior

STEPHEN SAMMUT PHD

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Why am I interested in it
- ▶ Why it is necessary to address the topic
- ▶ Faith, Science and Life: the interconnection
- ▶ The fundamental concept addressed – Crowd Behavior
- ▶ The model applied to recent events
- ▶ Biological, Neurological, Sociological , Political, Spiritual implications
- ▶ Back to the faith: Faith and reason – the true application – the only hope

Why the need to address this topic

- ▶ An ongoing issue and we have not seen the end of what took place (e.g., China – Shanghai (3.23.22 – current); recent comments by Fauci (3.18.22))
- ▶ Fundamental abuses of human rights and human dignity – Crimes against humanity
 - ▶ **Governmental** abuse of power
 - ▶ **Medical** malpractice
 - ▶ **Pharmaceutical** misconduct & lack of accountability
 - ▶ **Scientific** misinformation
- ▶ Major long-term toll on humanity
 - ▶ **Psychologically**
 - ▶ **Economically**
 - ▶ **Sociologically**
 - ▶ **Spiritually**
 - ▶ **Medically**
- ▶ Understanding history and the mind behind the crime

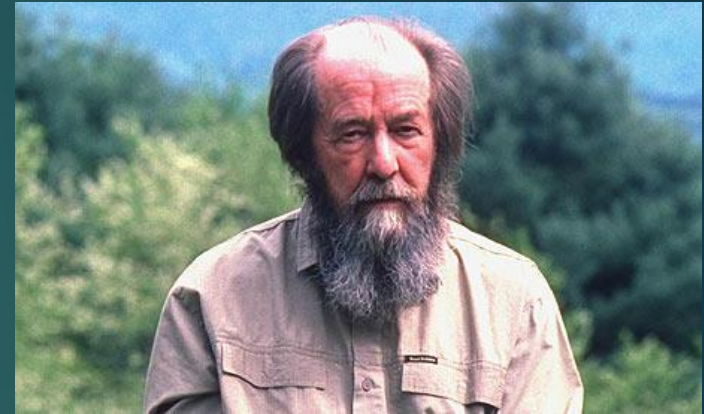
Man & Evil

“To do evil a human being must first of all believe that what he’s doing is good, or else that it’s a well-considered act in conformity with natural law. Fortunately, it is in the nature of the human being to seek a *justification* for his actions.....

Ideology – that is what gives evil doing its long steadfastness and determination. That is the social theory which helps to make his acts seem good instead of bad in his own and others’ eyes, so that he won’t hear reproaches and curses but will receive praise and honors....

Thanks to *ideology*, the twentieth century was fated to experience evil doing on a scale calculated in the millions”

The Gulag Archipelago,
Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

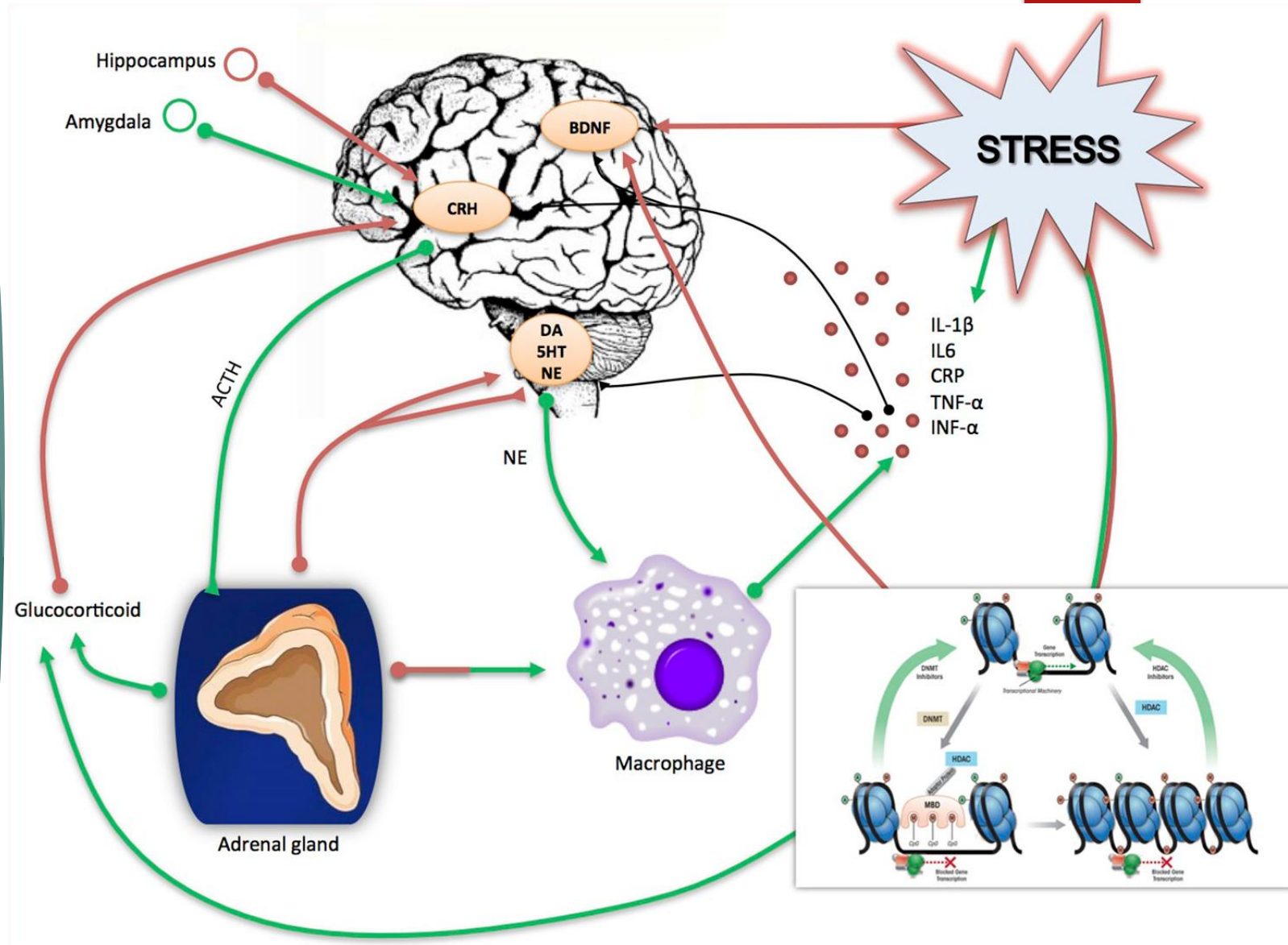


<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/jan/05/solzhenitsyn-son-father-image>

Life & Spirituality

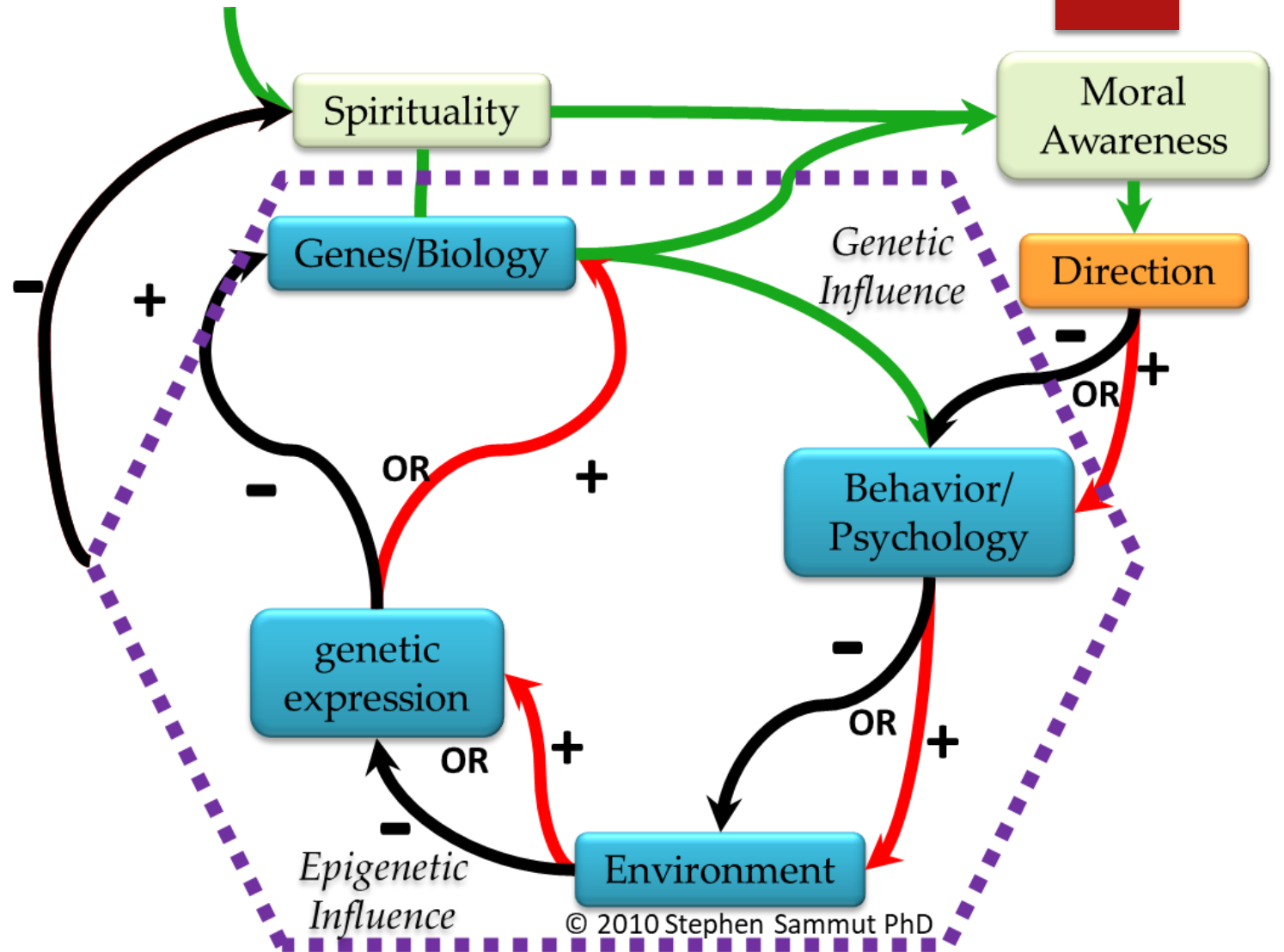
FAITH & REASON

Human Behavior: The neuro-bio- immuno- psychological reality



Cattaneo, A., Macchi, F., Plazzotta, G., Veronica, B., Bocchio-Chiavetto, L., Riva, M. A., & Pariante, C. M. (2015). Inflammation and neuronal plasticity: a link between childhood trauma and depression pathogenesis. *Front Cell Neurosci*, 9, 40. doi:10.3389/fncel.2015.00040

Human Behavior: Nature, Nurture, and Spirituality



Life and Spirituality – Inseparable

“There is no greater disaster in the spiritual life than to be immersed in unreality, for life is maintained and nourished in us by our vital relation with realities outside and above us.”

“A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all. No man can serve two masters. Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire.”

– Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

“The less we do to overcome physical (tiredness) or psychological (depression) non-spiritual desolation, the more likely we are to experience spiritual desolation as well. If we are tired or depressed, the step to discouragement in our God-given calling, to diminishing fidelity in prayer or in God’s service generally, is very small.”

– Fr. Tim Gallagher, *The Discernment of Spirits*

Crowd Behavior / Mass Formation

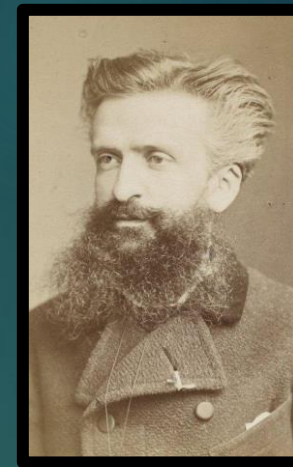
THE PHENOMENON

Crowd Behavior – Theories – New Idea?

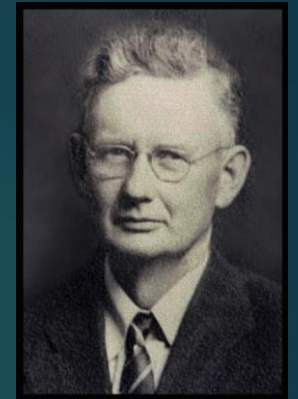
- ▶ Various theories have developed regarding what with time about crowd behavior e.g.,
 - ▶ *Contagion theory (Gustave Le Bon, 1895);*
 - ▶ “In a crowd every sentiment and act is contagious, and contagious to such a degree that an individual readily sacrifices his personal interests to the collective interest.”
 - ▶ *Convergence theory (Clark Kerr, 1960),*
 - ▶ The crowd does not influence the individual, but rather consists of likeminded individuals coming together.
 - ▶ *Emergent norm theory (Turner and Killian, 1972)*
 - ▶ Crowd behavior is guided by unique social norms established by members of the crowd



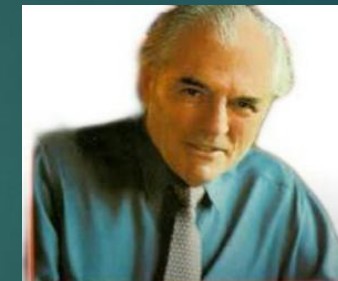
- ▶ *Groupthink (Irving Janis, 1973)*



Gustave Le Bon
(1841 – 1931)



Henry Victor Dicks
(1900 – 1977)



Irving Janis
(1918-1990)

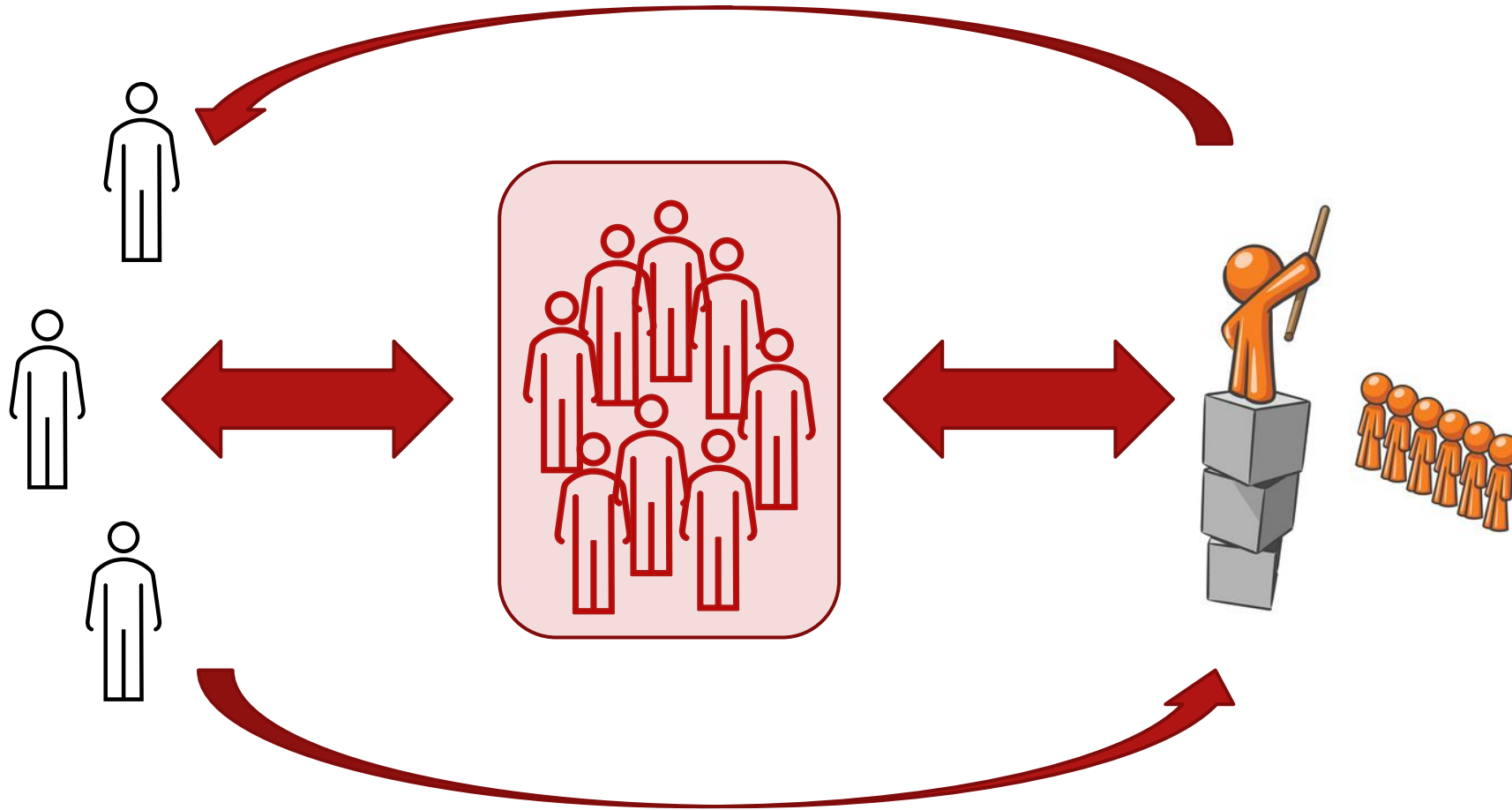


Mattias Desmet, Professor
of Clinical Psychology,
Ghent University

The individual

The crowd

The authority



The Individual: What is Similar and What is Different

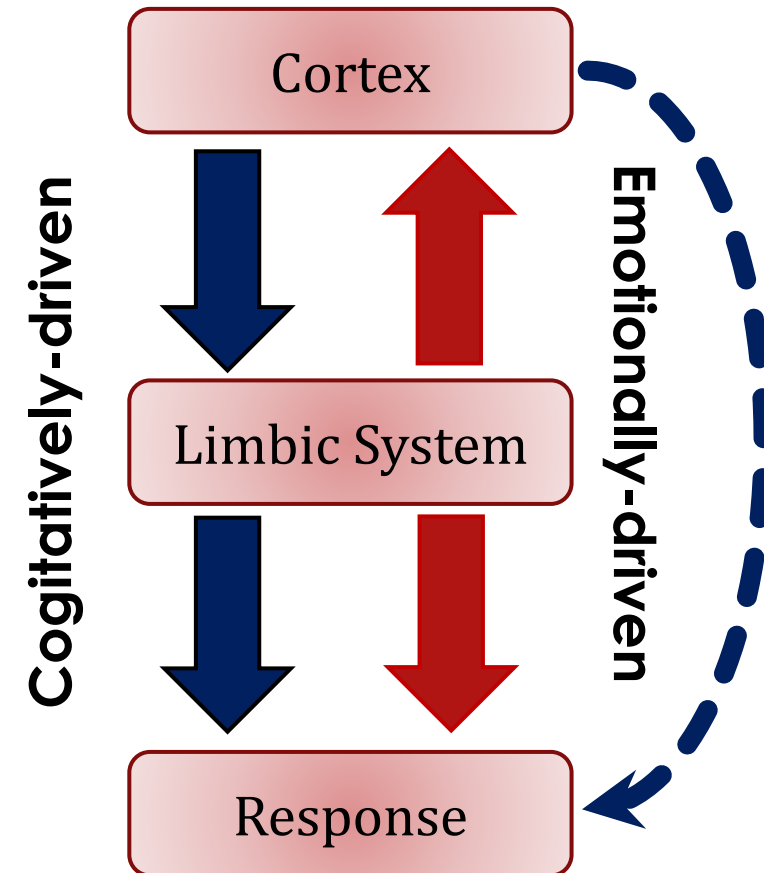
▶ Gustave Le Bon (1895)

▶ The individual

- ▶ ***“Men the most unlike in the matter of their intelligence possess instincts, passions, and feelings that are very similar. In the case of everything that belongs to the realm of sentiment - religion, politics, morality, the affections and antipathies, &c. - the most eminent men seldom surpass the standard of the most ordinary individuals.”***
- ▶ ***“It will be remarked that among the special characteristics of crowds there are several - such as impulsiveness, irritability, incapacity to reason, the absence of judgment and of the critical spirit, the exaggeration of the sentiments, and others besides...”***

▶ “Bottom-up” vs “Top-down” behavioral regulation: ***emotionally-driven thinking vs cogitatively-evoked emotions***

Cogitative Power: “... the bridge between the embodied external senses and imagination, on the one hand, and the immaterial intellect and universal reason, on the other.” (Barker, MJ., 2020)



The Individual: Bottom-up/top-down Regulation in Neuroscience

- ▶ Corticolimbic dysregulation leads to maladaptive behavioral responses
- ▶ Within this system, **nucleus accumbens (NAcc)** plays a central role in *integrating*
 - ▶ the *emotional salience* (**amygdala**),
 - ▶ *context* (**hippocampus**) and
 - ▶ *executive planning* (**Prefrontal cortex (PFC)**), regulating the control of goal-directed behaviors (through other basal ganglia nuclei e.g. Ventral pallidum (VP))

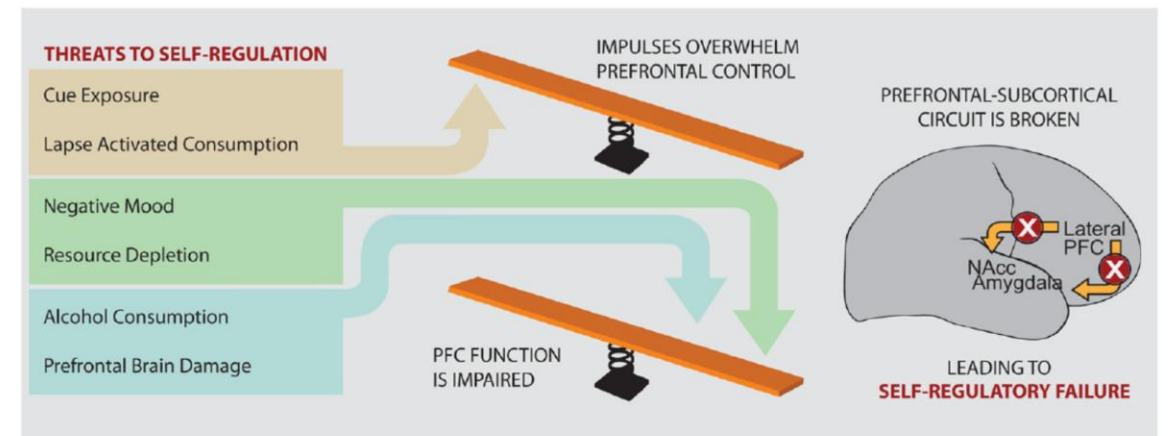
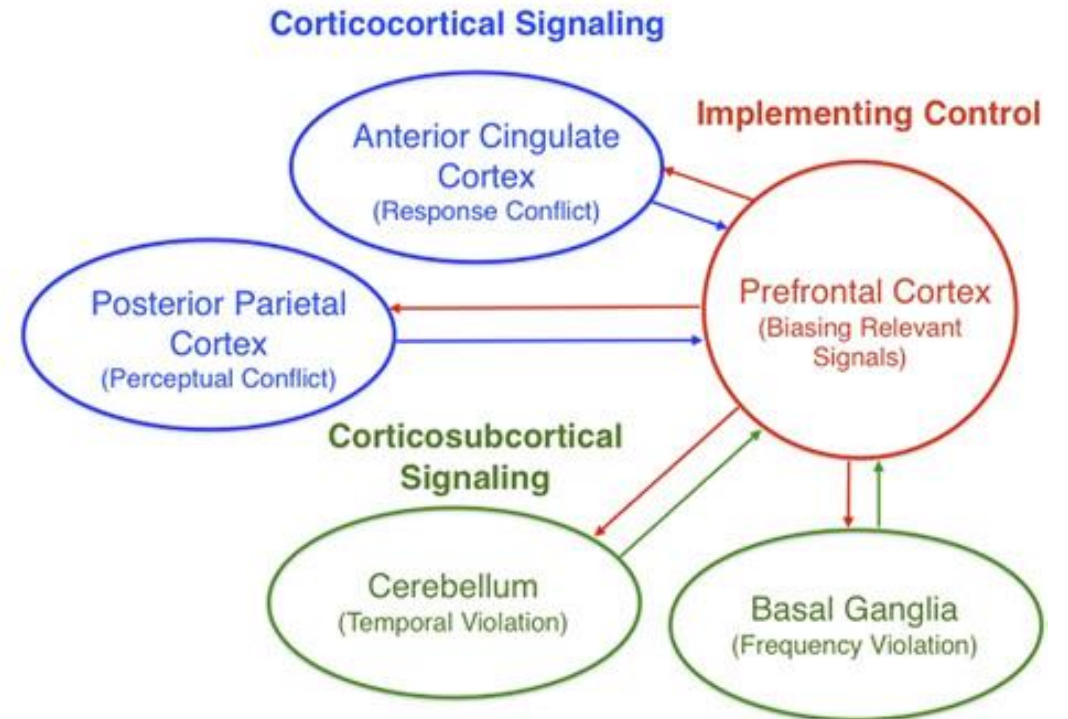
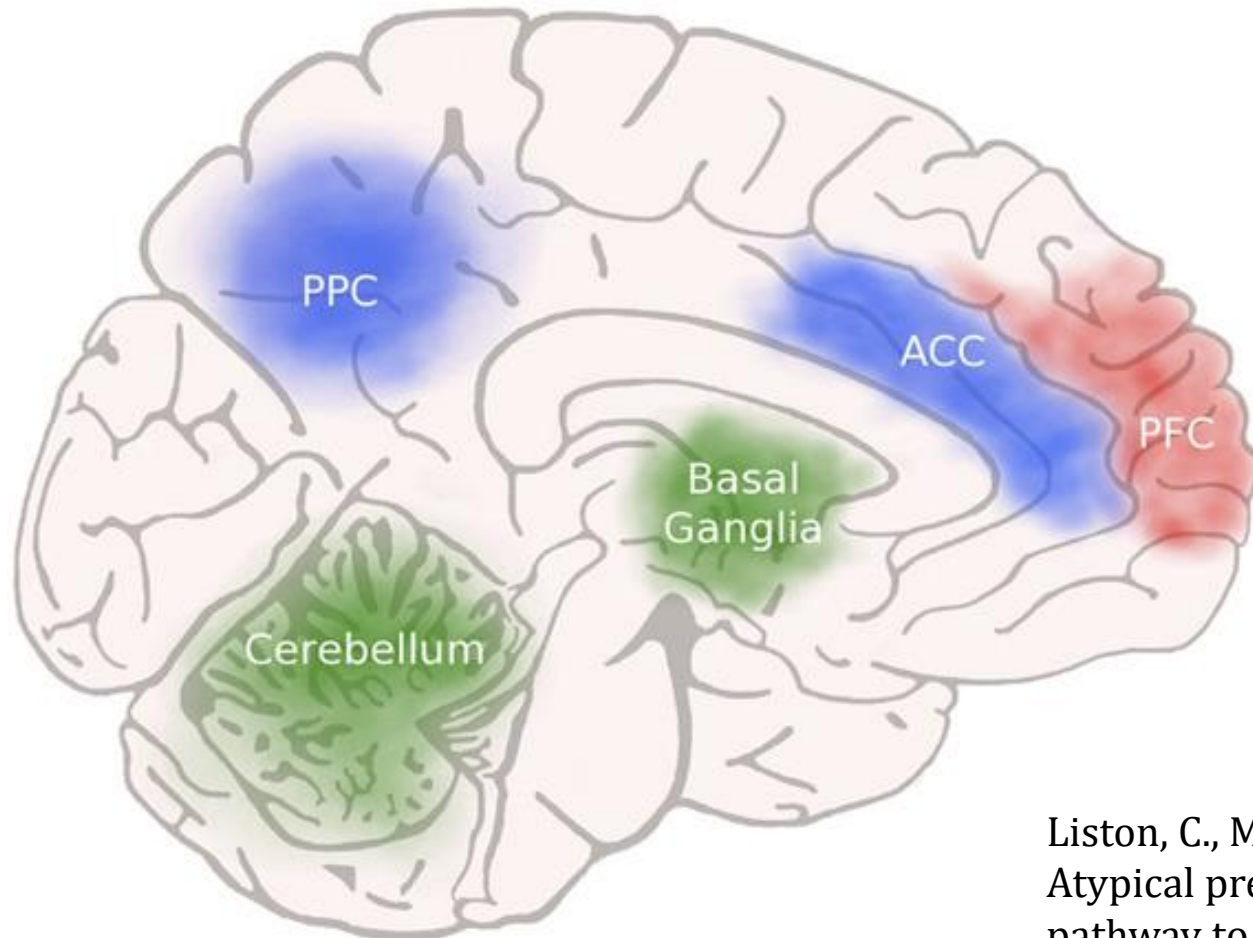


Figure 2. Schematic of a balance model of self-regulation and its failure highlighting the four threats to self-regulation identified in the text and their putative impact on brain areas involved in self-regulation. This model suggests that self-regulatory failure occurs whenever the balance is tipped in favor of subcortical regions involved in reward and emotion, either due to the strength of an impulse or due to a failure to appropriately engage top-down control mechanisms.

The Individual: Bottom-up/top-down Regulation in Neuroscience



Liston, C., Malter Cohen, M., Teslovich, T., Levenson, D., and Casey, B.J. (2011). Atypical prefrontal connectivity in attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: pathway to disease or pathological end point? *Biol Psychiatry* 69, 1168-1177.

The Crowd: The Characteristics of Crowd Behavior

▶ Gustave Le Bon (1895)

- ▶ Crowd behavior ≠ Average behavior of individuals
- ▶ Causes determining crowd behavior characteristics:
 - ▶ **“Invincible power”** – due to number; “submergence”
 - ▶ **“Contagion”** – “In a crowd every sentiment and act is contagious, and contagious to such a degree that an individual readily sacrifices his personal interest to the collective interest.”
 - ▶ **“Suggestibility”** – “..the disappearance of the conscious personality, the predominance of the unconscious personality, the turning by means of suggestion and contagion of feelings and ideas in an identical direction [“the direction determined by the hypnotizer”].”

*“Whoever be the individuals that compose it [the crowd], however like or unlike be their mode of life, their occupations, their character, or their intelligence, the fact that they have been transformed into a crowd puts them in possession of a sort of **collective mind** which makes them feel, think, and act in a manner quite different from that in which each individual of them would feel, think, and act were he in a state of isolation.”*

Le Bon, G. (1895/2002). *The Crowd - A Study of the Popular Mind*. Garden City, NY: Dover Publications.

The eight symptoms of groupthink - *Janis*¹

1. “an **illusion of invulnerability**, shared by most of all the members, which creates excessive optimism and encourages taking extreme risks;
2. **collective efforts to rationalize** in order to discount warnings which might lead the members to reconsider their assumptions before they recommit themselves to their past policy decisions;
3. an **unquestioned belief in the group's inherent morality**. inclining the members to ignore the ethical or moral consequences of their decisions;
4. **stereotyped views of rivals and enemies** as too evil to warrant genuine attempts to negotiate, or as too weak and stupid to counter whatever risky attempts are made to defeat their purposes;
5. direct **pressure** on any member who expresses strong arguments against any of the group's stereotypes, illusions, or commitments, making clear that this type of dissent is contrary to what is expected of all loyal members;
6. **self-censorship of deviations** from the apparent group consensus, reflecting each member's inclination to minimize to himself the importance of his doubts and counterarguments;
7. a **shared illusion of unanimity** concerning judgments conforming to the majority view (partly resulting from self-censorship of deviations, augmented by the false assumption that silence means consent);
8. the emergence of self-appointed **mindguards** - members who protect the group from adverse information that might shatter their shared complacency about the effectiveness and morality of their decisions.”

Janis, I. L. (1973). Groupthink and Group Dynamics: A Social Psychological Analysis of Defective Policy Decisions*. *Policy Studies Journal*, 2(1), 19-25.
doi:10.1111/j.1541-0072.1973.tb00117.x

The Authority:

▶ Milgram Experiment

- ▶ Delivery of shocks of increasing strength with every “wrong” answer that the “student” gave
- ▶ Investigation into **blind obedience**

▶ Stanford Prison Experiment (Zimbardo)

- ▶ Investigation into whether cruelty was dispositional or situational

▶ Asch conformity experiments / the Asch paradigm

- ▶ Addresses **conformity/diversion** from group
- ▶ Investigation into whether a single subject (the rest are actors) will conform or contradict actors who have been instructed to give the wrong answer.

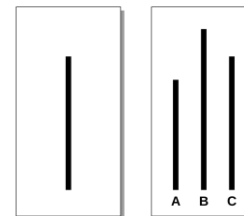
Blind obedience, Social Pressure & Authoritarianism



<https://www.psypost.org/2017/03/conducting-milgram-experiment-poland-psychologists-show-people-still-obey-48299>

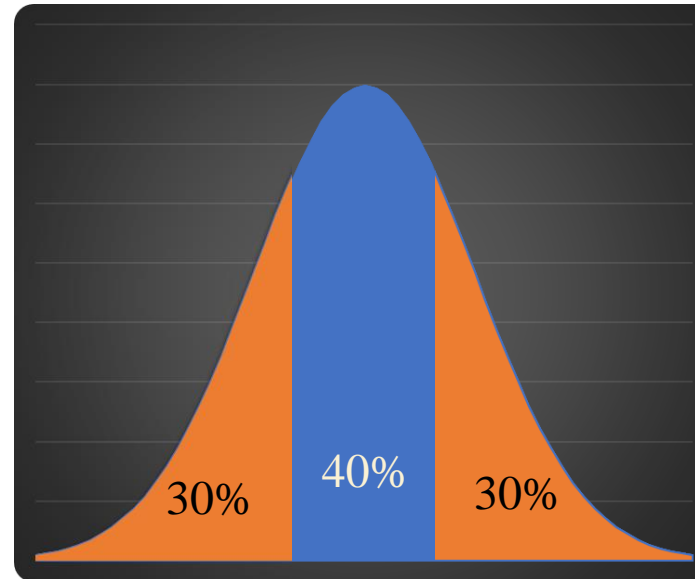


<https://www.simplypsychology.org/zimbardo.html>



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asch_conformity_experiments

What We Observe: The Distribution of Human Behavior



1. Aycoberry Pierre, & Hurley, R. (1981). *The Nazi question: An essay on the interpretations of National Socialism (1922-1975)*. Pantheon Books.
2. Milgram, S. (1963). Behavioral Study of Obedience. *J Abnorm Psychol* 67, 371-378
3. Asch, S. (1955). Opinions and Social Pressure. *Nature* 176, 1009-1011.

*"The inquiry conducted among prisoners of war by H. Dicks... presented an image of the Germans that was both plausible and reassuring for democracy: 11 percent were fanatical Nazis, 24 percent Nazis, 40 percent apoliticals, 15 percent passive anti-Nazis, and 9 percent active anti-Nazis."*¹

Milgram Experiment: 26/40 (65%): "26 subjects abandon this tenet [fundamental breach of moral conduct to hurt another person against his will] in following the instructions of an authority who has no special powers to enforce his commands." ; **14/40 (35%):** "14 subjects defied the experimenter"²

Asch Social Conformity Experiment: "...under group pressure the minority subjects swung to acceptance of the misleading majority's wrong judgments in **36.8** per cent of the selections...At one extreme about **one-quarter** of the subjects were completely independent and never agreed with the erroneous judgments of the majority"³

How Control is Achieved

LESSONS FROM HISTORY & CURRENT EVENTS

Fear

➤ Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring

- “Why, of course, the people don’t want war. Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece. Naturally, the common people don’t want war; neither in Russia nor in England nor in America, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, *it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship or a Parliament or a Communist dictatorship...*”
- “Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. *All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked* and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country.”

- Gilbert, G., 2006. Nuremberg diary.
Cambridge, Mass.: Da Capo. p278-279.



File:Hermann Goering - Nuremberg2.jpg. (2022, February 24). *Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository*. Retrieved 16:17, March 2, 2022 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Hermann_Goering_-_Nuremberg2.jpg&oldid=632097485.

Lie & Repeat the Lie

- ▶ ***“If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.*** The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to ***repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State”***
 - ▶ - Reich propaganda minister Goebbels



https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Joseph_Goebbels

Why this makes sense

▶ Initially:

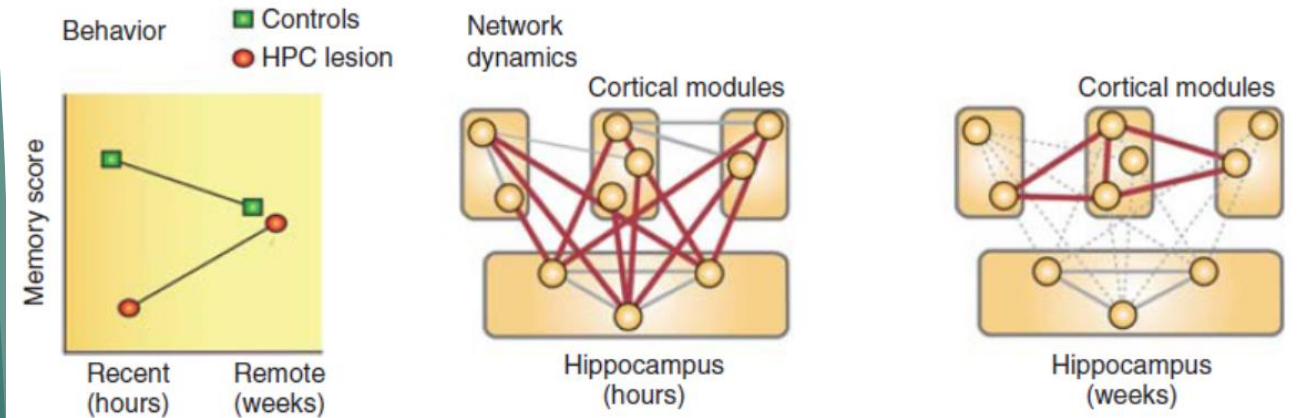
- ▶ Information is stored both the hippocampus and neocortex,
- ▶ hippocampus guides reorganization and stabilization → neocortex becomes independent of the hippocampus

- ▶ Timing: Process takes hours → weeks

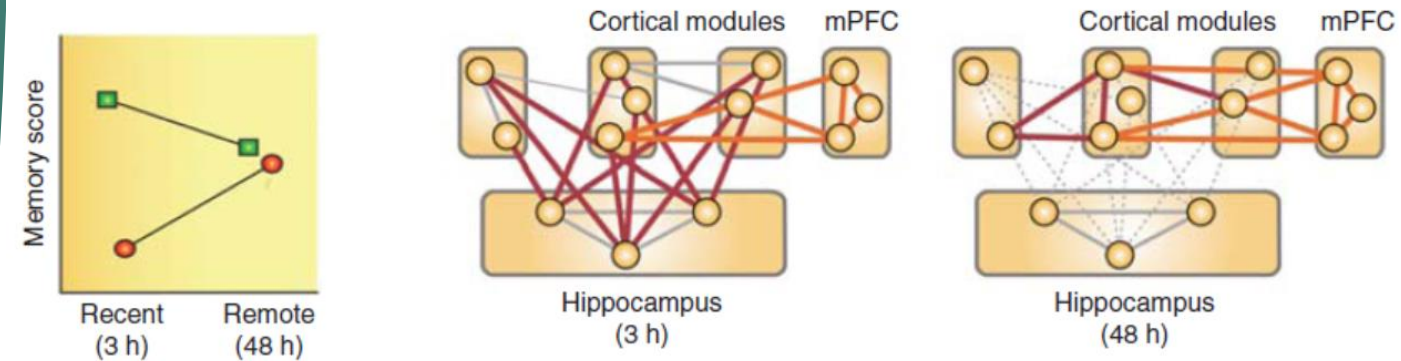
▶ With time:

- ▶ New information can be related to preexisting knowledge (schemas) involving preexisting neocortical networks of neurons
- ▶ Timing: Process significantly quicker

A Standard systems consolidation



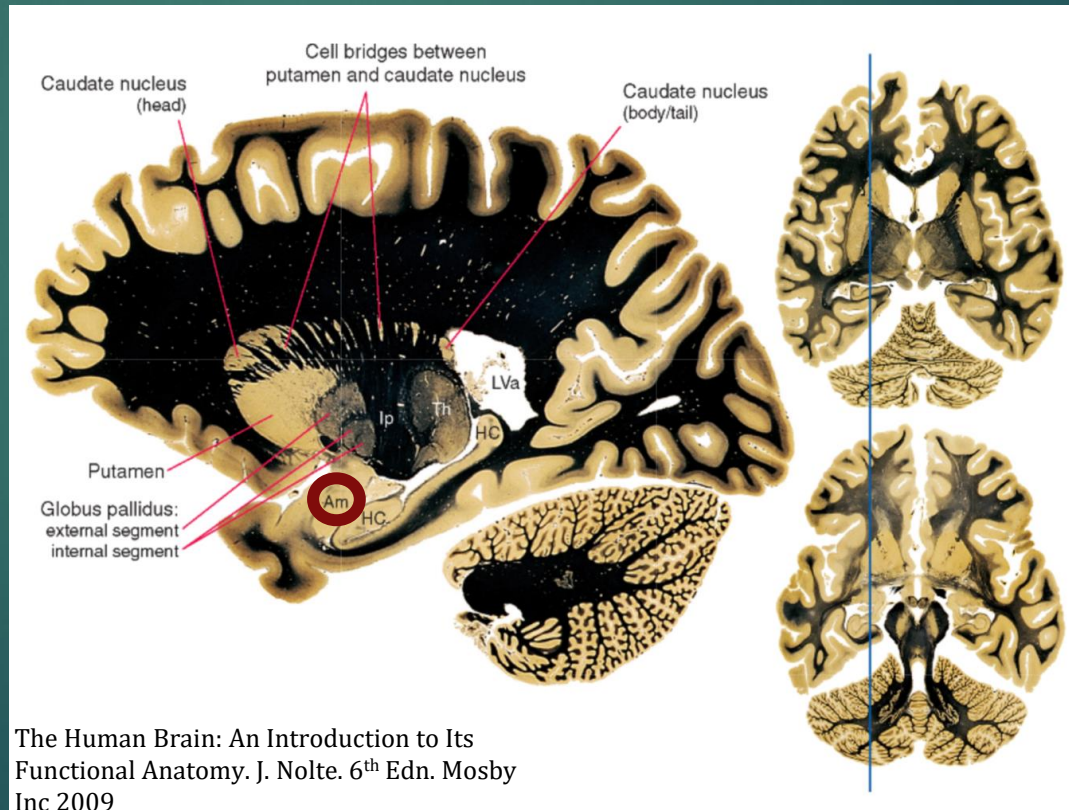
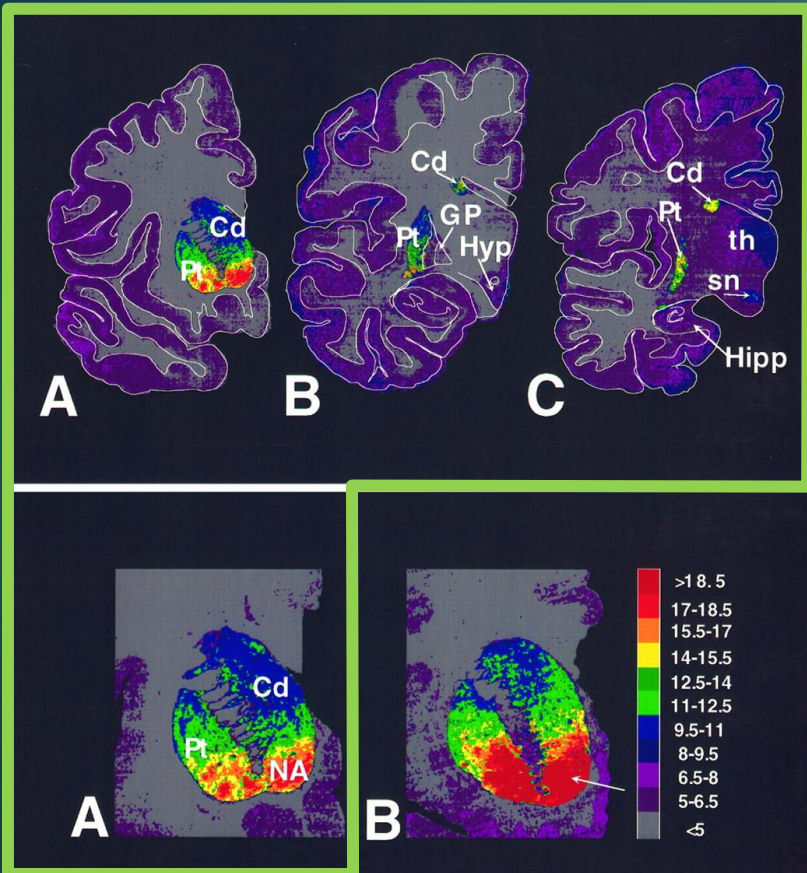
B Systems consolidation with schema



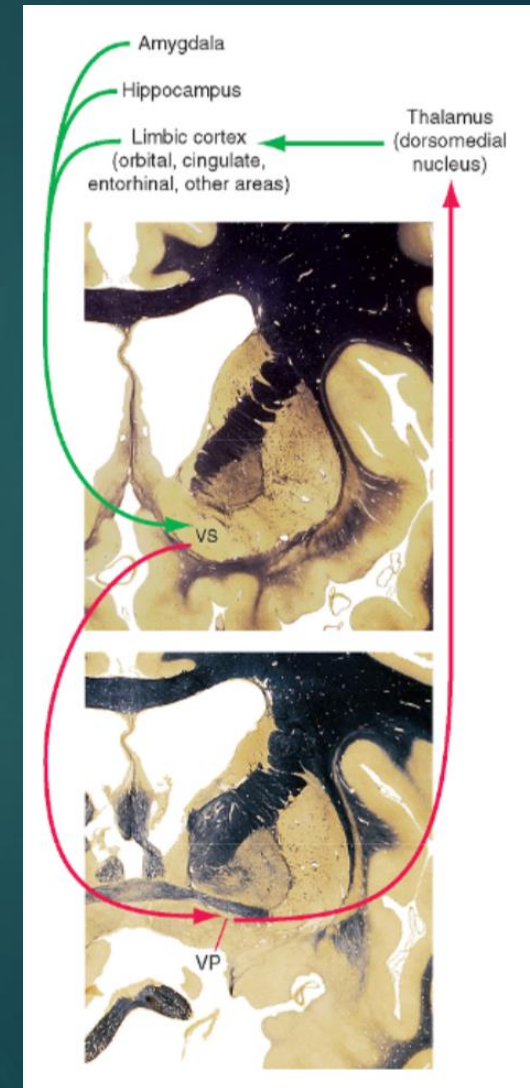
Squire, L.R., Genzel, L., Wixted, J.T., and Morris, R.G. (2015). Memory consolidation. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol* 7, **a021766**.

The Limbic System & the Appeal of Emotion

- ▶ Eliciting emotions → clouds the reality and judgment of an event – adding subjective interpretation (i.e., better or worse than reality).
- ▶ This information feeds into the cortex – which is now receiving interpreted information.

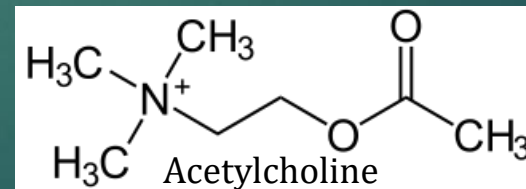
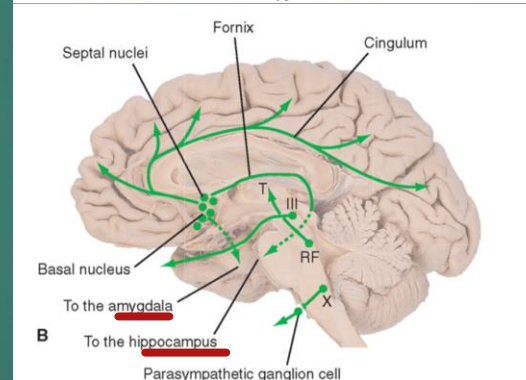
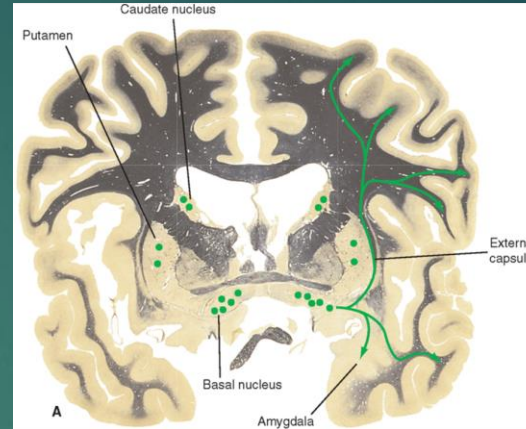
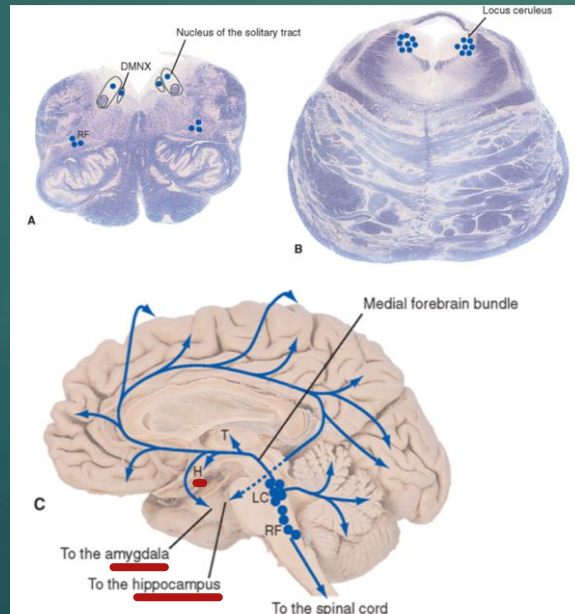
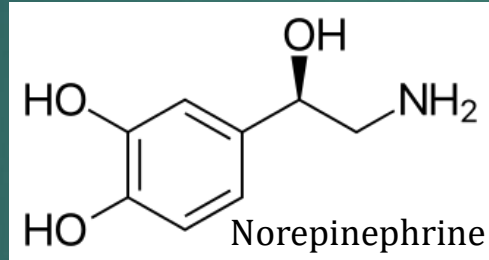
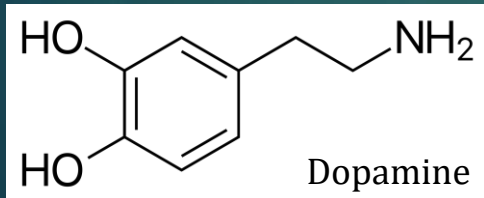
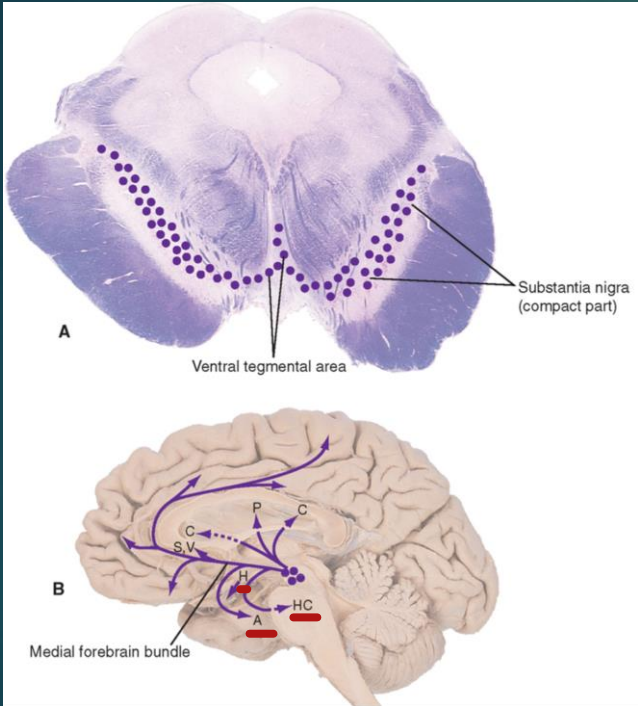


The Human Brain: An Introduction to Its Functional Anatomy. J. Nolte. 6th Edn. Mosby Inc 2009

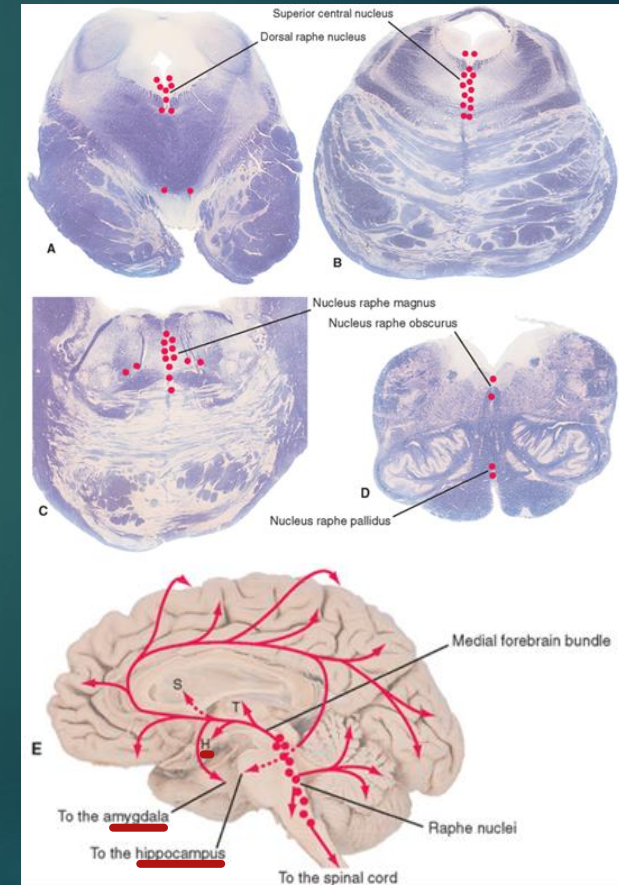
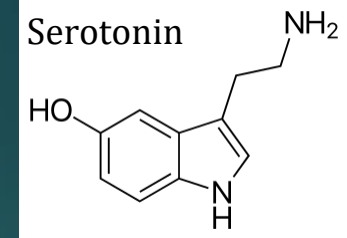


Staley, J.K., and Mash, D.C. (1996). Adaptive Increase in D₃Dopamine Receptors in the Brain Reward Circuits of Human Cocaine Fatalities. *The Journal of Neuroscience* 16, 6100-6106.

The Limbic System & the Appeal of Emotion



The Human Brain: An Introduction to Its Functional Anatomy. J. Nolte. 6th Edn. Mosby Inc 2009
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



The tyrant can always find an excuse for his tyranny.

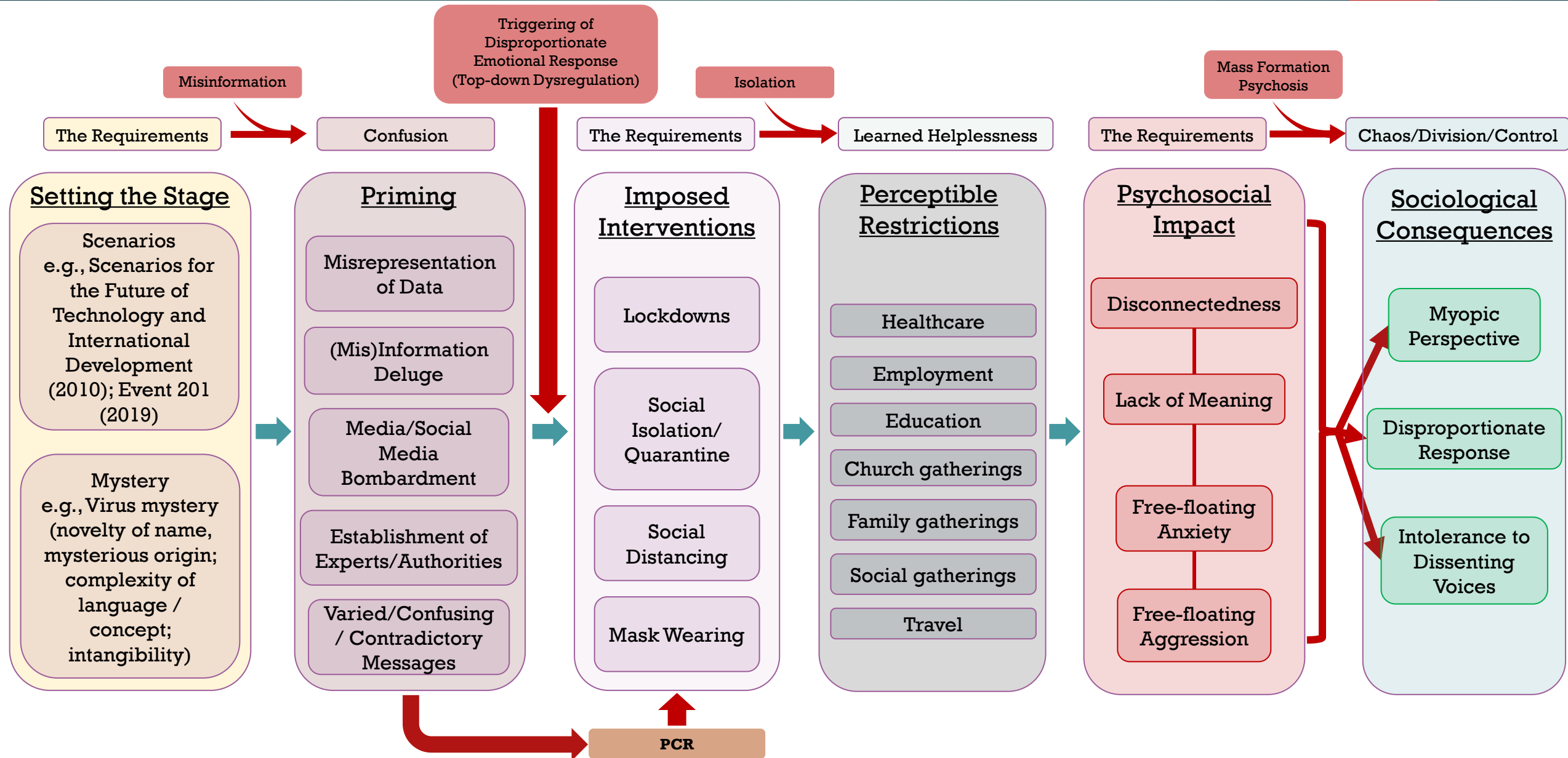
The unjust will not listen to the reasoning of the innocent.

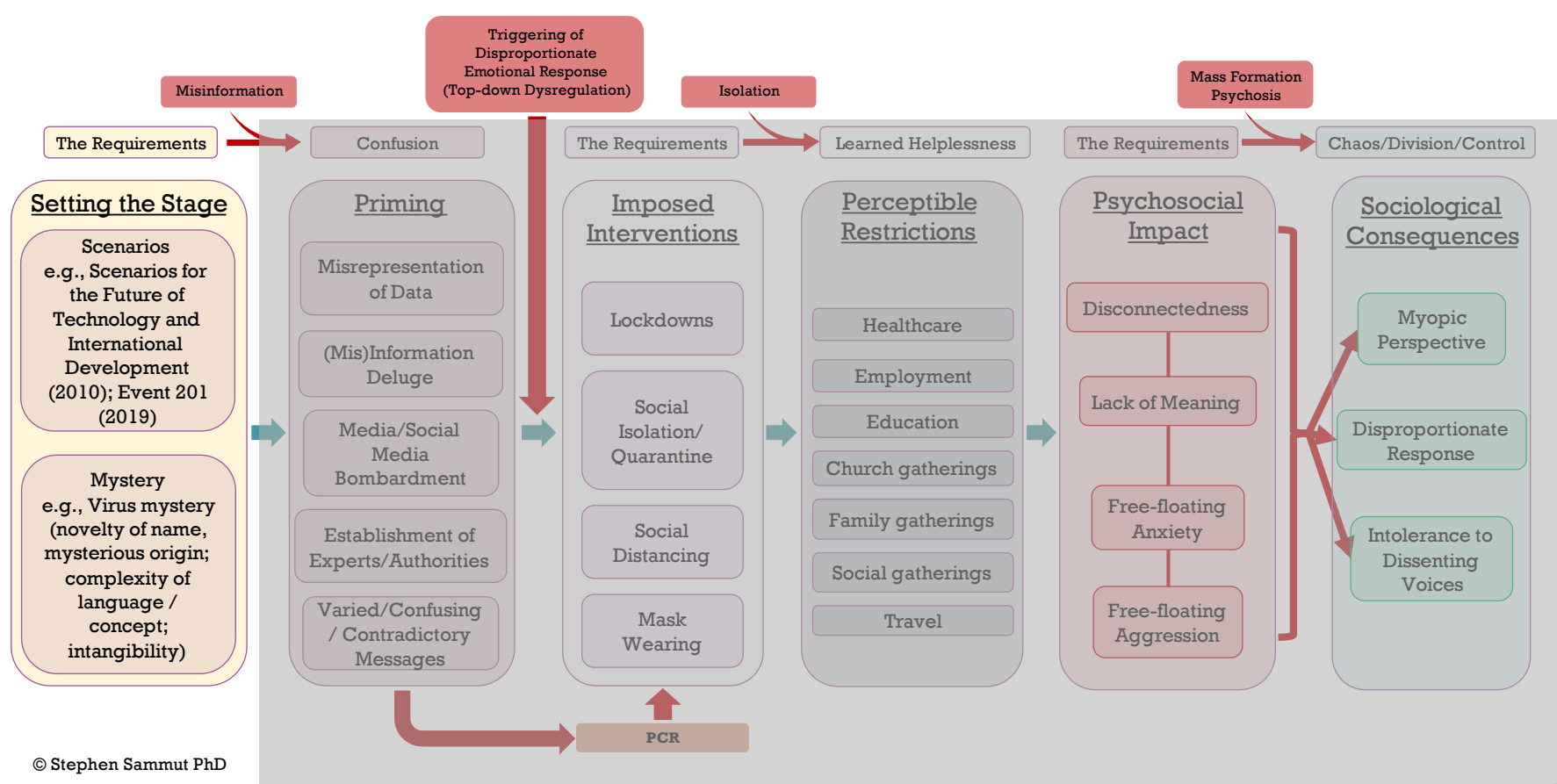
Moral from "The Wolf and the Lamb" Aesop (c. 620–564 B.C.)

The Current Events

THE UNFOLDING OF HISTORY

How People Come to Behave as a Crowd

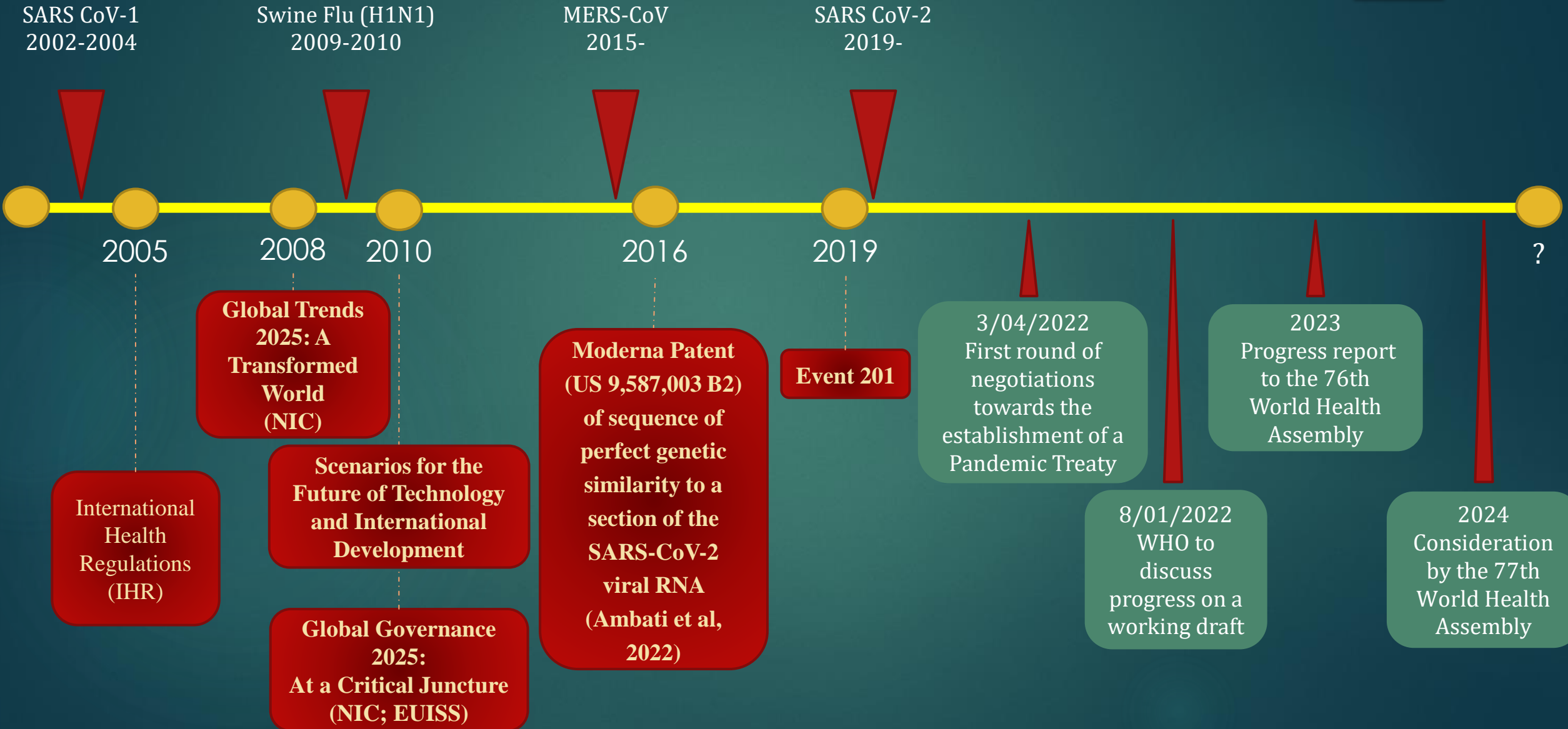




Setting the Stage

FORMING THE NARRATIVE

Planned Event



Planned Event

- ▶ **Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development (2010)**
 - ▶ Sponsored by Rockefeller Foundation and Global Business Network
 - ▶ Addresses four futuristic scenarios (*Lock Step*; *Clever Together*; *Hack Attack*; *Smart Scramble*) founded on two uncertainties (1) *Political and Economic Alignment* (PEA; on a scale of “Strong” to “Weak”) and (2) *Adaptive Capacity* (AC; on a scale of “Low” to “High”).



Planned Event

- ▶ **Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development (2010)**
 - ▶ **Lock Step** scenario bears a significant similarity to the global events that have taken place in the past year since the beginning of the “COVID-19 outbreak”. The similarities include:
 - ▶ a pandemic caused by a “*new influenza strain*” and described as “*extremely virulent and deadly*”
 - ▶ “...the *mandatory wearing of face masks to body-temperature checks* at the entries to communal places like train stations and supermarkets.”
 - ▶ “...*mandatory quarantine* for all citizens, as well as its instant and *near-hermetic sealing off of all borders...*”
 - ▶ “...*heightened oversight* took many forms: biometric IDs for all citizens...”
 - ▶ And where it all leads: The report states that “Even after the pandemic faded, this more authoritarian control and oversight of citizens and their activities stuck and even intensified...*Citizens willingly gave up some of their sovereignty — and their privacy — to more paternalistic states in exchange for greater safety and stability. Citizens were more tolerant, and even eager, for top-down direction and oversight, and national leaders had more latitude to impose order in the ways they saw fit.*”

Planned Event

▶ **Event 201**

- ▶ **Friday, October 18, 2019** at The Pierre hotel, New York, NY
- ▶ Sponsored by: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, World Economic Forum and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- ▶ “Event 201 simulates an outbreak of a novel zoonotic **coronavirus** transmitted from bats to pigs to people that eventually becomes efficiently transmissible from person to person, leading to a severe pandemic. The pathogen and the disease it causes are modeled largely on SARS, but it is more transmissible in the community setting by people with mild symptoms.”



<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/event201/scenario.html>

Planned Outcome: Population Reduction & Control

- ▶ *“Given that hCG was found in at least half the WHO vaccine samples known by the doctors involved in administering the vaccines to have been used in Kenya, our opinion is that the Kenya “anti-tetanus” campaign was reasonably called into question by the Kenya Catholic Doctors Association as a front for **population growth reduction.**” (Oller et al., 2017)*
- ▶ *“Vaccines are under development for the **control of fertility in males and females...**The developments on the anti-hCG vaccine for women are encouraging...It is logical to expect that the source of most of the antigens employed for anti-fertility vaccines in the future will be either synthetic (as for GnRH) or from recombinant DNA techniques (hCG and sperm antigens). Vectors such as vaccinia offer an attractive mode of making the anti-fertility vaccines” (Talwar and Raghupathy, 1989)*

Planned Outcome: Population Reduction & Control

- ▶ *“Vaccines have been proposed as one of the strategies for population control...Further scientific inputs are required to increase the efficacy of contraceptive vaccines and establish their safety beyond doubt, before they can become applicable for **control of fertility in humans.**” (Gupta and Bansal, 2010)*
- ▶ **Stefan Oelrich**, member of the Board of Management of Bayer and head of the Pharmaceuticals Division. Speech at the World Health Summit focused on biotechnological innovation, (October 2021)
 - ▶ *“We also need to focus on what is socially responsible outside of Europe and ensure sustainable action there. **We pledged, this past year, to give an additional 100 million women access to contraception in the world. We've invested 400 million, this year, into new plants that are dedicated to just produce a long-acting contraceptives for women in low- and middle-income countries.** We had Bill Gates, this week, in Berlin. I'm sure many of you have met him this week - together with him and Melinda Gates, we're working very closely on family planning initiatives as an example for that.”*



Planned Outcome: Population Reduction & Control – Long in the making

- ▶ **The Rockefeller Foundation** *President's Five-Year Review & Annual Report (1968)*
 - ▶ “Research is principally in the fields of human biology, reproductive physiology, immunology, and molecular biology, **and its basic purpose is to discover efficient, safe, and low-cost methods for the control of fertility**”
 - ▶ “This experience [with oral contraceptives and plastic IUDs] has led to a more precise definition of the optimum techniques for use of these methods and has thrown light on their limitations; these drawbacks appear to be sufficiently serious to **urgently warrant greatly increased research efforts to develop better methods of fertility control.**”
 - ▶ “These considerations have led the Foundation to concentrate its support on projects that, firstly, are directly relevant to the **overall goal of population stabilization...**”

Planned Outcome: Population Reduction & Control – Long in the making

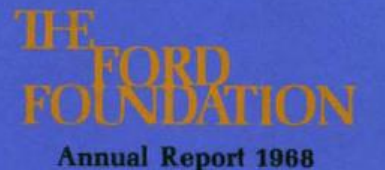
▶ The **Rockefeller Foundation** President's Five-Year Review & Annual Report (1968) (cont.)

- ▶ “The so-called morning-after pill has not yet been tested in human beings; its effectiveness and the hazards of its use are unknown. The male pill is being very little investigated; several types of drugs are known to diminish male fertility, but those that have been tested have serious problems of toxicity. **Very little work is in progress on immunological methods, such as vaccines, to reduce fertility**, and much more research is required if a solution is to be found here.”

The logo for The Rockefeller Foundation, featuring the text "THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION" in a serif font. The word "ROCKEFELLER" is larger and more prominent, with "THE" above it and "FOUNDATION" below it.

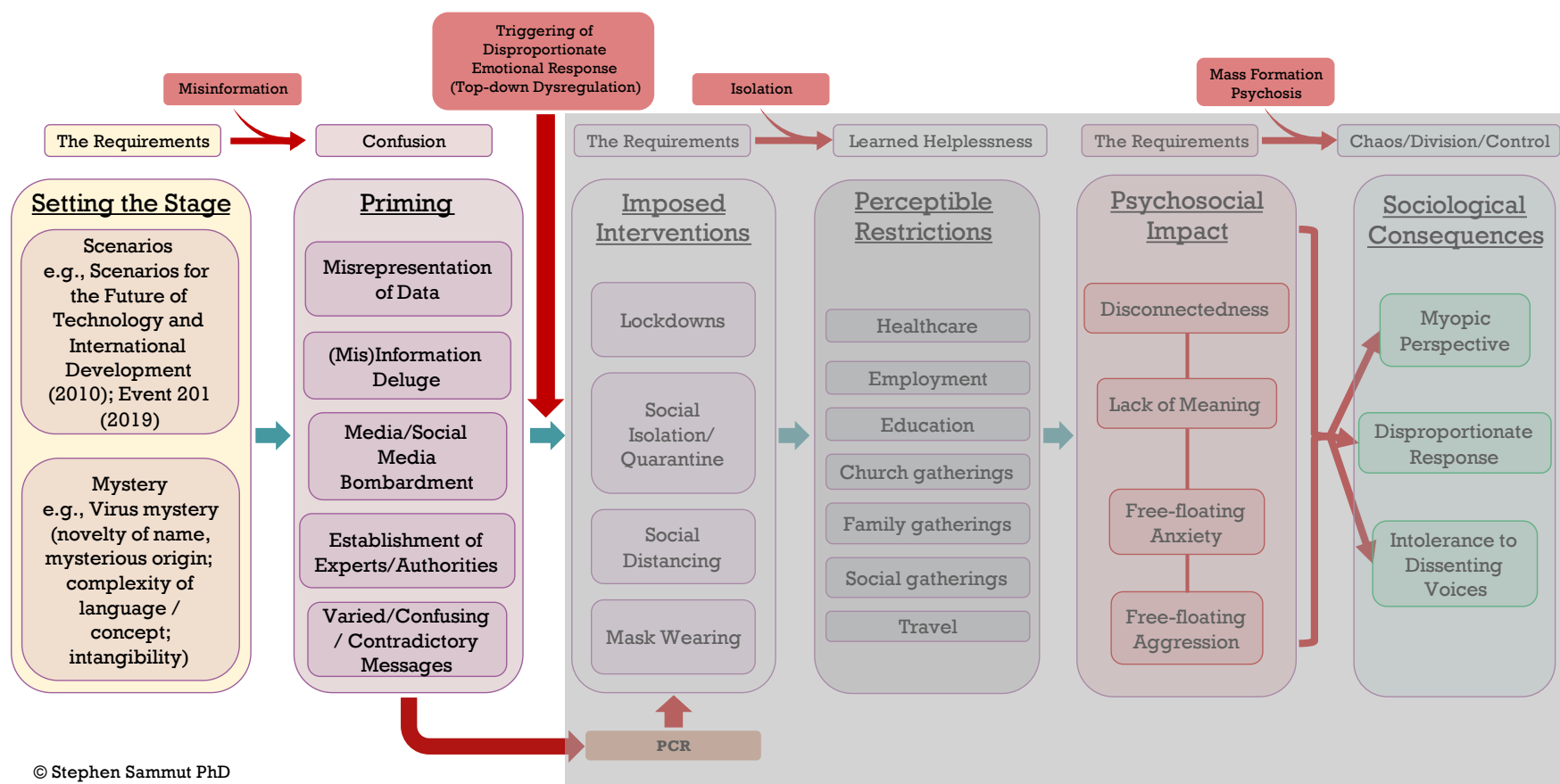
▶ The **Ford Foundation** President's Review (1968)

- ▶ “Since Federal funds for research on safer and more effective contraceptives are still far less than researchers can effectively use, the Foundation continued support for high-priority biological studies crucial to successful fertility limitation.”
- ▶ “The research seeks to develop an agent **that will suspend fertility without affecting potency.**”

The logo for The Ford Foundation Annual Report 1968, featuring the text "THE FORD FOUNDATION" in a serif font, with "Annual Report 1968" below it. The text is white on a blue background.

Why Catholic Academics Need to Fight for the Truth and Not Just Speak It

- ▶ Science has been hijacked with words modified to hide the reality of the evil being done (e.g., Pregnancy = delayed menstruation; Abortion pill = missed period pill, etc., etc.)
- ▶ **Stefan Oelrich, member of the Board of Management of Bayer and head of the Pharmaceuticals Division. Speech at the World Health Summit focused on biotechnological innovation, (October 2021)**
 - ▶ *“We need to make sure that the knowledge that's created in our universities, in our academia, is translated - translated before it goes into shiny paper publications, it's translated ideally into patents and into applications, and that results in new treatments, medicines, devices, but also medical procedures. That's what we need if we want to keep up with innovation.”*
 - ▶ **Questions:**
 - ▶ What is the goal? Shutting down scientific debate? Making money over ensuring the integrity, safety, etc. of medicines? Bypassing ethical norms?
 - ▶ Is this related to the FDA's intentional dragging of the release of documents/data submitted by Pfizer to the public till 2076 (500 pages per month (out of 55,000 pages)?



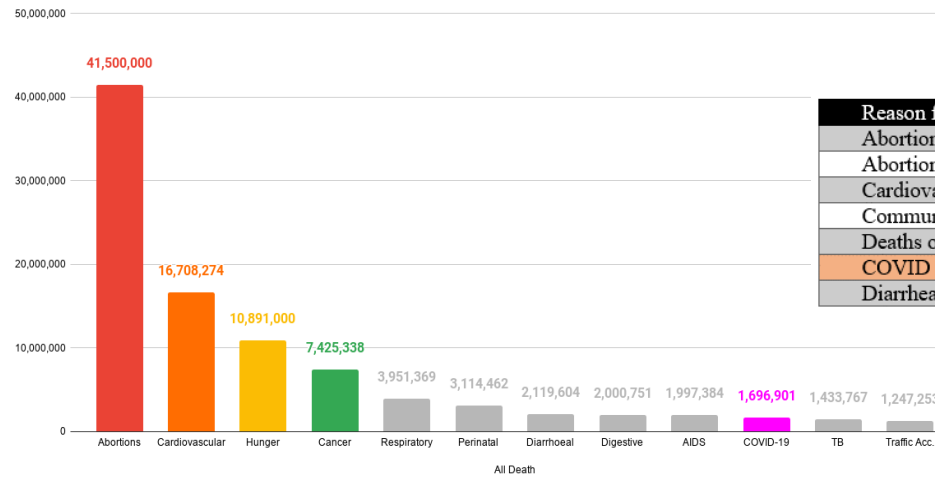
© Stephen Sammut PhD

Priming

MISINFORMATION BOMBARDMENT

Causes of Death 2020 (worldometers.info, 2020)

K.A. Beattie



Reason for death	Number of deaths
Abortion	42.7 million (~0.5% of the world's population) ⁴
Abortion (1 st 10 days of 2021)	1.1 million ⁴
Cardiovascular disease	13.0 million ⁵
Communicable disease	17.9 million ⁴
Deaths of children under 5	7.6 million ⁴
COVID	1.8 million ⁶
Diarrhea	1.7 million (in 2016) (Troeger et al., 2018)

Table 1 Comparison of number of deaths associated with various causes

What is said vs What is

Covid-19 Fatality Rates by Age:		Collateral Consequences resulting from Measures
<p>0-4 yrs old: 0.003%, 5-9 yrs old: 0.001%, 10-14 yrs old: 0.001%, 15-19 yrs old: 0.003%, 20-24 yrs old: 0.006%, 25-29 yrs old: 0.013%, 30-34 yrs old: 0.024%, 35-39 yrs old: 0.040%, 40-44 yrs old: 0.075%, 45-49 yrs old: 0.121%, 50-59 yrs old: 0.323%, 60-64 yrs old: 0.456%, 65-69 yrs old: 1.075%, 70-74 yrs old: 1.674%, 75-79 yrs old: 3.203%, 80+ yrs old: 8.2%,</p> <p>for reference an 80 year old has a 6% chance of dying from anything within a year. An 85 year old a 10% chance. (see next slide)</p> <p>O'Driscoll, M., Ribeiro Dos Santos, G., Wang, L., Cummings, D.A.T., Azman, A.S., Paireau, J., Fontanet, A., Cauchemez, S., and Salje, H. (2021). Age-specific mortality and immunity patterns of SARS-CoV-2. <i>Nature</i> 590, 140-145.</p>	<p>0-19yrs old: 0.0027% 20-29yrs old: 0.014% 30-39yrs old: 0.031% 40-49yrs old: 0.082% 50-59yrs old: 0.27% 60-69yrs old: 0.59% 70+ yrs old: 2.4%</p> <p>Axfors, C., and Ioannidis, J.P.A. (2021). Infection fatality rate of COVID-19 in community-dwelling populations with emphasis on the elderly: An overview.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40.9% of individuals reported at least one adverse event related to the pandemic (Czeisler et al., 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30.9% depressive/anxiety disorder ○ 26.3% trauma & stressor related disorder ○ 13.3% started or increased substance use to cope with pandemic • 50% rise in deaths due to suspected opioid overdoses (Glober et al., 2020; Haley and Saitz, 2020; Slavova et al., 2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Synthetic opioids (primarily illicitly manufactured fentanyl) appear to be the primary driver of the increases in overdose deaths, increasing 38.4 percent from the 12-month period leading up to June 2019 compared with the 12-month period leading up to May 2020. During this time period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 37 of the 38 U.S. jurisdictions with available synthetic opioid data reported increases in synthetic opioid-involved overdose deaths. ▪ 18 of these jurisdictions reported increases greater than 50 percent. ▪ 10 western states reported over a 98 percent increase in synthetic opioid-involved deaths.” (CDC, 2020b) • 25.5% (18-24yo) seriously considered suicide in 30 days prior to survey (Czeisler et al., 2020) • 41.5% increase in pornography use in the US (Pornhub, 2020) • 8.7-30% increase in unemployment rates (Janaskie and Earle, 2020) • 27.6-34.0% reduction in GDP across the various regions in the US (Janaskie and Earle, 2020) • 19-43% predicted increase in deaths due to delayed cancer surgery as a result of COVID-19 – “Modest delays in surgery for cancer incur significant impact on survival.” (Sud et al., 2020) • Other consequences reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “We find that children born during the pandemic have significantly reduced verbal, motor, and overall cognitive performance compared to children born pre-pandemic. Moreover, we find that males and children in lower socioeconomic families have been most affected.” (Deoni et al., 2021)

(4) <https://www.worldometers.info/> (Percentage is calculated from # abortions in 2020/Current World Population)

(5) https://www.who.int/health-topics/cardiovascular-diseases/#tab=tab_1

(6) <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

Misinformation, Misrepresentation & Dramatization

Neil Ferguson, the scientist who convinced Boris Johnson of UK coronavirus lockdown, criticised in past for flawed research

Professor Neil Ferguson predicted Britain was on course to lose 250,000 lives during the coronavirus epidemic <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/28/neil-ferguson-scientist-convinced-boris-johnson-uk-coronavirus-lockdown-criticised/>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/professor-lockdown-modeler-resigns-in-disgrace/>

‘Professor Lockdown’ Modeler Resigns in Disgrace

By JOHN FUND | May 6, 2020 4:52 PM



Listen to this article



Epidemiologist Neil Ferguson speaks at a news conference in London, England, January 22, 2020. (Reuters TV)

In 2002, Ferguson **predicted** that, by 2080, up to 150,000 people could die from exposure to BSE (mad cow disease) in beef. **In the U.K., there were only 177 deaths from BSE.**

In 2005, Ferguson predicted that up to 150 million people could be killed from bird flu. In the end, only 282 people died worldwide from the disease between 2003 and 2009.

In 2009, a government estimate, based on Ferguson’s advice, said a “reasonable worst-case scenario” was that the swine flu would lead to 65,000 British deaths. In the end, swine flu killed 457 people in the U.K.

CNN politics



LIVE

President Trump answers questions from reporters as the rate of Covid-19 deaths rises in 27 states. Watch CNN

AXIOS ON HBO

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

GLOBALLY

TOTAL CASES	18,317,520
DEATHS	694,713

IN THE UNITED STATES

TOTAL CASES	4,718,249
DEATHS	155,478

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

TRUMP FALSELY CLAIMS VIRUS IS "UNDER CONTROL" AS DEATH ROLL RISES

11:02 AM ET

NEWSROOM

COVID-19 Guidance for Hospital Reporting and FAQs For Hospitals, Hospital Laboratory, and Acute Care Facility Data Reporting

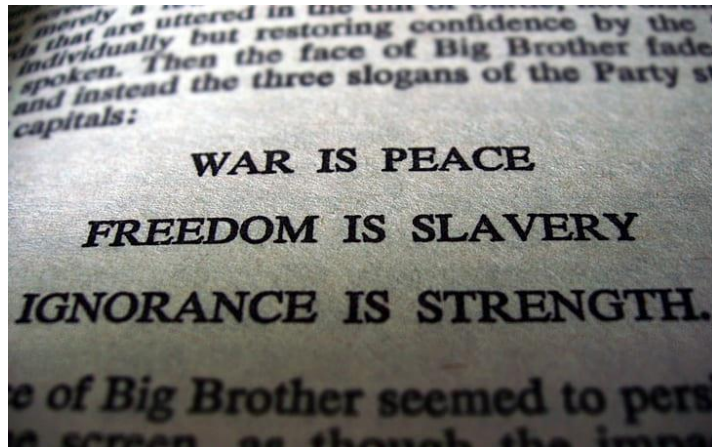
Updated: January 6, 2022 Implementation Dates: Therapeutic D Required: January 19, 2022 Pediatric and Influenza Fields Required: February 2, 2022

Data Elements **Made Inactive** for the Federal Data Collection⁵:

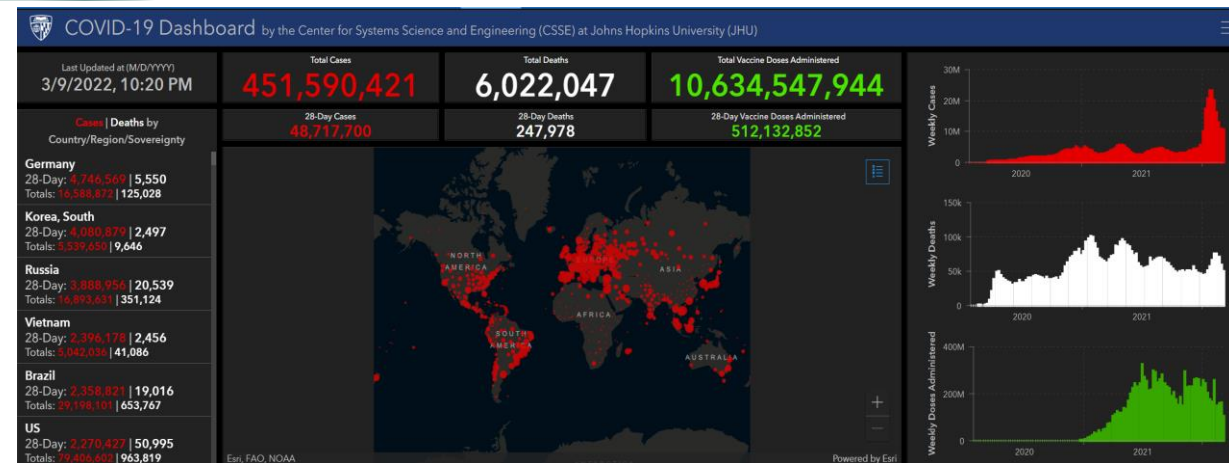
- 2a: All Hospital Beds
- 2b: All Adult Hospital Beds
- 7: Total Mechanical Ventilators
- 8: Ventilators in Use
- 14: ED Overflow
- 15: ED Overflow and Ventilated
- **16: Previous Day’s COVID-19 Deaths**
- 21: Previous Day’s Remdesivir Used
- 22: Current Inventory Remdesivir

Prior to Feb 2nd/ 2022: The only required reporting of COVID deaths is the count from the previous day.

Provide the “Acceptable” Emotionally (not Logically)-Driven Narrative



1984, George Orwell



Florida Senate passes gender identity, sexual orientation in education bill

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A fiercely debated bill that would bar instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity for young public-school students is headed to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, despite Democrats' warnings Tuesday that the measure's approval sends "a message of hate" to Floridians.



- <https://sports.yahoo.com/3-434-coronavirus-deaths-spain-071828651.html>
- <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/live-updates/coronavirus/?id=73286843>
- <https://highlightstourism.com/2020/04/04/covid-19-infection-rate-soars-to-1097909-death-toll-reaches-59131-globally/>
- <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/london-hospitals-overwhelmed-with-virus-patients-risking-collapse/>
- <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- https://www.fox13news.com/news/senate-debates-gender-identity-sexual-orientation-in-education-bill?utm_campaign=trueAnthem_manual&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1YFjT7g_MS-zG9dIV8a3hBJDaLWj79WshRrLss2PuMMCiDp2s7_dfsR6w

“The decisions affecting matters of general interest come to by an assembly of men of distinction, but specialists in different walks of life, are not sensibly superior to the decisions that would be adopted by a gathering of imbeciles.” – Le Bon

03/25/2020



<https://nypost.com/2020/03/25/who-warns-against-ending-coronavirus-lockdowns-too-early/>

Really? They just realized???

WHO envoy Dr. David Nabarro said that such restrictive measures should only be treated as a last resort, the British magazine *The Spectator* reported in a video interview.

“We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus,” Nabarro said.

“The only time we believe a lockdown is justified is to buy you time to reorganize, regroup, rebalance your resources, protect your health workers who are exhausted, but by and large, we’d rather not do it.”

10/11/2020



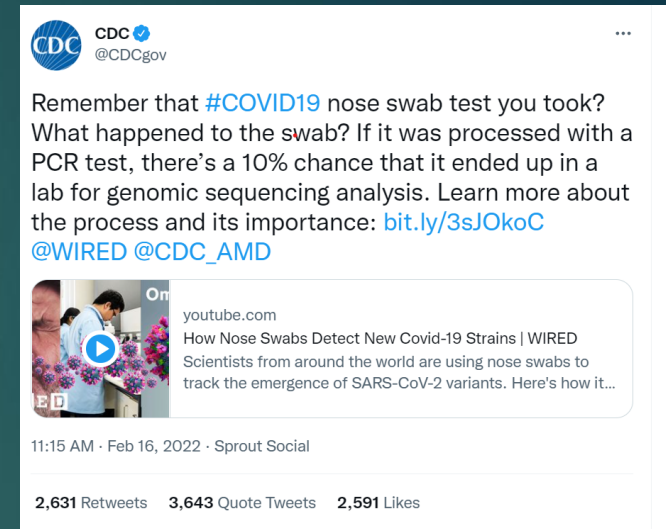
<https://nypost.com/2020/10/11/who-warns-against-covid-19-lockdowns-due-to-economic-damage/>

& this is why **YOU** NEED TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND RESEARCH

Confuse, confound, hide, and abuse

Violations of Ethics

- ▶ Viral DNA is supposed to be sequenced, however human DNA could be sequenced. Are the subjects fully informed?
- ▶ Yet with all the information the individual is left with an “educated guess” based on timing (Dr. Duncan MacCannell Chief Science Officer, OAMD,CDC) i.e. ,subject receives no information back
- ▶ But, we are worried about names... recent change in naming of viruses to Greek letters was to avoid “pretty negative” (???) implications on the place of origin (Dr. MacCannell)...or is it avoid/deny the reality of the origin?
- ▶ **Informed Consent:** What consent????
 - ▶ *“In part, due to an unwillingness of individuals to share their personal information, health laws and emergency laws include provisions that enable government agencies to obtain, use, and disclose personal information without first obtaining individuals’ consent.”¹*



Ethical conduct of research

This study was approved by the Weihai Municipal Hospital review board, and the need for informed consent was **waived**

¹ Ballard, B., Cutinha, A., and Parsons, C. (2021).

Informed Consent –What Consent?

▶ Nuremberg Code (1947)

- ▶ “The voluntary consent of the human subject is **absolutely essential**. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment.”

▶ Helsinki Declaration:

- ▶ “22. In any research on human beings, each potential subject **must be adequately informed of the aims, methods, sources of funding, any possible conflicts of interest, institutional affiliations of the researcher, the anticipated benefits and potential risks of the study and the discomfort it may entail**. The subject should be informed of the right to abstain from participation in the study or to withdraw consent to participate at any time without reprisal. After ensuring that the subject has understood the information, the physician should then obtain the subject’s freely-given informed consent, preferably in writing”

▶ 45 CFR 46 on the protection of human subjects

- ▶ 46.116: **no investigator may involve a human being as a subject in research covered by this policy unless the investigator has obtained the legally effective informed consent** of the subject or the subject's legally authorized representative. An investigator shall seek such consent only under circumstances that provide the prospective subject or the representative sufficient opportunity to consider whether or not to participate and that minimize the possibility of coercion or undue influence. The information that is given to the subject or the representative shall be in language understandable to the subject or the representative. No informed consent, whether oral or written, may include any exculpatory language through which the subject or the representative is made to waive or appear to waive any of the subject's legal rights, or releases or appears to release the investigator, the sponsor, the institution or its agents from liability for negligence.



Shut Down/Demonize the Opposition – Create the “Enemy”

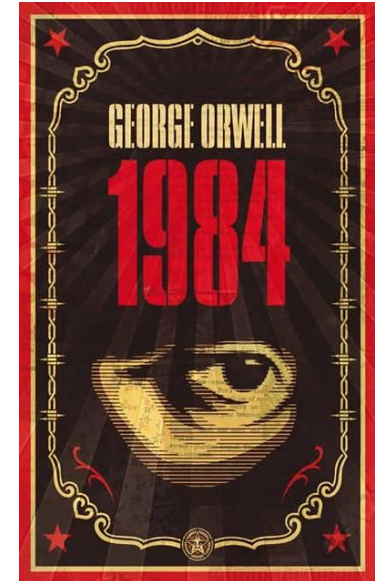


“At the end of a roundtable discussion last week, Florida's new surgeon general, Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD, announced that COVID-19 vaccines are not recommended for "healthy children." This came as a complete shock to the scientific community, including pediatricians across the country.”

Oceania at war with Eurasia or Eastasia?

“Oceania was at war with Eurasia and in alliance with Eastasia. In no public or private utterance was it ever admitted that the three powers had at any time been grouped along different lines. Actually, as Winston well knew, it was only four years since Oceania had been at war with Eastasia and in alliance with Eurasia...Officially the change of partners had never happened. Oceania was at war with Eurasia: therefore Oceania had always been at war with Eurasia. ***The enemy of the moment always represented absolute evil***, and it followed that any past or future agreement with him was impossible.”

“There was, of course, no admission that any change had taken place. Merely it became known, with extreme suddenness and everywhere at once, that Eastasia and not Eurasia was the enemy...The Hate continued exactly as before, except that the target had been changed. The thing that impressed Winston in looking back was that the speaker had ***switched from one line to the other actually in midsentence, not only without a pause, but without even breaking the syntax***”



[This Photo](#) [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

1984, George Orwell.
Book 1, Ch3 & Book 2,
Ch9

Shut Down/Demonize the Opposition – Create the “Enemy”



Date Issued: February 07, 2022 02:00 pm ET
View as PDF: [National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin - February 07, 2022 02:00 pm](#) (pdf, 2 pages, 1.86 MB)

Summary of Terrorism Threat to the U.S. Homeland

Key factors contributing to the current heightened threat environment include:

- (1) *The proliferation of false or misleading narratives, which sow discord or undermine public trust in U.S. government institutions:*
 - For example, there is widespread online proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19. Grievances associated with these themes inspired violent extremist attacks during 2021.
 - Malign foreign powers have and continue to amplify these false or misleading narratives in efforts to damage the United States.



Your account has been restricted

Why did this happen ?

We have placed a restriction on your account because we detected behavior that appears to violate our Terms of Service.

For more details on the kinds of behaviour that can result in restriction, refer to the "Do's and Don'ts" section of our User Agreement.

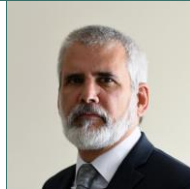
What to do if you believe this action was an error.

If you believe your account has been restricted in error, you can submit an appeal by first verifying your identity with us.

Once we verify your government-issued ID, we will review your account to see if it has been restricted in error. If you are eligible, a Customer Support representative will reach out to you to let you know if the account restriction has been lifted.

[Verify your identity](#)

⚠️ Only you can see this post. It's been removed because it goes against our Professional Community Policies. [Learn more](#)



Two months before his Twitter account was suspended, Malone wrote a [rather prophetic Twitter post](#):

"I am going to speak bluntly," he wrote. "Physicians who speak out are being actively hunted via medical boards and the press. They are trying to delegitimize us and pick us off one by one."

Former Pfizer Chief Science Officer Says Claims of 'Second COVID Wave' Built on Fake Data

A former drug company chief science officer, Dr. Michael Yeadon, says that the claim that we are in the midst of a "second wave" of COVID-19 is false.

Published 2 days ago on November 25, 2020
By Warner Todd Huston

The doctor recently tried to post a serious discussion about COVID to Youtube, but it was **quickly flagged and deleted by the Google**-owned online video service. The video is now being hosted by LIBRY.com, a less restrictive and censorious video service.

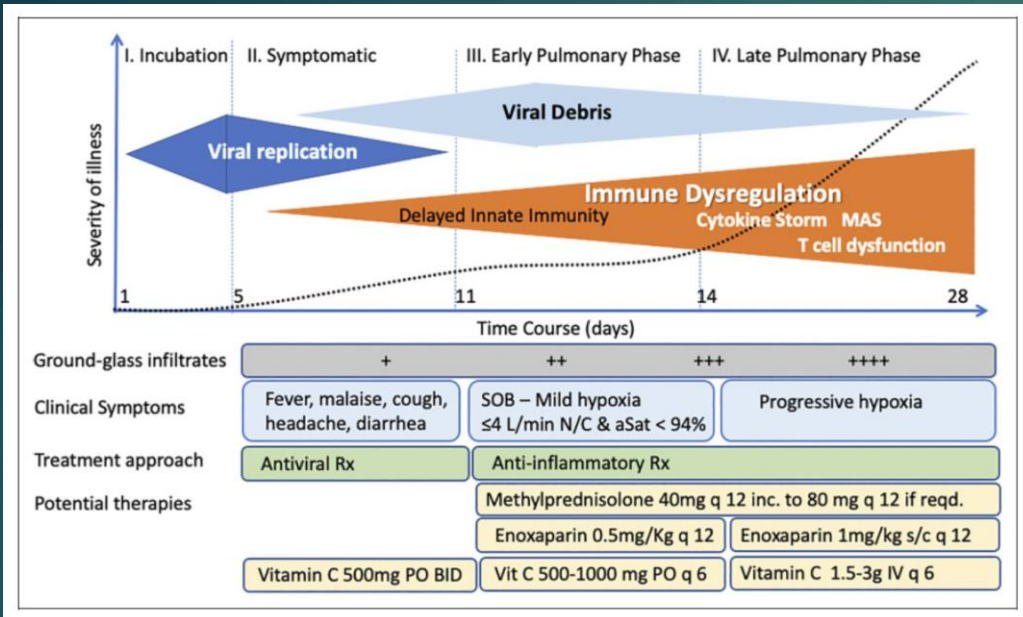
In any case, according to this scientist, **the COVID numbers are seriously flawed** and this claim of a **second wave is fake news**.



<https://thewashingtonsentinel.com/former-pfizer-chief-science-officer-says-claims-of-second-covid-wave-built-on-fake-data/>

- <https://www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-february-07-2022>
- <https://cf.girlsaskguys.com/a58341/primary-share.png?62>
- <https://vetapedia.se/dr-robert-w-malone-virologist/>
- <https://en-volve.com/2021/03/29/former-pfizer-vp-sounds-alarm-covid-19-vaccine-is-madness-that-will-be-used-for-massive-scale-depopulation/>
- <https://reveal666.weebly.com/dr-michael-yeadon.html>
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Shut Down/Demonize the Opposition – Create the “Enemy”



RETRACTED Clinical and Scientific Rationale for the “MATH+” Hospital Treatment Protocol for COVID-19

Journal of Intensive Care Medicine
2021, Vol. 36(2) 135-156
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Pierre Kory, MD, MPA¹, G. Umberto Meduri, MD², Jose Iglesias, DO³, Joseph Varon, MD⁴, and Paul E. Marik, MD⁵

Abstract

In December 2019, COVID-19, a severe respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) emerged in Wuhan, China. The greatest impact that COVID-19 had was on intensive care units (ICUs), given that approximately 20% of hospitalized cases developed acute respiratory failure (ARF) requiring ICU admission. Based on the assumption that COVID-19 represented a viral pneumonia and no anti-coronaviral therapy existed, nearly all national and international health care societies' recommended “supportive care only” avoiding other therapies outside of randomized controlled trials, with a specific prohibition against the use of corticosteroids in treatment. However, early studies of COVID-19-associated ARF reported inexplicably high mortality rates, with frequent prolonged durations of mechanical ventilation (MV), even from centers expert in such supportive care strategies. These reports led the authors to form a clinical expert panel called the Front-Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance (www.flccc.net). The panel collaboratively reviewed the emerging clinical, radiographic, and pathological reports of COVID-19 while initiating multiple discussions among a wide clinical network of front-line clinical ICU experts from initial outbreak areas in China, Italy, and New York. Based on the shared early impressions of “what was working and what wasn't working,” the increasing medical journal publications and the rapidly accumulating personal clinical experiences with COVID-19 patients, a treatment protocol was created for the hospitalized patients based on the core therapies of methylprednisolone, ascorbic acid, thiamine, heparin and co-interventions (MATH+). This manuscript reviews the scientific and clinical rationale behind MATH+ based on published in-vitro, pre-clinical, and clinical data in support of each medicine, with a special emphasis of studies supporting their use in the treatment of patients with viral syndromes and COVID-19 specifically. The review concludes with a comparison of published multi-national mortality data with MATH+ center outcomes.

Keywords

lung infection, respiratory failure, thrombin, breathlessness

Introduction

In December 2019, an illness characterized by pneumonia associated with the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) emerged in Wuhan, China. By March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) had characterized the novel coronavirus outbreak as a pandemic, with confirmed cases in 213 countries. The greatest impact this malady had was on intensive care units (ICUs), given approximately 20% of hospitalized cases developed acute respiratory failure (ARF) requiring ICU admission.^{1,2}

Since COVID-19 was initially defined as a primary viral syndrome and no validated anti-coronavirus therapy existed, nearly all national and international health care societies advocated a primary focus on supportive care with avoidance of other therapies outside of randomized controlled trials, and with specific recommendations to avoid the use of corticosteroids.³⁻⁵

The pervasive belief among world health care societies that corticosteroids were harmful in COVID-19 respiratory illness was surprising for several reasons. First, as will be detailed in this manuscript, contrary to the WHO and CDC's interpretation

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- Kory, P., Meduri, G.U., Iglesias, J., Varon, J., and Marik, P.E. (2021). Clinical and Scientific Rationale for the “MATH+” Hospital Treatment Protocol for COVID-19. *J Intensive Care Med* 36, 135-156.
- <https://covexit.club/prevention-early-treatment-of-covid-19-a-webinar-with-professor-paul-marik-md/>

Shut Down/Demonize the Opposition – Create the “Enemy”



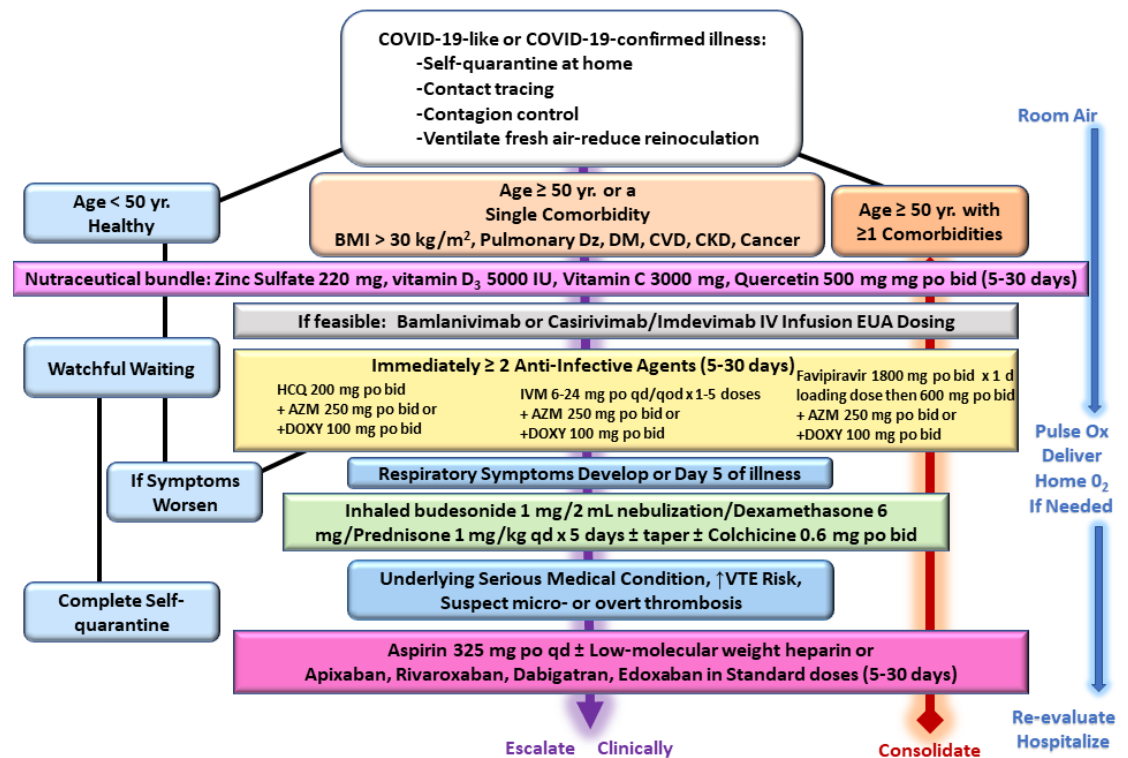
The Covid testimony of Dr Peter McCullough – Part 1: Cancelled for telling the truth

REVIEW



Pathophysiological Basis and Rationale for Early Outpatient Treatment of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Infection

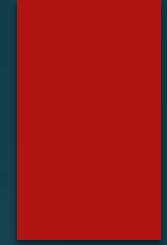
Peter A. McCullough, MD, MPH,^{a,b,c} Ronan J. Kelly, MD,^a Gaetano Ruocco, MD,^d Edgar Lerma, MD,^e James Tumlin, MD,^f Kevin R. Wheelan, MD,^{a,b,c} Nevin Katz, MD,^g Norman E. Lepor, MD,^h Kris Vijay, MD,ⁱ Harvey Carter, MD,^j Bhupinder Singh, MD,^k Sean P. McCullough, BS,^l Brijesh K. Bhambhani, MD,^m Alberto Palazzuoli, MD, PhD,ⁿ Gaetano M. De Ferrari, MD, PhD,^o Gregory P. Milligan, MD, MPH,^a Taimur Safder, MD, MPH,^a Kristen M. Tecson, PhD,^b Dee Dee Wang, MD,^p John E. McKinnon, MD,^p William W. O'Neill, MD,^p Marcus Zervos, MD,^p Harvey A. Risch, MD, PhD^q



BMI=body mass index, Dz=disease, DM=diabetes mellitus, CVD=cardiovascular disease, CKD=chronic kidney disease, yr=years, HCQ=hydroxychloroquine, AZM=azithromycin, DOXY=doxycycline, IVM=ivermectin, VTE=venous thrombo-embolic, EUA=Emergency Use Authorization (U.S. administration)

- <https://healthimpactnews.com/2021/censored-dr-peter-mccullough-md-testifies-how-successful-home-treatments-for-covid-makes-experimental-vaccines-unnecessary/>
- <https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/the-covid-testimony-of-dr-peter-mccullough-part-1-cancelled-for-telling-the-truth/>

Provide the “Solution” & Incentive



COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive:
\$100 Gift Card
for those not yet vaccinated

Still need your COVID-19 vaccine?

We have great news about a special incentive brought to you by the **MolinaCares Accord**, together with Passport. <You may qualify for a \$100 gift card to Wal-Mart, Amazon, Kroger>



8/27/21 – Steubenville, OH

GET YOUR COVID-19 VAX ON THE SPOT AND A \$100 INCENTIVE!

VAX on the SPOT

Ohio Medicaid and MyCare members over 18 years old:

Get your free COVID-19 Vax on the Spot now until September 15. You will receive a \$100 incentive for getting your first COVID-19 vaccination. Protect yourself, your family members and friends by getting the COVID-19 vaccine so we can all get back to doing the things we love together! The vaccine is your best defense.

Get a \$100 incentive for your first vaccination with a valid ID!

Visit www.CovidVAXontheSPOT.com for more information.

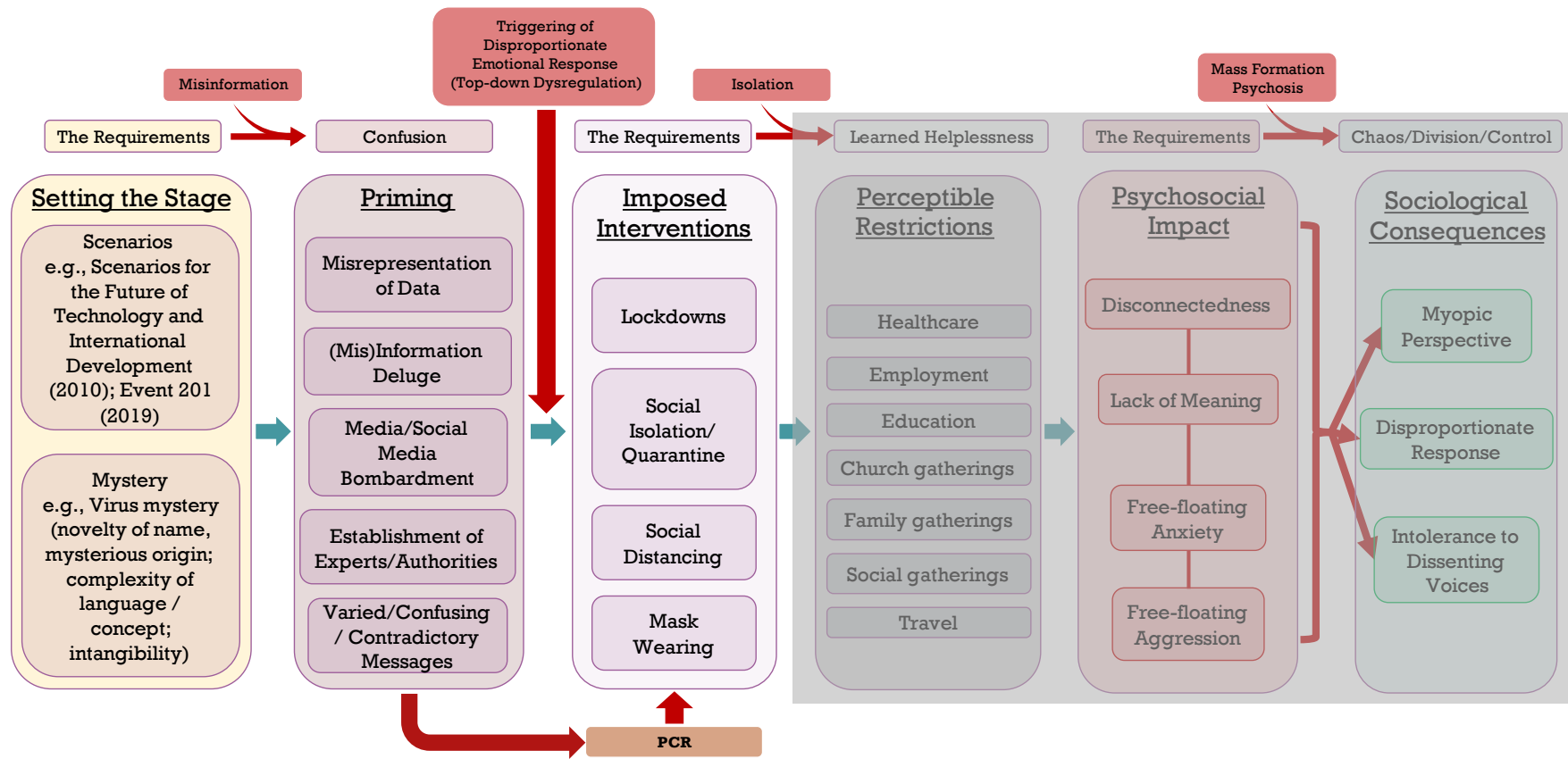
Covid-19 vaccines saved nearly 280,000 lives in the US, new research estimates

By Deidre McPhillips, CNN

Updated 2:59 PM ET, Thu July 8, 2021

“This past year, the life science have really emerged as the light in the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Stefan Oelrich, member of the Board of Management of Bayer, head of the Pharmaceuticals Division. Speech at the World Health Summit (October 2021)



© Stephen Sammut PhD

Imposed Interventions

DEHUMANIZATION OF THE PERSON

Lockdowns



A sign in Holland Park, London, urging people to stay indoors. (PA)

The Latest: Brisbane, Australia will go into lockdown

Australia's third-largest city Brisbane will enter a three-day lockdown Monday evening after the coronavirus was found spreading in the community

By The Associated Press
March 28, 2021, 8:42 PM • 12 min read



Lighted candles are placed on empty pews as Catholic priest presides over a Palm Sunday mass to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at the Saint Peter Parish Church in Quezon city, Philippines on March 28, 2021. The government banned religious activities during the Holy Week as it enters into stricter lockdown measures starting next week while the country struggles to control an alarming surge in COVID-19 cases. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



Coronavirus warnings on signs in Glasgow. (PA)

- ▶ “An analysis of each of these three groups [lockdown stringency index studies, shelter-in-place-order (SIPO) studies, and specific NPI (non-pharmaceutical intervention) studies] support the conclusion that **lockdowns have had little to no effect on COVID-19 mortality**. More specifically, stringency index studies find that **lockdowns** in Europe and the United States **only reduced COVID-19 mortality by 0.2% on average**. **SIPOs were also ineffective, only reducing COVID-19 mortality by 2.9% on average**. Specific NPI studies also find no broad-based evidence of noticeable effects on COVID-19 mortality”.

Herby, J., Jonung, L., and Hanke, S.H. (2022). A Literature Review and Meta-analysis of the effects of lockdowns on COVID-19 Mortality. *Studies in Applied Economics* 200.



- <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/latest-crowds-holy-week-ceremonies-amid-pandemic-76732513>
- <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/coronavirus-lockdown-could-last-until-june-080239401.html>
- <https://prepforthat.com/biden-advisor-wants-6-week-lockdown/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/01/shockdown-what-the-sunday-papers-say-about-englands-new-covid-lockdown>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-defra-update>
- <https://www.teachers-uk.co.uk/social-distance-guide/>

Social Isolation

➤ **Social deprivation in childhood and in late adulthood both impact on neurobiological architecture and functional organization. The ensuing loss of social and cognitive capacity has significant public health consequences. On the individual scale, this can result in people becoming less socially engaged and, hence, at greater risk of developing antisocial behavior.** The result is likely to be a drain on the public purse, either in terms of caring for individuals in psychological and physical decline or of the incarceration of disorderly individuals. If social isolation during development happens on a sufficiently large scale, it is likely to have significant consequences for community stability and social cohesion."

Bzdok, D., and Dunbar, R.I.M. (2020). The Neurobiology of Social Distance. *Trends Cogn Sci* 24, 717-733.

- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Sexual-Health.aspx>
- <https://www.pornhub.com/insights/coronavirus-update-april-14>

Sexual Health in the SARS-CoV-2 Era

Jack L. Turban, MD, MHS; Alex S. Keuroghlian, MD, MPH; and Kenneth H. Mayer, MD

More than 200 000 people have died of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection, leading to widespread concern regarding physical morbidity and mortality. The sexual health implications, however, have received little focus. On the basis of existing data, it appears all forms of in-person sexual contact carry risk for viral transmission, because the virus is readily transmitted by aerosols and fomites. This has resulted in broad guidance regarding physical distancing, with substantial implications for sexual well-being. Given the important role of sexuality in most people's lives, health care providers (HCPs) should consider counseling patients on this topic whenever possible. This is an unprecedented and stressful time for HCPs; facilitating brief conversations and referrals to relevant resources (Table) can help patients maintain sexual wellness amid the pandemic.

Turban, J.L., Keuroghlian, A.S., and Mayer, K.H. (2020). Sexual Health in the SARS-CoV-2 Era. *Ann Intern Med.* doi: 10.7326/M20-2004.

Table. Sexual Practices During the SARS-CoV-2 Era and Patient Resources

Sexual Approach	Summary
Sexual abstinence Masturbation	Low risk for infection, though not feasible for many Low risk for infection Safe masturbation tips (Planned Parenthood): https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/sex-pleasure-and-sexual-dysfunction/masturbation
Sexual activity via digital platforms, such as the phone or video chat	Patients should be counseled on the risk for screenshots of conversations or videos and sexual extortion Minors should be counseled on potential legal consequences if they are in possession of sexual images of other minors Minors should be counseled on the risks for online sexual predation, which has increased since the pandemic began Speaking with children about sexual risk online during COVID-19 (Scientific American): https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-coronavirus-pandemic-puts-children-at-risk-of-online-sexual-exploitation/
Sex only with those with whom one is self-quarantined	Patient is at risk for infection from sex partner if they have been exposed while outside the home Patient is at risk for infection from an asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2-infected partner
Sex with persons other than those with whom one is self-quarantined	Patient should be counseled on the risk for infection from partners, as well as risk reduction techniques that include minimizing the number of sexual partners, avoiding sex partners with symptoms consistent with SARS-CoV-2, avoiding kissing and sexual behaviors with a risk for fecal-oral transmission or that involve semen or urine, wearing a mask, showering before and after sexual intercourse, and cleaning of the physical space with soap or alcohol wipes COVID-19 and Your Sexual Health (Fenway Health): https://fenwayhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/C19MC-11_Sex-and-COVID-19-Materials_flyer2.pdf Guidance on COVID-19 and sexual health (New York City Department of Health): https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-sex-guidance.pdf

Additional resources Building Health Communities Online - Sex Partner Notification Platform: <https://tellyourcontacts.org/>
What to Know About HIV and COVID-19 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/hiv.html>
COVID-19 Command Center for STD Programs(National Coalition of STD Directors) <https://www.ncsddc.org/resource/covid-command-center-for-std-programs/>

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019; SARS-CoV-2 = severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2; STD = sexually transmitted disease.

PA An Official **Pennsylvania** Government Website

DOH

Four Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Spreading COVID-19 During Sex

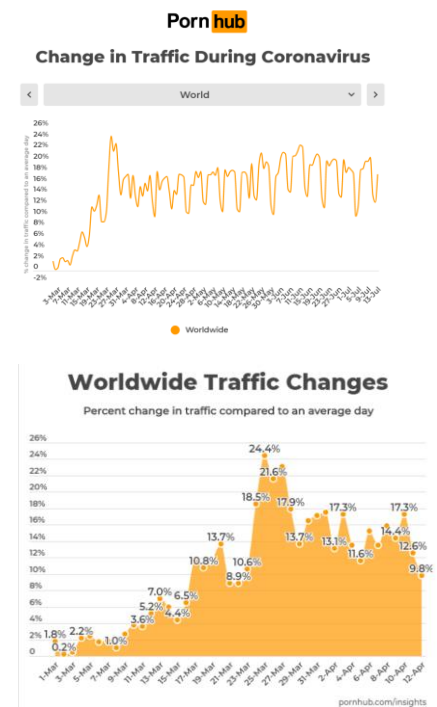
2. Consider your level of risk.

- You are your safest sex partner.
- Your next safest partner is someone you live with.
Having close contact, including sex, with someone you live with who has a low risk of having COVID-19 infection helps prevent spreading COVID-19.
- If you do have sex with others outside of your household:
 - Have as few partners as possible, and pick partners you trust.

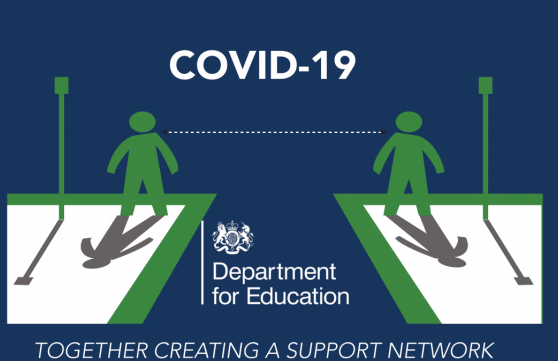
If you usually meet your sex partners online, consider taking a break from in-person dates. Video dates, sexting, subscription-based fan platforms, or chat rooms may be options for you.

3. Protect yourself and your partners from COVID-19 during sex.

- Avoid kissing. Kissing can easily pass the virus.
- Wear a face covering or mask.
During COVID-19, wearing a face covering that covers your nose and mouth is a good way to add a layer of protection during sex with those outside your household.



Social Distancing



- ▶ “While these steps [“physical distancing (called in most cases “social distancing”) in countries all over the world, resulting in changes in national behavioral patterns and shutdowns of usual day-to-day functioning”] may be critical to mitigate the spread of this disease, they will undoubtedly **have consequences for mental health and well-being in both the short and long term.** These consequences are of sufficient importance that immediate efforts focused on prevention and direct intervention are needed to address the impact of the outbreak on individual and population level mental health”.
- ▶ “In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it appears likely that there will **be substantial increases in anxiety and depression, substance use, loneliness, and domestic violence; and with schools closed, there is a very real possibility of an epidemic of child abuse.**”

Galea, S., Merchant, R.M., and Lurie, N. (2020). The Mental Health Consequences of COVID-19 and Physical Distancing: The Need for Prevention and Early Intervention. *JAMA Intern Med* 180, 817-818.

- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/children-not-a-major-source-of-covid-19-finds-rapid-review>
- <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/uk-unveil-lockdown-easing-plans-093424806.html>
- <https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/announcements/social-distancing-why-a-few-steps-makes-a-big-difference>
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/c6f9ca22-d485-4010-99ab-0a586de3d999/2/sd2.jpg?MOD=AJPERES>

Masks



- ▶ “Visual recognition of facial expression modulates our social interactions.”
- ▶ “Compelling experimental evidence indicates that face conveys plenty of information that are fundamental for humans to interact. These are encoded at neural level in specific cortical and subcortical brain regions through activity- and experience-dependent synaptic plasticity processes.”
- ▶ “The current pandemic, due to the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection, is causing relevant social and psychological detrimental effects.”
- ▶ “...*by impacting social interaction, facemasks might impair the neural responses to recognition of facial cues that are overall critical to our behaviors*”
- ▶ “...*the lack of salient stimuli might impact the ability to retain and consolidate learning and memory phenomena underlying face recognition.*”

Ferrari, C., Vecchi, T., Sciamanna, G., Blandini, F., Pisani, A., and Natoli, S. (2021). Facemasks and face recognition: Potential impact on synaptic plasticity. *Neurobiol Dis* 153, 105319.

- <https://research.impact.iu.edu/images/coronavirus/graduation-social.jpg>
- <https://news.siu.edu/2020/12/122120-Preschool-children-learn-to-be-superheroes-during-the-pandemic-through-new-SIUCanadian-video.php>
- Park, S.R., Han, J., Yeon, Y.M., Kang, N.Y., and Kim, E. (2020). Effect of face mask on skin characteristics changes during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Skin Res Technol*. doi: 10.1111/srt.12983.
- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/canadas-top-doctors-covid-advice-wear-mask-during-sex-skip-kissing>
- <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2021/do-covid-19-restrictions-serve-the-common-good>

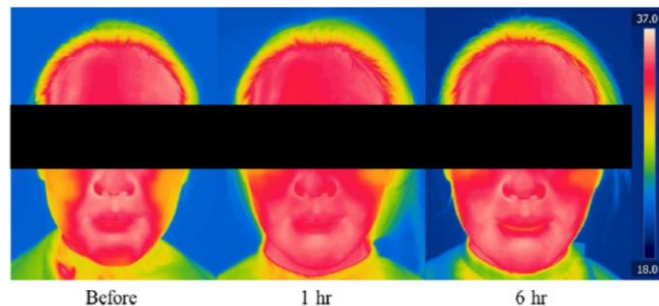


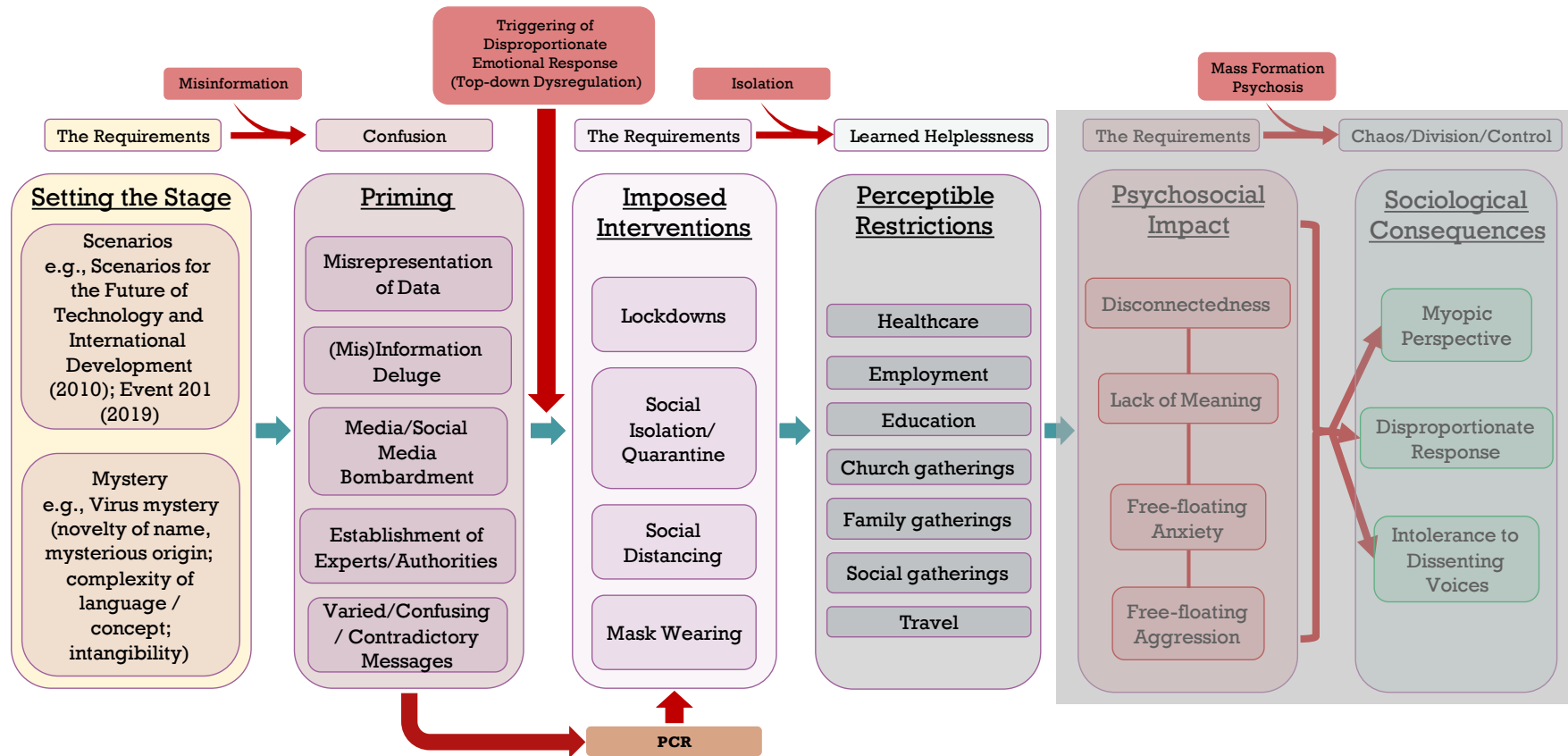
FIGURE 2 Image of the skin temperature variations after mask-wearing over time

Precedents in History

- ▶ **Biderman (1957) and subsequent Biderman Report (1961)**
 - ▶ Communist coercive methods for eliciting individual compliance:
 - ▶ **Isolation:** – Deprives victim of all social support of his ability to resist; Develops an intense concern with self
 - ▶ **Monopolization of Perception:** - Fixes attention upon immediate predicament; Fosters introspection; Eliminates stimuli competing with those controlled by captor; Frustrates all actions not consistent with compliance
 - ▶ **Induced Debilitation; Exhaustion:** - Weakens mental and physical ability to resist
 - ▶ **Threats:** - Cultivates anxiety and despair
 - ▶ **Occasional Indulgences:** - Provides positive motivation for compliance; Hinders adjustment to deprivation
 - ▶ **Demonstrating “Omnipotence” and “Omniscience”:** - Suggests Futility of Resistance
 - ▶ **Degradation:** - Makes costs of resistance appear more damaging to self-esteem than capitulation; Reduces prisoner to “animal level” concerns.
 - ▶ **Enforcing Trivial Demands:** - Develops habit of compliance



<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/02/18/brainwas-hed-north-korea-prisoners-of-war-monica-kim/>



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Perceptible Restrictions

THE IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Covid-19 Fatality Rates by Age:

0-4 yrs old: 0.003%,
5-9 yrs old: 0.001%,
10-14 yrs old: 0.001%,
15-19 yrs old: 0.003%,
20-24 yrs old: 0.006%,
25-29 yrs old: 0.013%,
30-34 yrs old: 0.024%,
35-39 yrs old: 0.040%,
40-44 yrs old: 0.075%,
45-49 yrs old: 0.121%,
50-59 yrs old: 0.323%,
60-64 yrs old: 0.456%,
65-69 yrs old: 1.075%,
70-74 yrs old: 1.674%,
75-79 yrs old: 3.203%,
80+ yrs old: 8.2%,

for reference an 80 year old has a 6% chance of dying from anything within a year. An 85 year old a 10% chance. (see next slide)

O'Driscoll, M., Ribeiro Dos Santos, G., Wang, L., Cummings, D.A.T., Azman, A.S., Paireau, J., Fontanet, A., Cauchemez, S., and Salje, H. (2021). Age-specific mortality and immunity patterns of SARS-CoV-2. *Nature* 590, 140-145.

0-19yrs old: 0.0027%
20-29yrs old: 0.014%
30-39yrs old: 0.031%
40-49yrs old: 0.082%
50-59yrs old: 0.27%
60-69yrs old: 0.59%
70+ yrs old: 2.4%

As of March 9th 2022

The current population of the United States of America is **334,262,970**.

79,369,459 cases
961,935 deaths

= 1.2% relative to cases
= 0.29% relative to US population

Axfors, C., and Ioannidis, J.P.A. (2021). Infection fatality rate of COVID-19 in community-dwelling populations with emphasis on the elderly: An overview.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/us-population/>

Collateral Consequences resulting from Measures

- **40.9%** of individuals reported at least one adverse event related to the pandemic (Czeisler et al., 2020)

Education

- **30.9%** depressive/anxiety symptoms
- **26.3%** decreased academic performance
- **13.3%** started or increased substance use to cope with pandemic

Employment

- **50%** rise in deaths due to unemployment (Haley and Saitz, 2020; Slavova et al., 2020)

Church Gatherings

- “Synthetic opioids (primarily illicitly manufactured fentanyl) appear to be the primary driver of the increases in overdose deaths, increasing 31.4 percent from the 12-month period ending up to May 2019 to the 12-month period leading up to May 2020. During this time period:

- 37 of the 38 U.S. jurisdictions with available synthetic opioid data reported increases in synthetic opioid-involved overdose deaths.
- 18 states reported increases in synthetic opioid-involved deaths of more than 10 percent.
- 10 western states reported over a 98 percent increase in synthetic opioid-involved deaths. (CDC, 2020)

Family Gatherings

- **25.5%** (18-44yo) seriously considered suicide in 30 days prior to survey (Czeisler et al., 2020)

Social Gatherings

- **41.5%** increase in pornography use in the US (Pornhub, 2020)
- **8.7-30%** increase in unemployment rates (Janaskie and Earle, 2020)
- **27.6-34.0%** increase in divorce rates (Janaskie and Earle, 2020)
- **19-43%** predicted increase in deaths from delayed cancer surgery as a result of COVID-19 – “Model delays in surgery for cancer incur significant impact on survival.” (Sud et al., 2020)

Travel

- **Other consequences reported:**

Healthcare

- “We find that children born during the pandemic have significantly reduced verbal, motor, and overall cognitive performance compared to children born pre-pandemic. Moreover, we find that males and children in lower socioeconomic families have been most affected.” (Deoni et al., 2021)

Faith must combat not appease

- ▶ The Church calls the Eucharist, “The Source and Summit of the life and mission of the Church.”
- ▶ “The Eucharist is the summit of the Church’s life, since communion with the Lord leads to the sanctification and “divinisation” of a person as a member of the community gathered around the Table of the Lord.”

What it’s not: “Nothing is easier than to give Christian asceticism a socialist veneer”¹

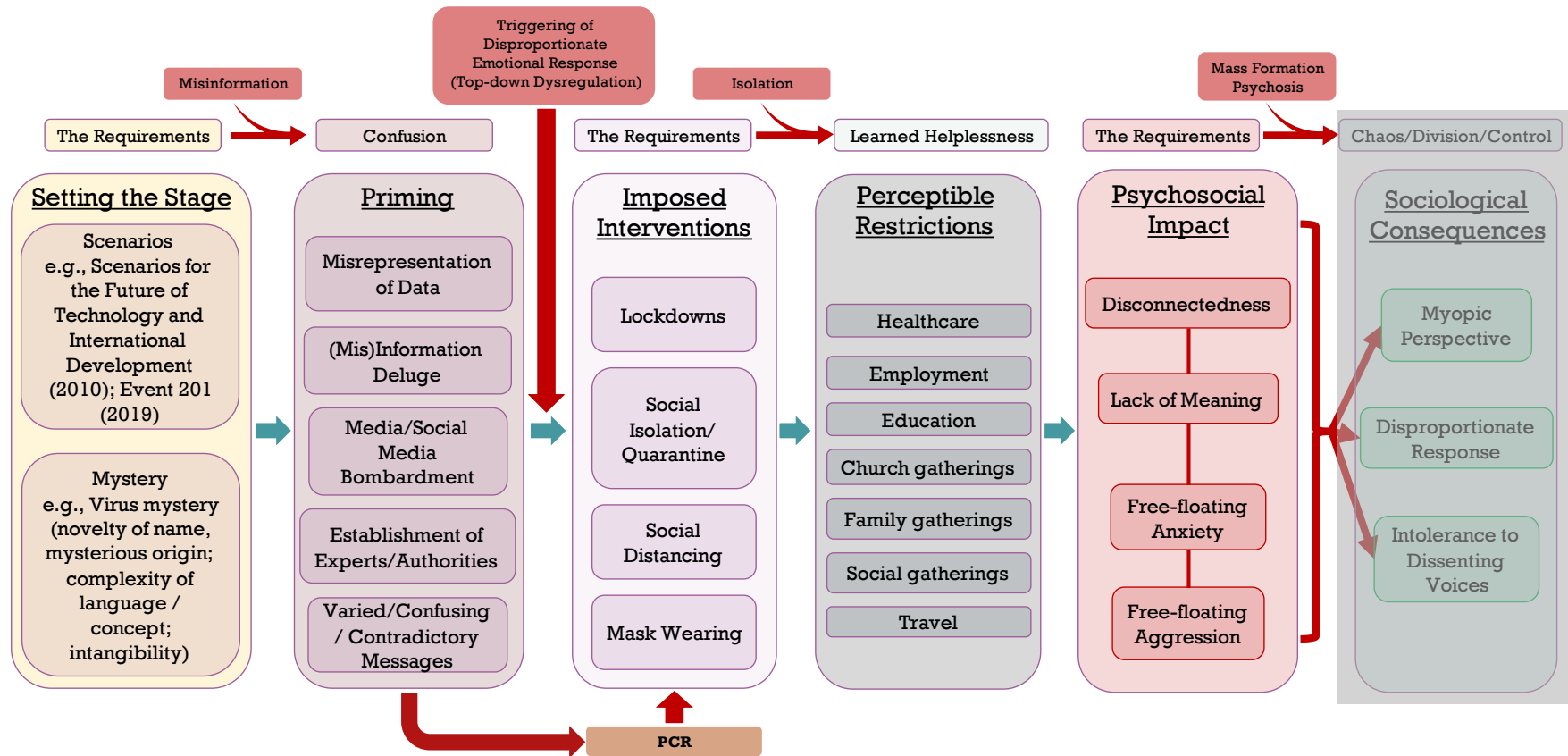
What it should be:

“Make an effort, then to meet more frequently to celebrate our Lord’s Eucharist and to offer praise. For when you meet frequently in the same place, the forces of Satan are overthrown, and his baneful influence is neutralized by the unanimity of your faith. Peace is a precious thing; it puts an end to every war waged by fallen angels or earthly enemies.”

“Take care, then to partake of one Eucharist; for one is the Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one the cup to unite us with

St. Ignatius of Antioch

“The devil must indeed be clever to deceive a soul like that! ...But surely you know, darling that that is the one goal of his desires. He realizes, treacherous creature that he is, that he cannot get a soul to sin if that soul wants to belong wholly to Jesus, so he only tries to make it think it is in sin....When the devil has succeeded in keeping a soul away from Holy Communion, he has gained all...and Jesus weeps! St. Therese of Lisieux to her cousin



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Psychosocial Impact

THE HUMAN CONSEQUENCES

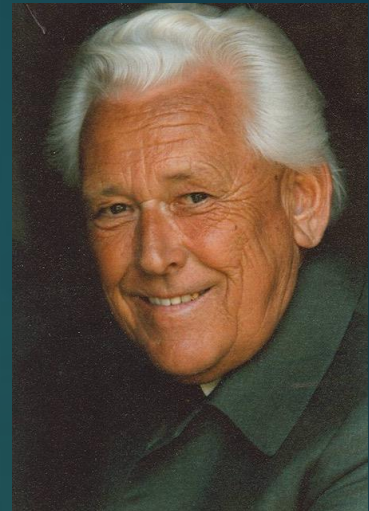
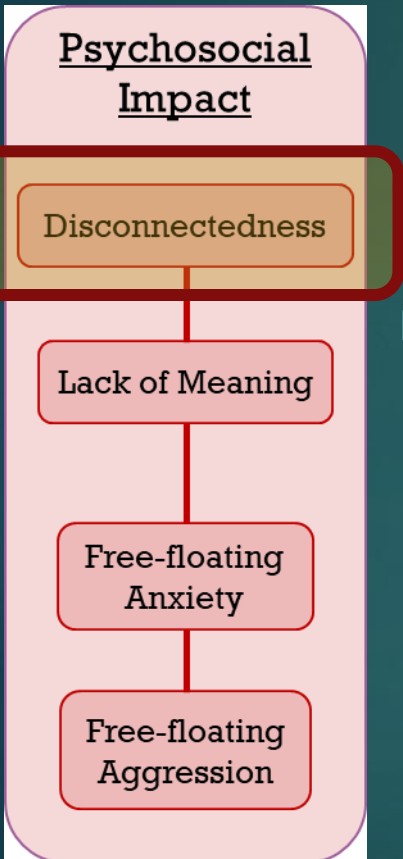
Social Interaction – Affective Interaction

▶ **Frans Veldman:**

- ▶ “Under the influence of atrocious, inhuman experiences during the war, which had a decisive impact on my life (I was a young medical student at the time), I decided to dedicate my life to the life sciences, more specifically human, to understand emotions, moods, states of mind in the event of illness, suffering, death anxiety, etc., ...from which developed *haptonomy* [hapsis = touch, sense, sensation and word nomos meaning law] as the science of affective interactions and relations in all forms of social life: science of Affectivity”.

▶ **Ferrari et al, 2021**

- ▶ “Visual recognition of facial expression modulates our social interactions.”
- ▶ “Compelling experimental evidence indicates that face conveys plenty of information that are fundamental for humans to interact. These are encoded at neural level in specific cortical and subcortical brain regions through activity- and experience-dependent synaptic plasticity processes.”
- ▶ “***...by impacting social interaction, facemasks might impair the neural responses to recognition of facial cues that are overall critical to our behaviors***”
- ▶ “...the lack of salient stimuli might impact the ability to retain and consolidate learning and memory phenomena underlying face recognition.”



<https://haptonomie.org/frans-veldman/>

Social Interaction – Affective Interaction

▶ Padala et al, 2022

- ▶ “Social connectedness and resilience are protective against loneliness and have been adversely affected by the COVID pandemic... *Loneliness was negatively correlated with social connectedness and resilience.*”

▶ Bzdok & Dunbar, 2020

- ▶ “We are social creatures. Social interplay and cooperation have fueled the rapid ascent of human culture and civilization... The expansion of loneliness has accelerated in the past decade... Such efforts [e.g., UK ‘Campaign to End Loneliness’] speak to the growing public recognition and political will to confront this evolving societal challenge. These concerns are likely to be exacerbated if there are prolonged periods of social isolation imposed by national policy responses to extraordinary crises such as COVID-19. *Social deprivation in childhood and in late adulthood both impact on neurobiological architecture and functional organization. The ensuing loss of social and cognitive capacity has significant public health consequences. On the individual scale, this can result in people becoming less socially engaged and, hence, at greater risk of developing antisocial behavior.*”

▶ Raony et al. (2020)

- ▶ “In the CNS the virus can lead to increase in cytokines levels (e.g., IL-2, IL-6, TNF- α , IL-1 β , INF- γ , and IL-10) due to its local or peripheral actions. Increased cytokine levels are associated to neuronal death, synaptic plasticity impairments, dysfunction in the neurotransmitter metabolism and in the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical (HPA) axis. Likewise, *social isolation can also lead to these neuroendocrine-immune disturbances, for instance: increase in cytokine levels, changes in neurotransmitter systems, HPA axis hyperactivity and disturbances in neuroplasticity-related signaling pathways.* Through these common mechanisms, both SARS-CoV-2 infection and social isolation can lead to mental health impairments [e.g., impaired memory, depression, psychoses, anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms (PTSD)].”

Table 4.
Correlations between meaning of life and general psychological health.

	Meaning of Life
General Health	
Somatic symptoms	-.38****
Anxiety/sleep disturbances	-.39****
Social dysfunction	-.32****
Severe depression	-.63****
General psychological health (Total)	-.55****

Note: **** $p < .0001$.

Kleffaras, G., & Psarra, E. (2012). Meaning in Life, Psychological Well-Being and Depressive Symptomatology: A Comparative Study. *Psychology*, 03(04), 337-345.
doi:10.4236/psych.2012.34048



Committee for Religious Liberty

3211 FOURTH STREET NE ■ WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 ■ 202-541-3300 ■ FAX 202-541-3337

Arson, Vandalism, and Other Destruction at Catholic Churches in the United States

Summary: At least 126 incidents have occurred across 35 states and the District of Columbia since May 2020. Incidents include arson, statues beheaded, limbs cut, smashed, and painted, gravestones defaced with swastikas and anti-Catholic language and American flags next to them burned, and other destruction and vandalism.

https://www.usccb.org/resources/Attacks_on_Catholic_Churches_in_the_US.pdf

Psychosocial Impact

Disconnectedness

Lack of Meaning

Free-floating Anxiety

Free-floating Aggression

Over that same mid-February to mid-March timeframe, prescriptions for anti-anxiety medications rose 34.1%, and also increased for antidepressants (18.6%) and anti-insomnia drugs (14.8%). During the week ending March 15, the use of anti-anxiety medications spiked nearly 18%.

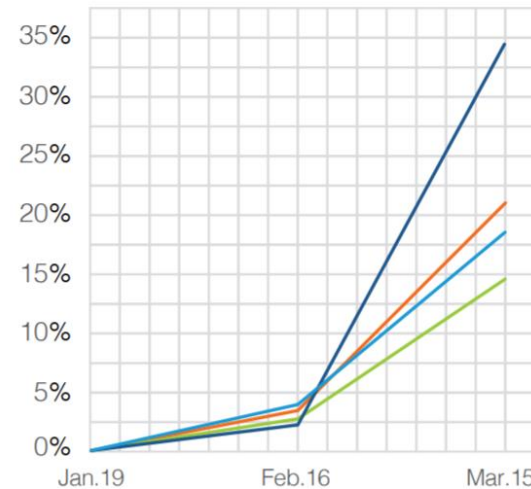
What's more, the increase in anti-anxiety medication use was much higher for women (39.6%) than men (22.7%) between February 16 and March 15.

PERCENT CHANGE IN PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED PER WEEK FOR MENTAL HEALTH MEDICATIONS

By select weeks from January 19, 2020 to March 15, 2020



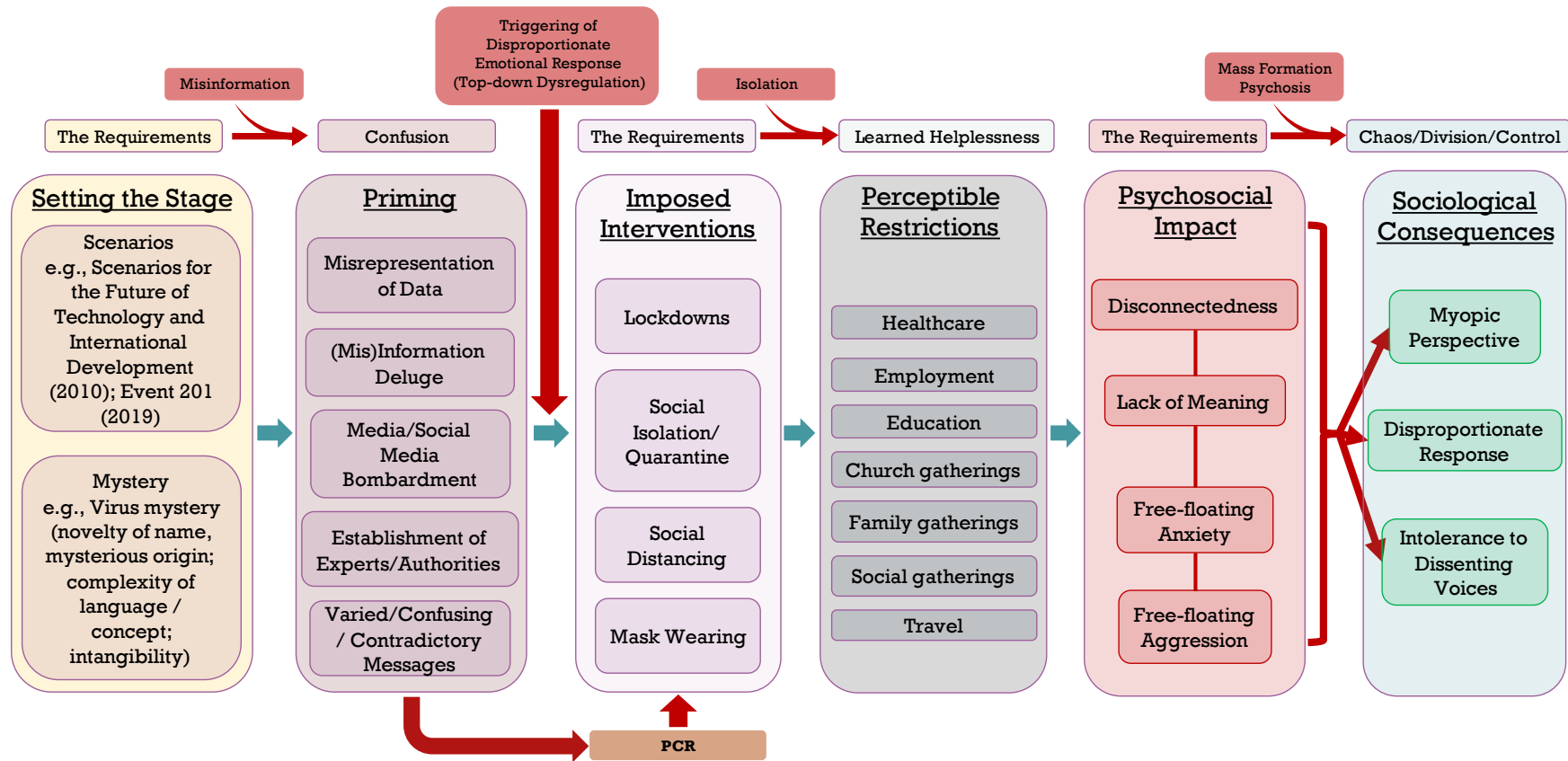
■ Depression ■ Anxiety ■ Insomnia ■ Total



...prescriptions for anti-anxiety medications rose 34.1%...

The recent increase in use of medications for anxiety is in sharp contrast to the 12.1% decline in the use of benzodiazepines over the past five years.

Express Scripts. (2020). *America's State of Mind - U.S. trends in medication use for depression, anxiety and insomnia*. Retrieved from <https://www.express-scripts.com/corporate/americas-state-of-mind-report>

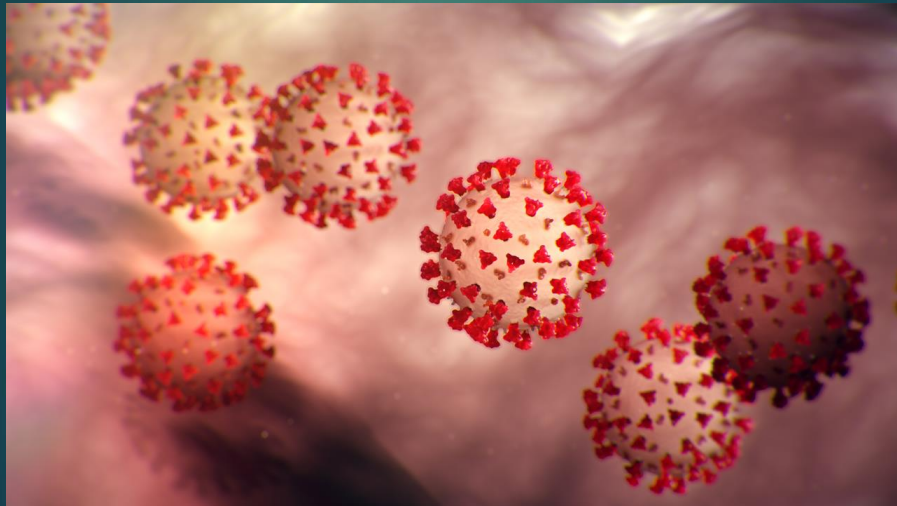


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Sociological Consequences

THE SOCIETAL IMPACT

Myopic perspective & Disproportionate response



<https://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus-2020.html>

- ▶ For two years **all that mattered** was
 - ▶ The virus – a virus causing minimal mortality
 - ▶ The control of
 - ▶ How you lived,
 - ▶ Where you went,
 - ▶ What you did,
 - ▶ Who you talked to,
 - ▶ How long you talked to them for,
 - ▶ How many people you were around, etc. etc. etc.
- ▶ For two years what **did not** matter was humanity:
 - ▶ How many people died from suicide,
 - ▶ The increase in drug and alcohol overdoses,
 - ▶ The number of those who became unemployed,
 - ▶ The increase in domestic violence,
 - ▶ The psychological damage from childhood to old age,
 - ▶ The significant increase in negative mental health,
 - ▶ And the list goes on.....

Intolerance to Dissent

BUSINESSES IN COVID-19

Southwest Airlines Sued for Ejecting Woman Who Removed Mask to Drink Water

THE EPOCH TIMES

By [Nicholas Dolinger](#) | January 19, 2022 Updated: January 19, 2022 [A](#) [A](#) [Print](#)

US

Airline Responds After Video Goes Viral Of Asthmatic Maskless Toddler Reportedly Getting Kicked Off Plane For Not Wearing A Mask



Washington Examiner

Saturday, March 12, 2022

News Policy Opinion Videos MAGAZINE

Pregnant mother escorted from Texas church for not wearing mask and issued trespass warning from police

by Emma Colton, Social Media Editor | March 30, 2021 03:50 PM

School District Near Philadelphia Apologizes for Teacher Taping Mask to Student's Face

THE EPOCH TIMES

By [Bill Pan](#) | January 20, 2022 Updated: January 20, 2022 [A](#) [A](#) [Print](#)

Voices from the Pandemic

'No mask, no entry. Is that clear enough? That seems pretty clear, right?'

Lori Wagoner, retail clerk, on trying to enforce a state requirement to wear masks

Bus passenger kicks girl in the face for not wearing face mask

By Yaron Steinbuch

October 5, 2020 | 12:48pm | Updated



Washington Examiner

Saturday, March 12, 2022

News Policy Opinion Videos MAGAZINE

WATCH: Crowd descends on 'disabled veteran for not wearing a mask' in 'disturbing' video footage

by Emma Colton, Social Media Editor | December 29, 2020 10:22 AM

FOX NEWS Channel

U.S. Politics Media Opinion Business Entertainment Sports Lifestyle Weather TV Fox Nation Listen More

Hot Topics RUSSIA-UKRAINE

AIRLINES Published April 8, 2021 8:37pm EDT

Family kicked off Spirit flight for toddler not wearing mask, mom says

Other passengers can be heard coming to the family's defense

Miami Herald

FLORIDA

'OK, you're done': Watch a woman get kicked off Frontier Airlines flight for no mask

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

FACE MASK BATTLE

PASSENGER TOSSED FROM FLIGHT AFTER REFUSING TO WEAR MASK

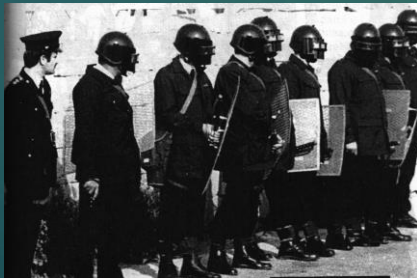
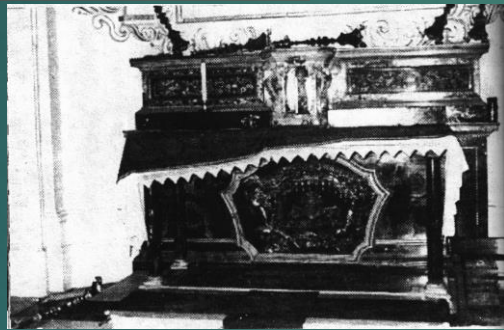
abc GOODMORNING AMERICA.COM

So why is it necessary to understand, study and integrate all of this?

▶ Evil has not rested and will not rest

This is Malta, 1984

This is the USA 2020



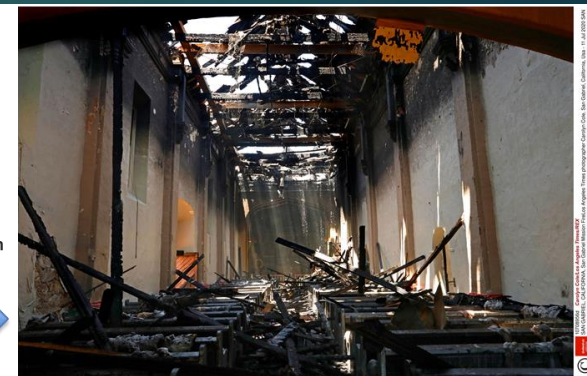
Fr Joseph Mifsud Bonnici, brother of the deputy Prime Minister, inspects the damage to priceless religious paintings after a pro-Government mob ransacked the Curia of Archbishop Joseph Mercieca of Malta.



A Florida man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly drove his minivan into a Catholic church and then set it on fire Credit: Marion County Sheriff's Office



The 249-year-old San Gabriel Mission caught fire overnight and burned most of the roof and interior in CA



A 90-year-old Sacred Heart of Jesus statue was destroyed in an act of vandalism in a Texas cathedral, according to a report. (courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso)



Boston PD are investigating an arson incident after a statue of the Virgin Mary was set on fire at a church in the city's Dorchester neighborhood Credit: WCVB



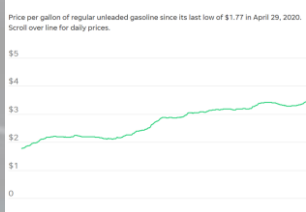
Economic outlook

Global executives believe that recovery will be bumpy and slow (33%), according to June's survey.

Global economic snapshot surveys shows that almost universally (except in China), the economic situation now is perceived to be worse than 6 months ago.

However, the perception about the future is improving. 37% of the surveyed in June 2020 responded that they believed that companies' profits would increase in the next six months (vs. 27% in April).

Gas price hits new high



Sexually explicit 'LGBT' content promoted to kids as young as 4, reveal private school association recordings

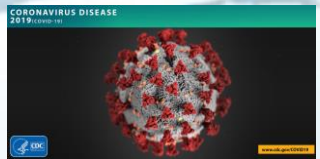
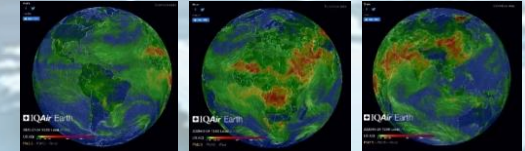


THE GREAT RESET. World Economic Forum. There is an urgent need for global stakeholders to cooperate in simultaneously managing the direct consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. To improve the state of the world, the World Economic Forum is starting The Great Reset initiative.

The scientific reasons why men are more violent than women. A hand pointing towards the right.

US opioid deaths rising amid coronavirus lockdowns, state health officials say. Social isolation, loss of jobs, and disruption of treatment services are possible factors in the spike.

Memorial Day weekend draws big crowds, as U.S. coronavirus deaths near 100,000. The Washington Post.



THE BOTTOM LINE. The Radical Reshaping of K-12 Public Education (Part 3): Critical Race Theory & Woke Academics.

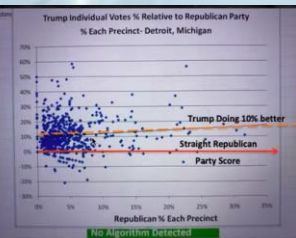
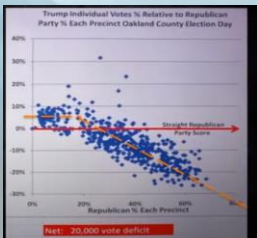
Parents in Texas and beyond won't stand for schools undermining their values on race, sex.

WHO leader says he hopes coronavirus pandemic will be over in 2 years.

Keystone XL pipeline halted as Biden revokes permit.

Universities brace for a permanent wave of closures as coronavirus pushes schools to brink.

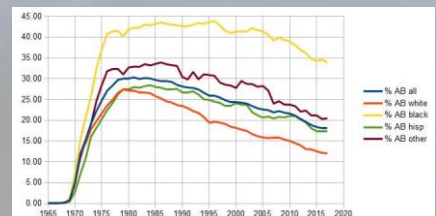
Alex Berenson @AlexBerenson. Opioid overdose deaths in 2020 compared to 2019: Up 95% in Syracuse (Jan-June), 70% in Oregon (spring), 70% in Kentucky (Jan-August), 25% in Maine (Jan-June). Nationally, a 50% rise in overdoses would be 35,000+ additional deaths in 2020. LOCKDOWNS KILL.



WHO chief says 'Building back better means building back greener'. "The pandemic has given us a glimpse of our world as it could be: cleaner skies and rivers," Tedros said, before using a catchphrase that has come to have a political meaning in the U.S. "Building back better means building back greener."



CNN NEWS.COM. Concerned Parents Read Aloud from Pornographic Books at Indiana School Board Meeting.



ELSEVIER. Contraception. Exploring potential interest in missed period pills in two US states.

NEW YORK POST. Pregnant Australian mom arrested for Facebook post planning lockdown protest.

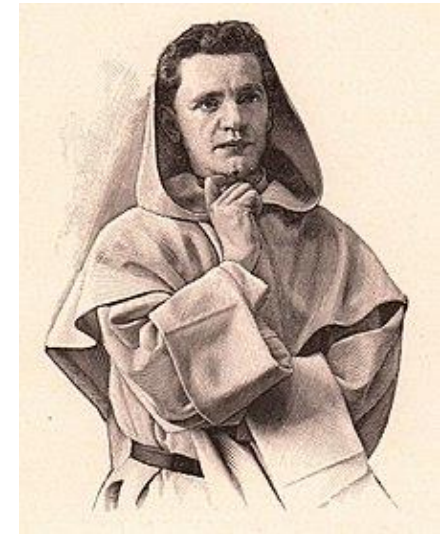
JME Online First, published on February 23, 2012 as 10.1136/medethics-2011-100411. Law, ethics and medicine. After-birth abortion: why should the baby live? Alberto Giubilini, Francesca Minerva.

Faith & Academia

THERE IS A UNITY BETWEEN THE SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL AND
PHYSICAL LIFE - THERE CAN BE NO SEPARATION

Relating it all back to Spirituality

- ▶ The intellectual life is not independent of the spiritual life
- ▶ If you want the truth work for it – From *“The Intellectual Life, Its Spirit, Conditions, Methods”* by Fr. A.G. Sertillanges, O.P.
 - ▶ ***“A vocation is not fulfilled by vague reading and a few scattered writings. It requires penetration and continuity and methodical effort, so as to attain a fulness of development which will correspond to the call of the Spirit, and to the resources that it has pleased Him to bestow on us.”***
 - ▶ ***“The great enemy of knowledge is our indolence; that native sloth which shrinks from effort...”***
 - ▶ ***“To know, to seek, to know more and to start afresh to seek more, is the life of a man devoted to truth...The intellectual who is sincere says every day to the God of truth: “The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up.”***
 - ▶ ***“To get something without paying for it is the universal desire; but it is the desire of cowardly hearts and weak brains. The universe does not respond to the first murmured request, and the light of God does not shine under your study lamp unless your soul asks for it with persistent effort”***



1863 –1948

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonin_Sertillanges#/media/File:Antonin-Dalmace_Sertillanges.jpg

*...and
remember God
IS evident in
nature and the
workings of
it...*

“Whoever, therefore, is not enlightened by such splendor of created things is blind;

Whoever is not awakened by such outcries is deaf;

Whoever does not praise God because of all these effects is dumb;

Whoever does not discover the First Principle from such clear signs is a fool.

Therefore, open your eyes, alert the ears of your spirit, open your lips and apply your heart so that in all creatures you may hear, praise, love and worship, glorify and honor your God

Lest the whole world rise against you.”

Bonaventure: The Soul's Journey into God (pg 67-68)



<https://popehistory.com/popes/pope-st-felix-iii/>

“Not to oppose error is to approve it; and not to defend truth is to suppress it; and indeed, to neglect to confound evil men, when we can do it, is no less a sin than to encourage them”

- Pope St. Felix III (Reigned 483-492)



Still from the movie *The Passion of the Christ*, 2004
Director: Mel Gibson
Produced by: Bruce Davey, Mel Gibson, Stephen McEveety
Screenplay by: Mel Gibson, Benedict Fitzgerald

“Quid est Veritas?” Pilate to Jesus, John 18:38

What will our response be????

Pride blinds us to the Truth

The Man Born Blind John 9: 26-34¹

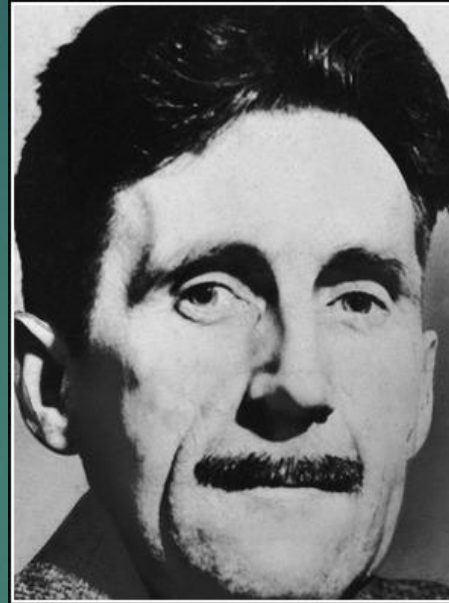
So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from."

The man answered and said to them, "**This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.**"

They answered and said to him, "**You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?**" Then they threw him out.



Some ideas are so stupid that only intellectuals believe them.

— George Orwell —

AZ QUOTES

...Of **pride**, which sometimes dazzles and sometimes darkens, which so drives us in the direction of our own opinion that the universal sense may escape us? Of **envy**, which obstinately refuses to acknowledge some light other than our own? Of **irritation** which repels criticism and comes to grief on the rock of error?

The Intellectual Life: Its Spirit, Conditions, Methods by A. G. Sertillanges, OP, Pg 22

Which Barabbas will we Choose?



Barabbas

Bar = Son of
Abbas = Father

- ▶ Still from the movie *The Passion of the Christ*, 2004
- ▶ **Director:** Mel Gibson
- ▶ **Produced by:** Bruce Davey, Mel Gibson, Stephen McEveety
- ▶ **Screenplay by:** Mel Gibson, Benedict Fitzgerald

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