

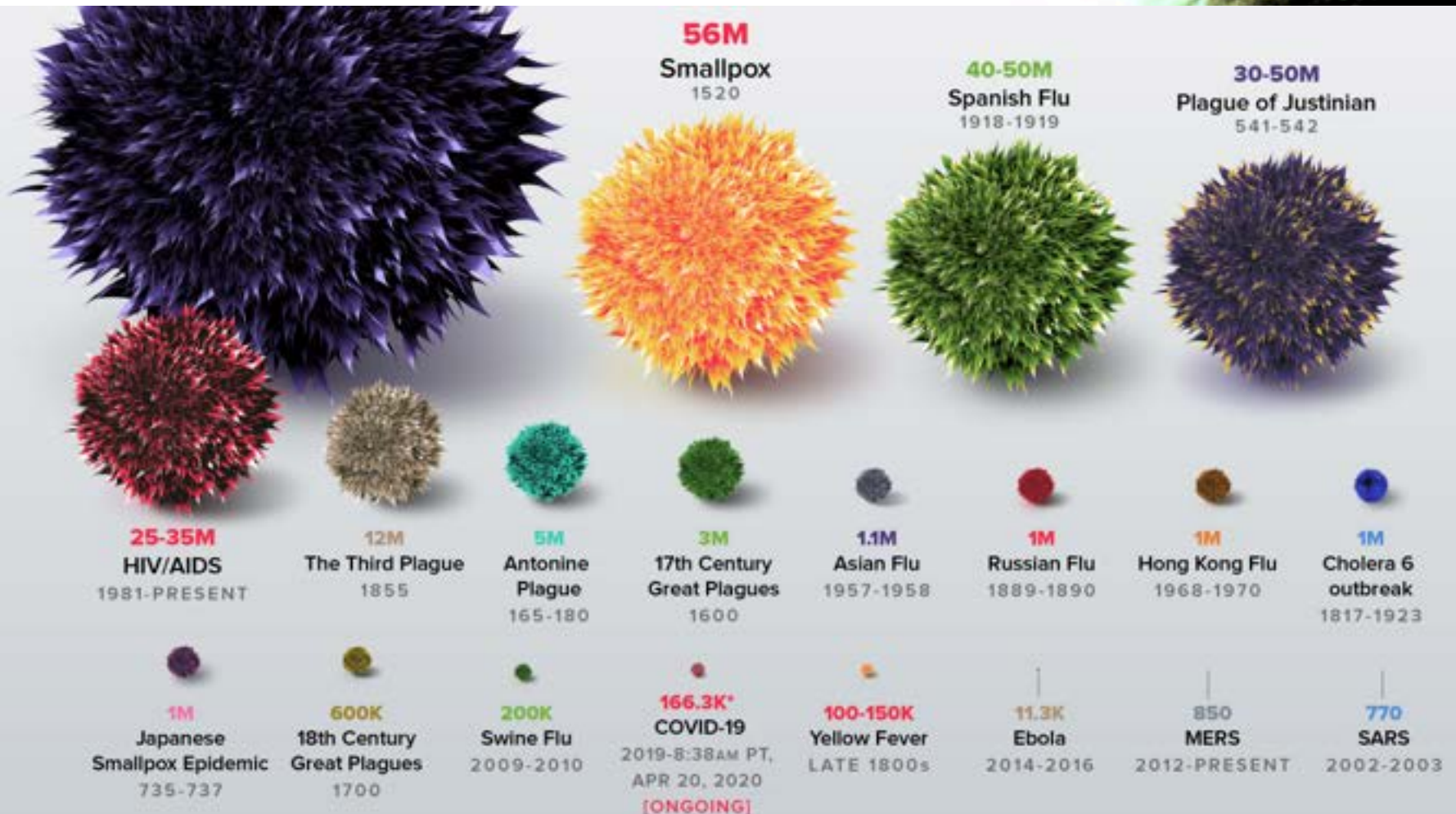


Fr. Joseph Tham, LC

Pandemethics of Covid 19

Epidemics in History

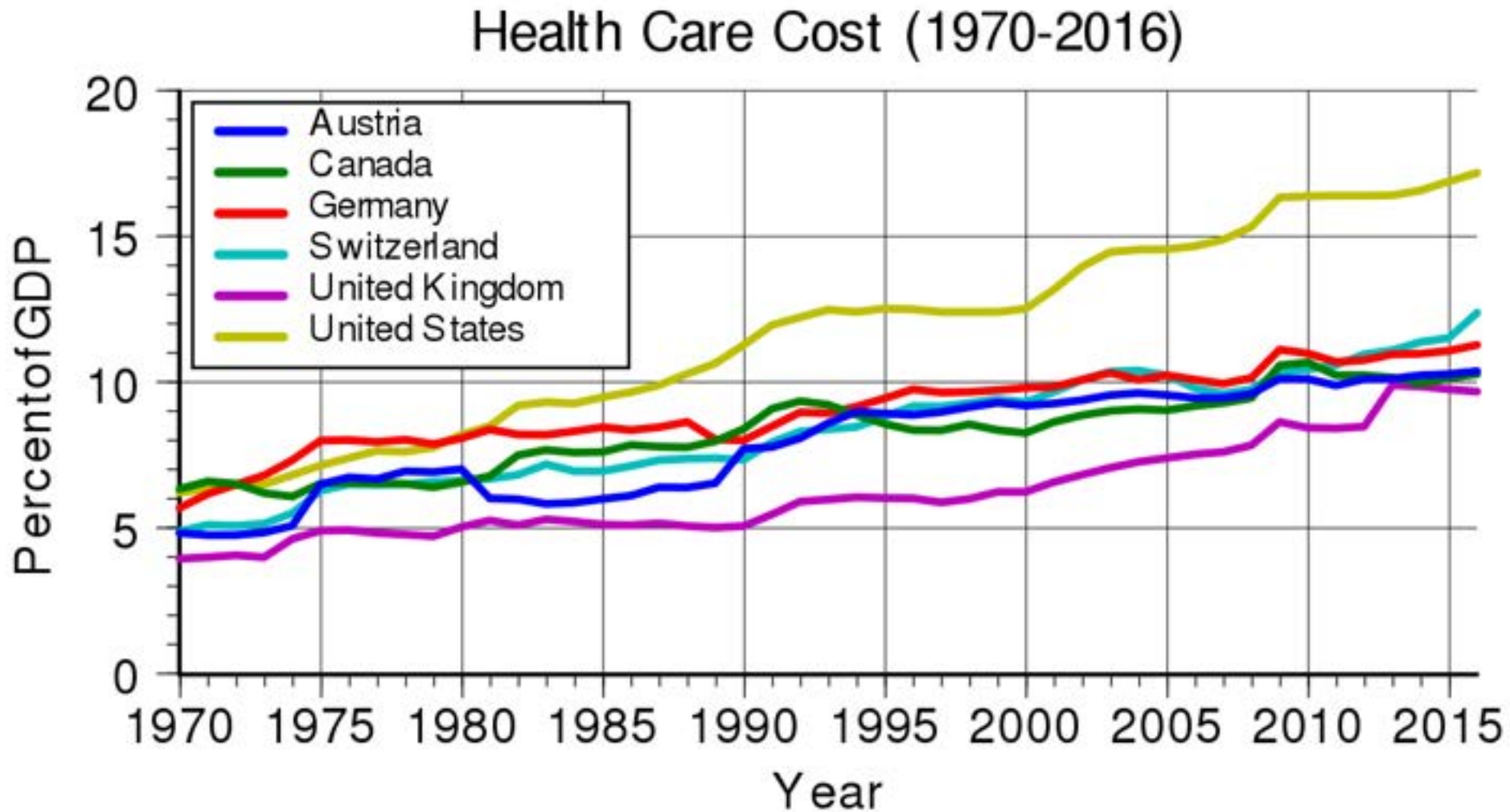
<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/>



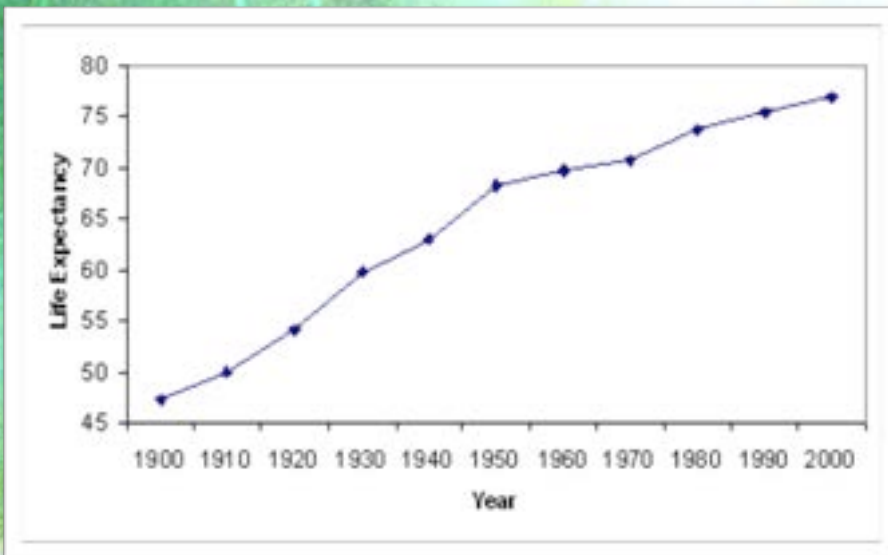
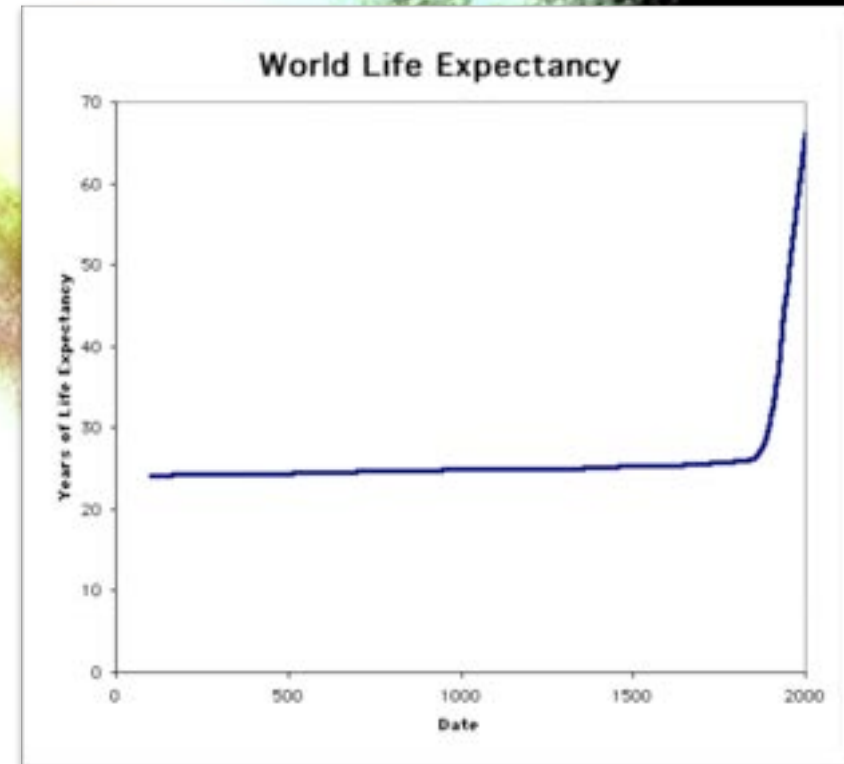
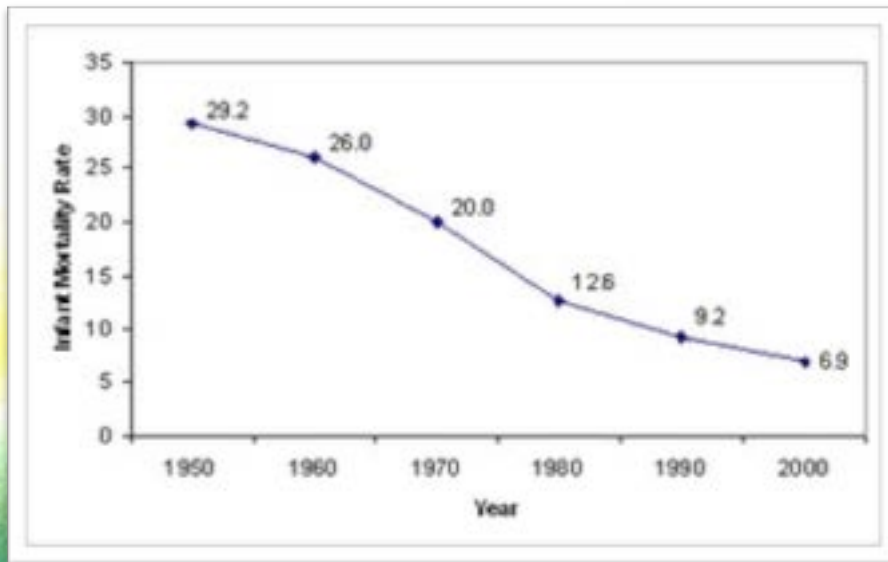
Unprecedented?

- Globalization
- Media and social network
 - Perceptions of crisis
 - Infodemics
- Relationship with health and medicine
 - National budget and expectations
 - New god of medicine
 - Delusion of omnipotence

Medicine today



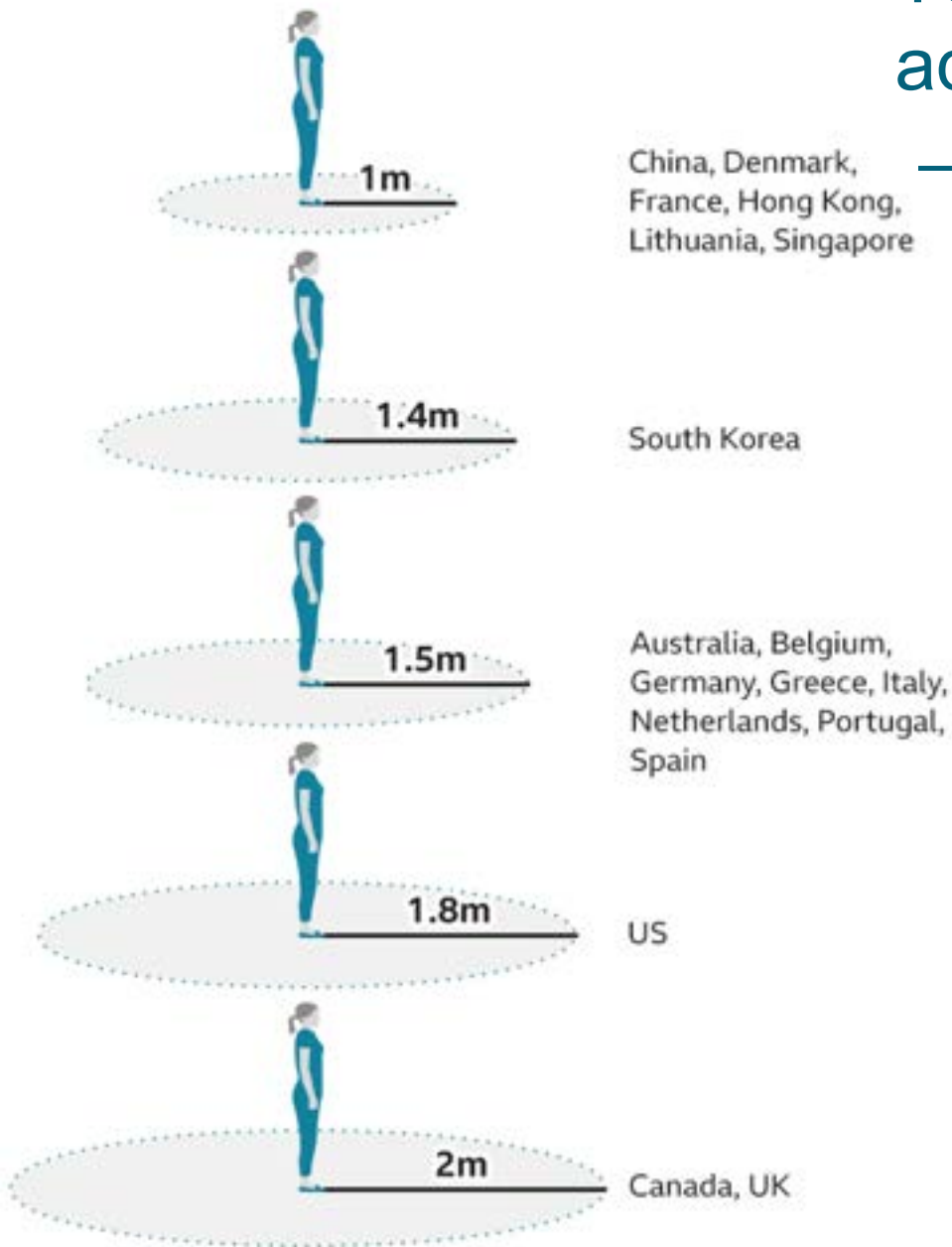
Medicine today



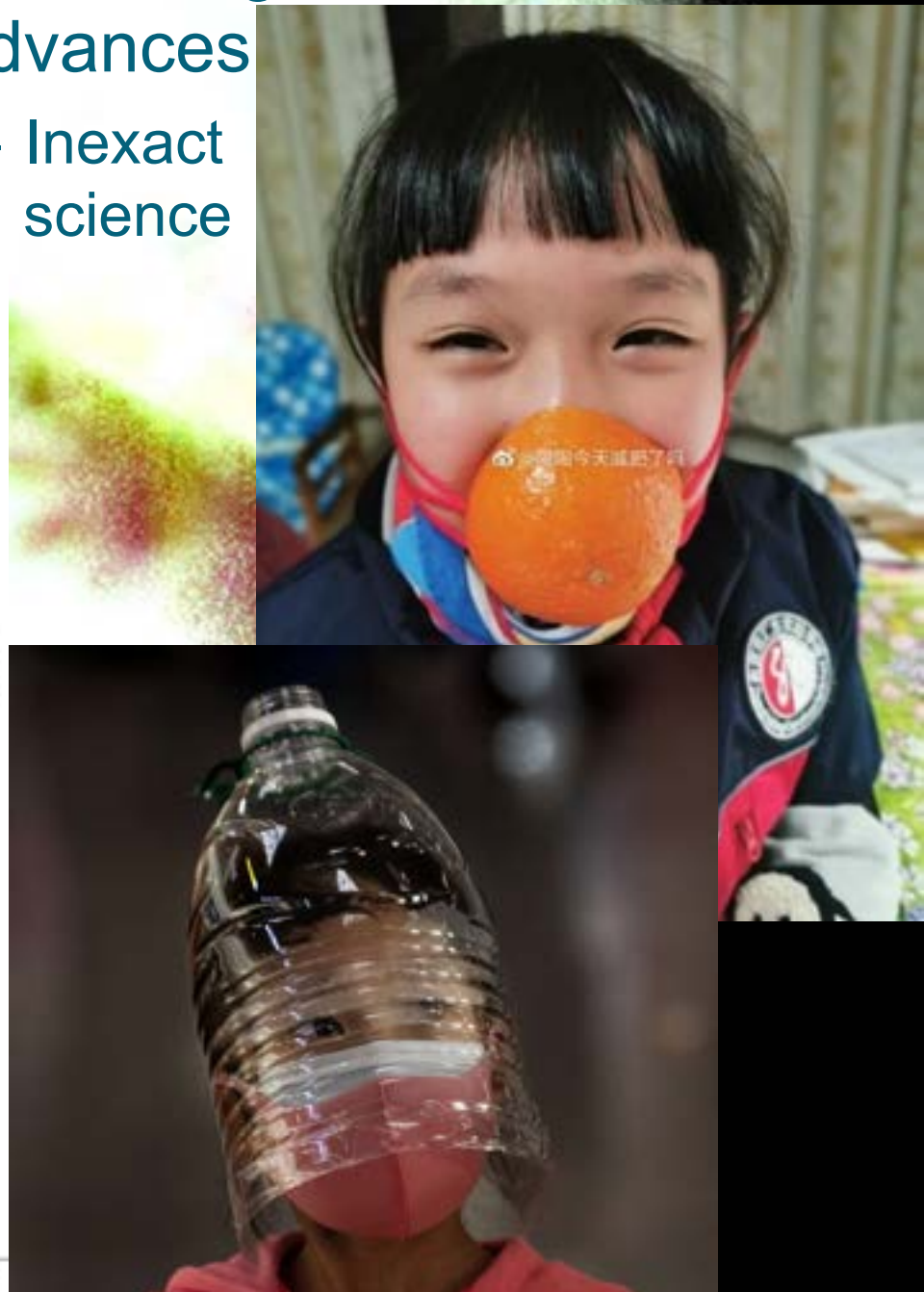
How social distancing rules differ

- Technological advances

- Inexact science



Note: Regional authorities can impose different guidelines in some countries



Unprecedented?

- Iatrogenesis (*Medical Nemesis*, Ivan Illich)
 - Side effects, nosocomial
 - Medicalization
 - Social change
 - Doctors replacing priests
 - Death unacceptable
 - Art of dying = meaningless



Unprecedented?

- Body image / disembodiment
 - People become statistics
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-51235105>
 - Risk assessment, e.g. genetics of Down
 - My body, my choice (Carl Elliott)
 - Transhumanist's nightmare
 - Cyborgs, sex change, immortals
 - Life = indefinite health, death = meaningless
 - Buffered self (Charles Taylor)

Unprecedented?

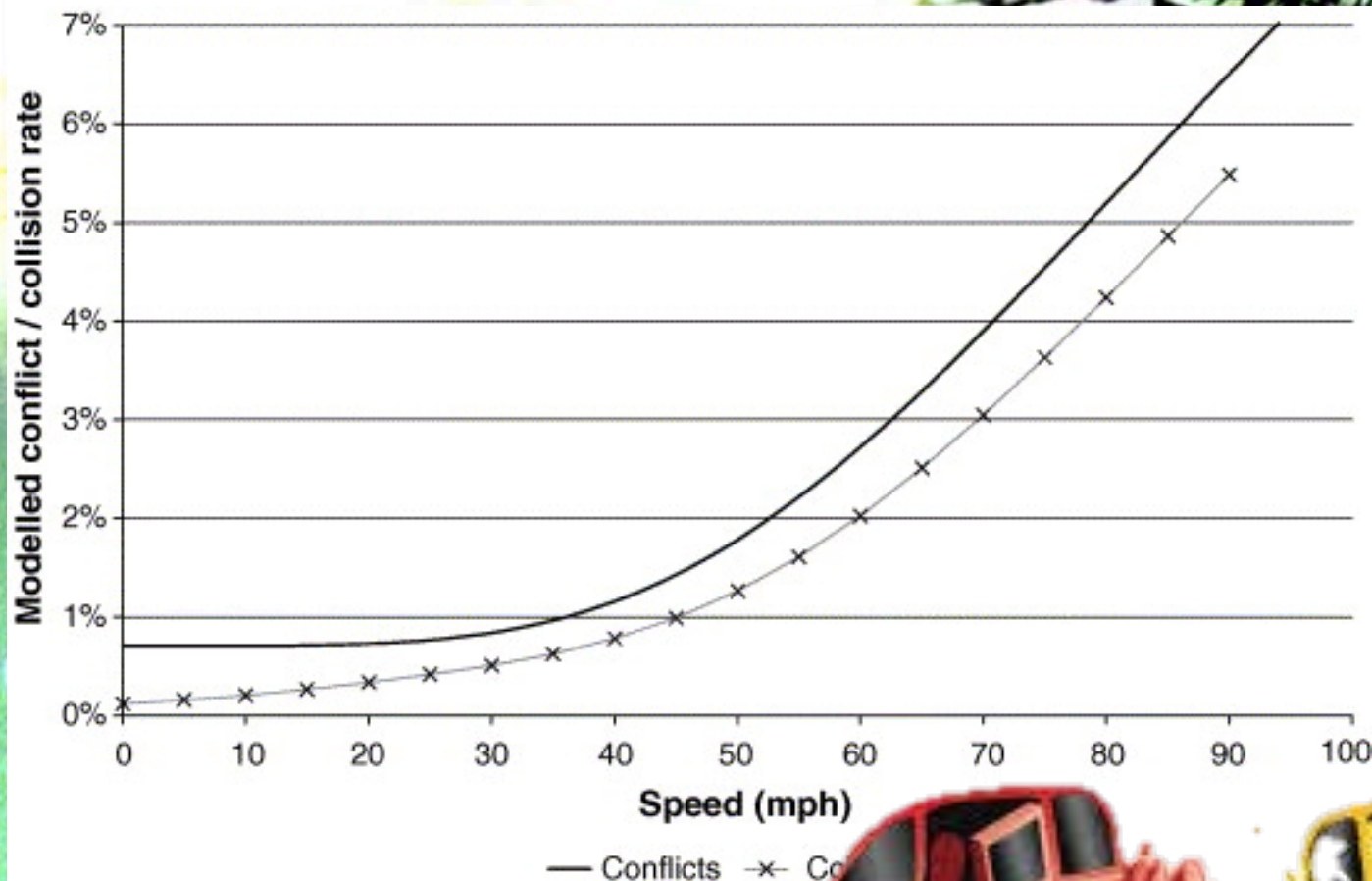
- Uncontrolled science experiment
- Perfect control, perfect government, perfect math
- Risk management vs danger
 - Flattening the curve = saving lives
 - Science backs politics
 - Epistemic sentimentality (slogans as security blankets)
- War metaphor
 - Who's the enemy, where to run
 - Number preventions, not people
- Political overdrive, State of emergency
 - E.g. no visits of dying relatives

Unprecedented?

- Crisis of uncertainty and meaning
 - Medical
 - Suffering, loneliness
 - Death
 - Control, safety
 - Highest good



POST COVID FUTURE



— Conflicts —x— Collisions



POST COVID FUTURE

Societal impact
(uncertainty)

Economy

Politics (national,
international)

Societal stability

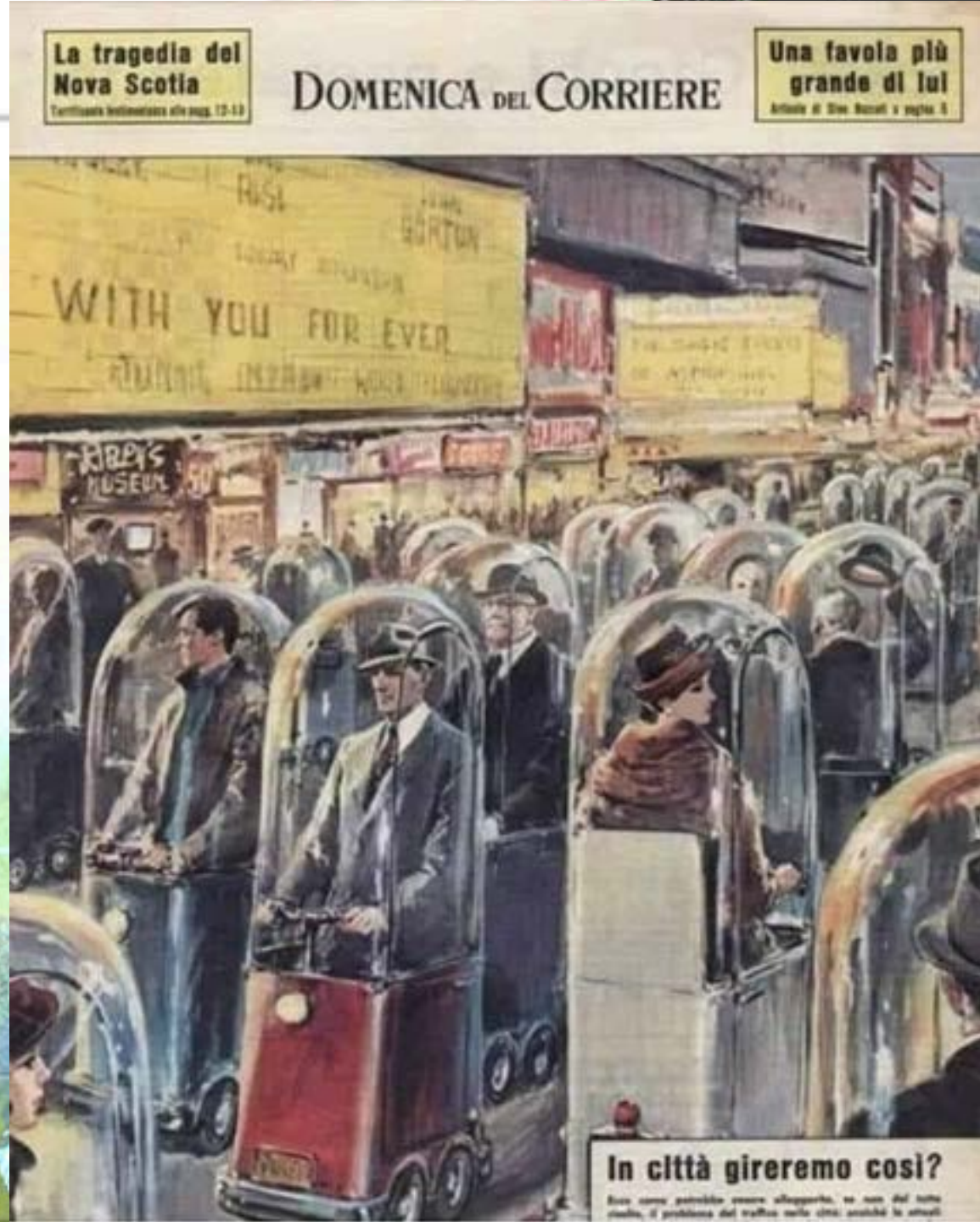
Employment

Healthcare

Education

Environment

Religion



POST COVID FUTURE

- Interconnectedness, solidarity
- Social distancing
- Blame and scapegoating
- Exceptions become norms
- Don't fear everything, fear the right thing
- Ethics don't change...



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