

The Covid-19 pandemic as tipping point? Health, wellbeing and the “inequality machine” in the post-pandemic world

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September 14, 2023

(Slides may be revised before presentation)



“Later, as he sat on his balcony eating the dog, Dr Robert Laing reflected on the unusual events that had taken place within this huge apartment building during the previous three months. Now that everything had returned to normal, he was surprised that there had been no obvious beginning, no point beyond which their lives had moved into a clearly more sinister dimension”

Peter Kovalev/TASS

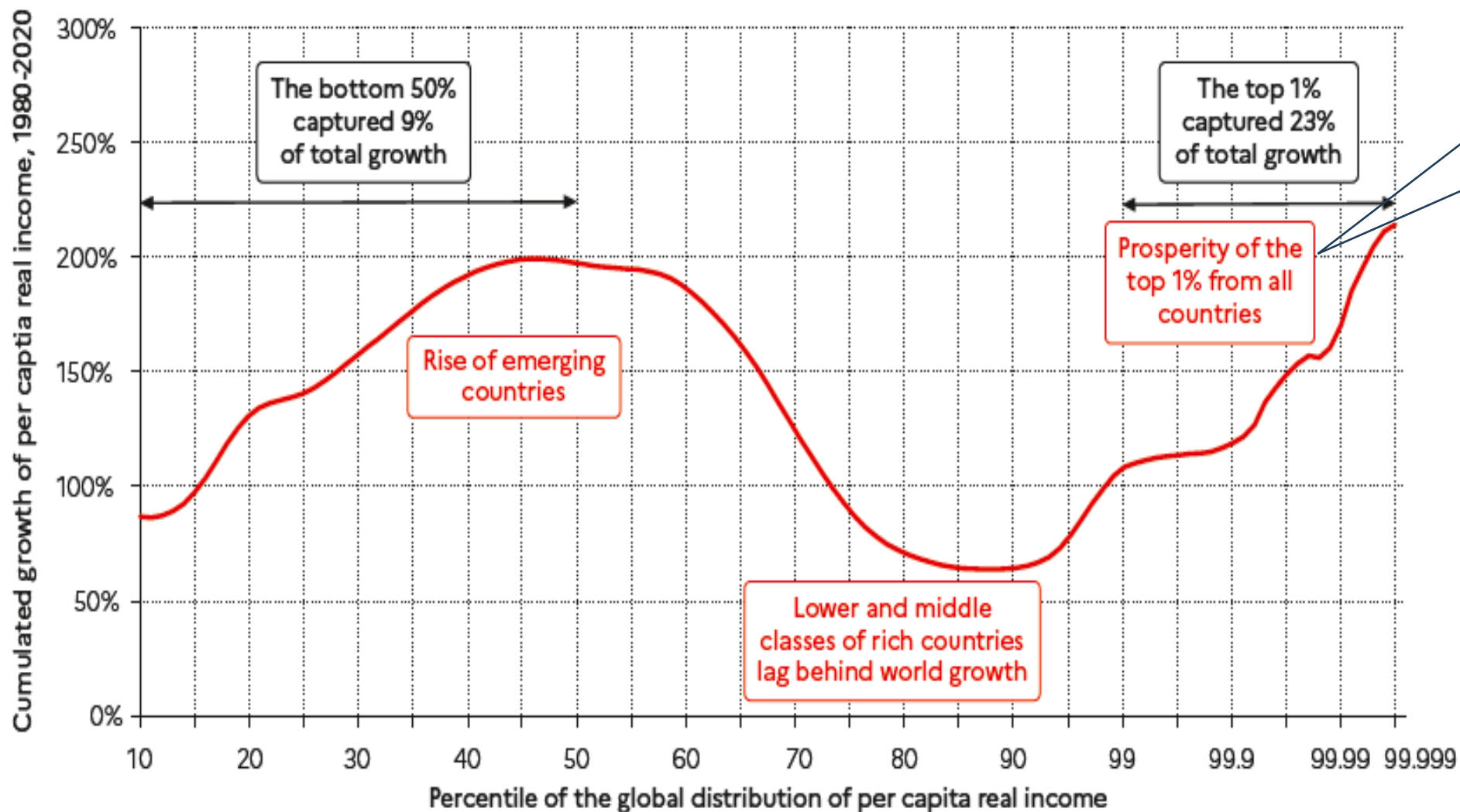
J. G. Ballard
HIGH-RISE

‘A hideous warning’
The Guardian



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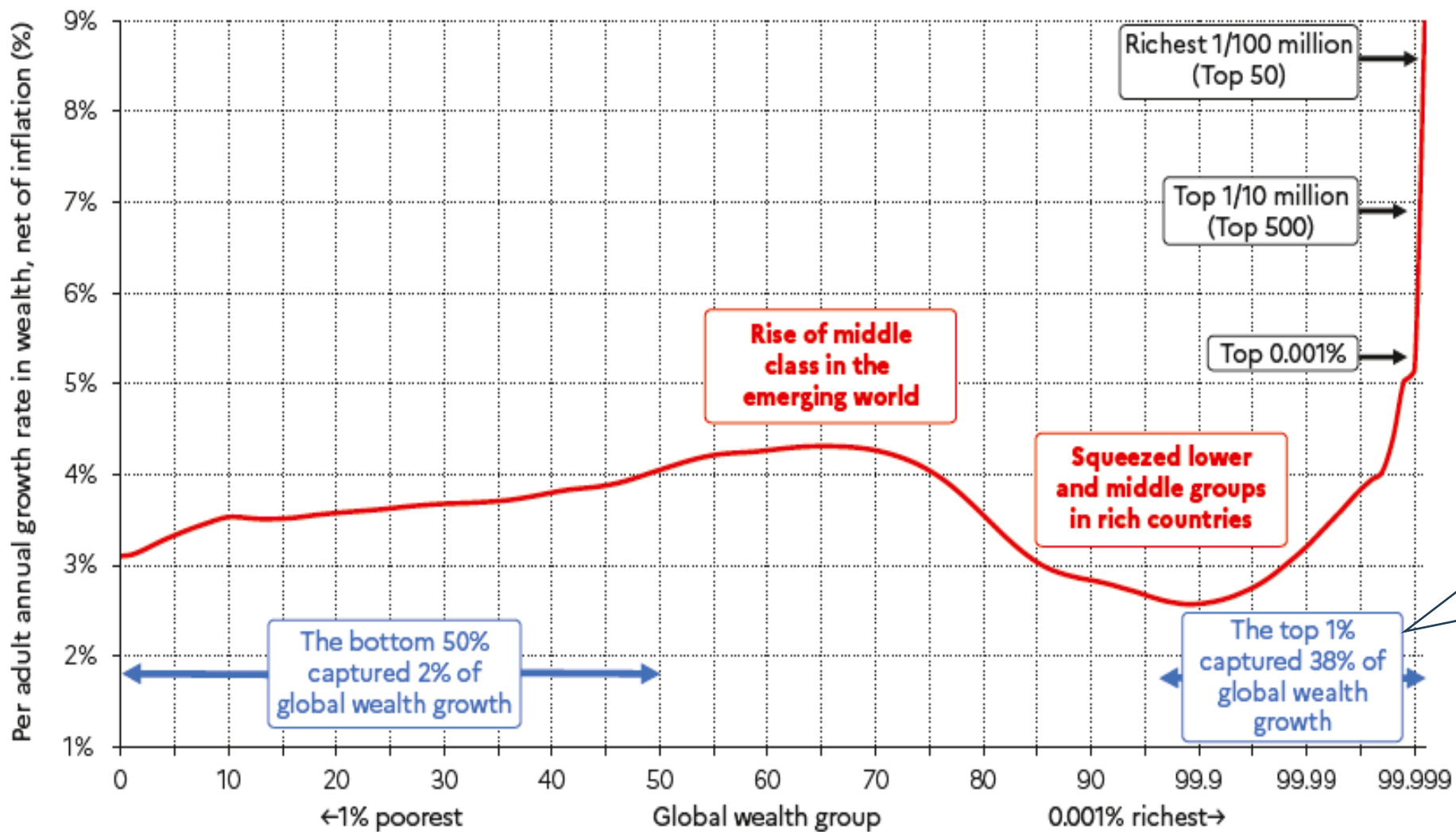
Figure 2.10 The elephant curve of global inequality, 1980-2020



Top 1%: Average pre-tax income per adult of €321,600 adjusted for purchasing power

Source: Chancel et al., *World Inequality Report 2022*, 2021

Figure 9 Average annual wealth growth rate, 1995-2021

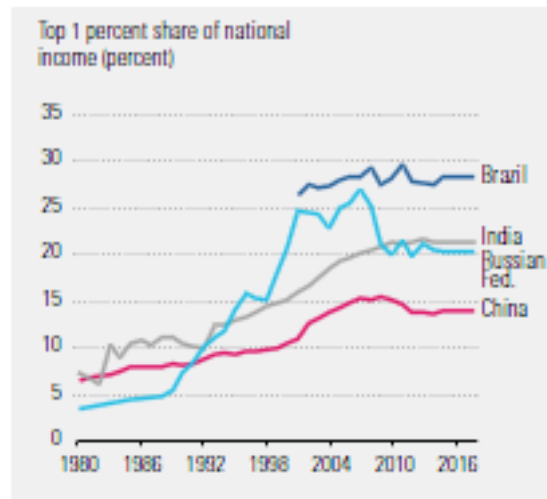


Source:
Chancel et al., *World Inequality Report 2022*, 2021

Top 1%: Average wealth per adult of €2,755,200 adjusted for purchasing power

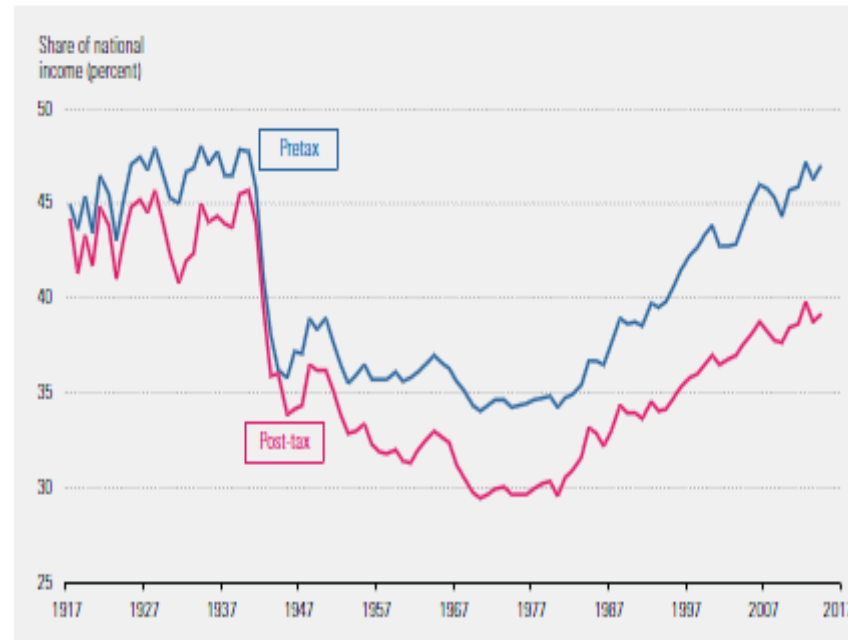
The “inequality machine” (Halimi, 2013): Within-country inequality growing in much of the world

The income share of the top 1 percent has significantly increased in China, India and the Russian Federation since the early 1980s

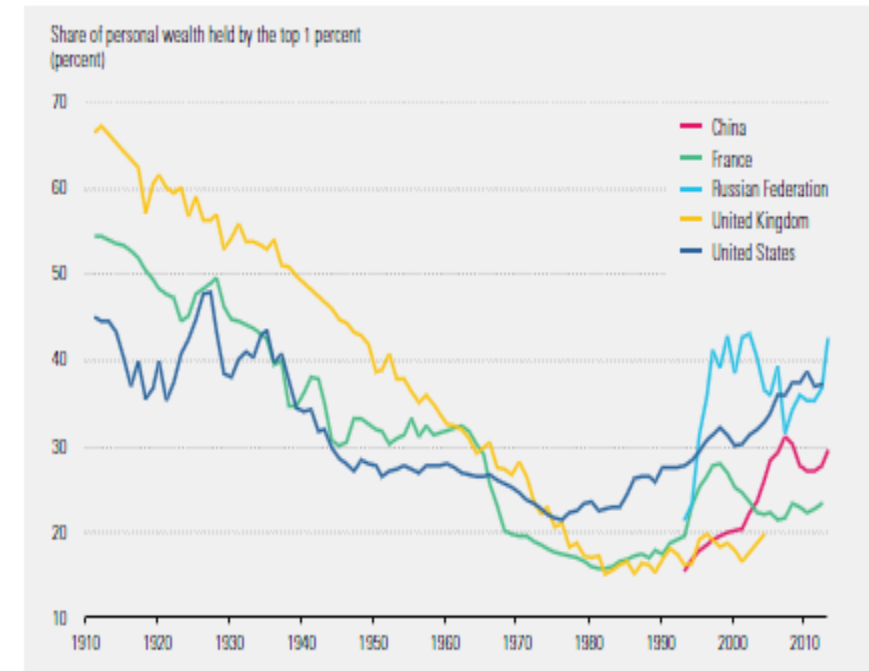


Note: Distribution of per adult pretax national income growth. See <http://wid.world/methodology> for country-level information on the series. Income growth between 2016 and 2018 is assumed to be distribution neutral.
Source: Based on data from the World Inequality Database (<http://wid.world>).

The pretax income share of the top 10 percent in the United States rose from around 35 percent in 1980 to close to 47 percent in 2014



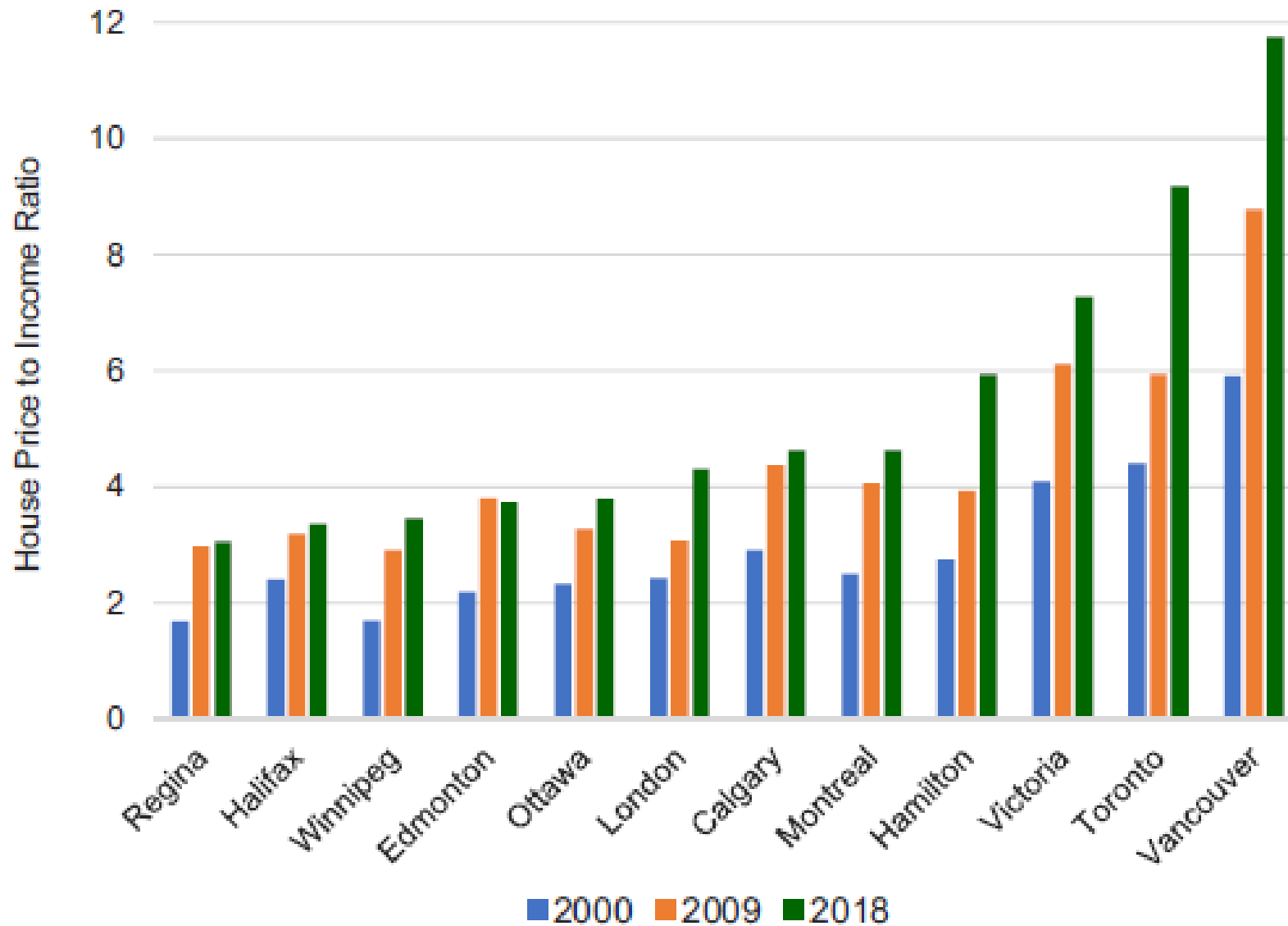
Trends in wealth inequality



Source: UNDP (2019); see generally World Inequality Database, <https://wid.world>

House prices and median household incomes, major Canadian cities

Source:
Gordon, 2020



The unequal pandemic

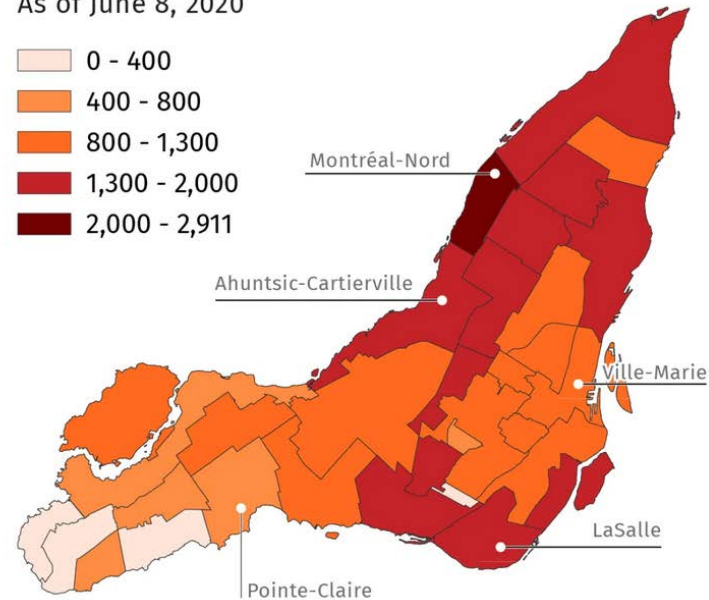
- Pandemic impacts were unequal in terms of risk of infection (front-line and “essential” workers vs. home workers; aged care home residents); vulnerability to economic losses (unequal entitlement to paid sick leave; already precarious work); susceptibility worsened by pre-existing conditions; ‘global North’ vs. ‘global South’ (living conditions, access to vaccines, household and national fiscal capacity) (see generally Bambra et al. 2021; WHO, 2021)

The dangers of deprivation: A Canadian example

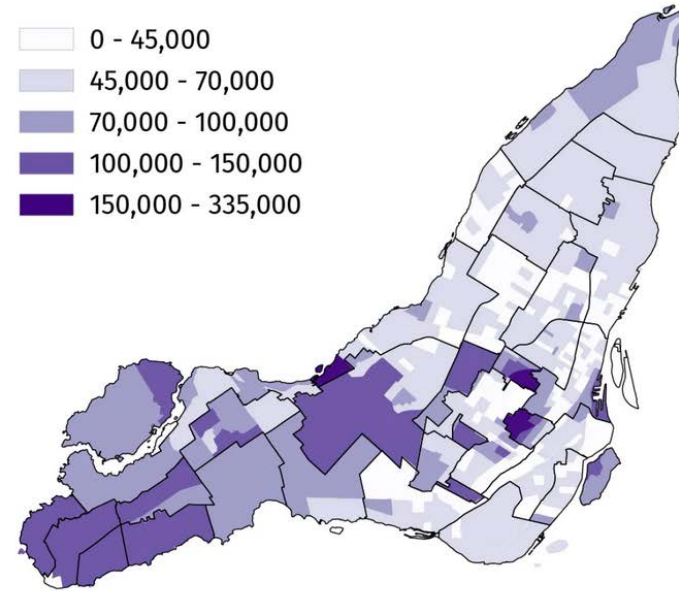
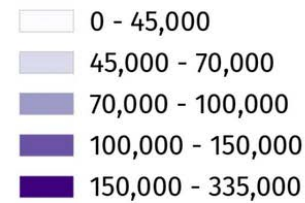
Source: Rocha et al., 2020

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people

As of June 8, 2020



Median total income of households in 2015 (\$)



SOURCE: Santé Montréal, City of Montreal



SOURCE: 2016 census (Statistics Canada),
censusmapper.ca, City of Montreal

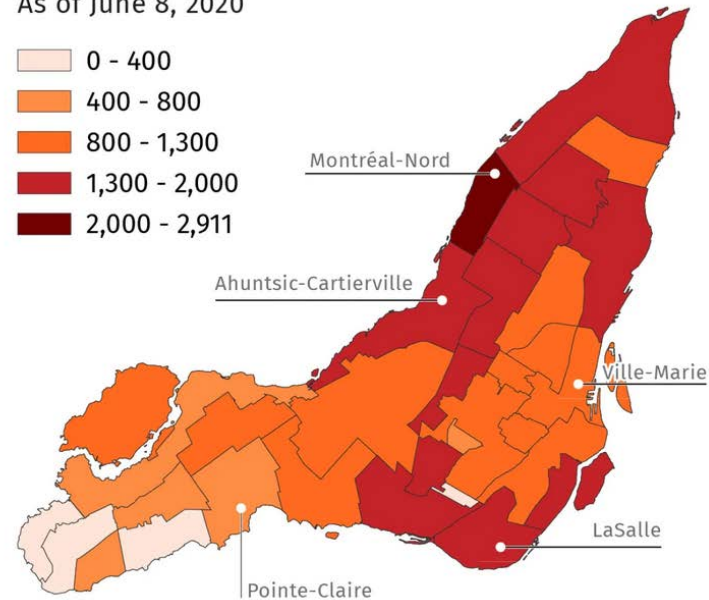


The dangers of racialization: A Canadian example

Source: Rocha et al., 2020

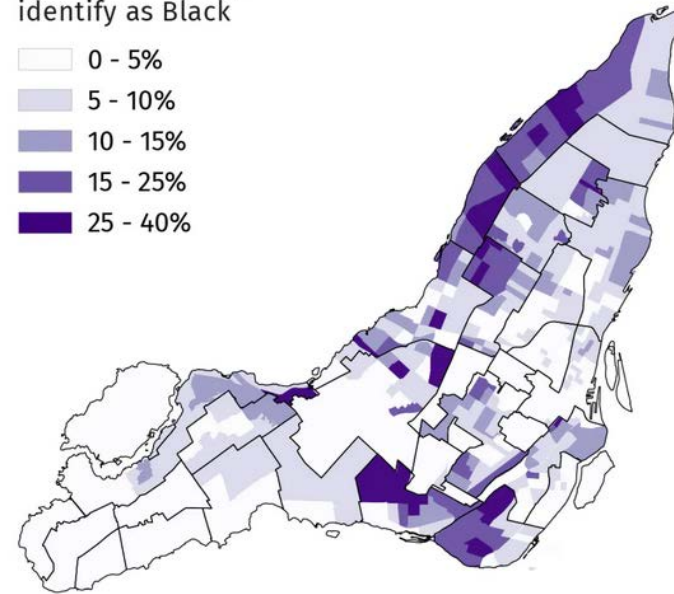
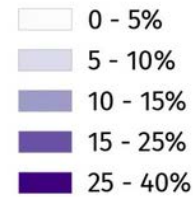
Total confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people

As of June 8, 2020



Black population

Percentage of population who identify as Black



SOURCE: Santé Montréal, City of Montreal

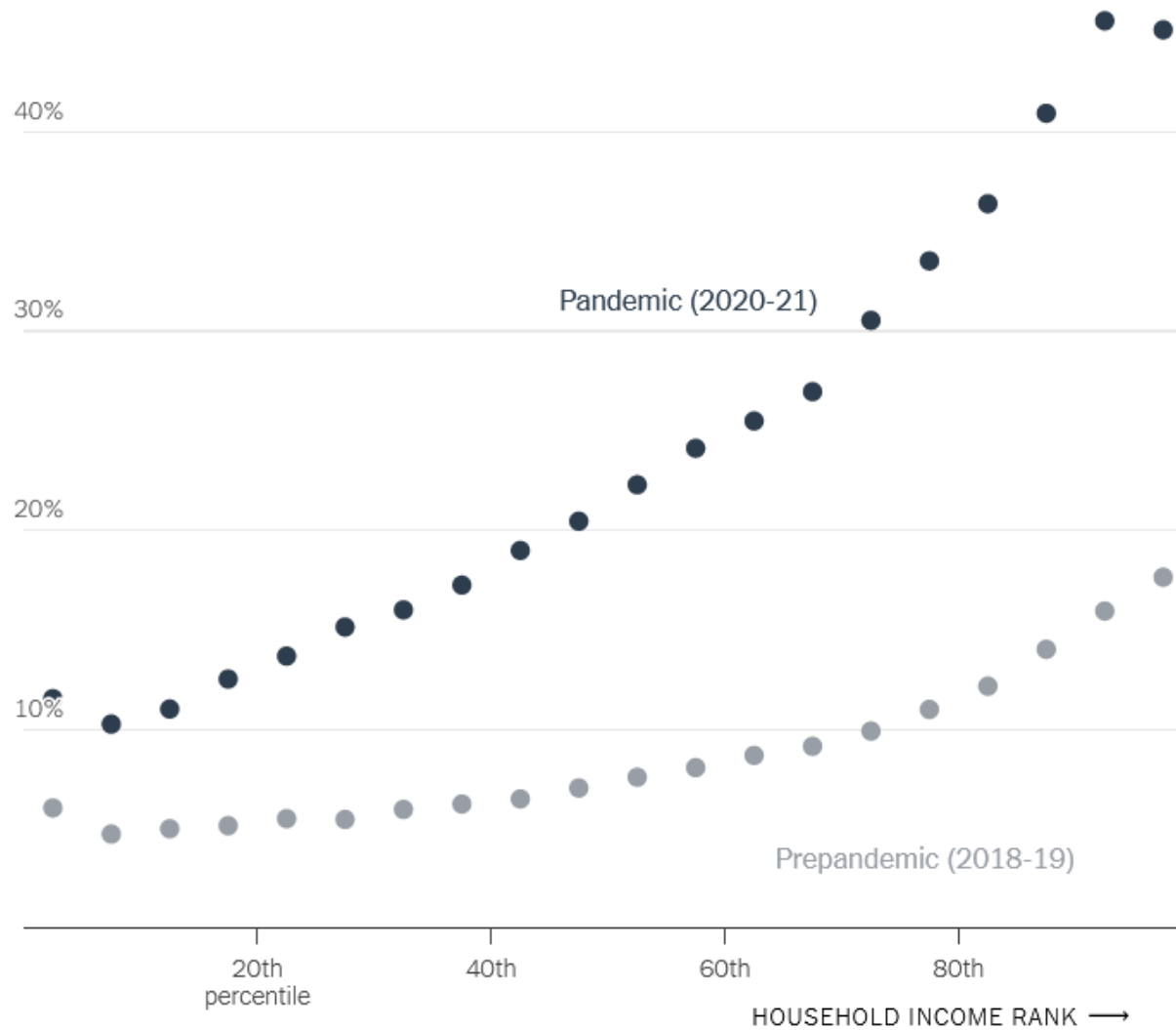


SOURCE: 2016 census (Statistics Canada),
censumapper.ca, City of Montreal



High Earners Became Even More Likely to Work Remotely

Percent working from home, by income rank



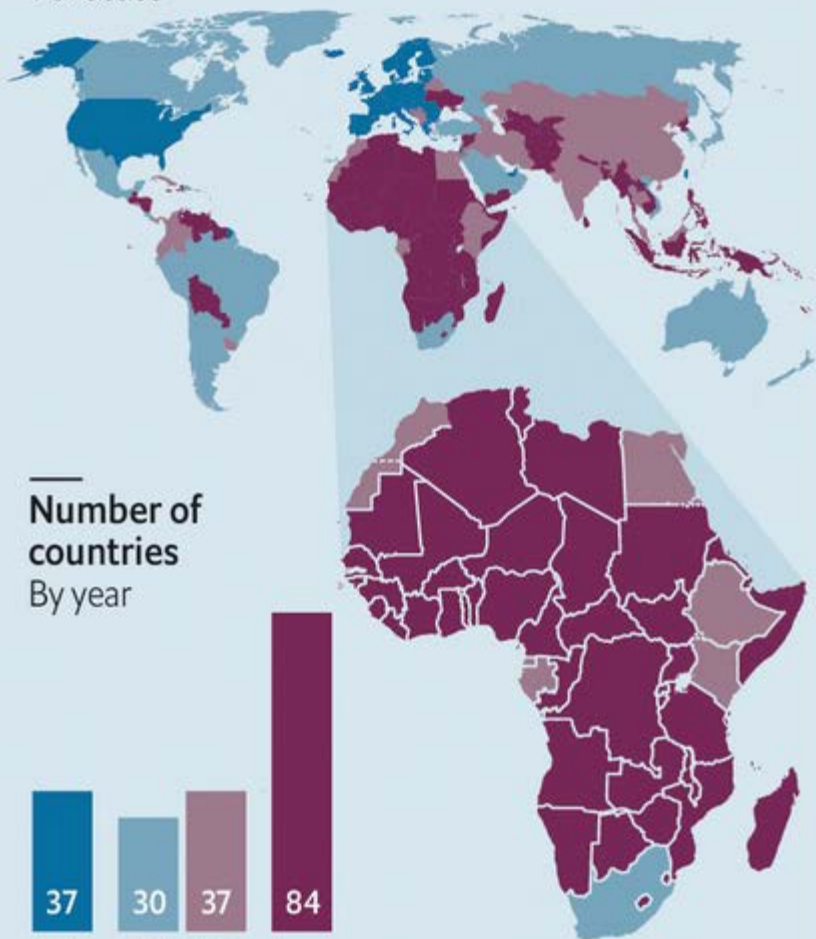
Source: American Community Survey

Source: Badger et al., 2023

Waiting game

Covid-19, when will widespread vaccination coverage be achieved?
Forecast*

Forecast*



Number of countries
By year

37
30
37
84

Late 2021
Mid 2022
Late 2022
From 2023

*At Jan 22nd 2021

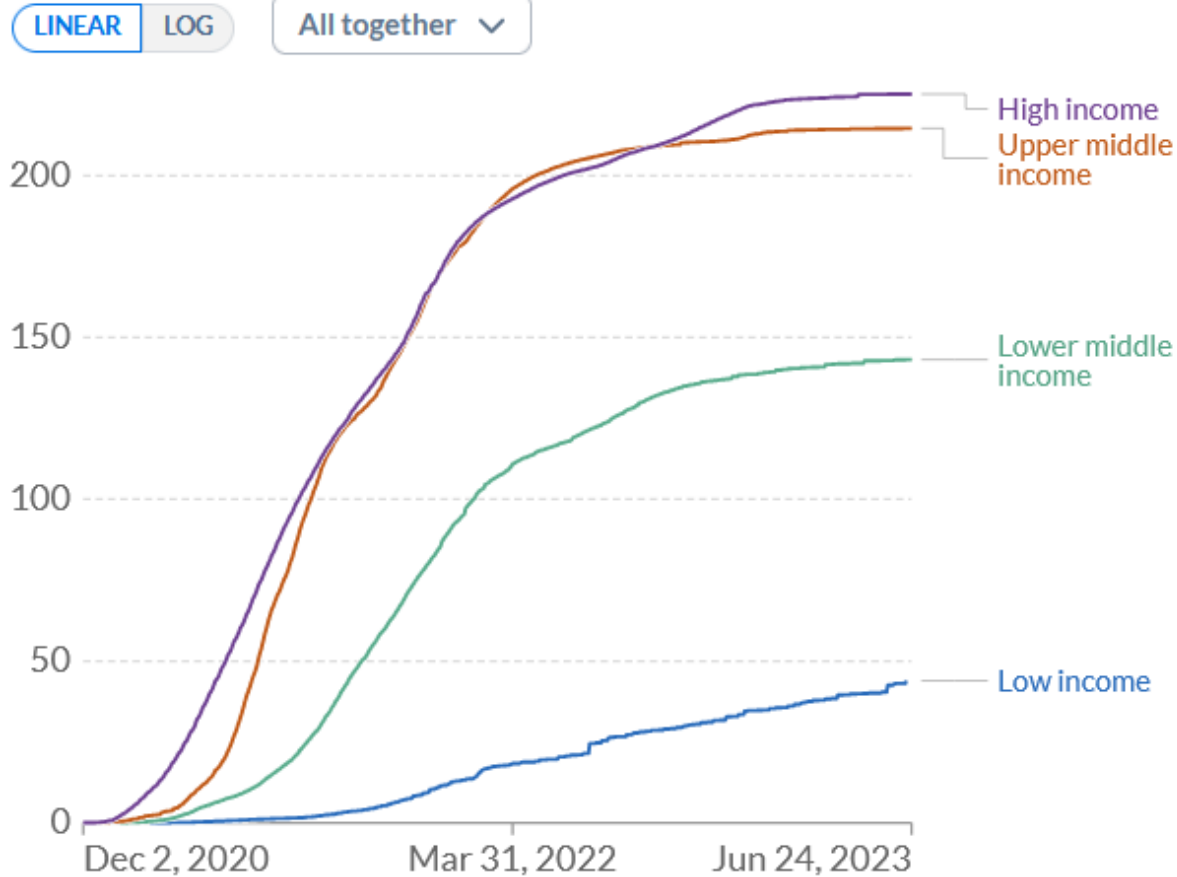
Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

The Economist

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 people, by income group

All doses, including boosters, are counted individually.

Our World
in Data



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data, World Bank

Note: Country income groups are based on the World Bank classification.

OurWorldInData.org/covid-vaccinations • CC BY

▶ Dec 2, 2020 ○ Jun 24, 2023

CHART

TABLE

SOURCES

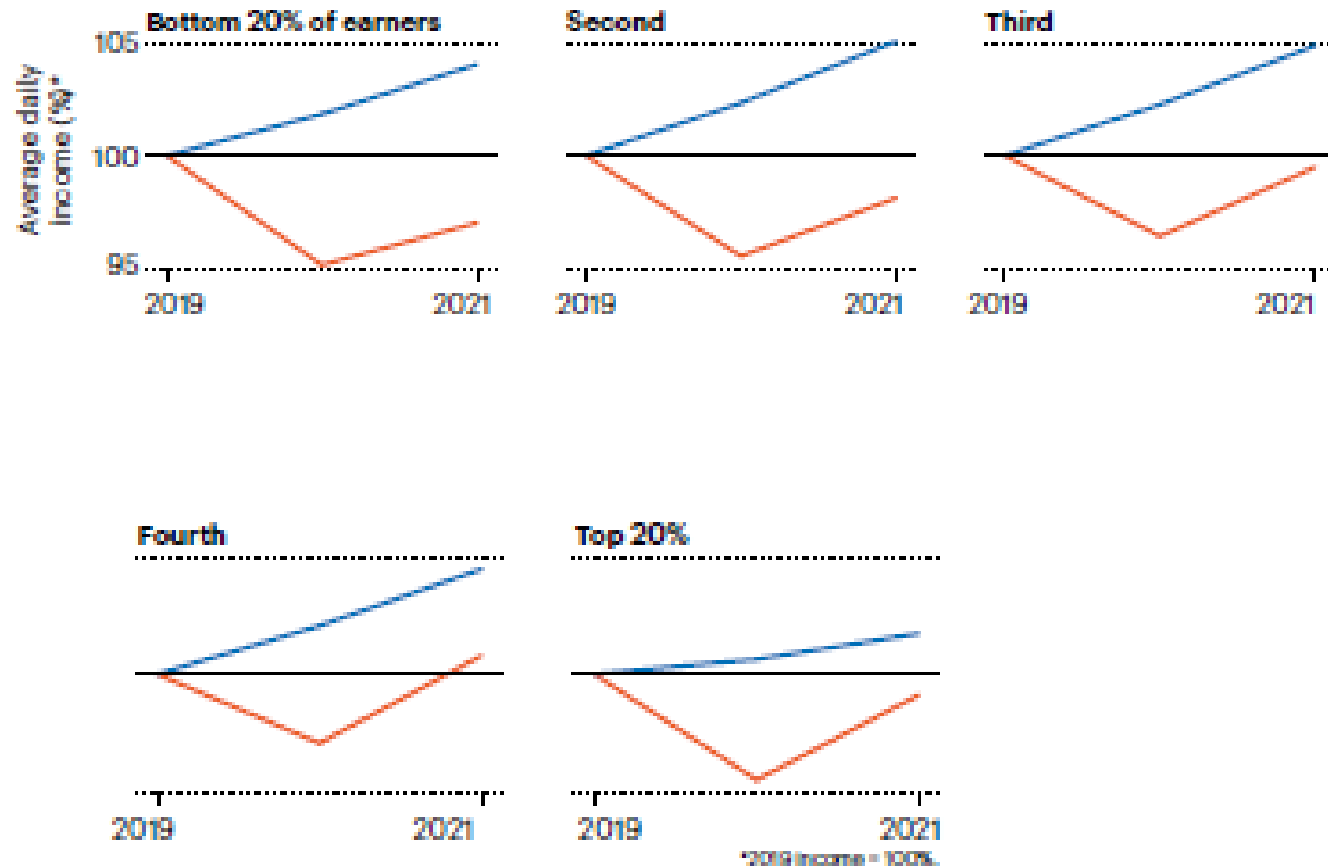
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Unequal recovery of pandemic income losses

■ The world's poorest people are taking the longest to recover income losses caused by the pandemic

— Income had COVID-19 not happened — Income since COVID-19



Source: Sidik, 2022

The tipping point problem

Comment

Climate tipping points — too risky to bet against

Timothy M. Lenton, Johan Rockström, Owen Gaffney, Stefan Rahmstorf, Katherine Richardson, Will Steffen & Hans Joachim Schellnhuber

The growing threat of abrupt and irreversible climate changes must compel political and economic action on emissions.

Politicians, economists and even some natural scientists have tended to assume that tipping points in the Earth system — such as the loss of the Amazon rainforest or the West Antarctic ice sheet — are of low probability and little understood. Yet evidence is mounting that these events could be more likely than thought, have high impacts and are interconnected across different biophysical systems, potentially committing the world to long-term irreversible changes.

Here we summarize evidence on the threat of exceeding tipping points, identify knowledge gaps and suggest how these should be plugged. We explore the effects of such changes, how quickly they might occur, whether we still have any control

assuming that climate tipping points are of very low probability (even if they would be catastrophic), have suggested that 3°C warming is optimal from a cost-benefit perspective. However, if tipping points are looking more likely, then the 'optimal policy' recommendation of simple cost-benefit climate-economy models* aligns with those of the recent IPCC report². In other words, warming must be limited to 1.5°C. This requires an emergency response.

Ice collapse

We think that several cryosphere tipping points are dangerously close, but mitigating greenhouse-gas emissions could still slow down the inevitable accumulation of impacts and help us to adapt.

Research in the past decade has shown that the Amundsen Sea embayment of West Antarctica might have passed a tipping point¹: the 'grounding line' where ice, ocean and bedrock meet is retreating irreversibly. A model study shows² that when this sector collapses, it could destabilize the rest of the West Antarctic ice sheet like toppling dominoes — leading to about 3 metres of sea-level rise on a timescale of centuries to millennia. Palaeo-evidence shows that such widespread collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet has occurred repeatedly in the past.

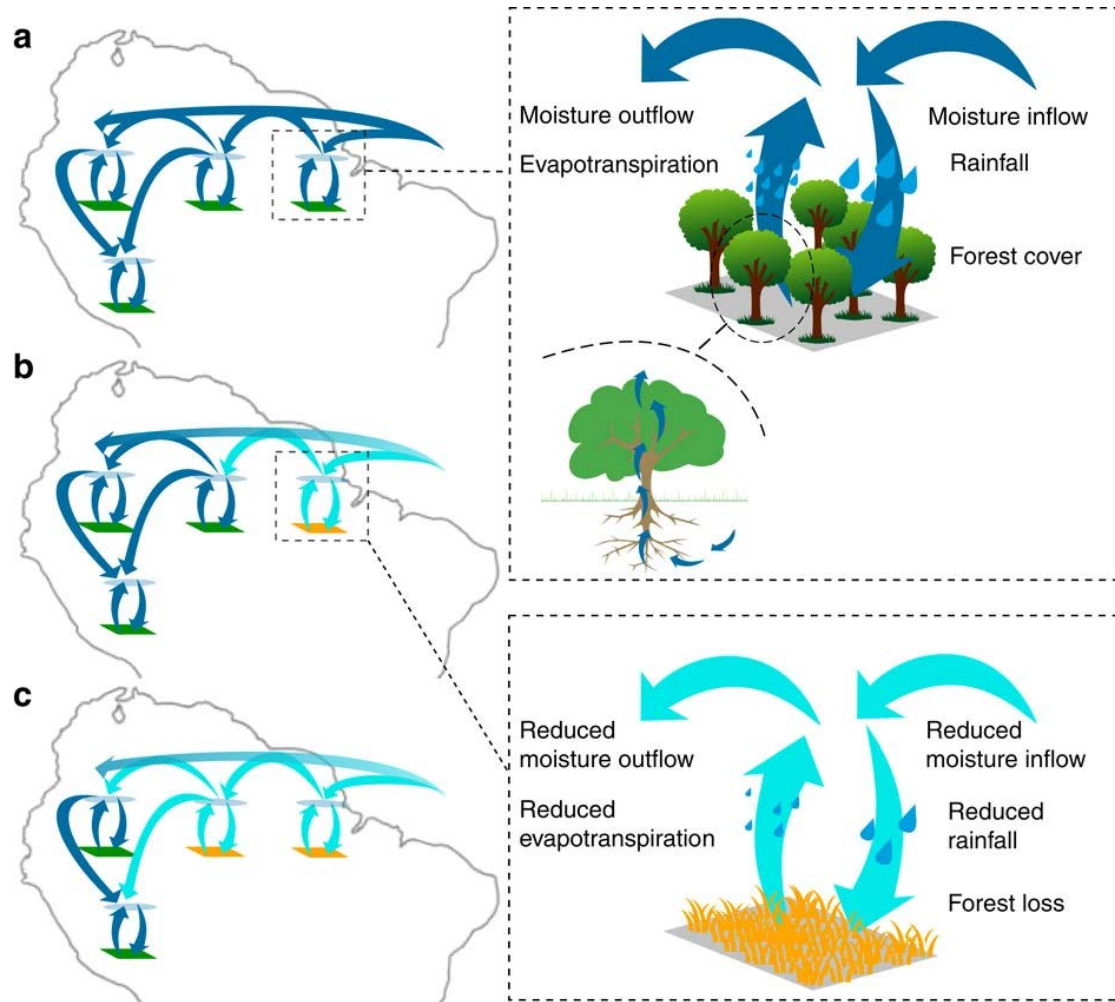
The latest data show that part of the East Antarctic ice sheet — the Wilkes Basin — is similarly unstable³. Modelling work shows that such widespread collapse of the ice sheet could add another 3–4 m to sea-level rise over the next century. The Wilkes Basin is melting at an average rate of 7 m per year.



Key analytical concept: The pandemic as tipping point

- Tipping points “occur when there is strongly self-amplifying (mathematically positive) feedback within a system such that a small perturbation can trigger a large response from the system, sending it into a qualitatively different future state” (Lenton, 2020)
- Stated more colloquially, “sometimes little things can make a big difference,” or at least a disproportionate difference, “to the state and/or fate of a system” (Lenton, 2013)

The tipping point problem



“The findings imply that shifts in Earth ecosystems occur over ‘human’ timescales of years and decades, meaning the collapse of large vulnerable ecosystems, such as the Amazon rainforest and Caribbean coral reefs, may take only a few decades once triggered” (Cooper et al., 2020) – so, what happens if the Amazon rainforest no longer generates enough moisture to support rainfall, and the region turns into savannah or steppe?

Source: Zemp et al., 2017

The tipping point problem

- Social scientific analysis must also understand tipping points as occurring when magnification or acceleration of existing trends drastically changes distributions of resources or the shape of institutions and creates new path dependencies: situations in which the consequences of past policy choices make certain future directions extremely difficult to pursue or politically unviable. (Adoption of formulae for amending constitutions is a case in point.)

Tipping points do not have to be negative!
The pandemic could have been a positive tipping point in several ways

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/04/06/upshot/pandemic-safety-net-medicaid.html>

The U.S. Built a European-Style Welfare State. It's Largely Over.

By [Claire Cain Miller](#) and [Alicia Parlapiano](#) Updated May 11, 2023

In the early, panicked days of the pandemic, the United States government did something that was previously unimaginable. It transformed itself, within weeks, into something akin to a European-style welfare state.

Congress rapidly fortified the social safety net, making it much stronger than at any point. It made policies like Medicaid and food stamps more generous. It created new federal benefits like paid sick and caregiving leave, and free school lunches. And it made some pandemic benefits, like stimulus checks and child allowances, nearly universal. The government is estimated to have [spent about \\$5 trillion](#) helping individuals and businesses since March 2020.

Since then, most of it has been disbanded. When the public health emergency ends Thursday night, certain benefits, including free Covid tests and extensions for food stamp recipients, will begin to expire. Last month, Medicaid [began unenrolling](#) an estimated 15 million Americans who were guaranteed coverage during the pandemic, one of the longest-lasting benefits. A few policies — including rental assistance, child care grants and more generous health insurance credits — won't expire until next year or the year after. But for the most part, the pandemic-era American welfare state is over.

This was by design: The policies were created as a response to the crisis and wound down as the acute phase of the pandemic ended and the economy reopened. Efforts to extend certain programs — or to formally create a more generous safety net, as President Biden laid out in his large [social spending bill](#) — [have failed](#).

There has been little political will to make policies permanent because they did not emerge from a deeper shift in how Americans view the role of government or the rights of citizens, said Sheri Berman, a political science professor at Barnard College who has [studied](#) social democracies.

“The set of goals — protecting people from the downsides of unemployment, helping families with children and ensuring access to health care — are totally accepted in Western

For example: Social protection programs can reduce deprivation quickly and effectively



**Tipping points do not have to be negative!
The pandemic could have been a positive tipping
point in several ways ... but its effects are likely to
be negative from a health equity perspective, on
multiple scales**

“Evidence from developed countries suggests that APPs [asset purchase programs, or quantitative easing] have had adverse distributional effects, disproportionately benefiting rich households and widening wealth inequalities. Capital gains from rising stock, bond or housing prices account for a significant share of total income for top earners, especially the top 1 per cent, but are negligible for groups in the bottom of the income distribution. In addition, wealthy households invest a much larger share of their portfolios in financial assets, especially equities, which have registered the strongest price gains since the onset of the current crisis. According to preliminary estimates, the top 1 per cent of income earners in the United States registered net wealth gains of about \$3.5 million per person between the first quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of 2021. The bottom 20 per cent recorded an increase of only about \$5,300 per person. The APPs also likely increased gender inequalities since women tend to have less wealth and income than men and are less likely to invest in risky assets” (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2022)

The new normal: Deepening inequality

- US\$ millionaires worldwide: 46.8 million in mid-2019, the last pre-pandemic year; 62.5 million in 2021 (Shorrocks et al., 2019; 2022)
- “[G]lobal billionaire wealth increased by more than 50% between 2019 and 2021” (Chancel et al., 2021); real-time updates at <https://www.forbes.com/real-time-billionaires/#664c4bfc3d78>
- For the rest of us, cost of living crisis associated with inflationary stimuli, supply chain disruptions → energy, food insecurity, *financialized housing* increasingly unaffordable

DONE DEAL

Seven bidders vie for York Mills house that sells \$701,000 over asking

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43 COMMENTS

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BOOKMARK

60 Fenn Ave., Toronto

Asking price: \$1,849,000 (February, 2023)

Selling price: \$2,550,000 (February, 2023)

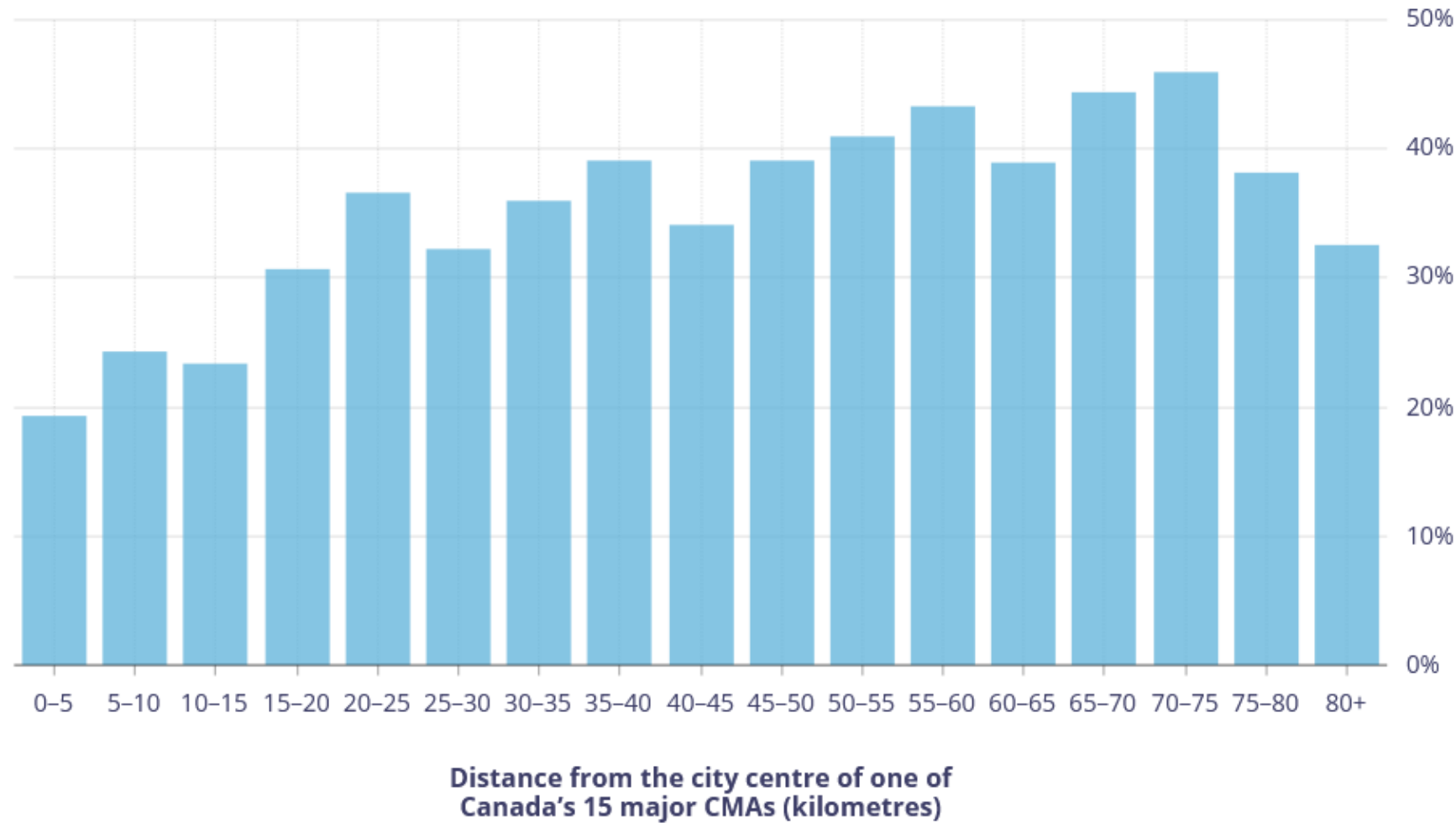
Previous selling prices: \$640,000 (August, 2003); \$435,000 (October, 2000)

Taxes: \$11,969 (2022)



Chart 1: House prices have increased more in suburbs than downtown

Average increase in house prices between 2019 and 2021, by distance from the downtown area of Canada's major census metropolitan areas (CMAs)



Source:
Morel, 2022

Sources: Teranet, National Bank and Bank of Canada calculations

Last observation: 2021

☆ Households; Owners' Equity in Real Estate, Level (OEHRENWBSHNO)

DOWNLOAD 

Observation:

Q3 2022: **29,555.052** (+ more)

Updated: Dec 9, 2022

Units:

Billions of Dollars,
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Frequency:


Quarterly,
End of Period

1Y | 5Y | 10Y | Max

2012-07-01

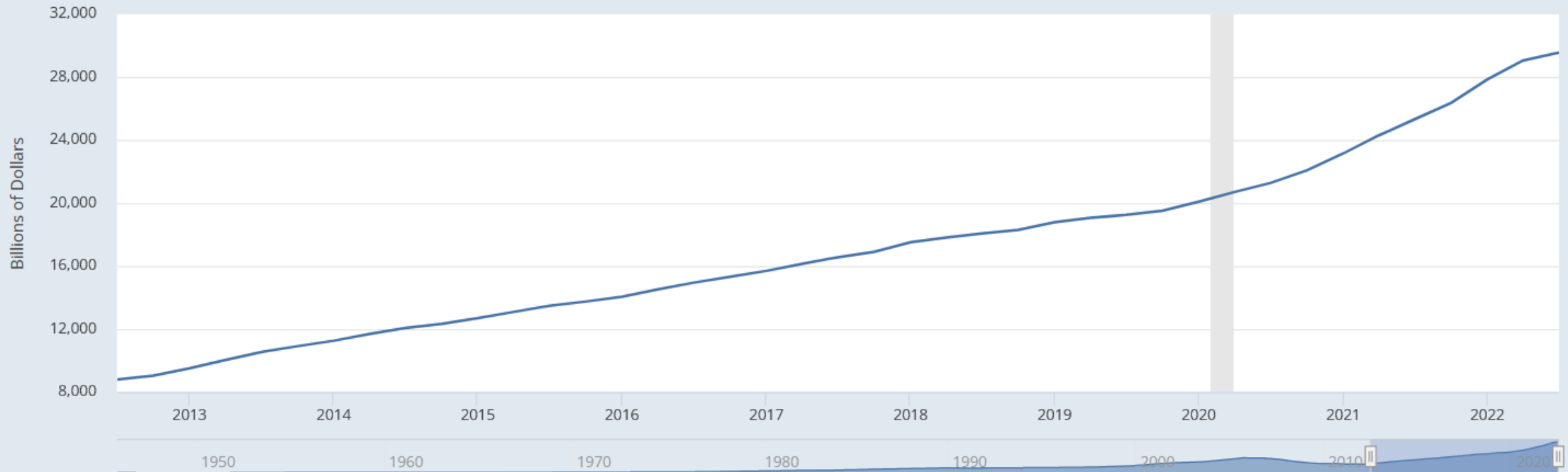
to

2022-07-01

EDIT GRAPH 

FRED 

— Households; Owners' Equity in Real Estate, Level



Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US)

fred.stlouisfed.org 

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/OEHRENWBSHNO>



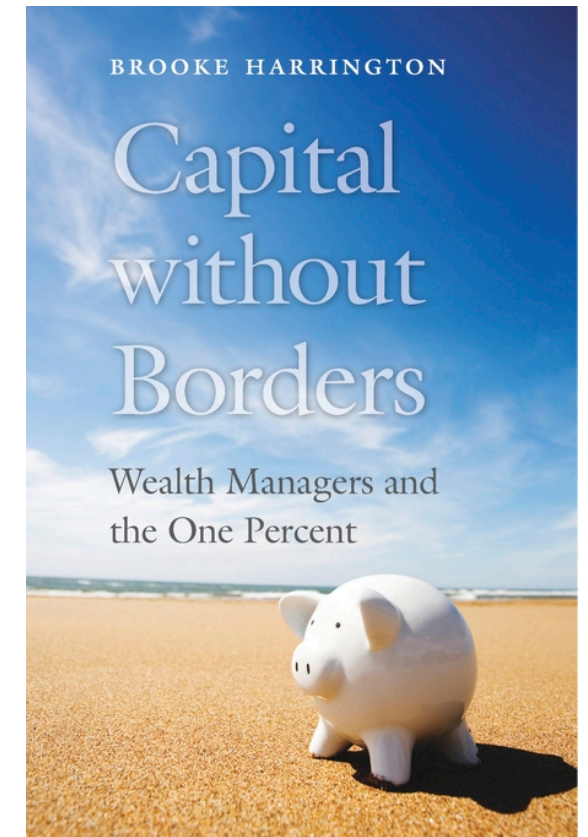
Inequality and tipping points

- “The exchange relation between incumbents and supporters is the essence of state action” (Evans, 1992), whatever the structure of domestic political institutions
- The post-pandemic spike in inequality may mean the tipping point beyond which it cannot be reduced effectively by way of social policy has already occurred in many jurisdictions, as the effects of globalization-related “fiscal termites” (Tanzi, 2001 and later) are magnified



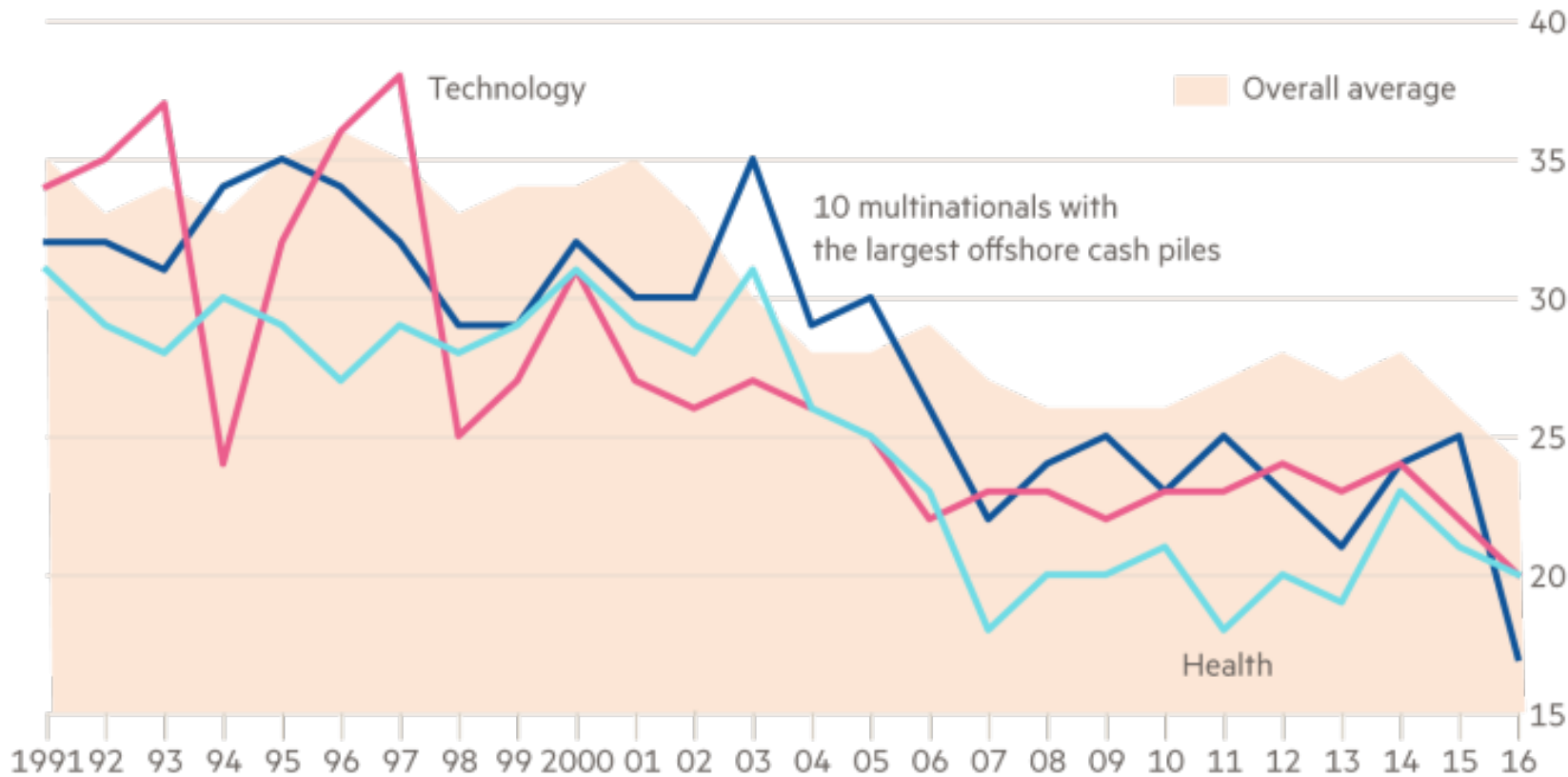
Inequality and tipping points

“[M]any countries are already more receptive and accessible to wealth managers, who are acting on behalf of the world’s richest people, than they are to elected representatives from their own governments [T]he high-net-worth individuals of the world are largely ungoverned, and ungovernable.What this is doing to the Westphalian host system is similar in some respects to what e-commerce has done to bricks-and-mortar business, destroying it in a race to the bottom” (Harrington, 2016)



Companies are paying lower taxes

Effective corporate tax rates for selected sectors (%)



Sources: FT calculations, S&P Capital IQ
© FT

Source: Toplensky, 2018

Transnational corporations shifted US\$667 billion in profits to tax havens in 2016 (Tørsløv et al., 2019)



Tax lawyers / Fiscalisten

Atlas

Inequality and tipping points: The politics go much deeper than the one-percenters and TNCs

“[S]ustained inflation of property values ... has fundamentally shifted the social class structure, from a logic that was structured around employment towards one that is organized around participation in asset ownership and appreciation” (Adkins et al., 2022)

Inequality and tipping points: The case of wealth taxation

“[I]n light of the further increase in inequality resulting from this crisis the case for a wealth tax seems irrefutable” (UNCTAD, 2020)

“Policies until recently considered eccentric, such as basic income and wealth taxes, will have to be in the mix” (*Financial Times* editorial board, 2020)

Probable future UK Labour finance minister says plans to increase top marginal rate of income tax “are off the table – as is any form of wealth tax” (interview with Malnick, 2023)

Among probable early casualties: Beveridge-style, tax-funded universal health coverage

“[A] well-functioning modern health system requires the transfer, through taxation, of a very significant amount of money from the healthy and wealthy to the care of the unhealthy and unwealthy” (Evans, 2012)

Deputy Governor, Markets and Banking, Bank of England
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The Bank of England is the central bank of the United Kingdom and exists to ensure monetary and financial stability. Candidates are sought for the role of Deputy Governor, Markets and Banking. This appointment is made by Her Majesty the Queen, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The new Deputy Governor will be responsible for managing the balance sheet of the Bank. He or she will look after the execution of financial stability and monetary policy decisions via balance sheet operations, the management of the Government's foreign exchange reserves, gold custody services, the operation of the real time settlement system, the effective risk management of these operations and the gathering of market intelligence relevant to policy decisions.

He or she will be a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, the Financial Policy Committee, the Prudential Regulation Committee and the Court of the Bank of England.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate the ability to manage a large number of staff and a diverse set of workstreams. He or she will be a strong communicator, have outstanding interpersonal skills and will be a person of undisputed integrity and standing.

Applicants will need the ability to develop and execute new policies in a fast-moving environment, and understand the workings of central banking, government and international institutions. In particular, they must understand wholesale financial markets, the associated infrastructure and have a strong appreciation for risk management. They must also demonstrate strong leadership, management and policy skills and will have an advanced understanding of economics.

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Applications should be emailed to app4@egonzehnder.com

If you are unable to submit your application by email or need any further assistance, including information in other formats, please contact: Daisy Neale, Egon Zehnder, Nova South, 160 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5LB
+44 (0)20 7943 1912

HM Treasury

Scrutinising policy detail. You. Seeing the big picture.

The Economist April 15th 2017

Unfortunately, the situation can be dire for some, with reports from [Quebec](#), [Alberta](#), [Manitoba](#), [British Columbia](#), [New Brunswick](#) and [Nova Scotia](#) during the past year of patients tragically dying after waiting for hours in crowded hospitals, unable to get the care they need.



Health-care workers are seen at North York General Hospital in Toronto on May 26, 2020. Hundreds of emergency physicians in Calgary and British Columbia have signed open letters in recent weeks to sound the alarm about the worsening ER crisis. (Evan Mitsui/CBC)

HEALTH

Quarter of GPs opt for private cover, survey suggests

NHS waiting lists are at a record high



A further 15 per cent said they were considering it

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A quarter of GPs have private medical insurance, a survey has revealed, with widespread concerns among the profession about NHS waiting times and treatment availability.

The poll for the GPs' magazine Pulse found that 21 per cent had personal private medical insurance, and 4 per cent had it funded through an employer.

The new normal: Deepening inequality in a world of polycrisis

- Polycrisis: “a cluster of related global risks with compounding effects, such that the overall impact exceeds the sum of each part” (World Economic Forum, 2023)



British Columbia wildfires, August 2023. Photo: Shawn Talbot/*The Globe and Mail*

Outside the high-income world, debt crises on the horizon



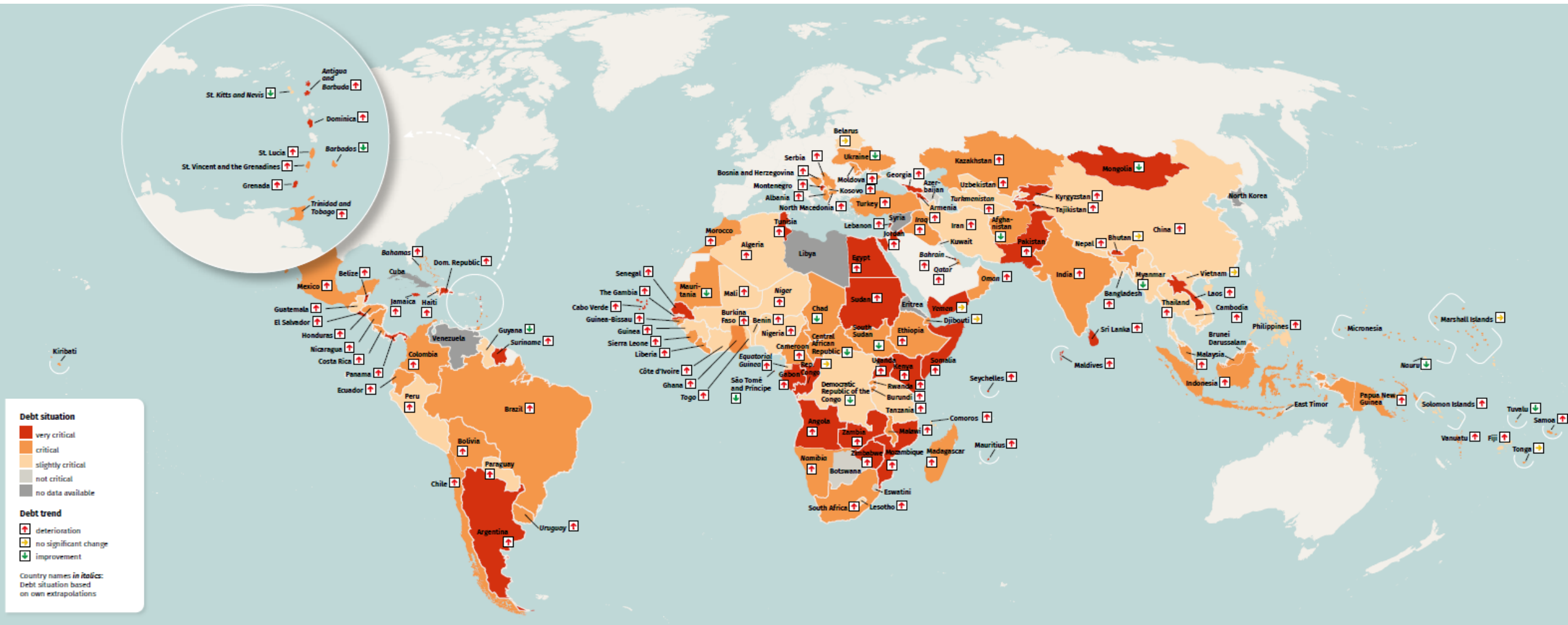
The Economist

Source: *Economist*, 2021

- No fewer than 64 low- and middle-income country (LMIC) governments were spending more on debt servicing than on public health care in the last pre-pandemic year of 2019 (Jubilee Debt Campaign, 2020), and 25 countries spent more than 20 percent of total government revenues on debt servicing in 2022 (Ecker et al., 2023)

Global debt situation

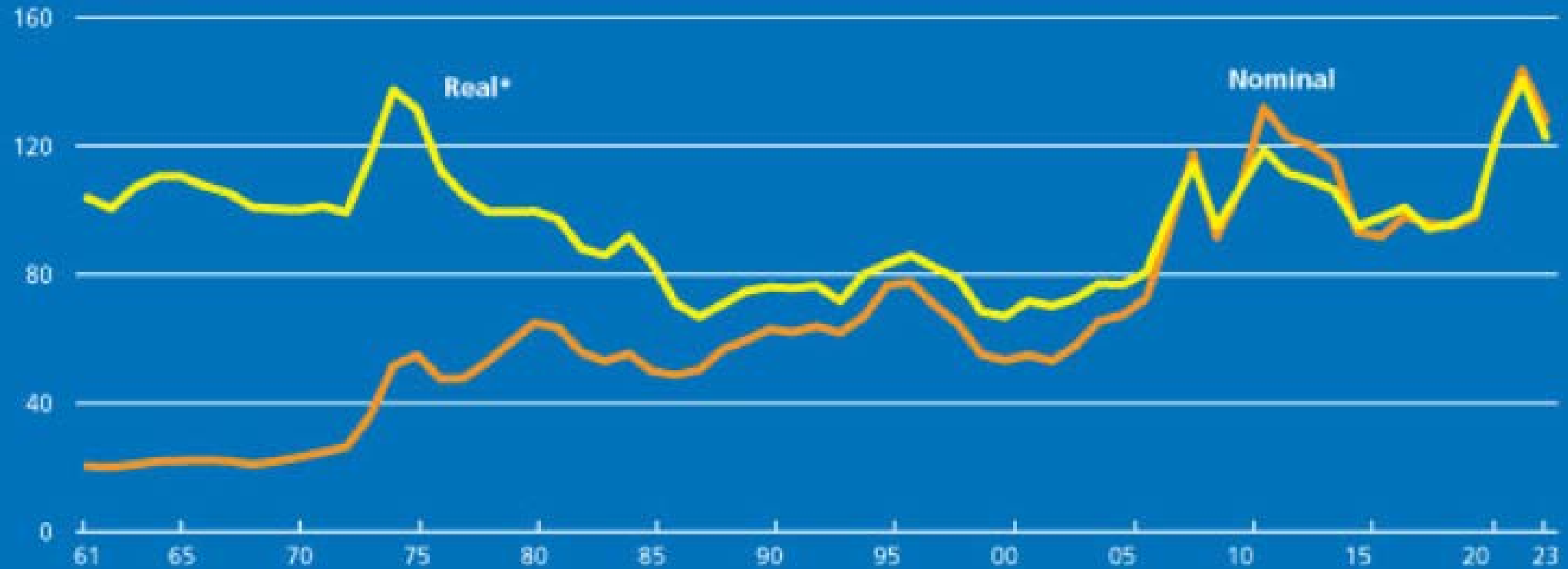
Map showing the debt situation of critically indebted countries in the Global South as well as the debt trend



Source: Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt; <https://www.cadtm.org/Global-Sovereign-Debt-Monitor-2022>

FAO Food Price Index in nominal and real terms

2014-2016=100

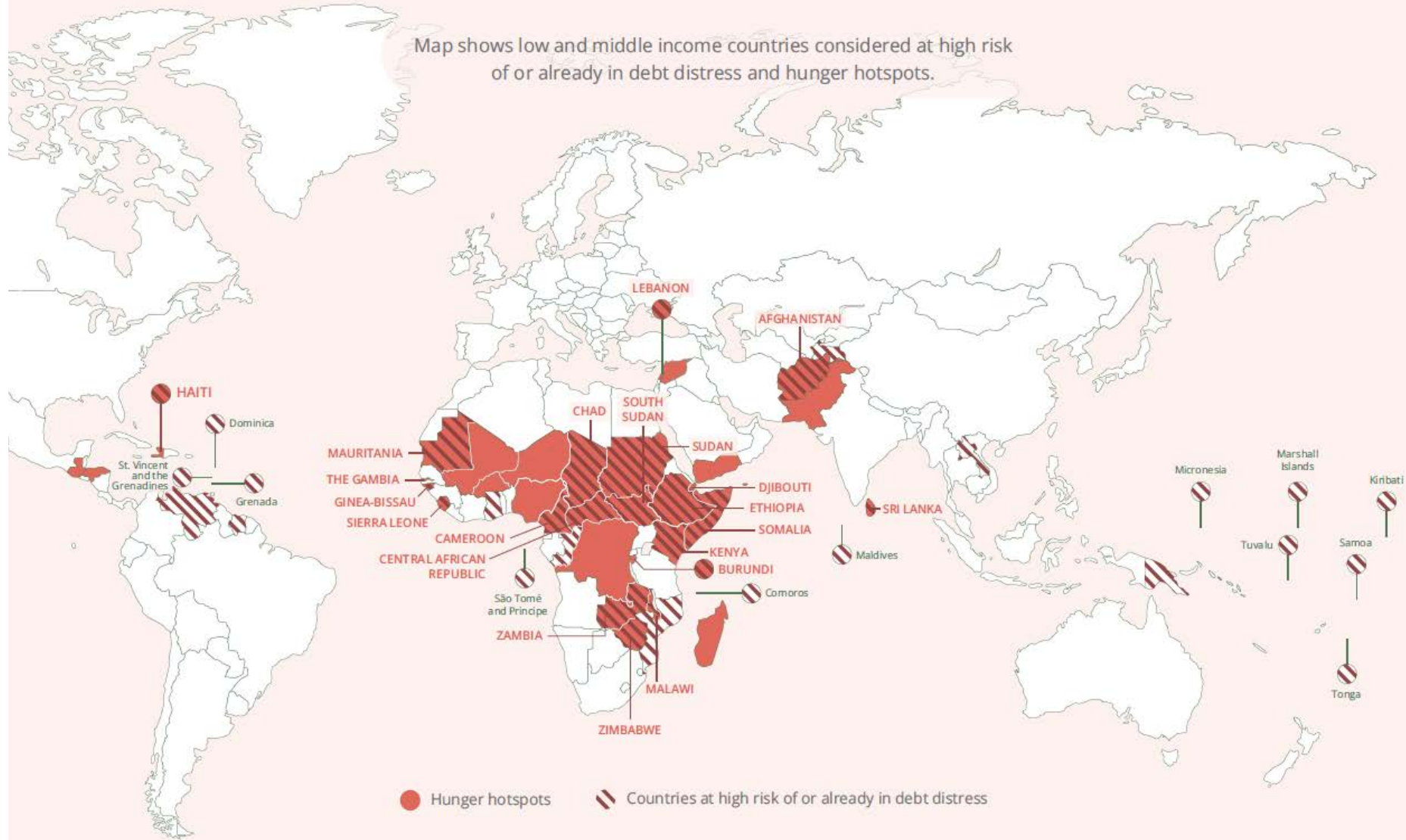


* The real price index is the nominal price index deflated by the World Bank Manufactures Unit Value Index (MUV)

Source: FAO; <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

Debt and hunger crises in developing countries

Map shows low and middle income countries considered at high risk of or already in debt distress and hunger hotspots.



Source: Based on January 2023 IMF Debt Sustainability Framework and 2022 World Bank income classification. Countries classified as suffering from acute food insecurity by the FAO and WFP or in a major food crisis by the UNGRFC.



Source:
International
Panel of Experts
on Sustainable
Food Systems,
2023

'Crisis talk': A crucial caveat



- All experiences of crisis, indeed often whether particular features of the post-pandemic world manifest as crisis or opportunity, depend - as did the direct impacts of the pandemic - on social situation: interactions of *inter alia* class, gender, racialized status, and place

GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
2021, VOL. 16, NOS. 8-9, 1396-1410
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2021.1908395>

 Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

 OPEN ACCESS 

COVID-19 and the political geography of racialisation: Ethnographic cases in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Detroit

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Liza Buchbinder^{f,g}, Denise Herd^h and Seth M. Holmes ^{d,e,h,i,j}

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed health systems around the globe, and intensified the lethality of social and political inequality. In the United States, where public health departments have been severely defunded, Black, Native, Latinx communities and those experiencing poverty in the country's largest cities are disproportionately infected and disproportionately dying. Based on our collective ethnographic work in three global cities in the U.S. (San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Detroit), we identify how the political geography of racialisation potentiated the COVID-19 crisis, exacerbating the social and economic

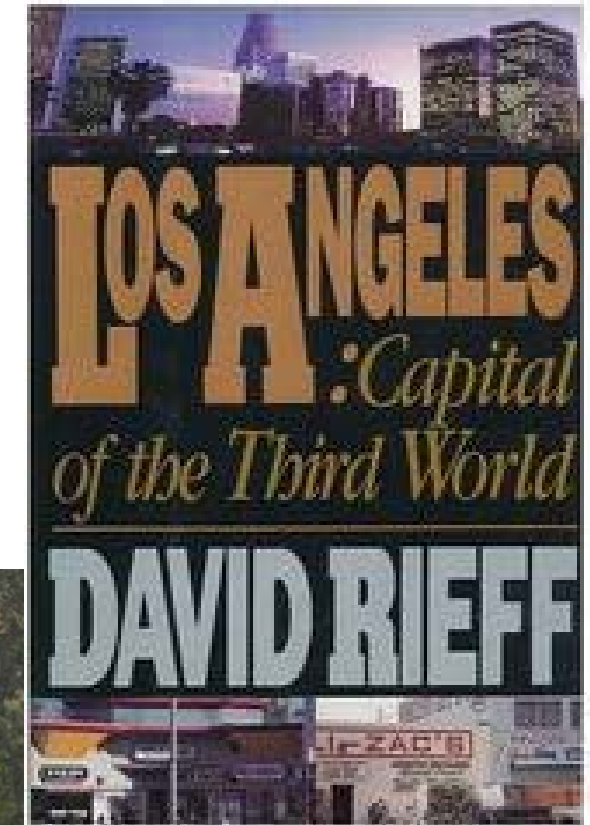
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KEYWORDS

Racialisation; political geography; inequality; COVID-19; United States; medical anthropology

“After all, nobody got up one balmy afternoon on the Capitoline Hill sometime in the fifth century and said that the Roman empire was over and the Dark Ages had begun” (Rieff, 1993)



“Everybody Knows” (Leonard Cohen)

“Everybody knows that the dice are loaded
Everybody rolls with their fingers crossed

....

Everybody know that the fight was fixed
The poor stay poor, the rich get rich
That’s how it goes
Everybody knows

Everybody knows that the boat is leaking
Everybody knows that the captain lied”

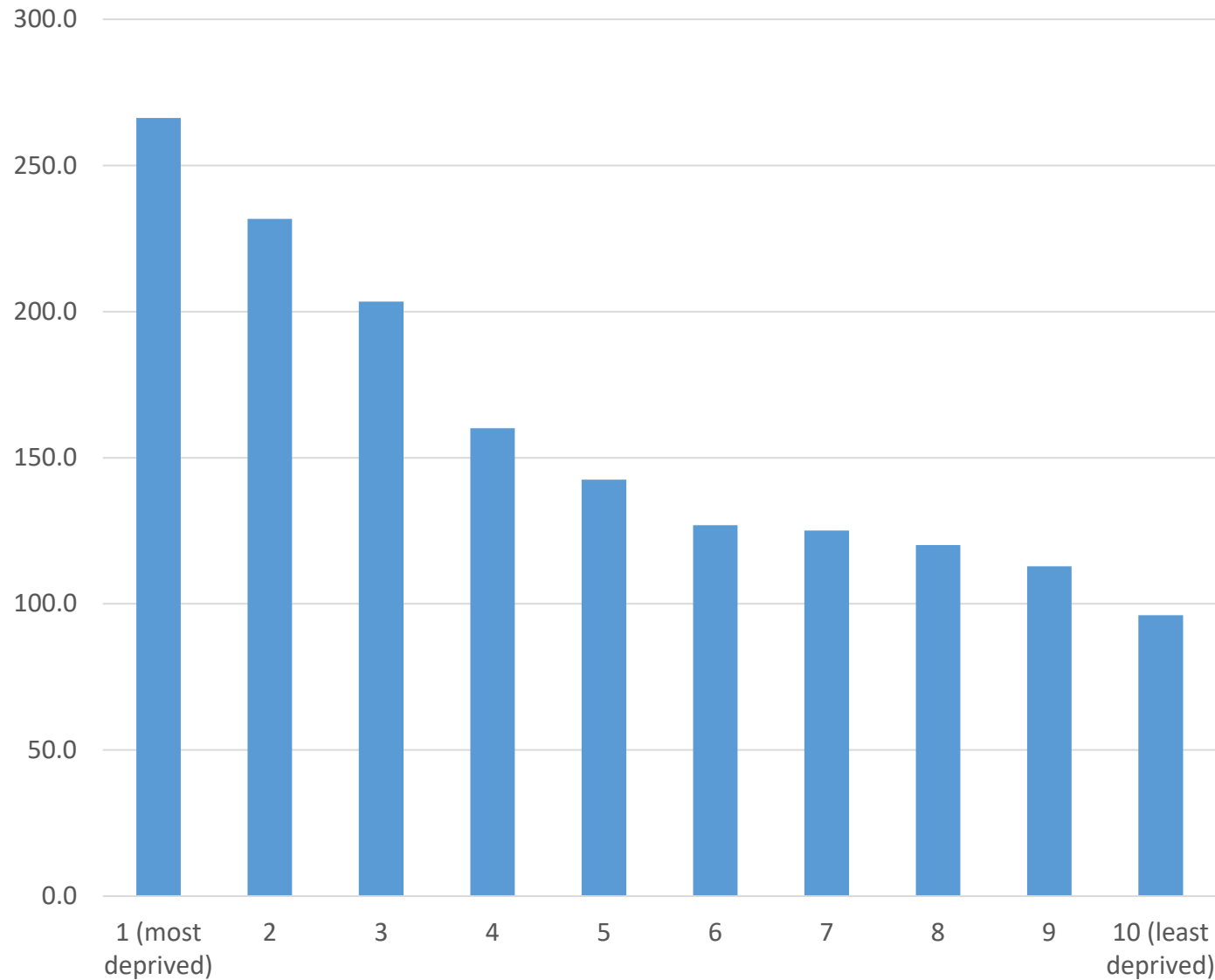


Question Authority

“All observations of life are harsh, because life is. I lament that fact, but I cannot change it”
(Margaret Atwood, *The Tent*, 2006)

Supplementary slides

Covid-19 death rate per 100,000 people (age-standardized)



The dangers of deprivation: Deaths from Covid-19 by local area deprivation decile, England and Wales, March-December 2020

Source: Office for National Statistics, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsduetocovid19bylocalareaanddeprivation>

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Vaccine politics: Law and inequality in the pandemic response to COVID-19

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Abstract

International mechanisms failed to achieve equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines—prolonging and deepening the pandemic. To understand why, we conduct process tracing of the first year of international policymaking on vaccine equity. We find that, in the absence of a single venue for global negotiation, two competing law and policy paradigms emerged. One focused on demand and voluntary action by states and firms, while the alternative focused on opening knowledge and expanding production through national and international law. While these could have been complementary, power inequalities between key actors kept the second paradigm from gaining traction on the global agenda. The failure of the prevailing policy paradigm to secure equity is explained, not by unforeseen technical and financing challenges as some suggest, but by a fundamental misalignment with the political environment. While norm entrepreneurs encouraged sharing, political incentives pushed governments towards securing and hoarding doses. Firms responded to the latter. Mechanisms like COVAX proved incapable of countering these predictable international and domestic political forces. Earlier funding would not likely have changed the behaviour of states or firms in the absence of legal commitment. Barring significant geopolitical changes, a shift to include open/supply-focused policies will be necessary to achieve equity in future pandemics.

1 | A POLITICALLY UNSOUND APPROACH TO EQUITY

Within weeks of the first reported cases of SARS-CoV-2, scientists were already working on a vaccine for the virus that would rapidly trigger the COVID-19 pandemic. High-profile efforts to ensure equitable distribution of those vaccines to the world were announced not long after—with political and global health leaders setting out plans to ensure equity well before any effective vaccine was available. Not only was equity seen to be an important moral objective of

A year after the first vaccines were registered, 9 billion doses had been administered, but just 1% of them were delivered in low-income countries (Our World in Data, 2022). Seventy-two per cent of the population in Western Europe had been fully vaccinated, but just 4% in Western Africa had been (Schellekens, 2022b). The highest-profile global vaccine equity effort, the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), reached less than half of its goal of distributing 2 billion doses in 2021 (UNICEF, 2022). As the share of COVID-19 deaths fell in highly vaccinated countries and grew where vaccination was rare, insufficient vaccina-

We Charge Vaccine Apartheid?

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Keywords: Health Inequity, Vaccine Nationalism, Global Public Health, Health Justice, Medical Apartheid

Abstract: Vaccine apartheid is creating conditions that make for premature death, poverty, and disease in racialized ways. Invoking vaccine apartheid as opposed to euphemisms like vaccine nationalism, is necessary to highlight the racialized distributional consequences of vaccine inequities witnessed with COVID-19. This commentary clarifies the concept of vaccine apartheid against the historical and legal usage of apartheid. It reflects on the connections and important disjunctions between the two. It places the intellectual property regime under heightened scrutiny for reform and transformation. This commentary finds that drawing on the intersections between a human rights and health justice approach can provide creative and novel approaches for anti-subordination. It concludes that acknowledging and naming the structural injustice of vaccine apartheid is only the first step towards providing redress.

"[T]he world is in vaccine apartheid."

– Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
World Health Organization Director-General,
May 17, 2021¹

"Today we are witness to a vaccine apartheid that is only serving the interests of powerful and profitable pharmaceutical corporations while costing us the quickest and least harmful route out of this crisis."

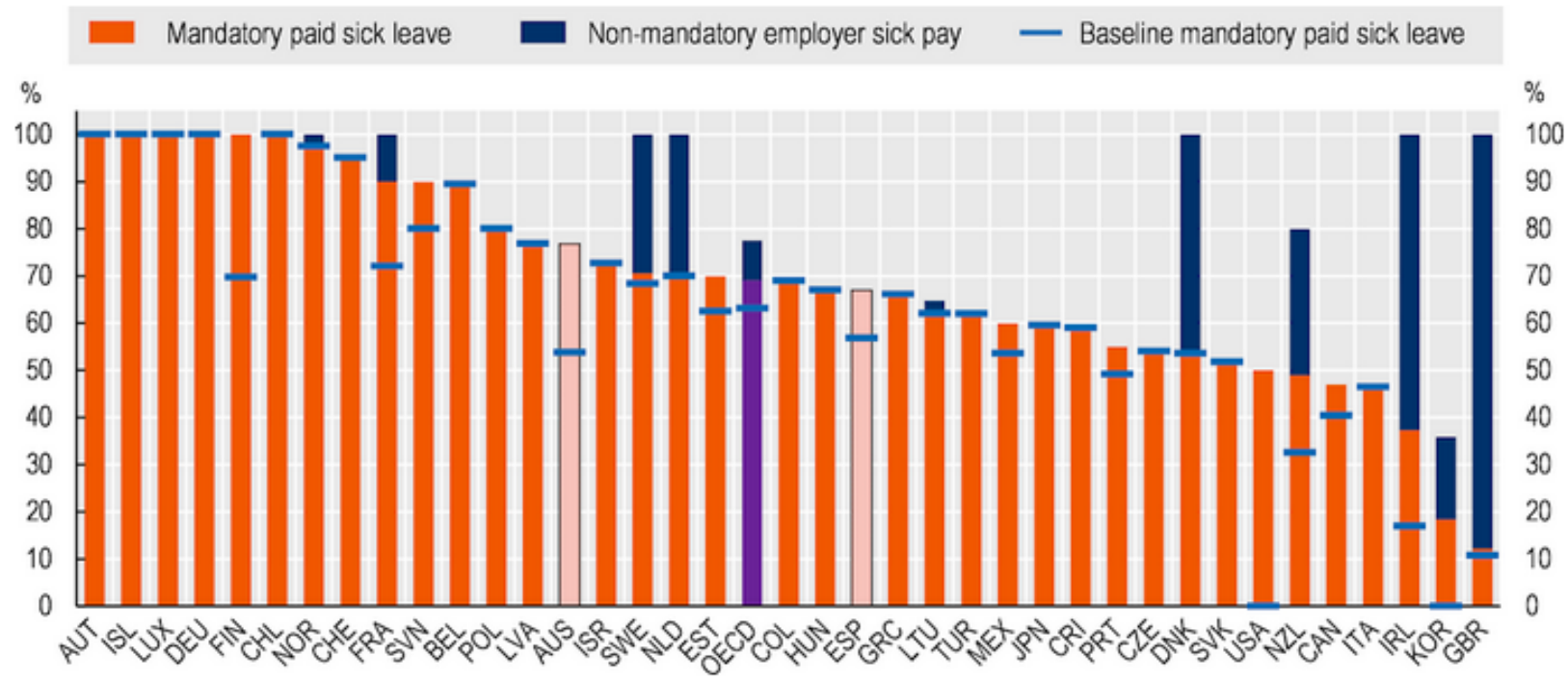
– Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, UNAIDS,
January 29, 2021²

Introduction

Vaccine apartheid as a concept calls attention to the effect and impact of inequitable laws and policies on historically subordinated peoples. Fatima Hassan, the founder of Health Justice Initiative, an NGO in South Africa, characterized the "prioritizing access for some countries and for some people, largely based on wealth and geography, and, in turn, resulting in a mostly self-

Social protection matters: Wide variation in entitlement to paid sick leave

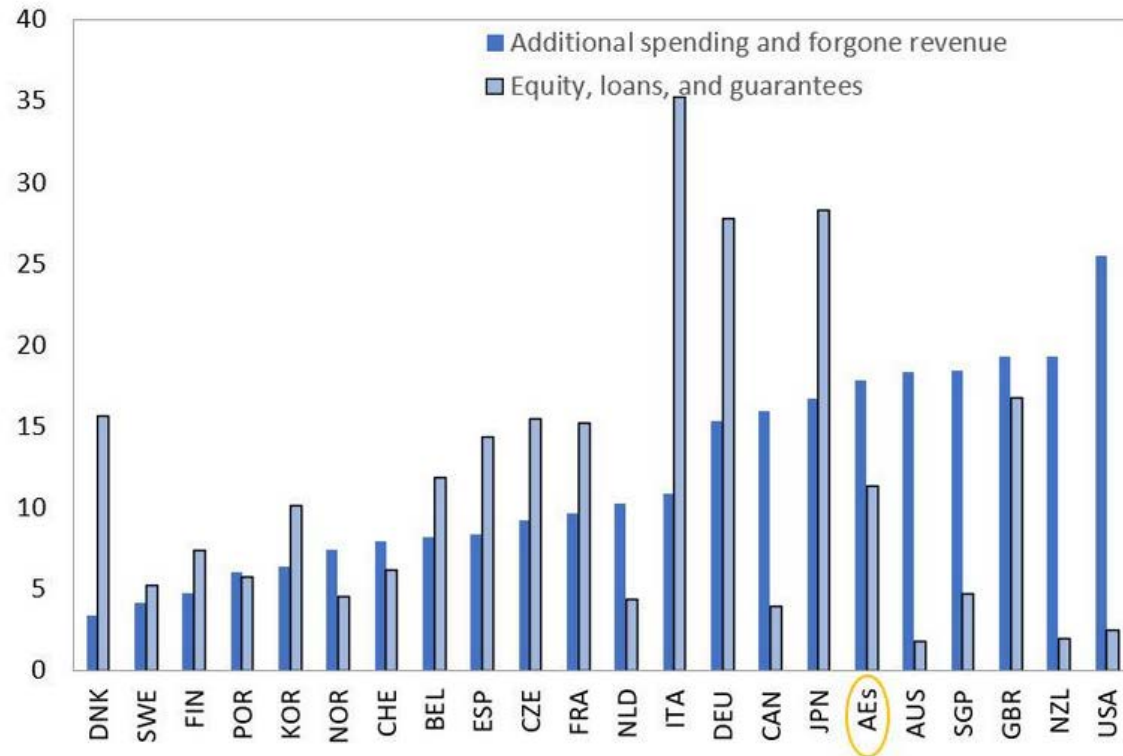
Cumulated gross sick-leave payments in the first four weeks of sick leave due to COVID-19 as a percentage of previous earnings, rules valid in early June 2020



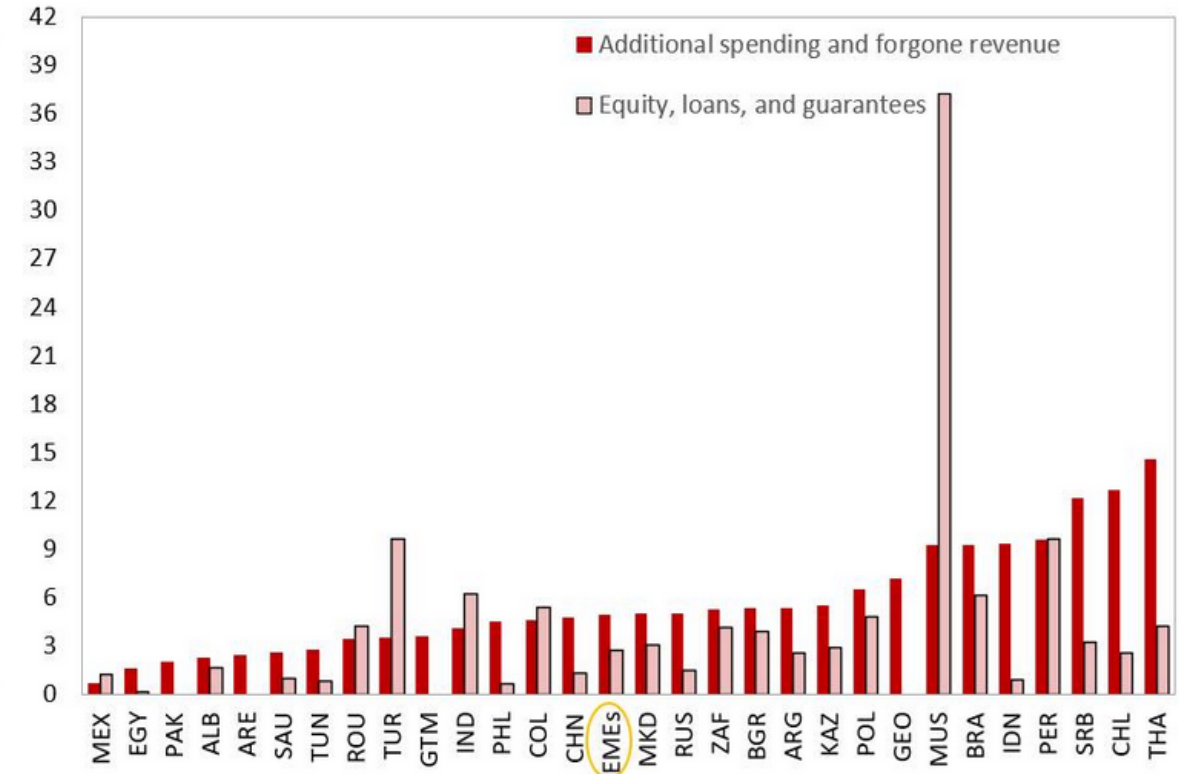
Source: OECD (2020).
 Figures for “an **eligible full-time** private-sector employee who is married with no kids, age 40, earning an average wage and working with the same employer for one year who cannot work from home”

Discretionary response to Covid-19, selected economies (% of 2020 GDP)

ADVANCED ECONOMIES



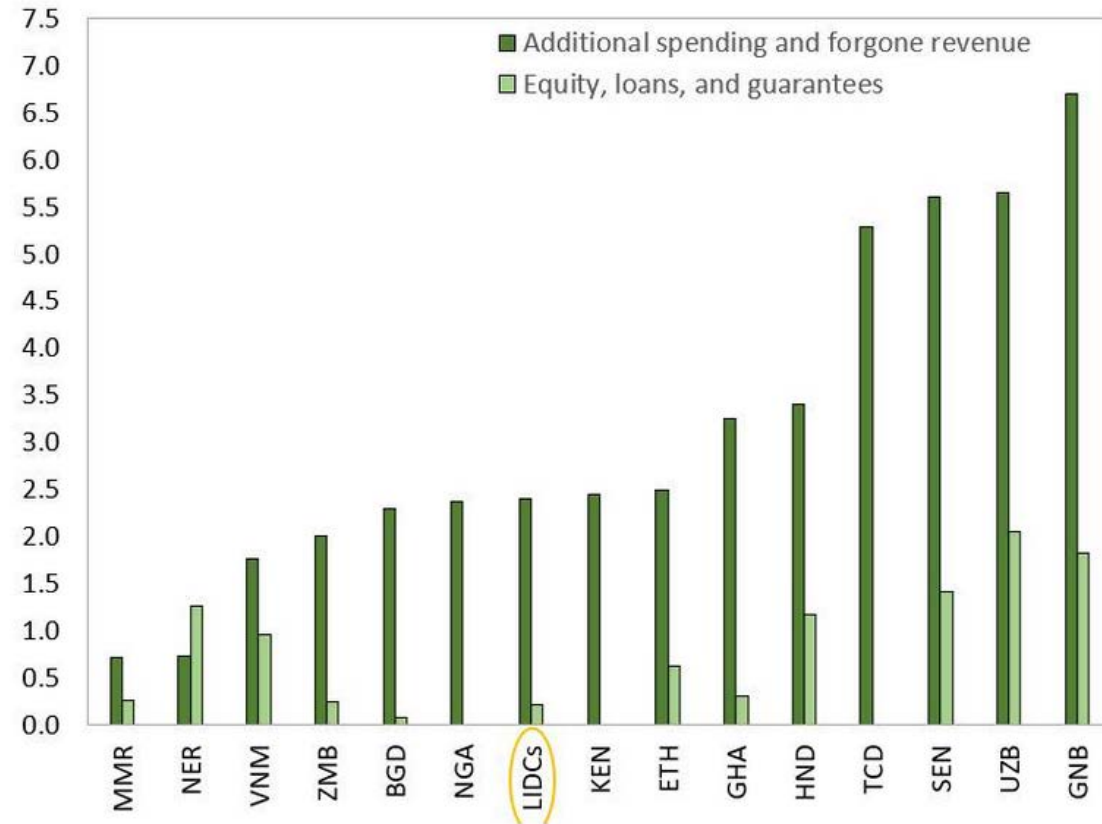
EMERGING MARKETS



Source: IMF; <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Fiscal-Policies-Database-in-Response-to-COVID-19>

Discretionary response to Covid-19, selected economies (% of 2020 GDP)

LOW-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Source: IMF; <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Fiscal-Policies-Database-in-Response-to-COVID-19>

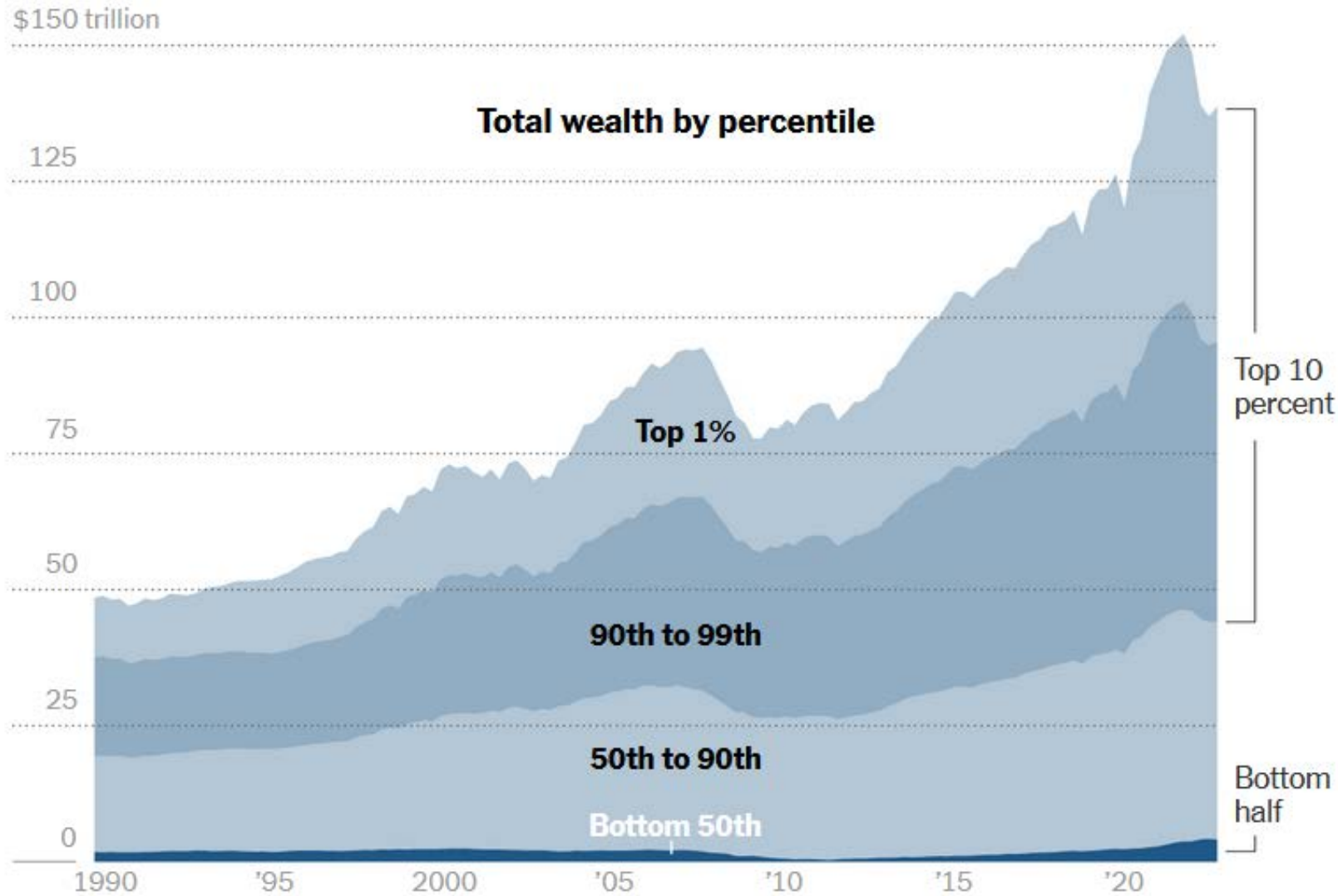


The Economist

Source: *Economist*, 2021

“Necrostratification”: Another powerful concept

Necrostratification “pertains to the persistence of hierarchy and differentiation among apparently distinctive groups within a given political community. Necrostratification demonstrates how the biopolitical claims of those at the dominant class are prioritised, while coercion, repression, and harassment (and deprivation from any welfare assistance) increase as one traverses towards the bottom of the hierarchy” (Regilme, 2023)



Wealth in the United States: Concentrated among the top 10 percent of households

Source: Smith, 2023

Notes: As of the fourth quarter of 2022. Wealth accounts for assets and liabilities. Adjusted for inflation. • Source: Federal Reserve

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