

## COVID-19 INTEREST

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The World Health Organization (WHO) pronounced a COVID-19 pandemic caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 on March 12, 2020. My interest in the developments surrounding this new type of respiratory disease started in January 2020. I was prompted by the news from China, the country I visited last year and have academic relations with.

Although my academic discipline is information systems and primarily focused on the organizational context, I have also studied a broader social context in relation to e-commerce, globalization, and passenger aircraft automation.

Right now, I am interested in investigating the *Covid-19 developments* as a research problem that requires a transdisciplinary approach. My primary focus is on data analytics/decision making aspects. This could be classified as health informatics. I am also interested in social media and mass informing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have made some progress in creating a *Model of Containment Strategies* to differentiate between ways of combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Key strategies that I see are:

1. **Restrictive** (China): high limitations on free movement and business, strong government lead with the deployment of police/military; possibly a high performance.
2. **Permissive** (US, parts of West Europe): low limitations on free movement and business; quarantine rule conveyed as appeal to citizens not as a government order enforced by police/military; many policies missing; the performance is yet to see.
3. **Hybrid** (S. Korea, Japan, Canada): mid-level limitations on freedom of movement and doing business, strong health sector response; possibly a high performance.

My model also includes moderating dimensions related to a health care system.

I differentiated these strategies based on several quantitative variables. I currently use an approximate quantification based on fees from Johns Hopkins University, Worldometers, WHO, and some Chinese and European sources, plus various global news fees.

The purpose of my model of containment strategies is to:

1. *explain* what is being done in this pandemic at the state level
2. *predict* further developments at the country level, and inside countries (province, parish, city, etc.).

The resulting knowledge can be used for the purposes of policy making and ongoing health care management.

I am looking for colleagues who want to partner in this project and for basic funding for supporting research associates.