

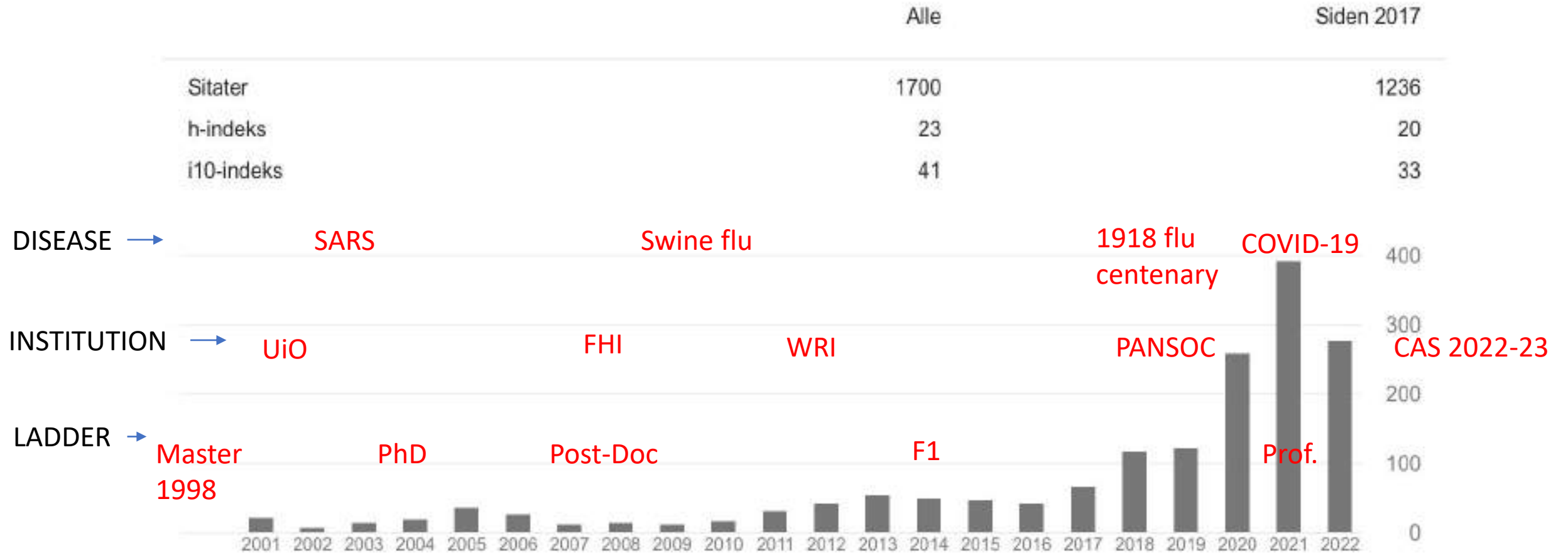


My academic career -

Few advices, but perhas some inspiration?

Professor Svenn-Erik Mamelund
Centre for Research on Pandemics & Society (PANSOC)
Oslo Metropolitan University

GS-timeline for my academic work-life



FirstGen



- Grew up in Gjøvik, stay home mother, father was a bookbinder for 40 years
- Advisor supported my own father's proposal to become a repro fitter
- An uncle was rector, his son became consul general in Murmansk
- Ten kroner for good grades
- Class travel: Only me in my family with an academic education

Parents education matters a lot



DEBATT • SVENN-ERIK MAMELUND

Professor mot alle odds?

Hvorfor er det så lite fokus på klasse i samtalene om å øke mangfoldet i universitets- og høyskolesektoren, spør professor Sverre-Erik Mamelund.

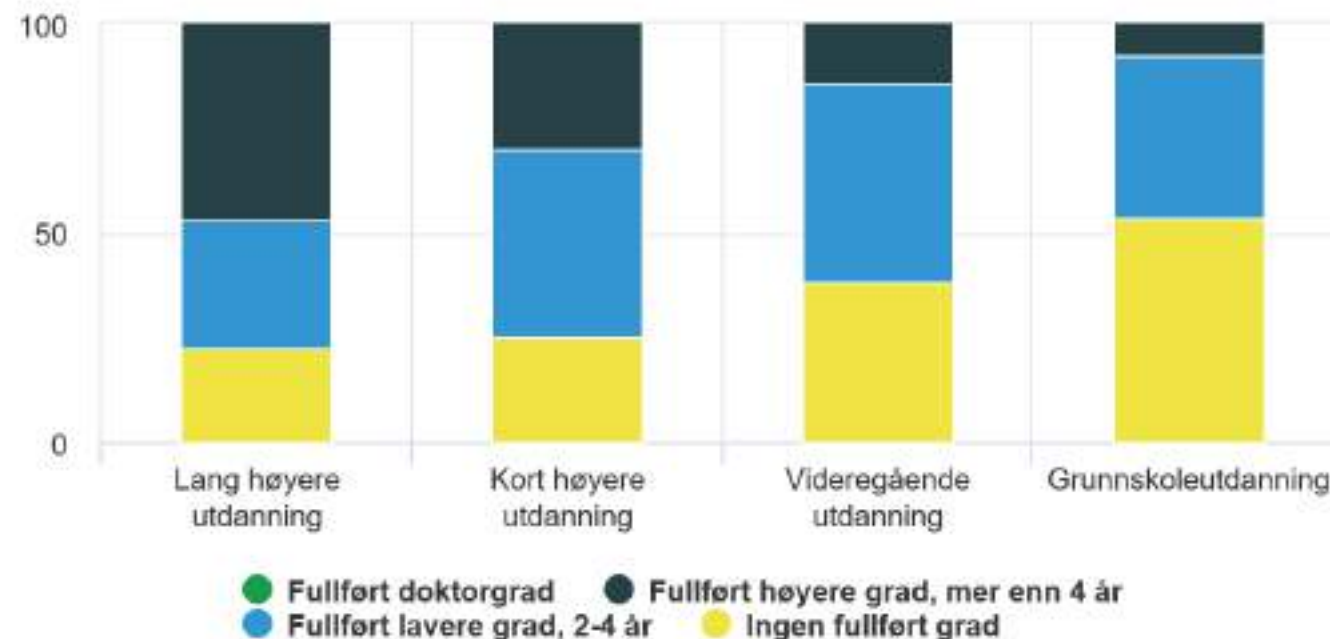


Har jeg kanskje brutt noen regler ved å være for frempå, på feil tid og sted, spør professor Sverre-Erik Mamelund i dette innlegget. Foto: Ketil Rindhaugstulen

29 October 2021

Figur 1. Nye studenter i 2008¹ etter foreldrenes utdanningsnivå og oppnådd grad etter åtte år

Prosent



Kilde: Statistisk sentralbyrå.¹ Studenter som startet i høyere utdanning første gang i perioden 1.10.2007 - 30.09.2008.

First University years



- Struggling with the academic codes, but more painful that they didn't quite understand at home?
- Wasn't good enough in maths, had to find another way
- Traveled around the world in 1993
- Aftenposten about study choices in 1994:
 - Don't follow others
 - Take advantage of your qualities
 - Do what you like and think you can be good at
 - Find your labour of love

Khrono

FØRSTEGENERASJONSPROFESSOR

Gjorde klassereise, men føler fortsatt han snubler

— Av og til kjenner jeg på at det kunne vært fint å vært en sånn som bare eide denne rollen, sier professor og pandemiskpert, Svenn-Erik Mamelund.

— Det er rart at man snakker om dette frafallet. Jeg misliker den akademiske klassen for å være så oppført av å holde på egen prosess at de overlever dette, sier Svenn-Erik Mamelund. Foto: Kjetil Skorn Høegstadten

To *become* a demographer



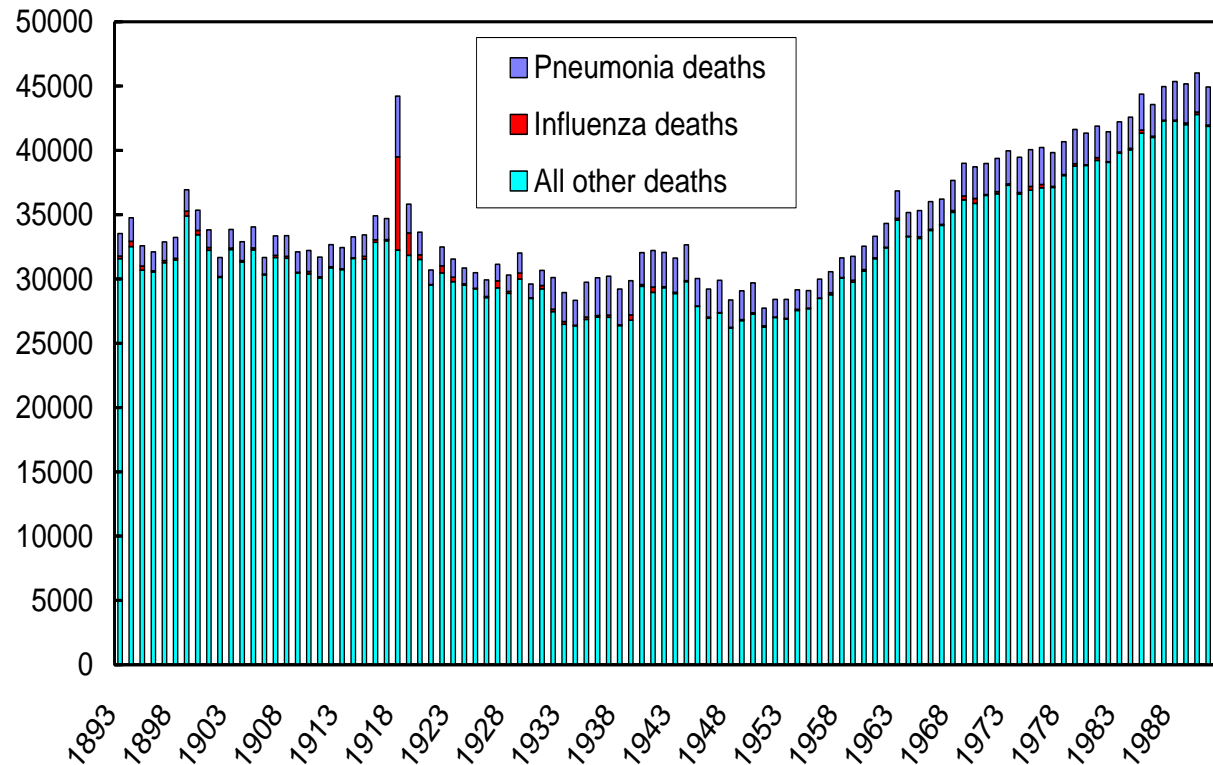
- At the beginning of the 1990s some teaching in demography was given as part of the basic education in economics
- In 1993, the semester subject in demography was given for the first time, I took the course in 1994
- RCN started a demography program and employed two professors in demography, one paid by RCN and one by the Department of Economics, University of Oslo

To *do* demography



- Three years in a row, I got a summer job at Statistics Norway (SSB) to analyze fertility, mortality and divorces in a period and cohort perspective
- Others who got a summer job at SSB were children of parents with a long education and who themselves had parents who worked at SSB
- "How did you manage to get a job here without parents in SSB?"

Serendipity: Deaths in Norway 1893-1992



Source: Mamelund & Borgan, 1995

DEBATT • SVENN-ERIK MAMELUND

Å skyte spurv med kanon kan lønne seg

Pandemiforsker mener at han selv er et godt eksempel på hvorfor regjeringen bør prioritere nysgjerrighetsdrevet forskning.



Interessen for pandemier kom i 1995. 26 år senere viste det seg at kunnskapen Svenn-Erik Mamelund har opparbeidet seg, viste seg å være svært nyttig – selv om han har drevet med nysgjerrighetsdrevet grunnforskning. Foto: Skjalg Böhmer Vold

Source: Khrono, 2 June 2021

Spanish flu forever



- 1997: H5N1 bird flu in H-K and my first conference (Uppsala)
- 1998: Masters and my second conference (Cape Town)
- 1998: Is the Spanish flu virus to be found in permafrost?
- 1999: WHO asks member countries to make pandemic preparedness plans and I therefore ask FHI to hire me



"Relax Svenn-Erik, your time will come" (MA supervisor in 1998)

Longyearbyen, Svalbard, 1998



Leader of the expedition Kirsty
Duncan and Tom Bergan

- **D/S Forsete sailed from Tromsø 21. Sept. 1918**
- **7 of the passengers fell sick on the voyage**
- **All dies before 7. Oct. 1918**
- **Buried in permafrost**
- **Graves opened Aug. 1998**

Source: Journal of Forensic
Sciences, 2000, 45: 68-76

Sabbaticals in 2001 & 2008



To *be* a demographer

- Member of NDF in 1994
- Member of board in 1997
- NDS 2000 (host & organizer)
- President of NDF since 2017
- NDS 2022 (host & organizer)

Telia N 15:14 23 %

 **Jørgen Carling** ▶ **Svenn-Erik Mamelund**
15. september kl. 09:23 · 🌐

Takk for viktig replikk i Aftenposten i dag, **Svenn-Erik!** — med **Kåre Bævre** og **6 andre**.

Replikk

Norge trenger demografi som universitetsfag

Norsk Demografisk Forening deler stortingsrepresentanten Marianne Marthinsens (Ap) bekymringer for demografifaget i Norge, beskrevet i Aftenposten 13. september. Demografimiljøene i Norge krymper samtidig som forskning på demografiske problemstillinger er viktigere enn noen gang. Fire eksempler er aldring, lavere fruktbarhet, migrasjonskriser og covid-19-pandemien.

Antall demografer i Statistisk sentralbyrå, som har vært et hovedsete for norsk demografisk forskning, krymper fordi forskere ikke er blitt erstattet ved avganger samtidig som demografien ikke er blitt prioritert. På Universitetet i Oslo, som er det eneste universitetet som har undervist i demografi siden midten av 1990-tallet, vil faget nå forsvinne.

på grunn av avgang og manglende nyrekruttering. Det har også foregått historisk demografisk forskning og forskning i befolkningsgeografi og medisinhistorie i skjæringsfeltet mot demografi både i Oslo og i Bergen. Heller ikke nestorene på disse feltene er blitt erstattet ved avgang.

De fire demografiske utfordringene nevnt over krever styrking snarere enn nedbygging av faget. Ved å opprette et nasjonalt forskningssenter i demografi på et av universitetene kan man styrke demografi som universitetsfag, danne grunnlag for et solid rekrutterende fagmiljø og utnytte synergier som enkeltmiljøene ikke kan.

Svenn-Erik Mamelund, leder, Norsk Demografisk Forening

👍 78 17 kommentarer 1 deling

🏠 👤 👥 🚩 🔔 ☰



On the job market



- Struggled to find permanent relevant work in 2008
- 1-year temporary position at FHI at division of mental health
- After 6 months I got a new job, but in the Spring of 2009, there was also an influenza pandemic
- Had to follow my own heart and called the infection control director at FHI and asked them to hire me again

To turn science into policy



KRITISERES: Fagfolk reagerer på myndighetenes worst-case-scenario. Under en pressekonferanse med overlege Bjørn Gunnar Iversen ved Nasjonalt Folkehelseinstitutt (t.v.), helsedirektør Bjørn-Inge Larsen (midten) og helseminister Bjarne Håkon Hanssen (t.h.) ble det skissert at 1,2 millioner nordmenn kunne bli smittet og 13 000 dø dersom en pandemi som Spanskesyken brøt ut. Foto: Håkon Mosvold Larsen / SCANPIX

Får kritikk for skrekktall med 13 000 døde

28 April 2009

- The health authorities' statements about the number of possible death tolls as a result of swine flu arouse wonder among professionals with knowledge of medical history:
- "One has to assume that the resilience is quite different than in 1918. It seems rather far-fetched to draw parallels to the Spanish flu," says X.
- "The context is so different. Preparedness today is much better. At that time, there were few health personnel. The healthcare system then and now is not comparable. In addition, we now know much more about the spread of infection. We have received medication, and the general condition of the population has improved significantly, says Y".



The post-doc wheel

- The cleaning job over in 2012 - kicked out before the 4-year rule
- Hard to get a job, regretted not taking the job offer in 2009, 20 applications, came to interview in 10 cases, but didn't get a job
- Visited Blindern and was recommended Work Research Institute (WRI)
- First permanent job in 2012, 42 years old, WRI joined HiOA in 2014 which became OsloMet in 2018
- In 2016, I felt that I had neglected my labour of love

To build a research environment from scratch



- «A no is a postponed yes»
- Learned to appreciate the process over outcomes
- Centenary of the 1918 flu 2018-2020
- COVID-19

Extreme demand for knowledge – not prepared for harrasment



Aftenposten DNMagasinet DN.no Khrono

Kronikk | **Wuhan**

Ekstreme smitteverntiltak kan få uante sosiale konsekvenser | Svenn-Erik Mamelund

Svonn-Erik Mamelund
Forsker og epidemioleg, OsloMet

3. feb. 2020 21:08 | Sist oppdatert 4. februar 2020



Et innsett: Mamelund har tidligere og med det nye coronaviruset tatt uttalelser. – Skal å bli leve et normalt liv, arbeid, og familie kan bli store psykologiske konsekvenser for innbyggere, skriver Svonn-Erik Mamelund. Foto: Arvid Skjærseth/NTB scanpix



Svonn-Erik Mamelund er en av Norges ledende pandemiforskere. Året var ubehagelig helseår, fordi det var 100 år siden spanskesyken. Foto: Arvid Skjærseth/NTB scanpix

Pandemiforskeren tror fattige er mer utsatt for koronaviruset

PROFIL

tekst Per Christian Selmer Amiksen
foto Aleksander Nørstahl

12. MARS 2020

Pandemiforsker Svonn-Erik Mamelund tror koronaviruset vil ramme sosiale klasser ulikt. Under spanskesyken døde 50 prosent flere på Grønland i Oslo enn på Frogner.

COVID-19

Helsetopper og forskere har mottatt trusler og korona-sjikaner under pandemien

Helsedirektoratet og Folkehelseinstituttet har anmeldt trusler. Også forskere forteller om truende, sjikanerende og ubehagelige meldinger.



Svonn-Erik Mamelund ved et møte er en av flere som har fått ubehagelige meldinger etter uttalelser i media. Foto: Leifny Havik Skjærseth

Khrono
ÅRETS NAVN I AKADEMIA

— Du må ha en sterk faglig erfaring og trygghet i bunn

Han har gjort en betydelig innsats med å formidle faktabasert kunnskap, mener juryen. Nå kan Svonn-Erik Mamelund bli årets navn i akademien.

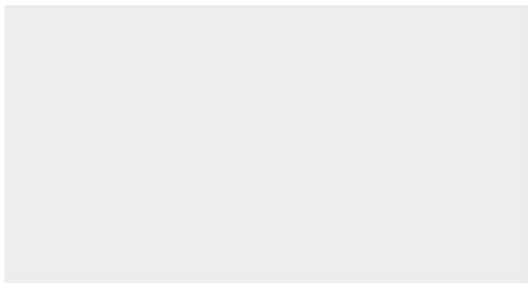


Svonn-Erik Mamelund har gjort en betydelig innsats med å formidle faktabasert kunnskap til både fagfolk og lekfolk, skriver juryen om OsloMet-forskeren. Foto: Leifny Havik Skjærseth



CAS
OSLO

Centre for Advanced Study
at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters



CAS-project: Social Science Meets Biology

Indigenous People and Severe Influenza Outcomes

Led by Prof. Sverre Erik Mamelund (Centre for Research on Pandemics & Society, PANSOC, OsloMet)



Native 1918-19 flu orphans at Nushagak, AK. Photo: Unknown / Alaska State Library - Historical Collections



The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) was founded by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in 1992 and is located at its premises. Photo: Eirik Furu Baardsen / DNVA.

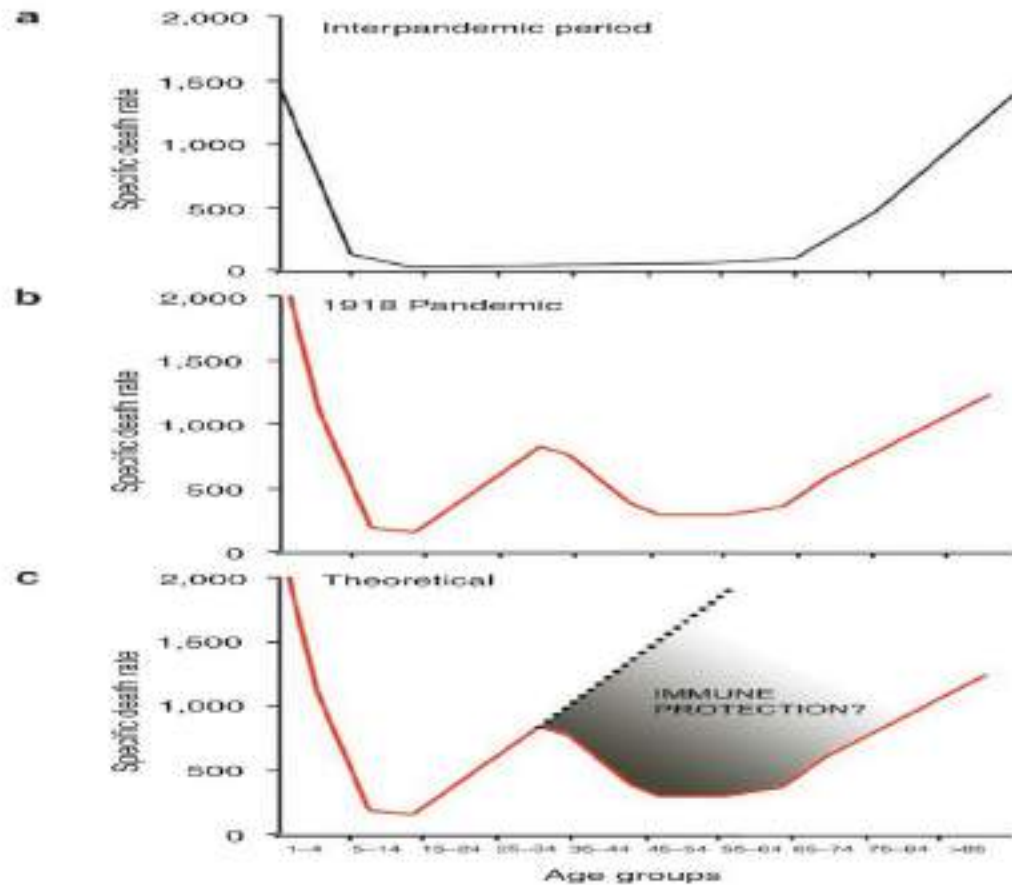
Risk factors for severe pandemic outcomes

Risk factor	Seasonal flu	“Spanish” flu	Covid-19
Age	65+	20-40 yrs	65+
NCDs	YES	YES	YES
Pregnancy	YES	YES	YES
Low SES	YES	YES	YES
Migrants	?	YES	YES
Black	YES	NO	YES
Indigenous	YES	YES	YES

Sources: Mamelund 2003, 2006, 2011; Batty et.al. 2020; Drefahl 2020; Mogi 2020; Williamson et.al. 2020 ; Steyn N, Binny R, Hannah K, . 2020; Økland & Mamelund 2019

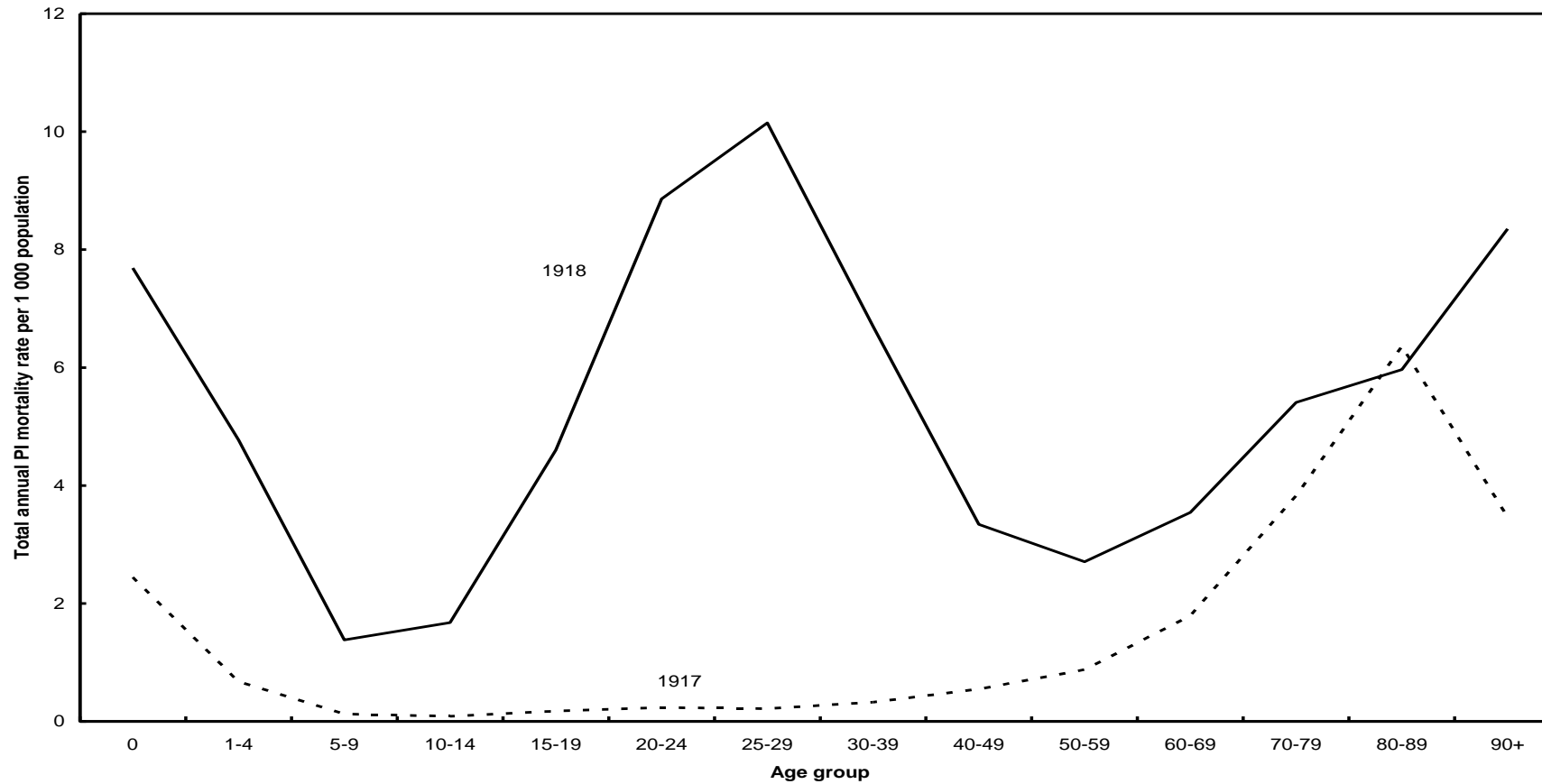
[Covid-19 etter fødeland: Personer testet, bekreftet smittet og relaterte innleggelses og dødsfall \(fhi.no\)](#)

Elderly normally at risk, but not in 1918-20



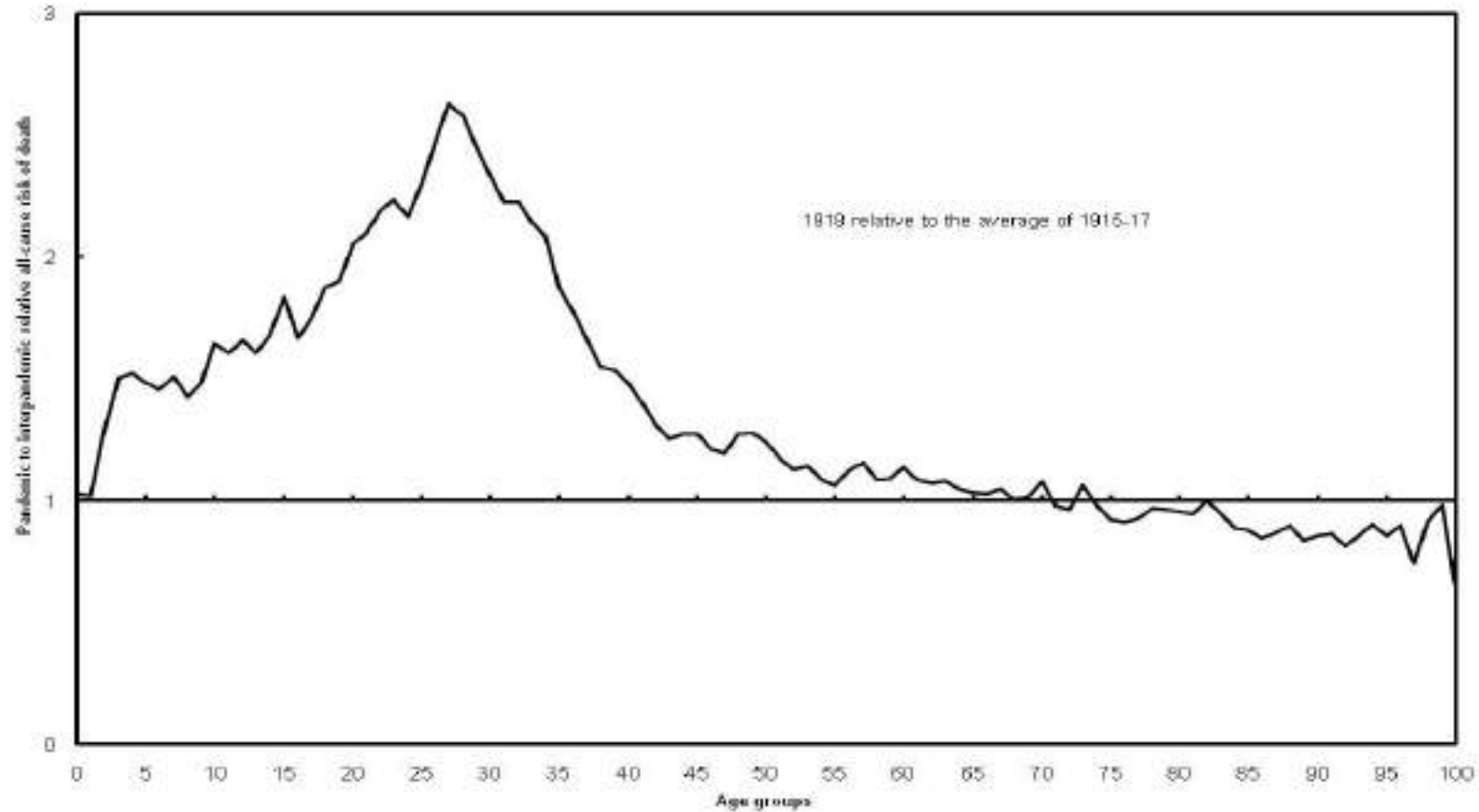
Source: Palese, Oldstone og Ahmed (2007), *Nature Immunology* **8**, 1188 - 1193

PI mortality in Norway 1917 & 1918

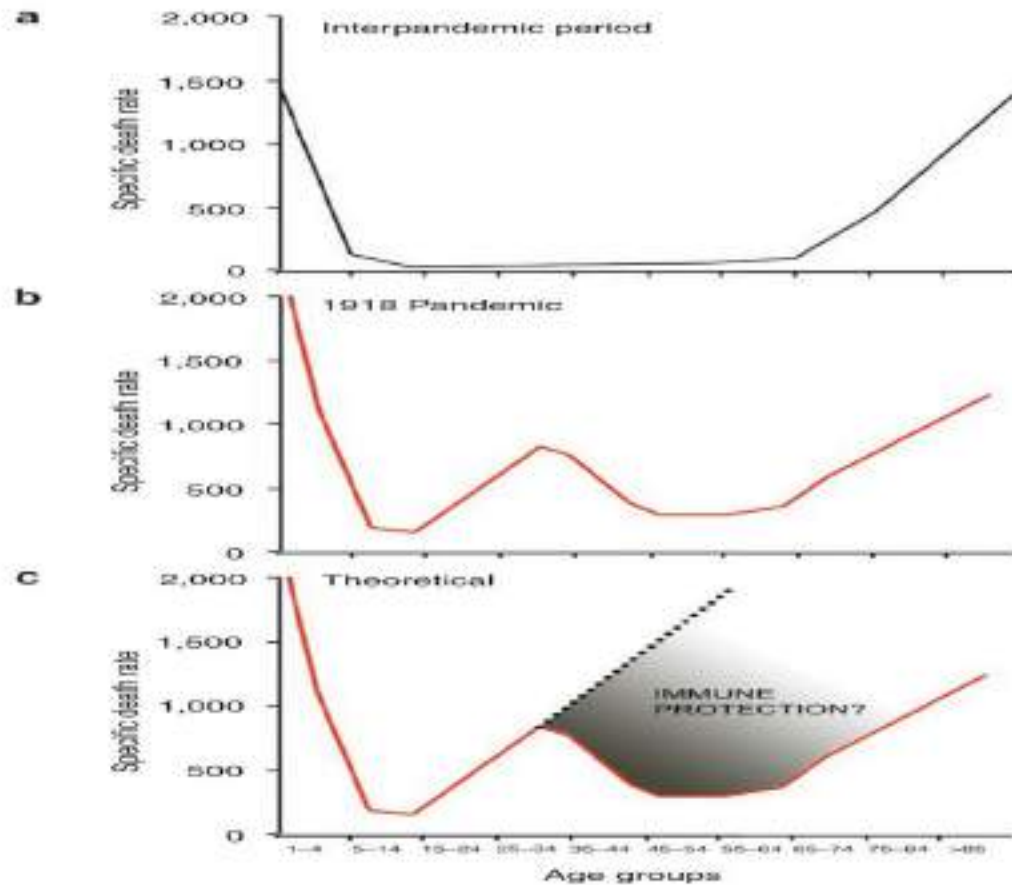


Source: Mamelund 1998

Relative total mortality, Norway 1918



Elderly in urban societies had rest-immunity



Less rest-immunity among elderly in isolated parts of the world?

Source: Palese, Oldstone og Ahmed (2007), *Nature Immunology* 8, 1188 - 1193



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Epidemics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/epidemics



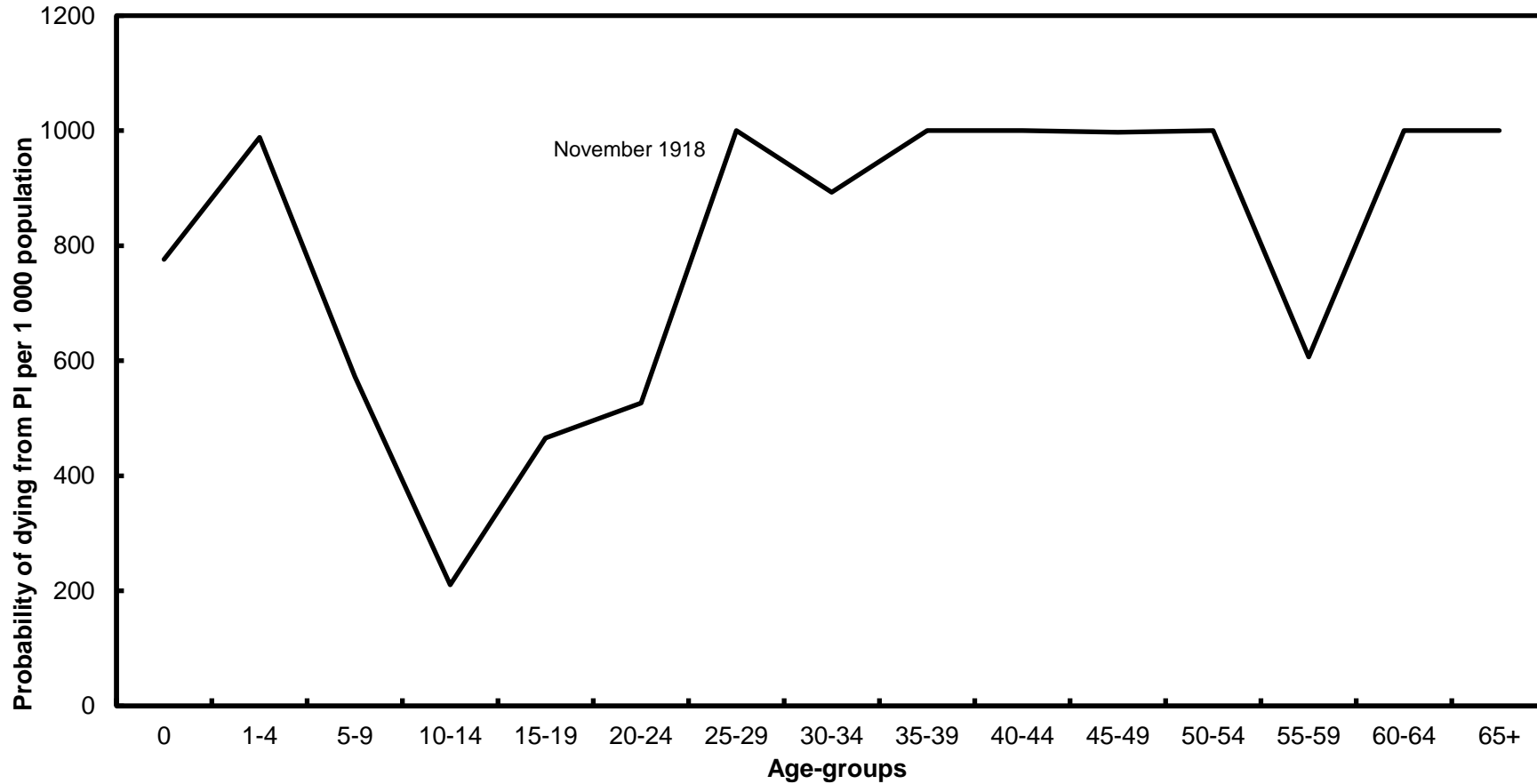
Geography May Explain Adult Mortality from the 1918–20 Influenza Pandemic

Svenn-Erik Mamelund

- Labrador 27.0%
- W-Samoa 24.0%
- Alaska 8.0%
- Enare 10.0%
- Arjeplog 3.0%
- Karasjok 2.3%



90% died in Brevig, Alaska



Source: Mamelund, 2011, *Epidemics* **3**, 46-60

Explanations: What's in the black box?



- 3-5 times higher 1918 flu mortality in remotely living indigenous
 - The Sami people in Norway had higher mortality *even* after controlling for summer wave exposure, crowding, and SES (Mamelund, 2003)
- 3-8 times higher 2009 «swine flu» mortality in remotely living indigenous
 - 2-7 times more medical susceptibility (e.g. diabetes mellitus, obesity, asthma, pulmonary disease) and pregnancies at young age
- Less documented risk factors (La Ruche et al. 2009; Kelly et al 2009)
 - Poverty, crowding, family size, isolation
 - Health information and access to care
 - Less genetic diversity and thus genetic susceptibility

Proposed CAS-project



- Status: Some Indigenous groups vulnerable towards past seasonal and pandemic influenza, COVID-19 and potentially also a future “Pathogen X”
- State of the art: Science- and continent silos
- Beyond state of the art: First interdisciplinary- and intercontinental project, also with involvement from affected groups
 - 1) Systematic review and meta-analysis of 5 last influenza pandemics 1889-2009
 - 2) Inuit populations in Alaska 1918-1920
 - 3) Greenland Inuit and Sami in Finnmark 1918-1920
 - 4) Aboriginals in Darwin, Australia using present day data
 - 5) Māori/Pacific people on New Zealand using present day data
 - 6) Indigenous peoples & Covid-19 in Mexico & Chile

The overarching aim and objectives



- Study historical and modern data to enhance the understanding of social and biological risk factors for severe influenza in Indigenous people and improve pandemic preparedness.
- **Two interrelated overall objectives:**
 - 1) To map the poorly understood Indigenous risk groups in order to understand how ethnic disparities in exposure, susceptibility and access to care leads to ethnic disparities in influenza outcomes
 - 2) To aid policy makers in developing targeted interventions by ethnic status in addition to medical indications, to reach the WHO goal of 75% vaccine coverage, to reduce ethnic inequalities, to save lives, reduce social suffering and medical costs during influenza outbreaks.

The Team

S-E Mamelund
Demography
OsloMet



Lauren Steele
Microbiology
Univ. Queensland



Michael Baker
Public Health
University of Otago



Elienai Damas
Nutrition
Universidad
Tecnológica de la
Huasteca
Hidalguense



Lisa Sattenspiel
Anthropology
Univ. Missouri



Jessica Dimka
Anthropology
OsloMet



Heather Battles
Anthropology
Univ. Auckland



Courtney Heffernan
Medicine
University of Alberta

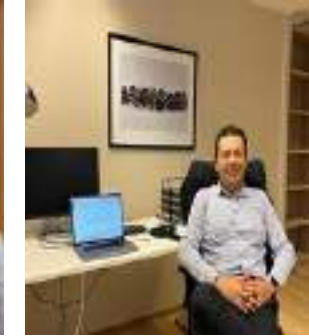


Emma Tinker-Fortel
Anthropology
Univ. Missouri

Kirsty Short
Microbiology
Univ. Queensland



Gerardo Chowell
Math. Epidemiology
Georgia State Univ.



Amanda Wissler
Anthropology
Univ. South Carolina



Taylor van Doren
Anthropology
Sitka Sound Science Center



Lianne Tripp,
Anthropology
Univ. Toronto



Early achievements & future events

Publications

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, 2021; 50: 662-667

COMMENTARY

Indigenous peoples and pandemics

DANIELE E. ALVES¹, SVENN-ERIK MAMELUND², JESSICA DIMKA³,
LONE SIMONSEN⁴, MATHIAS HOLBAK⁵, SØREN ØRSKOV⁶,
LISA SATTENSPIEL⁷, LIANNE TRIPP⁸, ANDREW NOVMER⁹,
GERARDO CHOWELL-PUENTE¹⁰, SUSSIMA DAHAL¹¹, TAYLOR P. VAN DOREN¹²,
AMANDA WISSELER¹³, COURTNEY HEFFERNAN¹⁴,
KIRSTY KENFREE SHORT¹⁵, HEATHER BATTLES¹⁶
& MICHAEL G. BAKER¹⁷



Guest lecture 8 Nov 2022

“The hunt for the virus causing the 1918 influenza pandemic and how it has informed science and preparedness for future pandemics”



Jeffery K. Taubenberger is Chief of the Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section, and Deputy Chief of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), USA.



John Oxford is Professor Emeritus of Virology at Queen Mary University of London, UK



Malcolm King will give a keynote. He is a Professor in indigenous health & medicine at University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Conference 2023

Indigenous peoples & Pandemics

Seminars & AB

2 NDA brown bag seminar meetings

3 Quantitative methods seminars at CAS

2 group presentations on zoom

1 AB board meeting

4 PANSOC webinars

1 conference poster



Johan Hultin at mass grave, Brevig, Alaska, June 1951



Lung tissue samples from Inuits that had died quickly in 1918 were brought to Iowa

Did not succeed in growing the virus in fertilized chicken eggs....

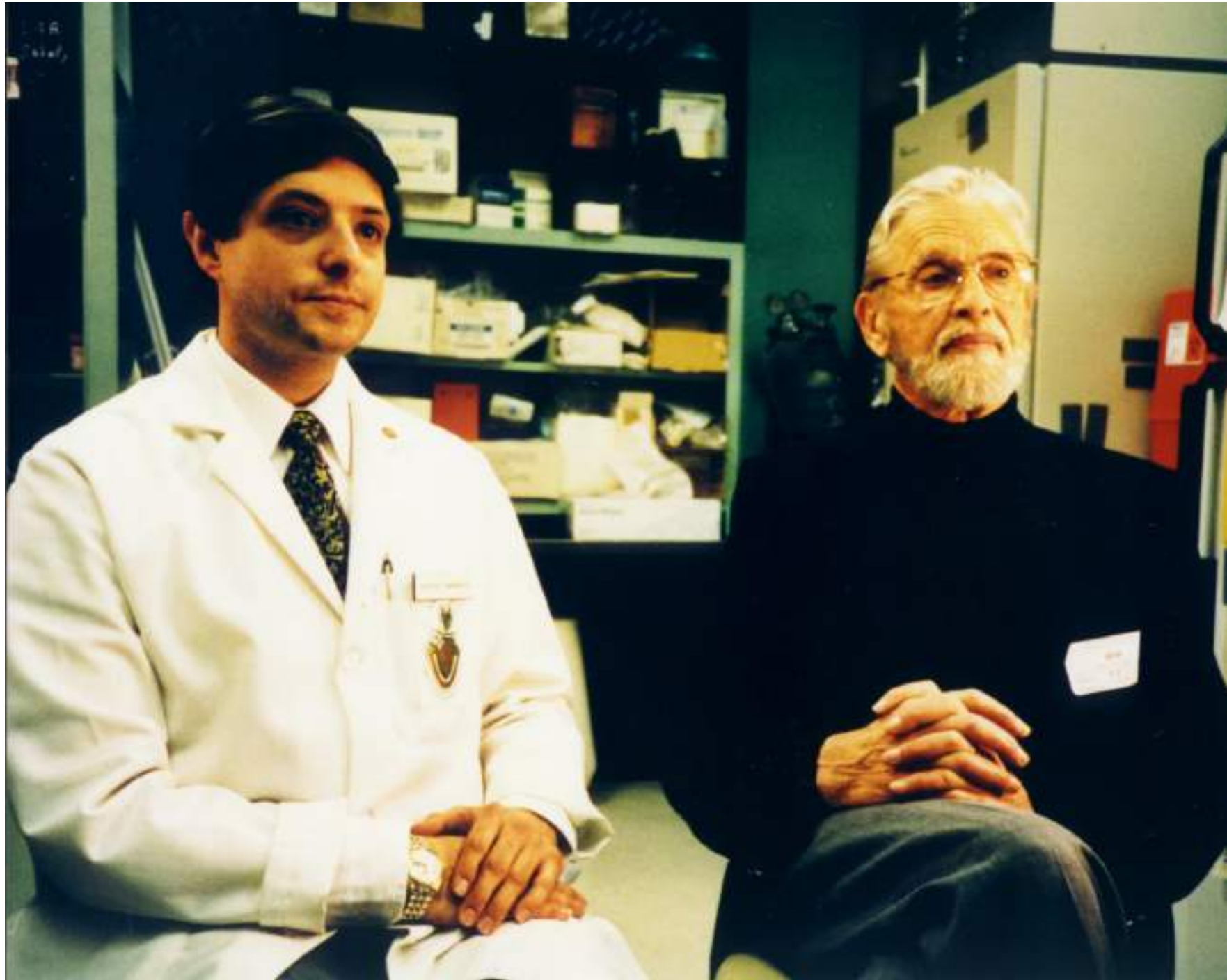
....and ferrets injected a mixture believed to contain the virus did not get sick

US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington DC



- Taubenberger, Reid and Hultin
- Genetic analyses of lung tissues taken from soldiers
- Scarce material
- Hultin back at the mass grave in Brevig, August 1997

Source: Science 1997, 275: 1793-1796



The 1918 H1N1 virus re-created in labs



- Full gene sequences mapped in 2005
(Nature 437: 889-893)
- Letality confirmed in animal studies in 2007
(Nature 445:319-323)
- Could not explain waves, increase in virulence over time and the age pattern



Journey is not over

- Excellence initiatives are important to me (Forskerlinjen, Mentor program, MSCA masterclass, Talent program, CRE)
- We just won a Young CAS & did a R&R to ERC
- We have submitted several grant applications and await results
- To get a Center of Excellence at OsloMet is part of our goal

Labour of love is key



Telia N 14:01 27%

Den av Grete Wang 1 kommentar

www.oslomet.no

OSLOMET SØK MENY

< [Til forskningsnyheter](#)

– Forelska i faget

AFI-forsker Sverre-Erik Mamelund (50) har nettopp fått beskjed om at han får tildelt ett år ved det prestisjefylte Senter for grunnforskning (CAS).



Forskningsartikkel av:

Send

Photo: Sonja Balci