

Predictive Modeling

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FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Parameter-centric modeling

TABELLE 5: COX REGRESSION MIT INTERAKTIONSEFFEKT (QUELLE: ESA 2009, EIGENE BERECHNUNG UND DARSTELLUNG)

Characteristic	HR ¹	95% CI ¹	p-value
sex			
Female	—	—	
Male	2.49	2.02, 3.07	<0.001
cohort			
_1945_1949	—	—	
_1950_1959	1.75	1.44, 2.12	<0.001
_1960_1969	1.71	1.41, 2.08	<0.001
_1970_1979	1.67	1.38, 2.03	<0.001
_1980_1991	1.71	1.42, 2.05	<0.001
bildung			
hoher_Schulab- schluss	—	—	
mittlerer_Schul- abschluss	1.39	1.29, 1.49	<0.001
niedriger_Schul- abschluss	1.49	1.36, 1.62	<0.001
Schüler_in	0.90	0.75, 1.09	0.3
sex * cohort			
Male * _1950_1959	0.60	0.46, 0.77	<0.001
Male * _1960_1969	0.57	0.44, 0.74	<0.001
Male * _1970_1979	0.52	0.40, 0.67	<0.001
Male * _1980_1991	0.47	0.37, 0.59	<0.001

¹HR = Hazard Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval

Balling (2022). Das Rauchverhalten von Männern und Frauen in verschiedenen Kohorten.

Parameter-centric modeling vs. predictive modeling

Balling (2022). Das Rauchverhalten von Männern und Frauen in verschiedenen Kohorten.

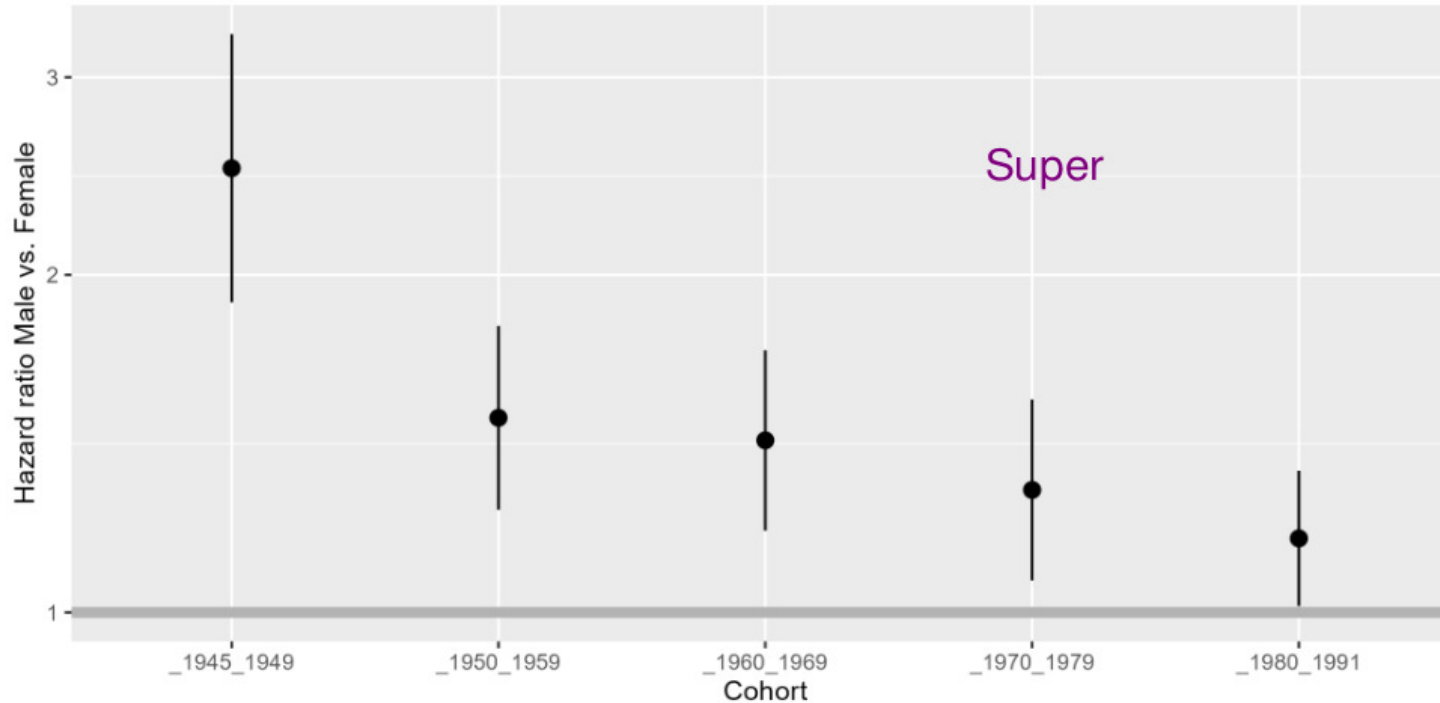
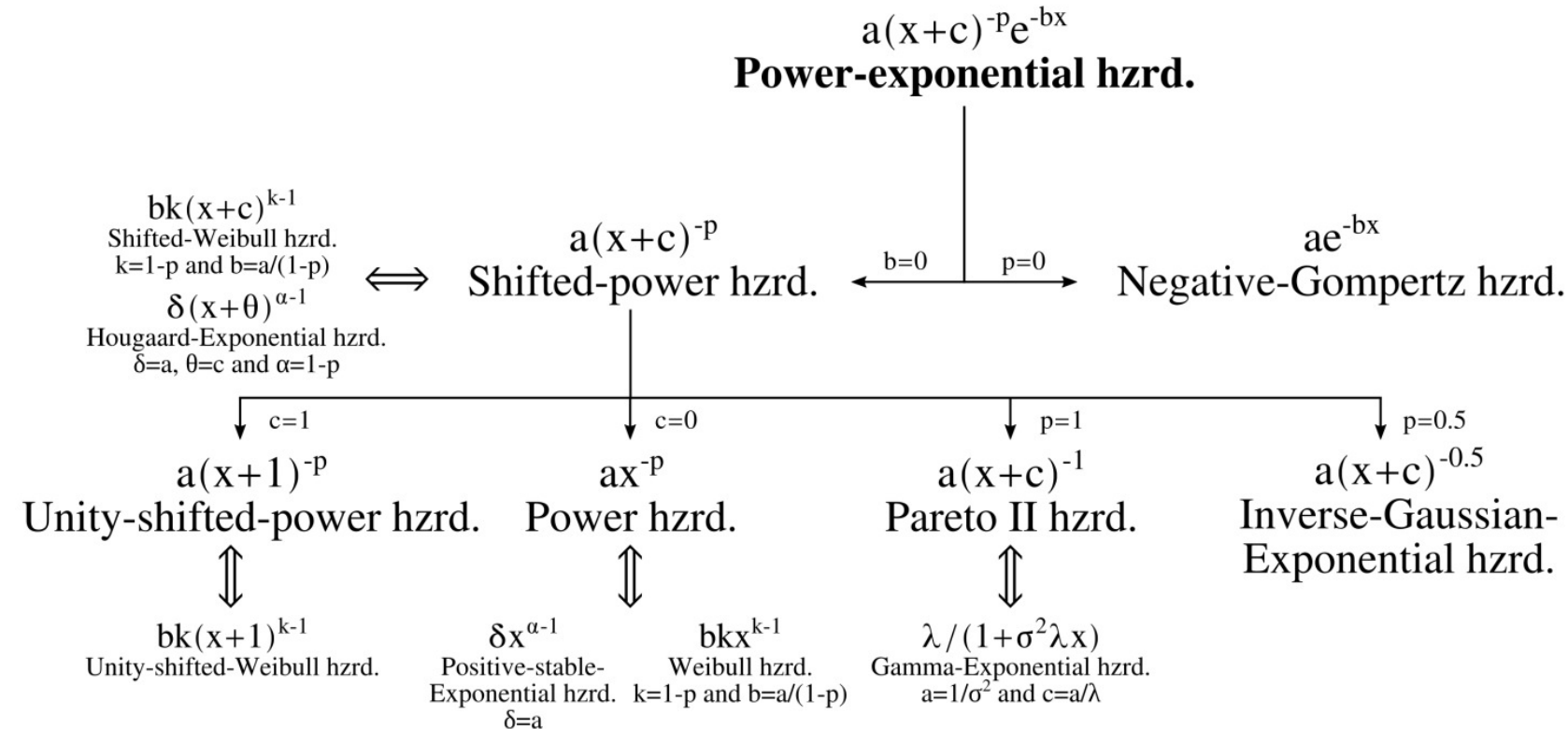


ABBILDUNG 6: INTERAKTIONSEFFEKT (QUELLE: ESA 2009, EIGENE BERECHNUNG UND DARSTELLUNG)

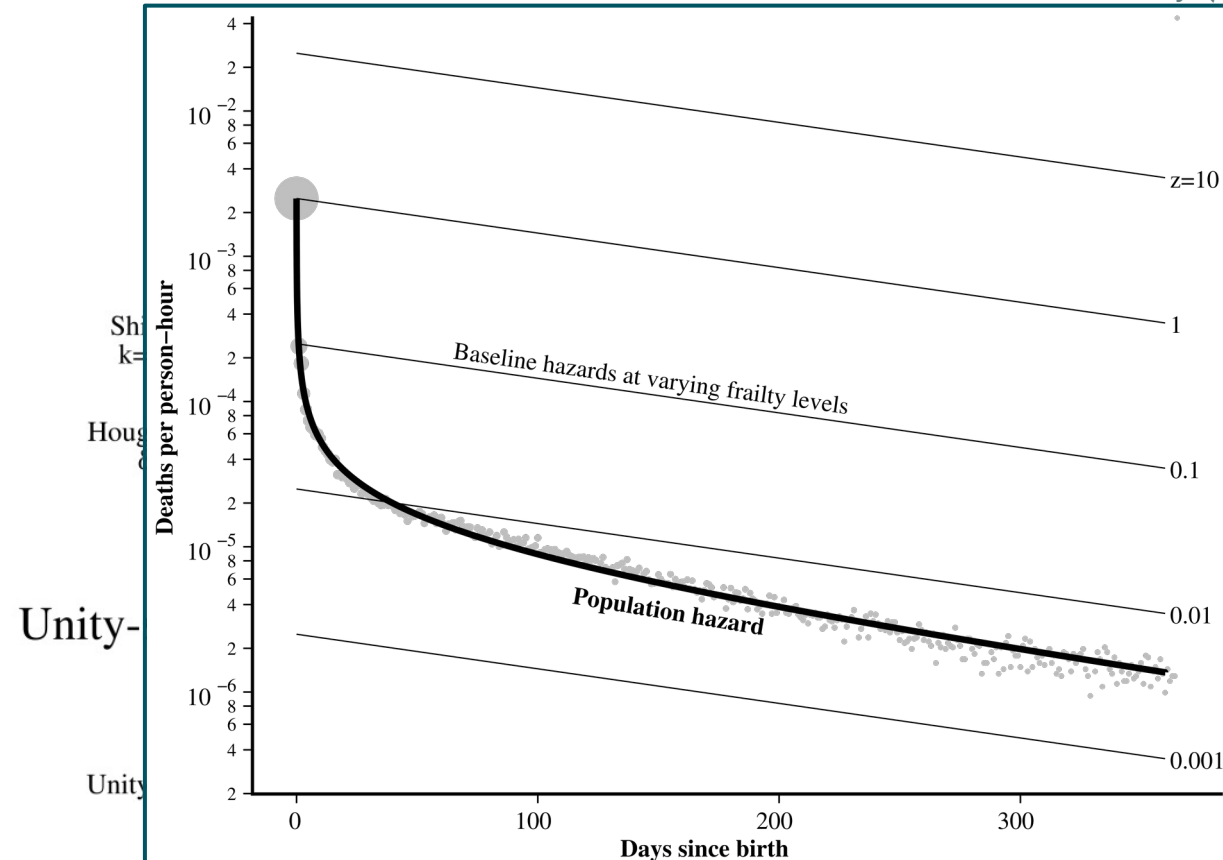
Parameter-centric modeling vs. predictive modeling

Schöley (2020). The dynamics of ontogenescence. [Github link](#)



Parameter-centric modeling vs. predictive modeling

Schöley (2020). The dynamics of ontogenescence. [Github link](#)

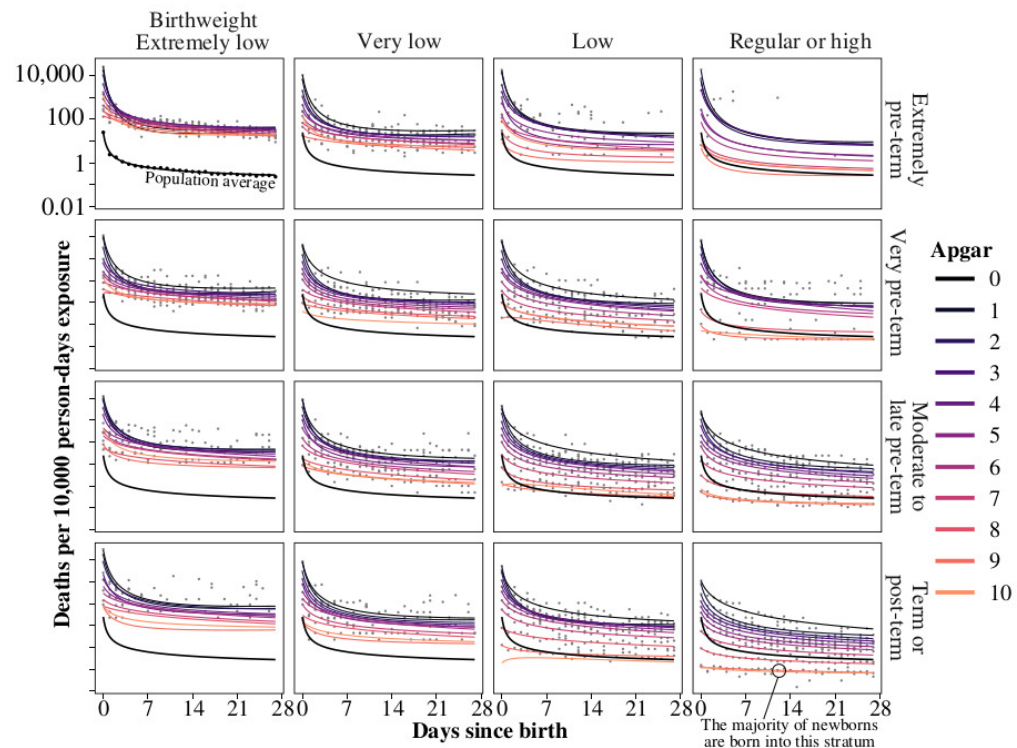


ae^{-bx}
Negative-Gompertz hzrd.

$p=0.5$
 $a(x+c)^{-0.5}$
Inverse-Gaussian-Exponential hzrd.

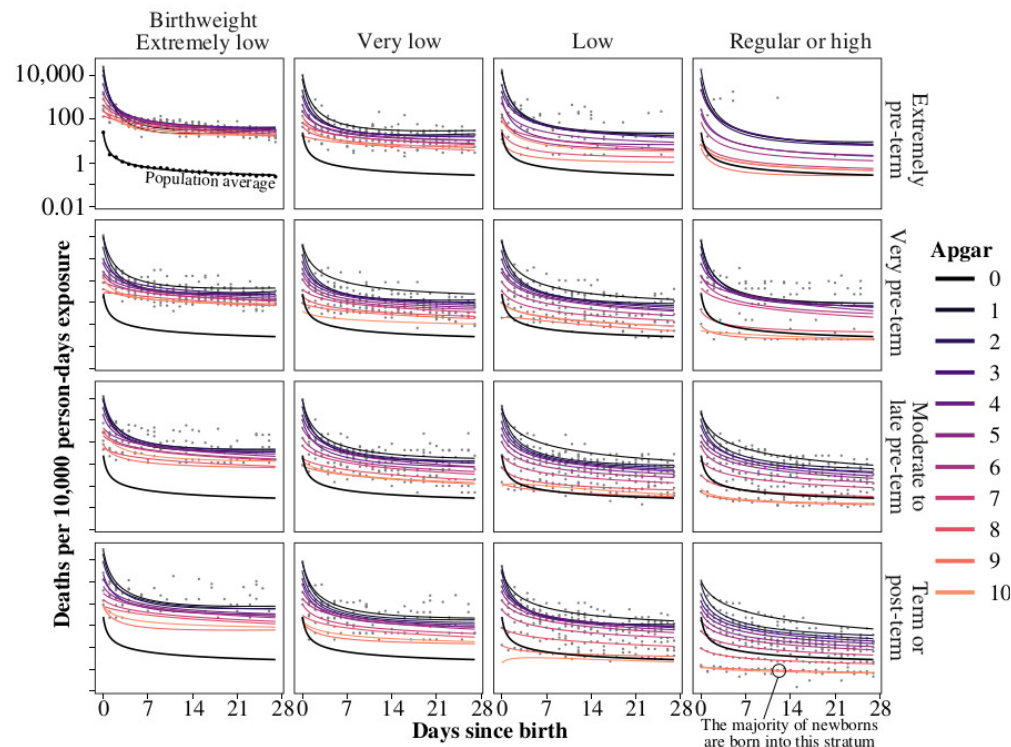
Parameter-centric modeling vs. predictive modeling

Figure 3: Estimated hazard rates versus life table mortality rates over age by prematurity, birth weight, and Apgar score. There is substantial heterogeneity in the level and the shape of the neonatal hazard trajectories ruling out the hypothesis of proportional frailties. The black line in each panel shows the estimated hazard trajectory for the entire birth cohort. [Schöley \(2020\). The dynamics of ontogenescence. Github link](#)



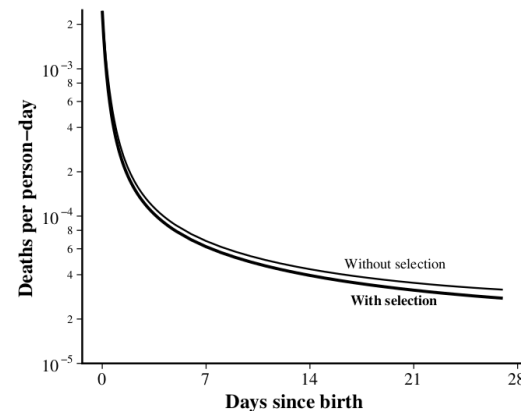
Parameter-centric modeling vs. predictive modeling

Figure 3: Estimated hazard rates versus life table mortality rates over age by prematurity, birth weight, and Apgar score. There is substantial heterogeneity in the level and the shape of the neonatal hazard trajectories ruling out the hypothesis of proportional frailties. The black line in each panel shows the estimated hazard trajectory for the entire birth cohort.



Schöley (2020). The dynamics of ontogenescence. [Github link](#)

Figure 4: Keeping the population composition fixed at the distribution observed at birth only results in a minor change of the population hazard trajectory.

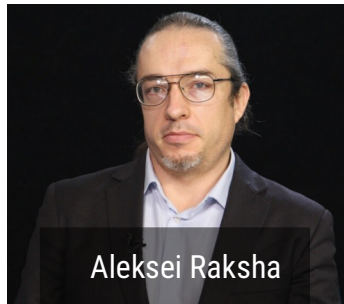


Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation

Bloomberg. October 20, 2020. [Link.](#)

Rogue Demographer Says Russia May Top Europe in Covid Deaths

- Former statistics agency employee has criticized virus data
- Daily death numbers need to be tripled, demographer says



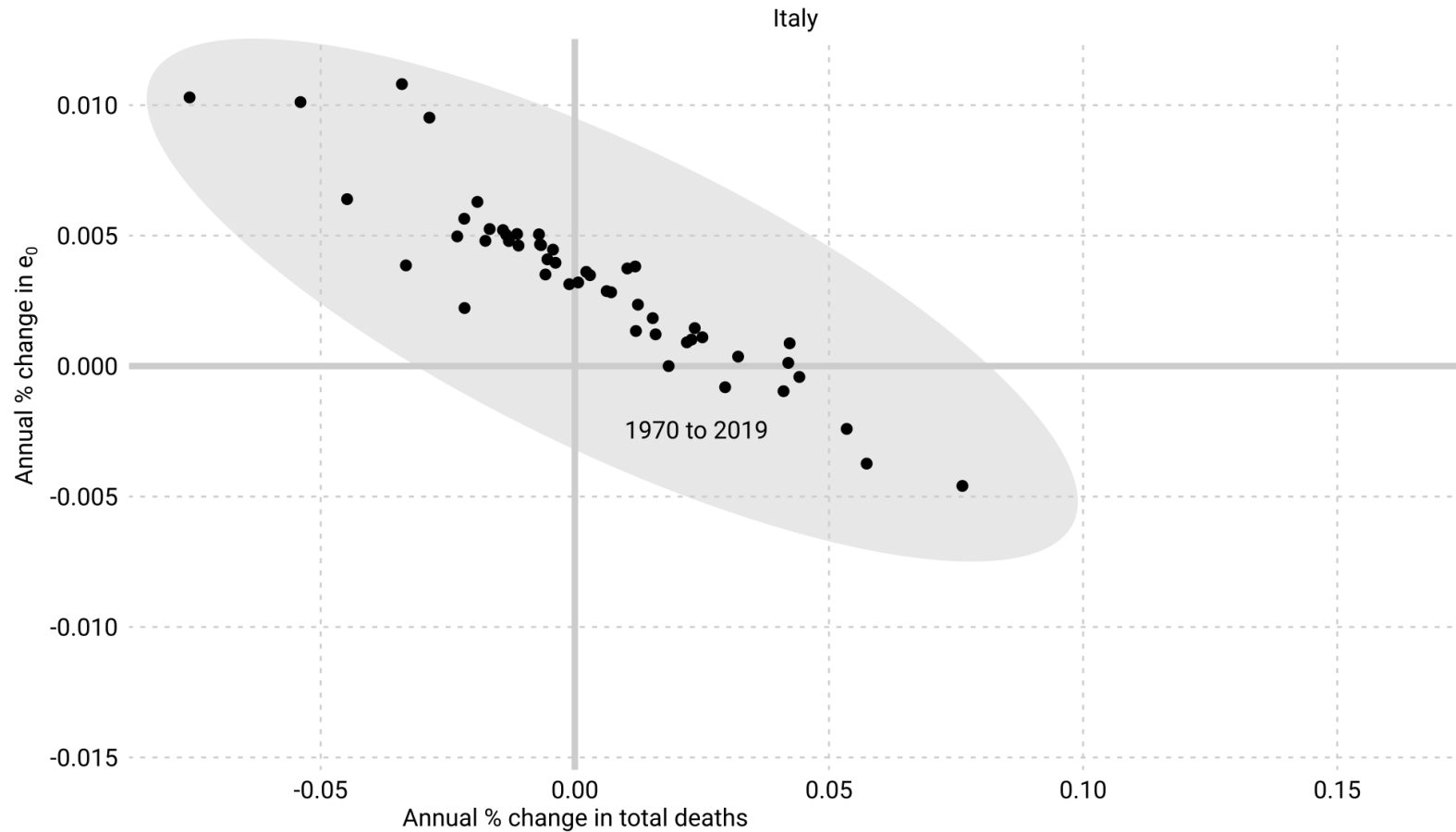
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Watch Live TV
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Photographer: Dimitar Dilkoff/AFP via Getty Images

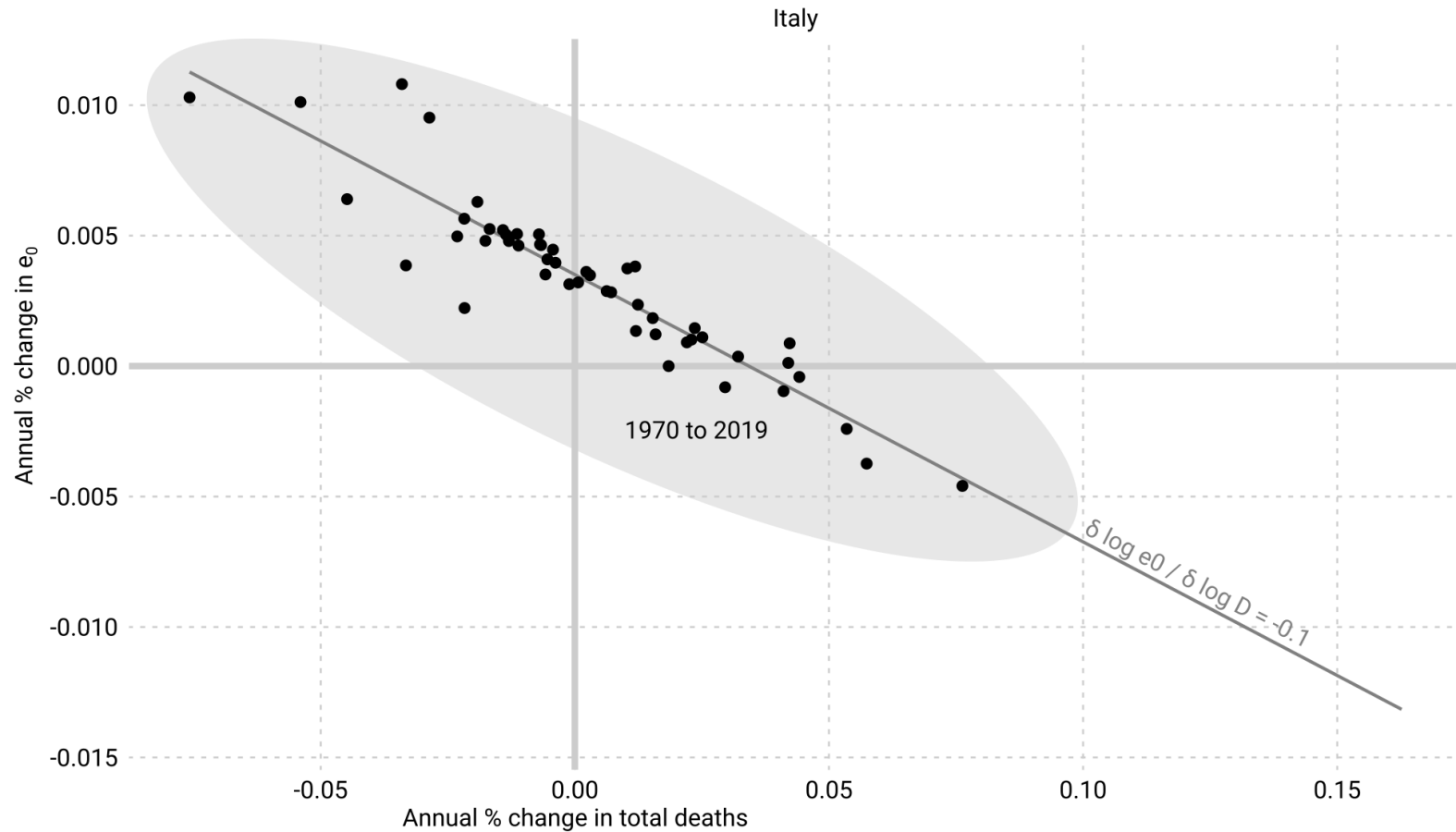
By Anya Andrianova and Stepan Kravchenko

October 20, 2020 at 6:00 AM GMT+2 *Updated on October 20, 2020 at 12:36 PM GMT+2*

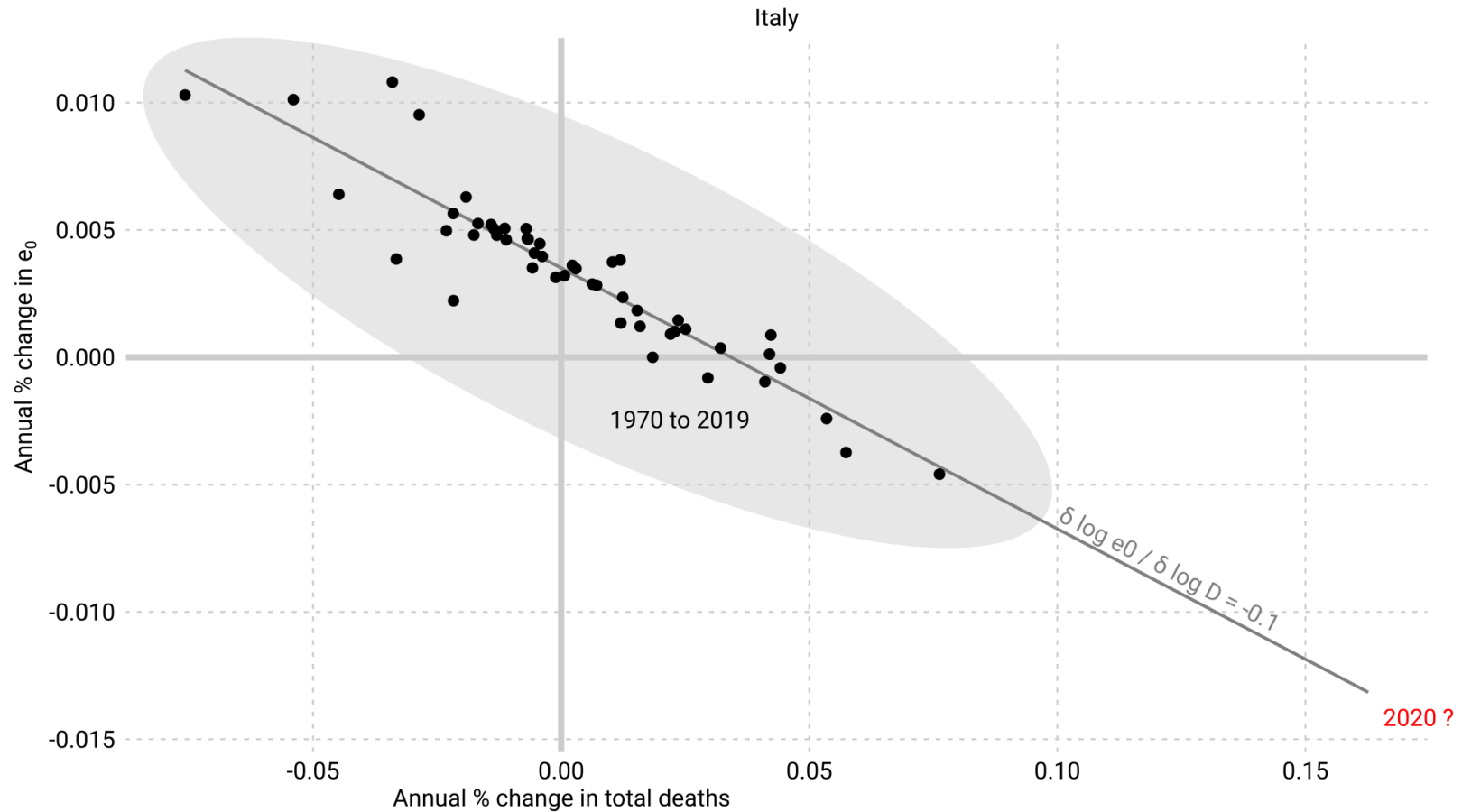
Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



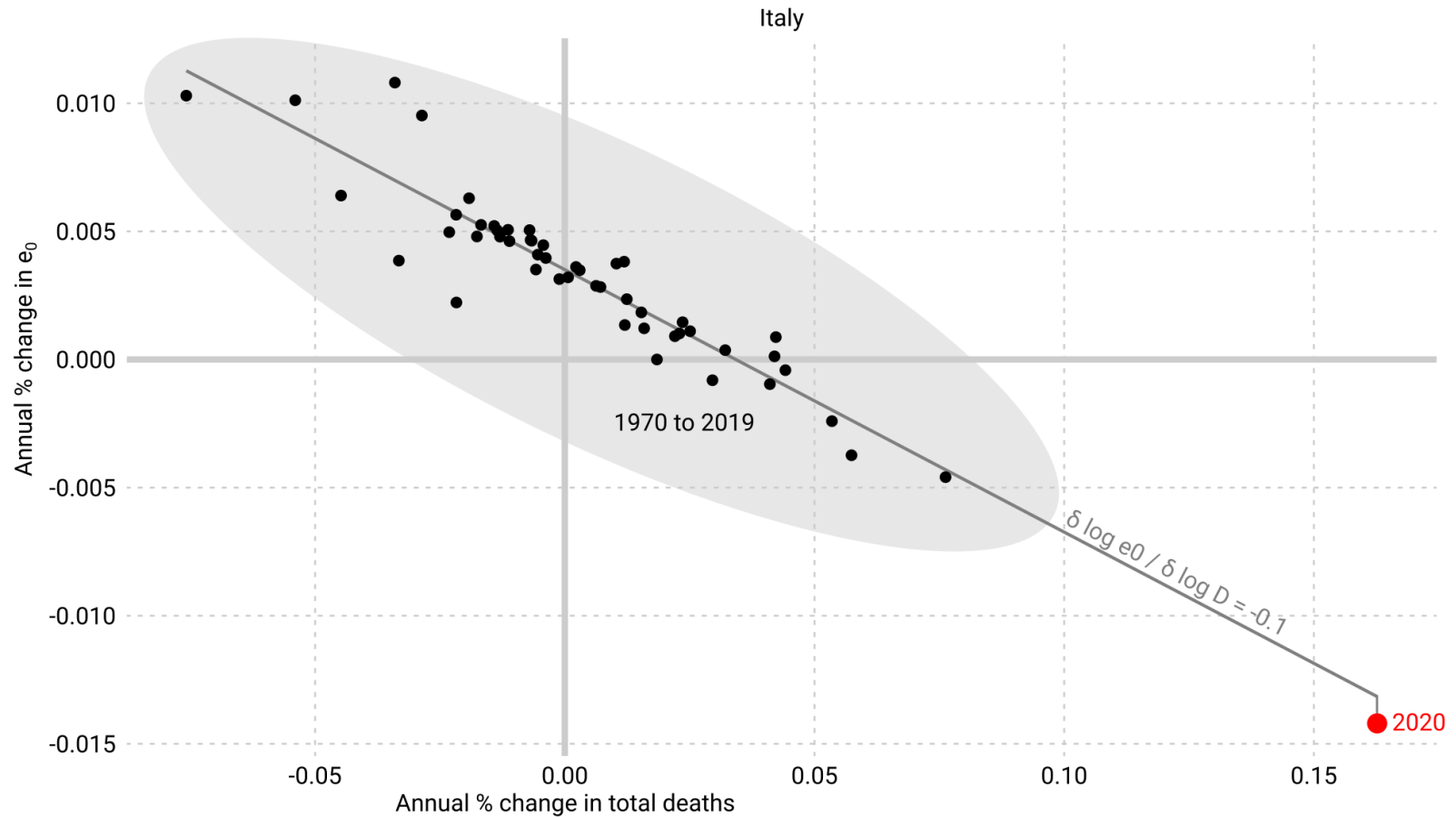
Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



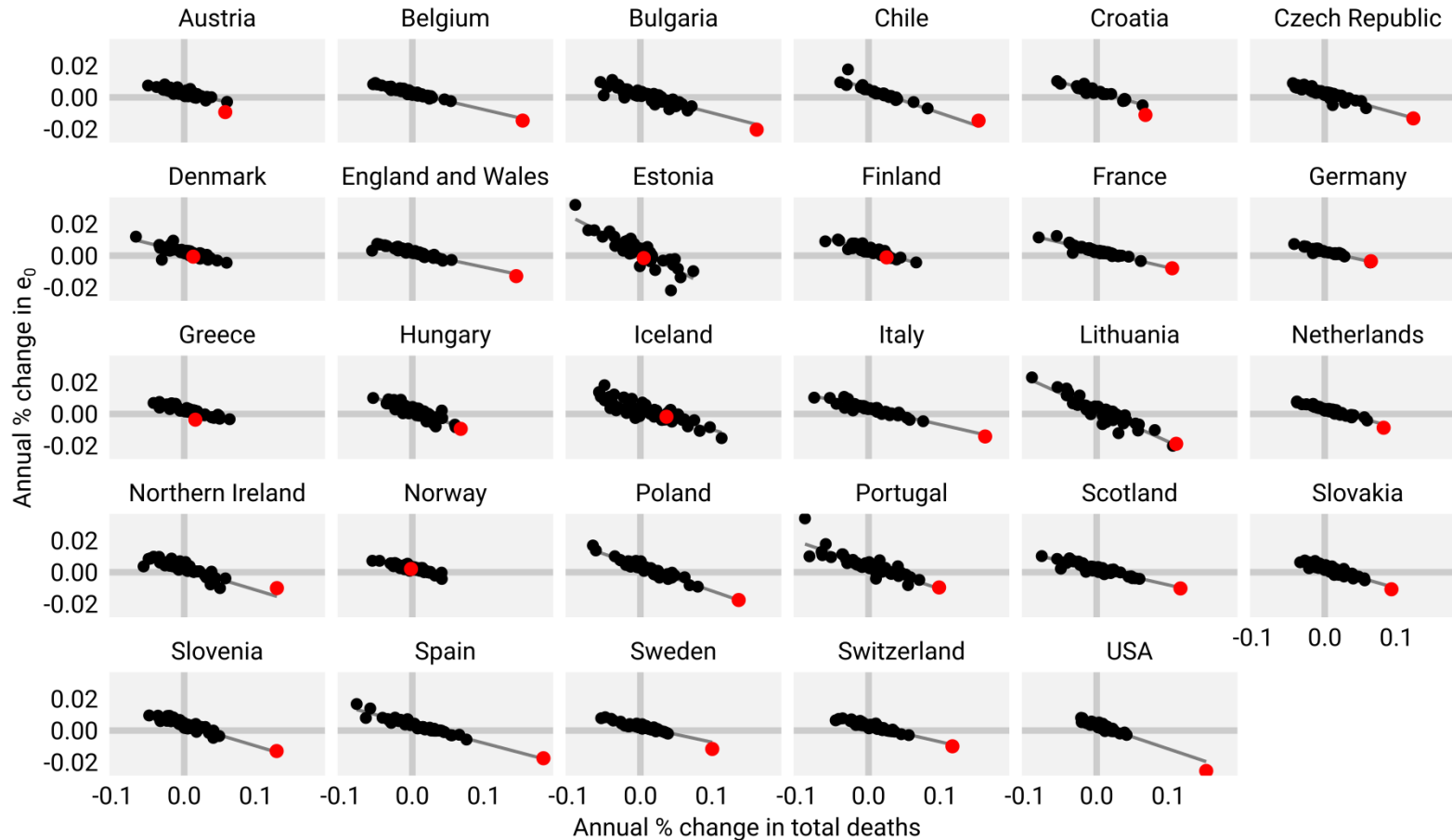
Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



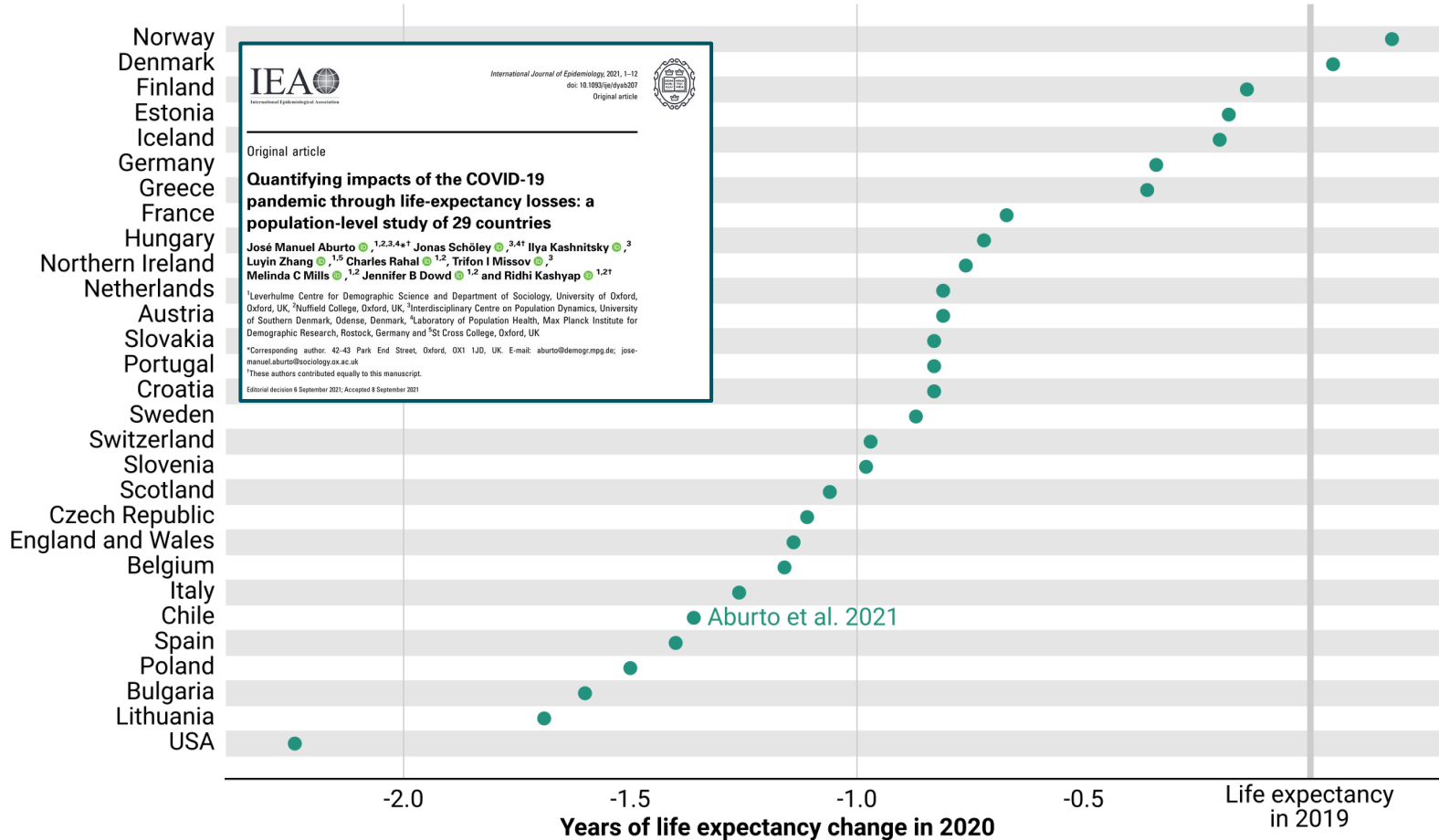
Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation

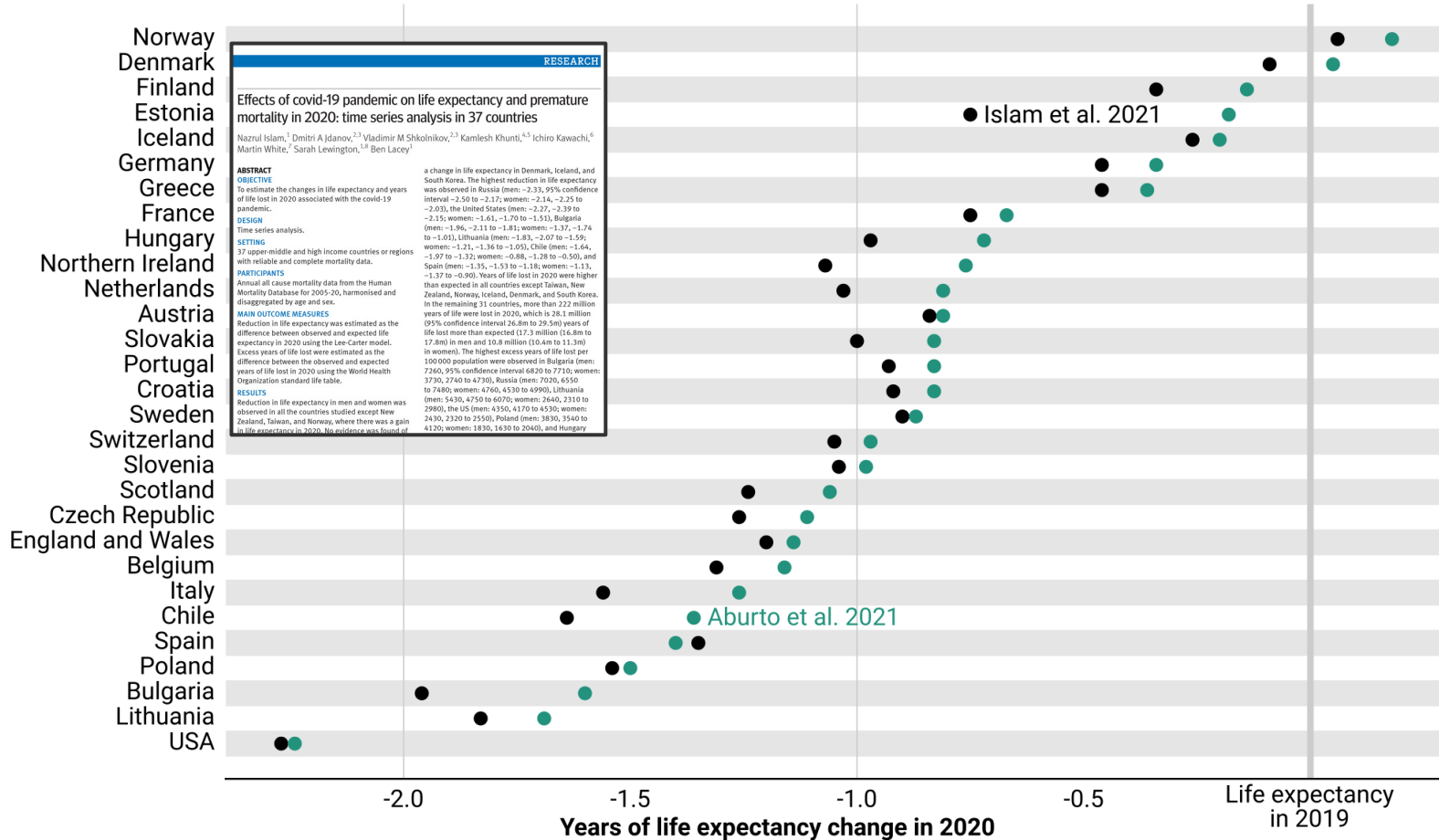


Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



Aburto & Schöley et al. 2021.
Quantifying impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through life-expectancy losses: a population-level study of 29 countries.
[10.1093/ije/dyab207](https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab207)

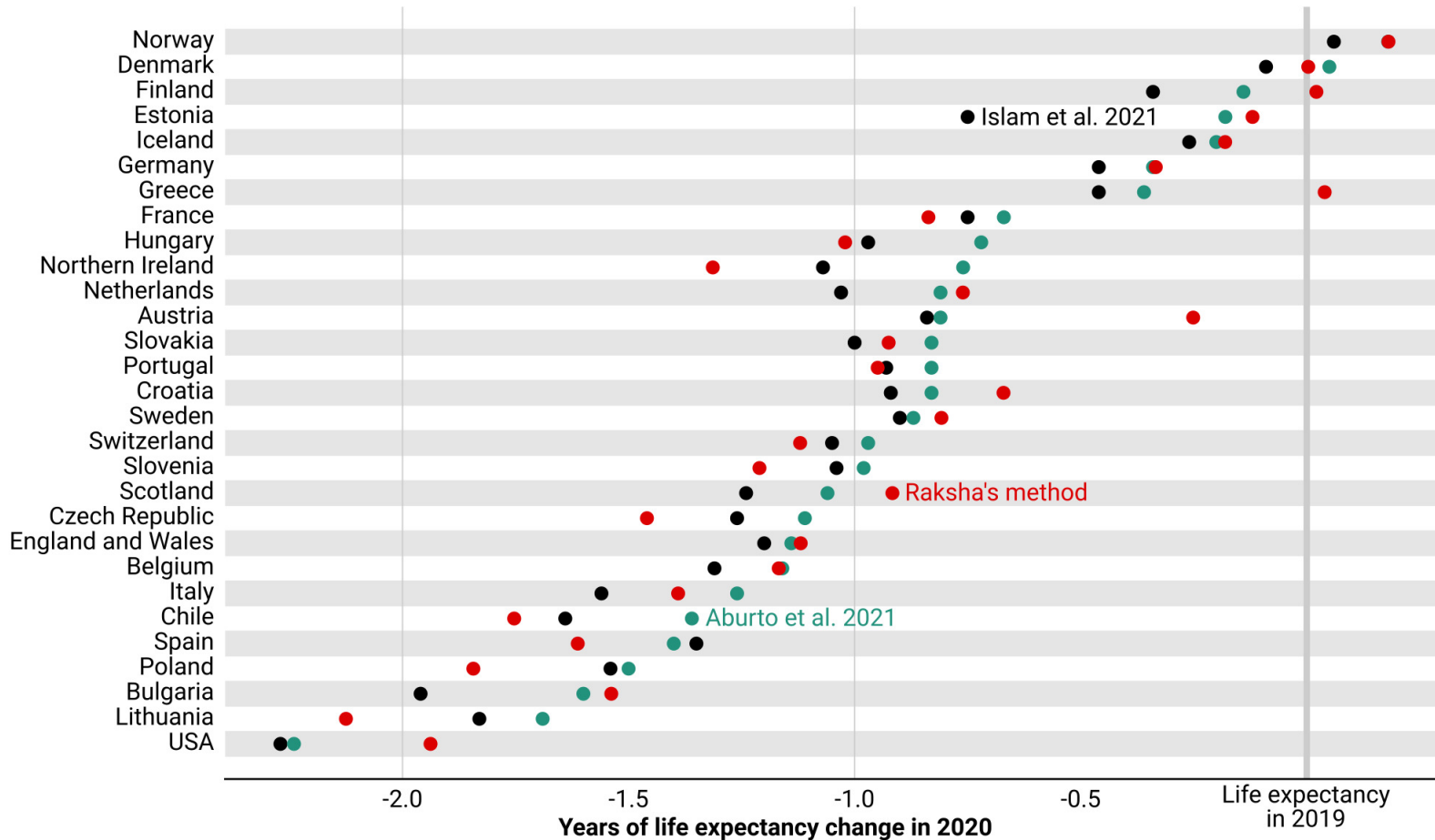
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Islam & Jdanov et al. 2021. Effects of covid-19 pandemic on life expectancy and premature mortality in 2020: time series analysis in 37 countries. [10.1136/bmj-2021-066768](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2021-066768)

Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



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[10.1136/bmj-2021-066768](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2021-066768)

Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



A radically simple way
to **monitor life expectancy**

Ilya Kashnitsky & Alexey Raksha & Jose Manuel Aburto &
Jonas Schöley & James W. Vaupel

Jonas Schöley

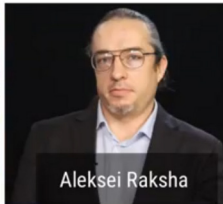
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Ilya Kashnitsky



Aleksei Raksha



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Kashnitsky, Raksha, Schöley et al. (2021). Monitoring life expectancy. [Link to video](#)

Predictive modeling in demography: Spatial analyses

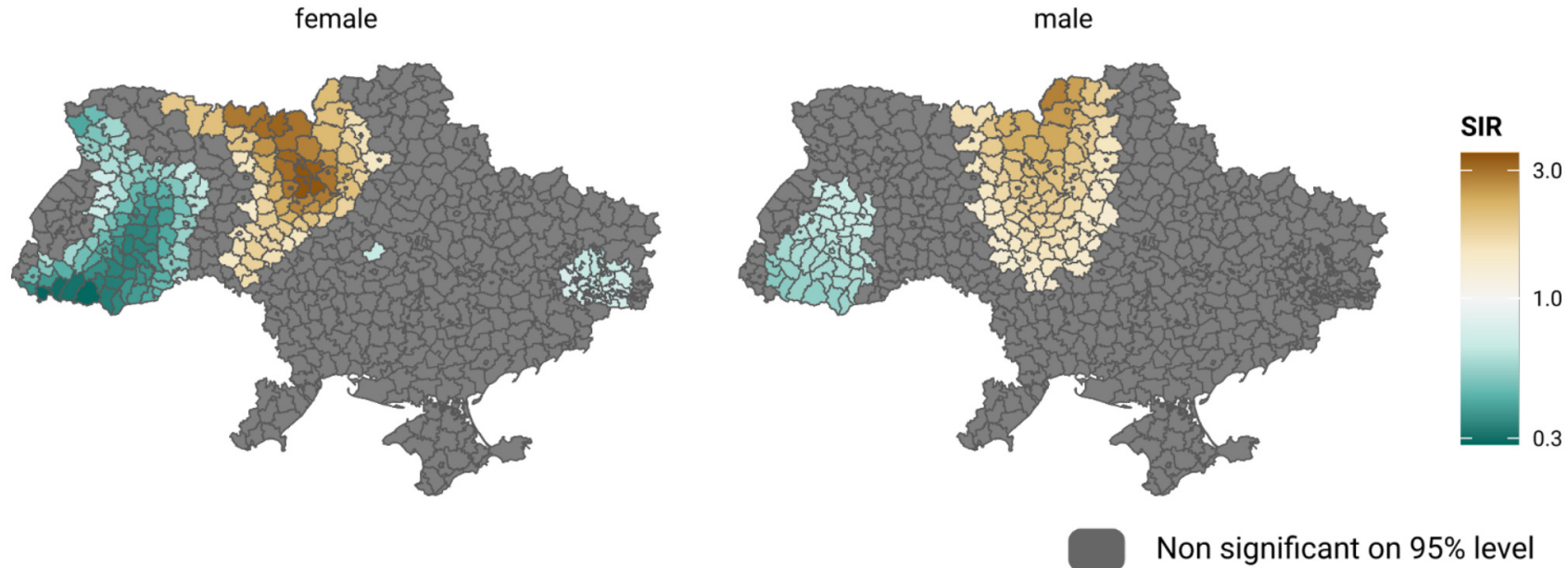


Figure 1 Standardized incidence ratio of thyroid cancer in Ukraine 2001 for the population aged 15+. The standard is given by the average district-level incidence. These are estimates based on an Overdispersed Poisson Regression with 2D P-splines for a smooth nonparametric estimate of the spatial effect.

Levchuk, Cilek, Schöley, Jasilionis (2022). Long-term health effects of the Chernobyl accident.

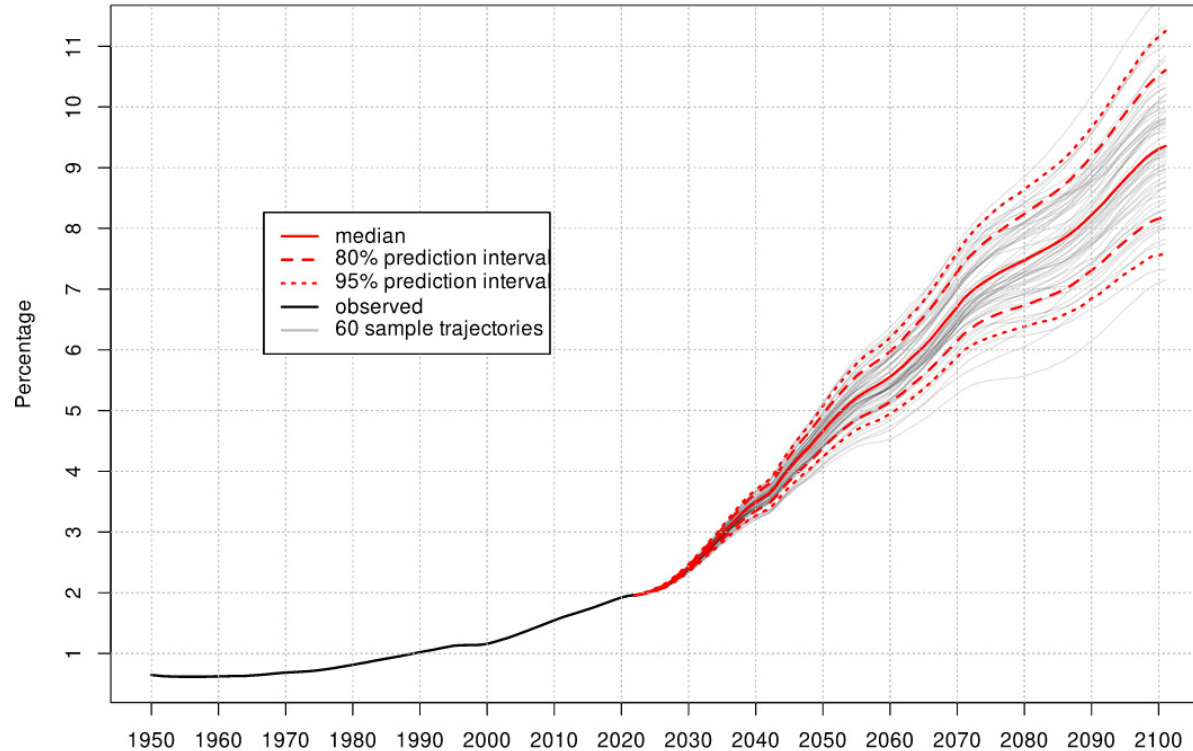
Predictive modeling in demography: Projections and forecasts

World: Percentage of population aged 80 years or over



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division



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United Nations, DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects 2022*. <http://population.un.org/wpp/>

UN (2022). World Population Prospects. [Web link](http://population.un.org/wpp/).

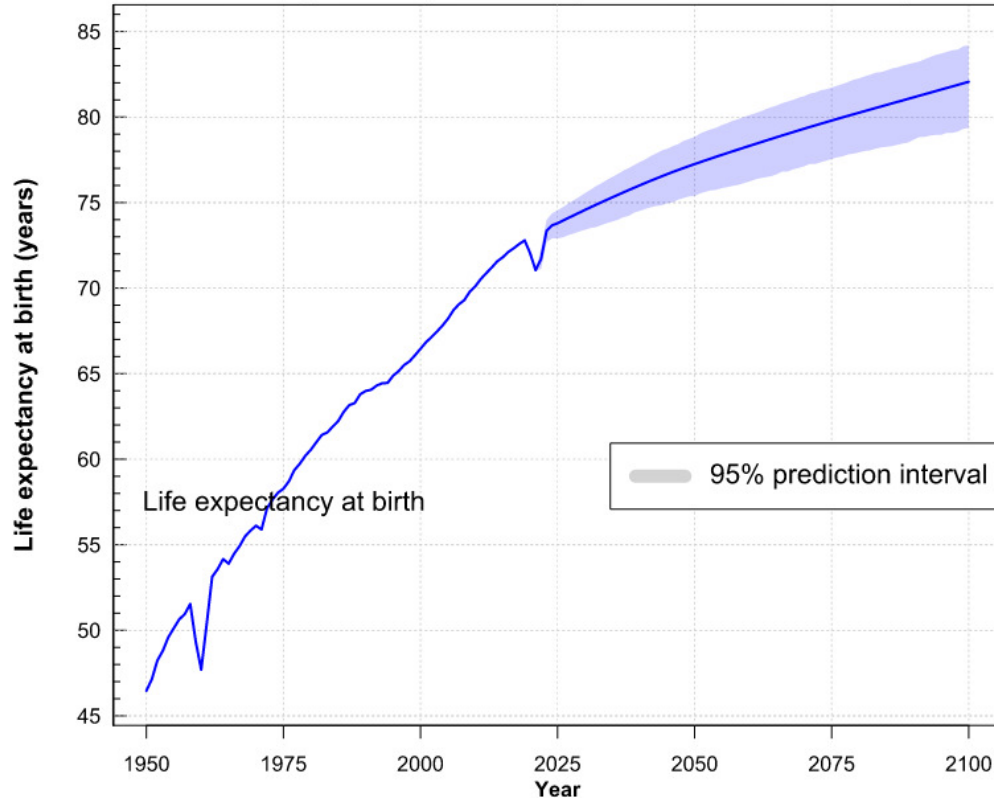
Predictive modeling in demography: Projections and forecasts



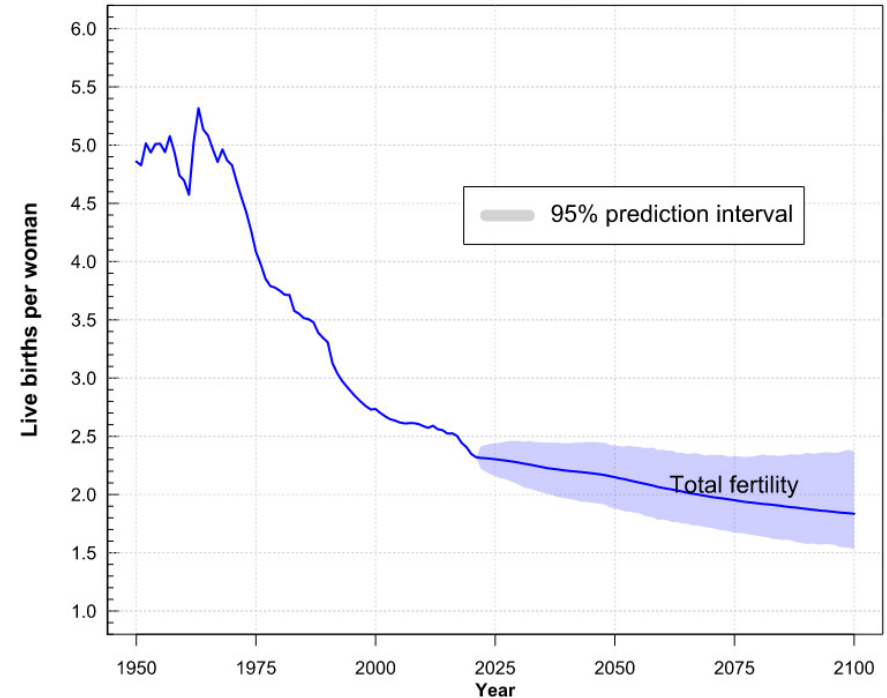
United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

Life expectancy at birth (both sexes combined)



Total fertility



UN (2022). World Population Prospects. [Web link.](#)

Predictive modeling in demography: Projections and forecasts

Population projection Cohort component / Leslie



United Nations

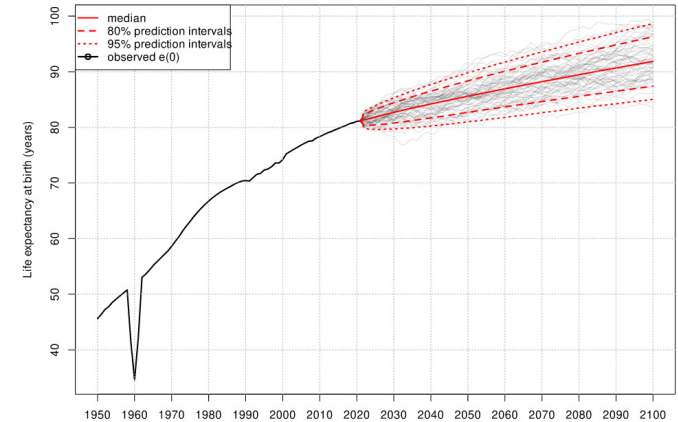
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_0 \\ n_1 \\ n_2 \\ n_3 \\ \vdots \\ n_{\nu-1} \end{pmatrix}_{t+1} = \begin{pmatrix} f_0 & f_1 & f_2 & \dots & f_{\nu-2} & f_{\nu-1} \\ s_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s_2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & s_{\nu-2} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_0 \\ n_1 \\ n_2 \\ n_3 \\ \vdots \\ n_{\nu-1} \end{pmatrix}_t$$

+ Net-migration by age

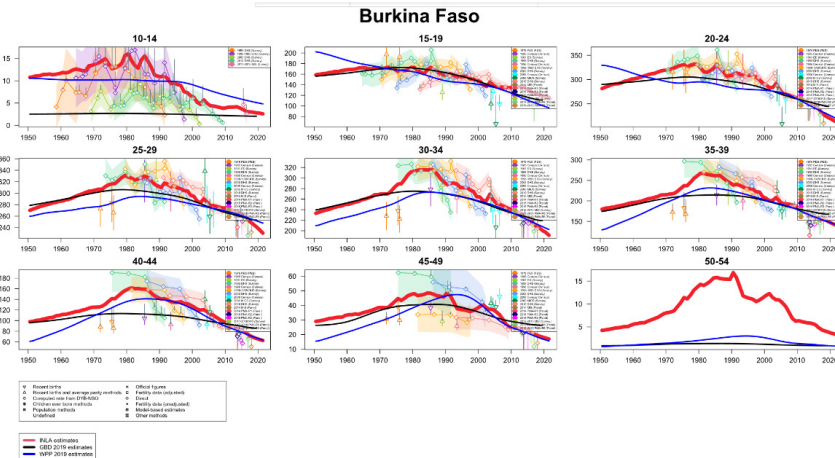
Baseline population estimates

Figure II.6
Estimates and projected probabilistic trajectories of female life expectancy at birth, China, 1950-2100 (years)



NOTE: For ease of viewing, only 60 trajectories of the 10,000 simulated trajectories are shown here for 2022 to 2100. The median trajectory is the solid red line, and the 80 and 95 per cent prediction intervals (PI) are shown as dashed and dotted red lines respectively.

Life-expectancy forecasts with derived mortality by age



Fertility forecasts

UN (2022). World Population Prospects. [Web link.](#)

Predictive modeling in demography: Projections and forecasts



United Nations

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Population Division

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_0 \\ n_1 \\ n_2 \\ n_3 \\ \vdots \\ n_{\nu-1} \end{pmatrix}_{t+1} = \begin{pmatrix} f_0 & f_1 & f_2 & \dots & f_{\nu-2} & f_{\nu-1} \\ s_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s_2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & s_{\nu-2} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} n_0 \\ n_1 \\ n_2 \\ n_3 \\ \vdots \\ n_{\nu-1} \end{pmatrix}_t$$

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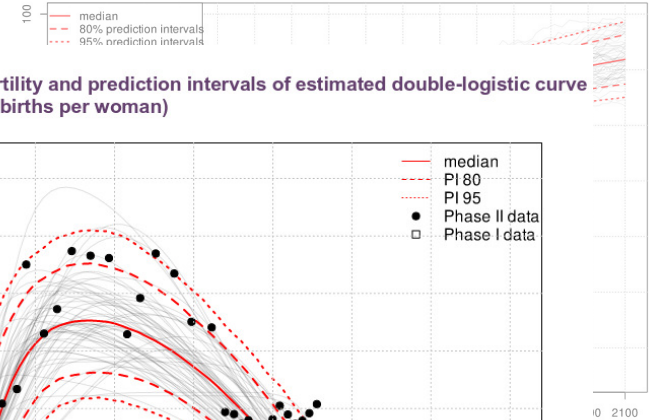
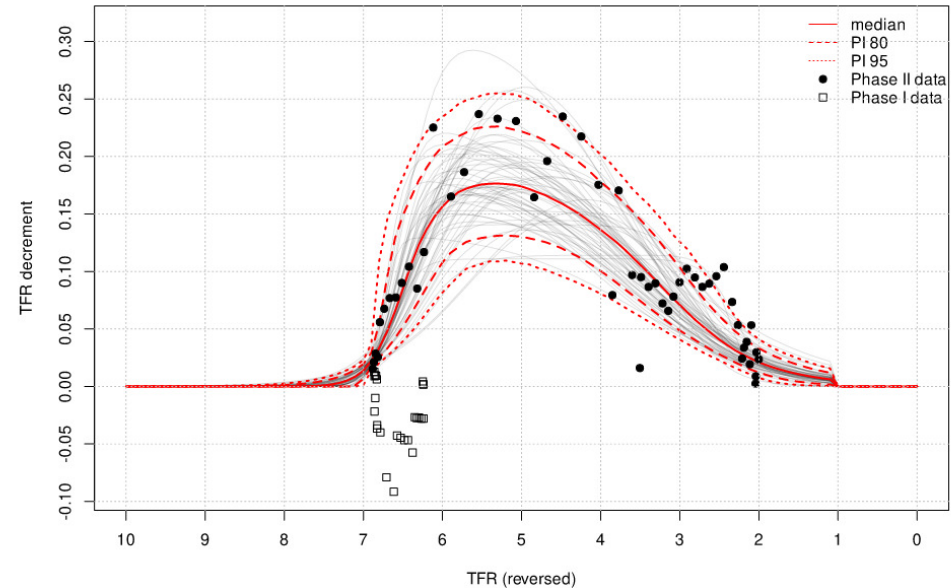
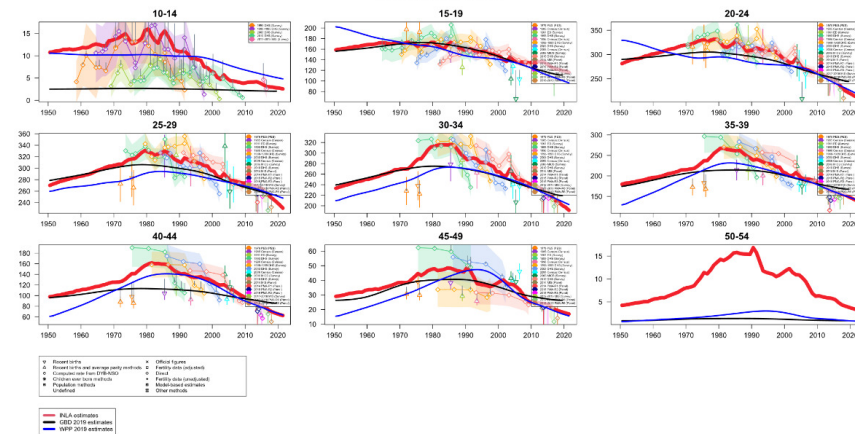


Figure II.2
Total fertility annual decrements by level of fertility and prediction intervals of estimated double-logistic curve for Bangladesh (systematic decline part) (live births per woman)

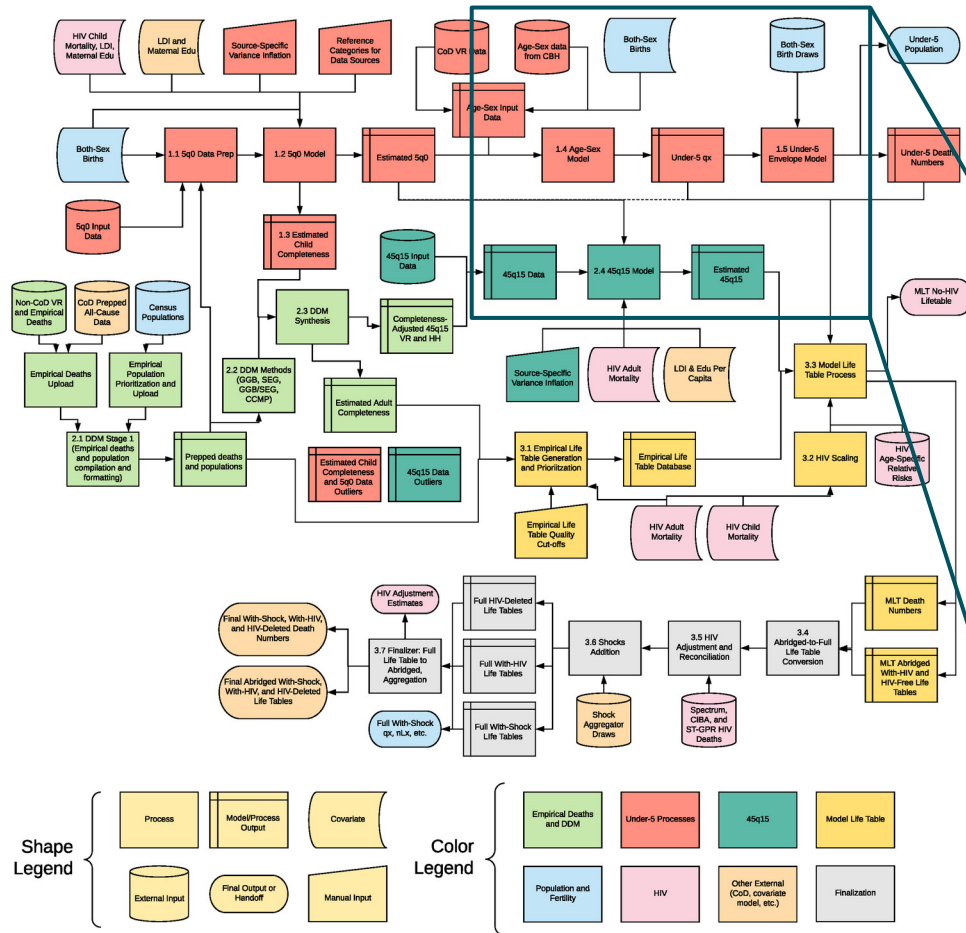


Burkina Faso

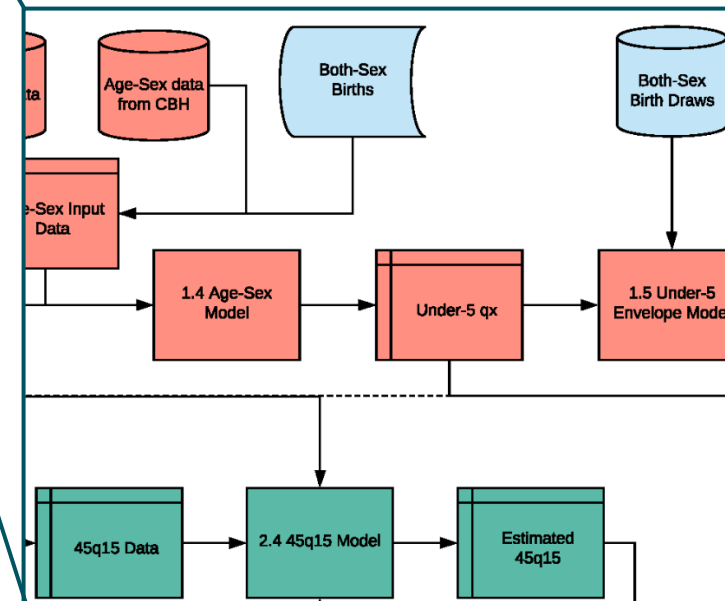


Fertility forecasts

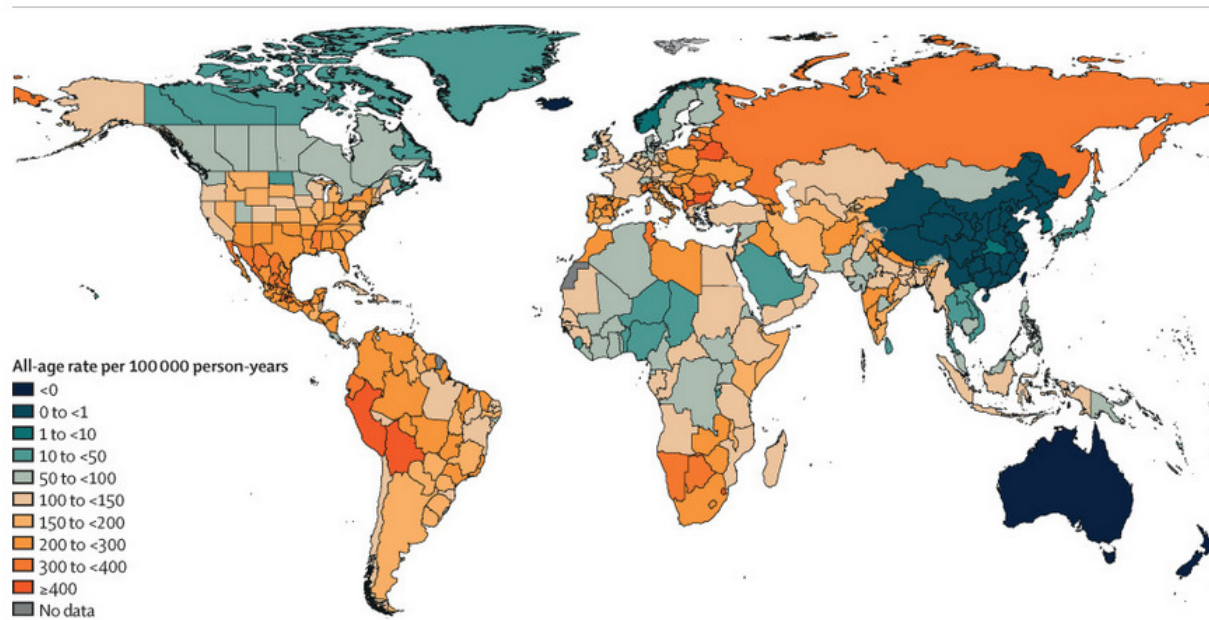
Predictive modeling in demography: Projections and forecasts



Global Burden of Disease (2019).
Mortality 1 Estimation Flowchart. [Web link.](#)



Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation



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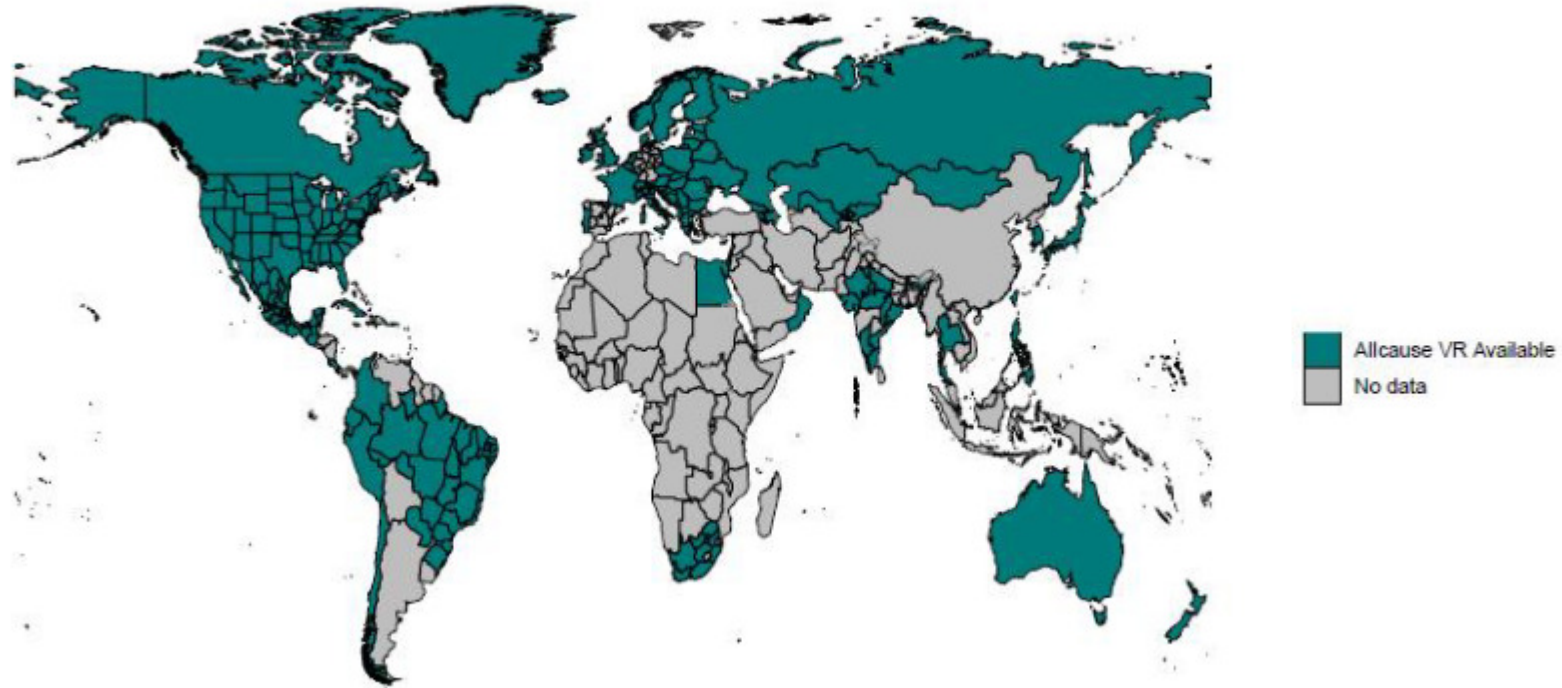
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Figure 2. Global distribution of estimated excess mortality rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the cumulative period 2020–21

COVID-19 Excess Mortality Collaborators (2022). Estimating excess mortality... [10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02796-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02796-3)

Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation

Figure S1. Map of all cause data availability



COVID-19 Excess Mortality Collaborators (2022). Estimating excess mortality... [Link to Supplementary](#)

Predictive modeling in demography: Indirect estimation

Figure S1. Map of all cause data availability

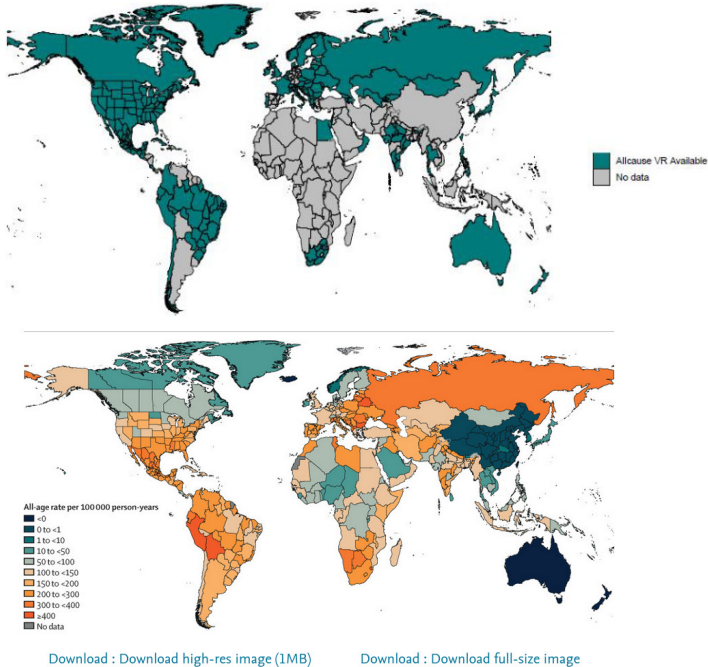


Figure 2. Global distribution of estimated excess mortality rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the cumulative period 2020–21

To arrive at a parsimonious model, we used the Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator (LASSO) regression to help select a list of covariates that have sensible direction of effect on the excess mortality rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The final model can be described by the equation below:

$$\ln(y_i) = \alpha + \sum_{j=1}^{16} \beta_j \cdot x_{ij} + \epsilon_i$$

Average absolute latitude		Positive
Cardiovascular diseases death rate (2019)	Log	Positive
Crude death rate (2019)	Log	Positive
Diabetes death rate (2019)	Log	Positive
Healthcare access and quality Index (2019)		Negative
HIV death rate (2019)	Log	Positive
Infection detection ratio (lagged)		Negative
Inpatient admission rate (2019)		Negative
Mobility (lagged)		Positive
Proportion of population over age 75		Positive
Quality of death registration system (2019)		Negative
Reported COVID-19 death rate	Log	Positive
Seroprevalence rate (lagged)	Log	Positive
Smoking prevalence (2019)		Positive
Universal health coverage (2019)		Negative

COVID-19 Excess Mortality Collaborators (2022). Estimating excess mortality... [Link to Supplementary github.com/ihmeuw-demographics/publication_covid_em/tree/main/03_ensemble_excess_model](https://github.com/ihmeuw-demographics/publication_covid_em/tree/main/03_ensemble_excess_model)

Parameter-centric modeling vs. predictive modeling

$f(y|x, \theta)$
vs.
 $f(y|x, \theta)$

$$f(y|x,\theta)$$

Predict from model

Transform model predictions

Propagate prediction uncertainty through analysis

Cross-validate predictive accuracy & model calibration

Predict from model

Predict from model – The model equation

$$D_t \sim \text{NegBin}(\mu_t, \theta)$$

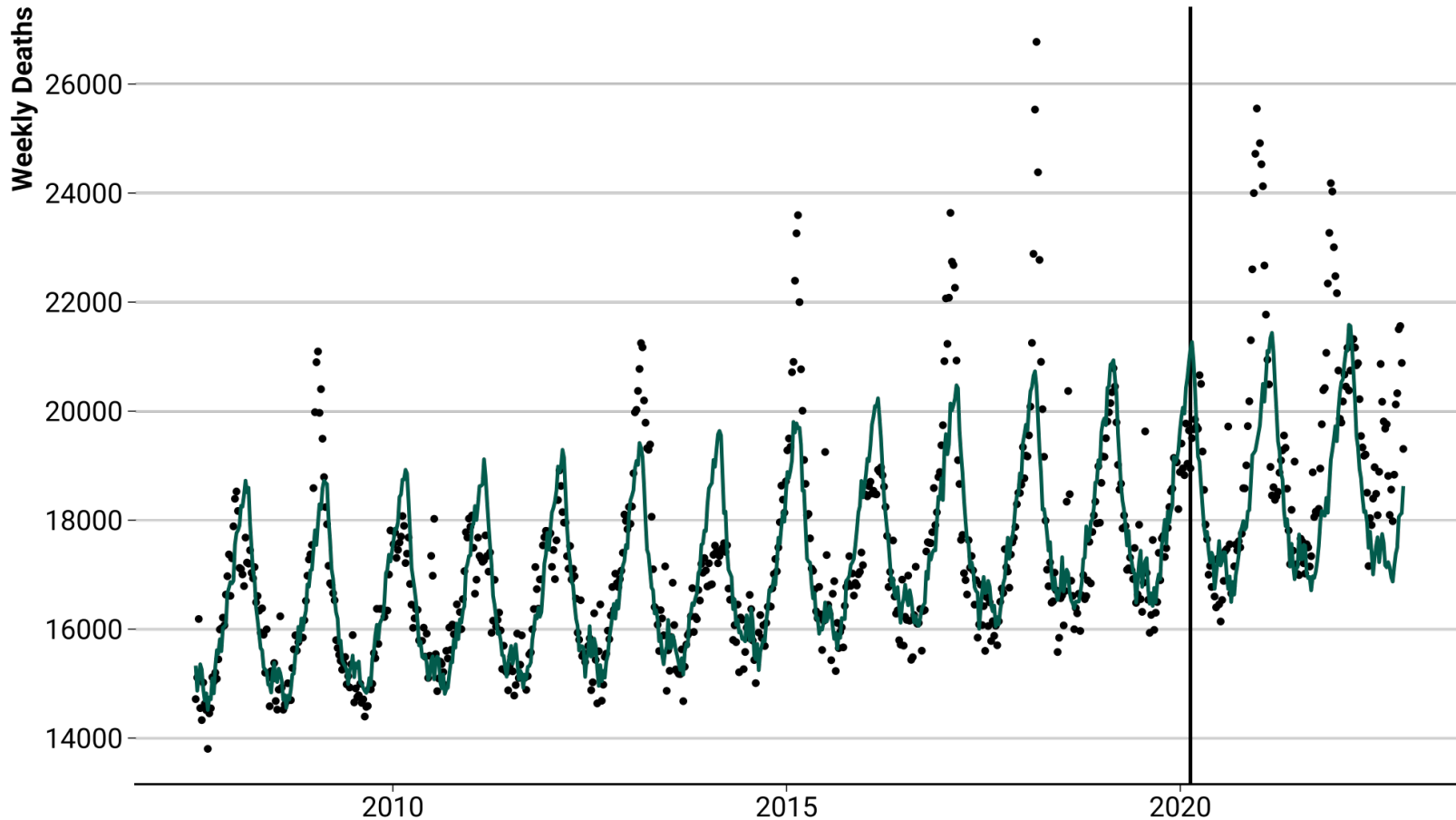
$$\mu_t = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_y \text{year}_t + \sum_{i=1:52} \beta_{w[i]} \text{week}_t + \log(\text{population}))$$

$$\theta = \exp(\beta_\theta)$$

Observations
Sampling Distribution
Parameters
Predictors

Predict from model – Point estimates

Observed vs. expected weekly deaths Germany



Transform model predictions

Transform model predictions

$$D_t \sim \text{NegBin}(\mu_t, \theta)$$

$$\mu_t = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_y \text{year}_t + \sum_{i=1:52} \beta_{w[i]} \text{week}_t + \log(\text{population}))$$

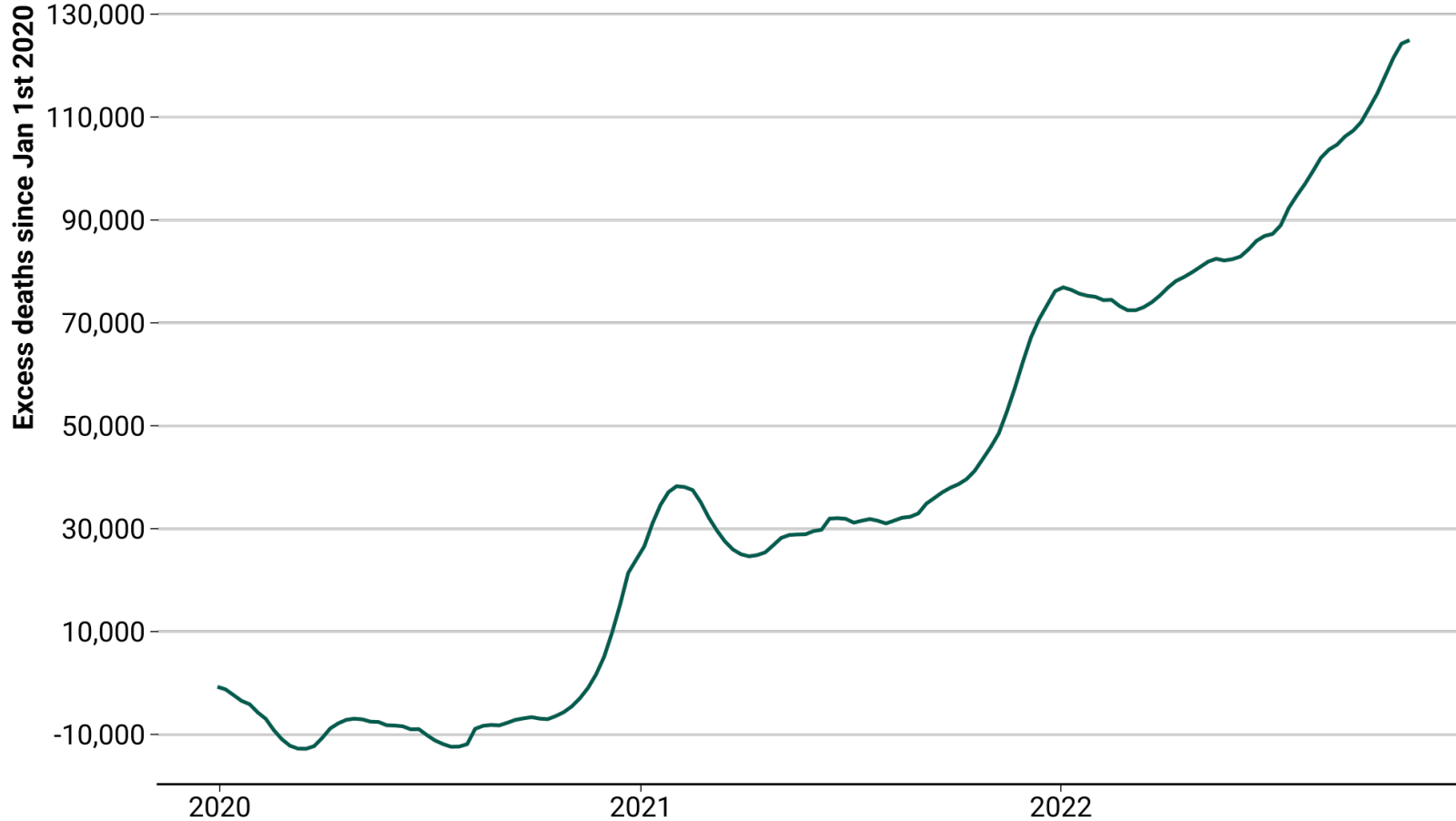
$$\theta = \exp(\beta_\theta)$$

Cumulative excess deaths:

$$\sum_t D_t - \mu_t$$

Transform model predictions

Cumulative weekly excess deaths Germany



Propagate prediction uncertainty through analysis

How many deaths in a week had C19 not occurred?

$$\text{Excess} = \text{Observed} - \text{Expected}$$

How many deaths in a week had C19 not occurred?

$$\text{Excess} = \text{Observed} - \text{Expected}$$

How many deaths in a week had C19 not occurred?

$$\text{Excess} = \text{Observed} - \text{Expected}$$

Propagate uncertainty – Epistemic uncertainty

$$D_t \sim \text{NegBin}(\mu_t, \theta)$$

$$\mu_t = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_y \text{year}_t + \sum_{i=1:52} \beta_{w[i]} \text{week}_t + \log(\text{population}))$$

$$\theta = \exp(\beta_\theta)$$

Uncertainty regarding the state of the world, here:

Uncertain parameter estimates

```
Family: Negative Binomial(404.799)
Link function: log

Formula:
deaths_observed ~ iso_year + iso_week_fct + offset(log(personweeks))

Parametric coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -2.427e+01  1.102e+00 -22.028 < 2e-16 ***
iso_year      7.886e-03  5.471e-04  14.413 < 2e-16 ***
iso_week_fct2  1.002e-02  2.051e-02   0.489  0.62508
iso_week_fct3  7.545e-03  2.051e-02   0.368  0.71298
iso_week_fct4  1.041e-02  2.051e-02   0.508  0.61167
iso_week_fct5  3.438e-02  2.051e-02   1.677  0.09364 .
iso_week_fct6  3.924e-02  2.051e-02   1.913  0.05570 .
iso_week_fct7  5.035e-02  2.051e-02   2.455  0.01408 *
iso_week_fct8  5.005e-02  2.051e-02   2.440  0.01408 **
```

Hüllermeier (2021). Aleatoric and epistemic uncertainty in machine learning... [10.1007/s10994-021-05946-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10994-021-05946-3)

Propagate uncertainty – Epistemic uncertainty

7.5.2 The delta method

The delta method provides an easy approximation for the confidence limits on values that are not parameters of the model. To use it you must have a formula for $\mu = f(a, b)$ that you can differentiate with respect to a and b . Unlike the first likelihood profile method, you don't have to be able to solve the equation for one of the parameters.

The formula for the delta method comes from a Taylor expansion of the formula for μ , combined with the definitions of the variance ($V(a) = E[(a - \bar{a})^2]$) and covariance ($C(a, b) = E[(a - \bar{a})(b - \bar{b})]$):

$$V(f(a, b)) \approx V(a) \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \right)^2 + V(b) \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial b} \right)^2 + 2C(a, b) \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \frac{\partial f}{\partial b}. \quad (7.5.4)$$

See the Appendix, or Lyons (1991) for a derivation and details.

7.5.4 Bayesian analysis

Finally, you can use a real Bayesian method: construct either an exact Bayesian model, or, more likely, a Markov chain Monte Carlo analysis for the parameters. Then you can calculate the posterior distribution of any function of the parameters (such as the mean survival time) from the posterior samples of the parameters, and get the 95% credible interval.

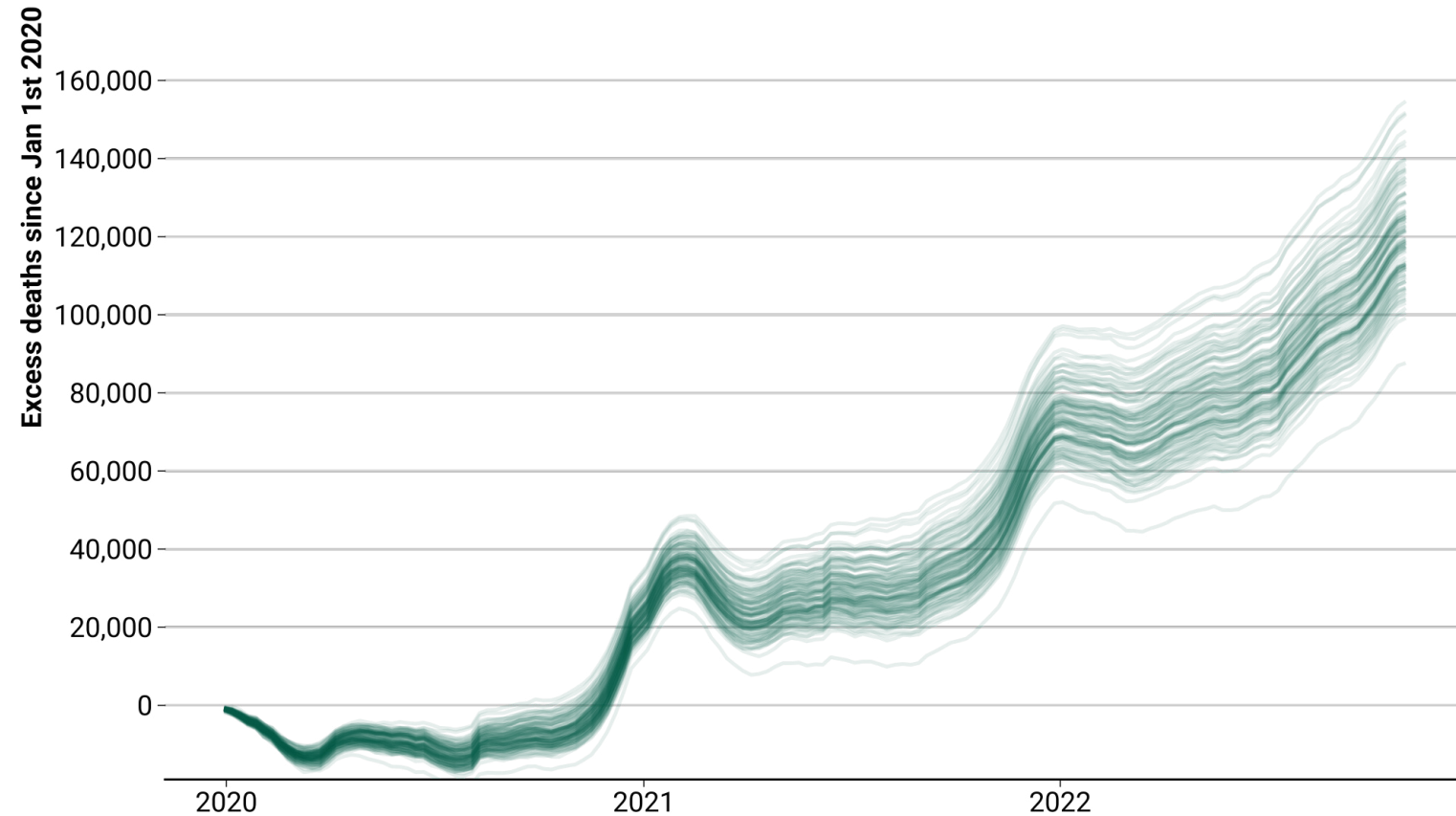
7.5.3 Population prediction intervals (PPI)

Another simple procedure for calculating confidence limits is to draw random samples from the estimated sampling distribution (approximated by the information matrix) of the parameters. In the approximate limit where the information matrix approach is valid, it turns out that the distribution of the parameters will be multivariate normal with a variance-covariance matrix given by the inverse of the information matrix. The MASS package in R has a function, `mvrnorm*`, for selecting multivariate normal random deviates. With the `mle2` fit `w1` from above, then

```
> vmat = mvrnorm(1000, mu = coef(w1), Sigma = vcov(w1))
```

Propagate uncertainty – Epistemic uncertainty

Cumulative weekly excess deaths Germany



Uncertainty in model parameters propagated through transformed model predictions via sampling from Multi-variate Normal approx. to sampling distribution of beta's

Propagate uncertainty – Epistemic uncertainty

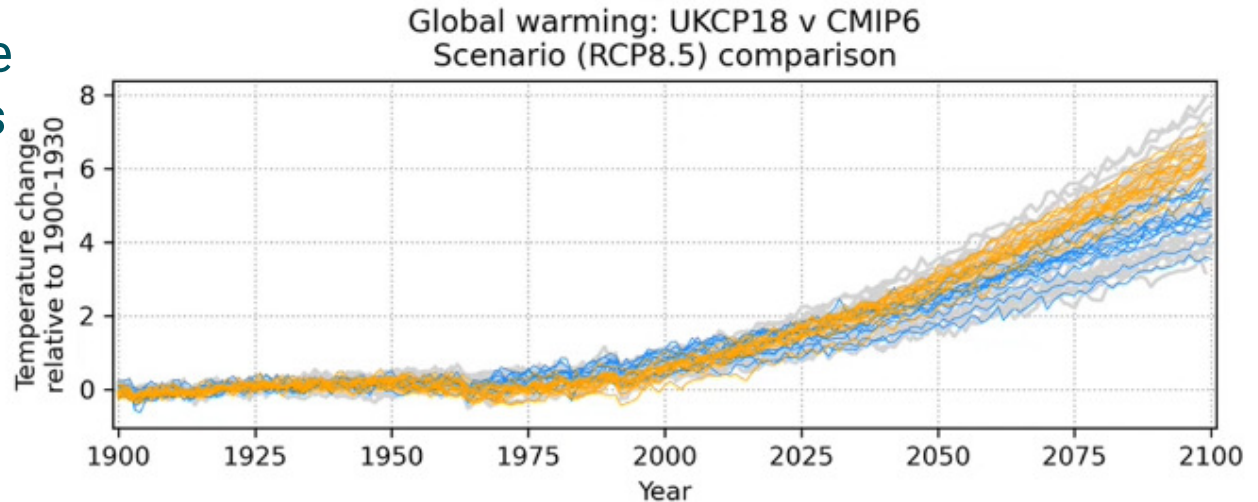
Uncertainty regarding the state of the world, here:

Uncertain model structure

Uncertainties in projected changes

Internal variability and modelling uncertainty

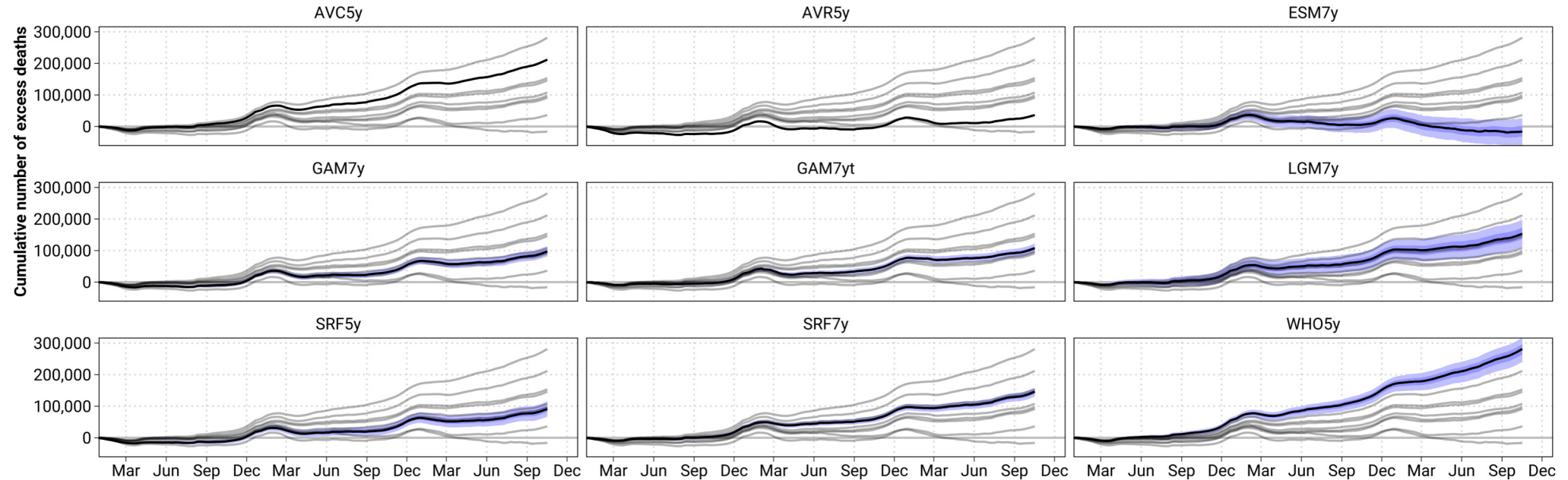
“The reason why different climate models give **different projections** is because they use **different, but plausible, representations** of climate processes.”



Murphy (2022). Informing risks and decisions using the UK climate projections. youtu.be/uiSTmy1vqls

Propagate uncertainty – Epistemic uncertainty

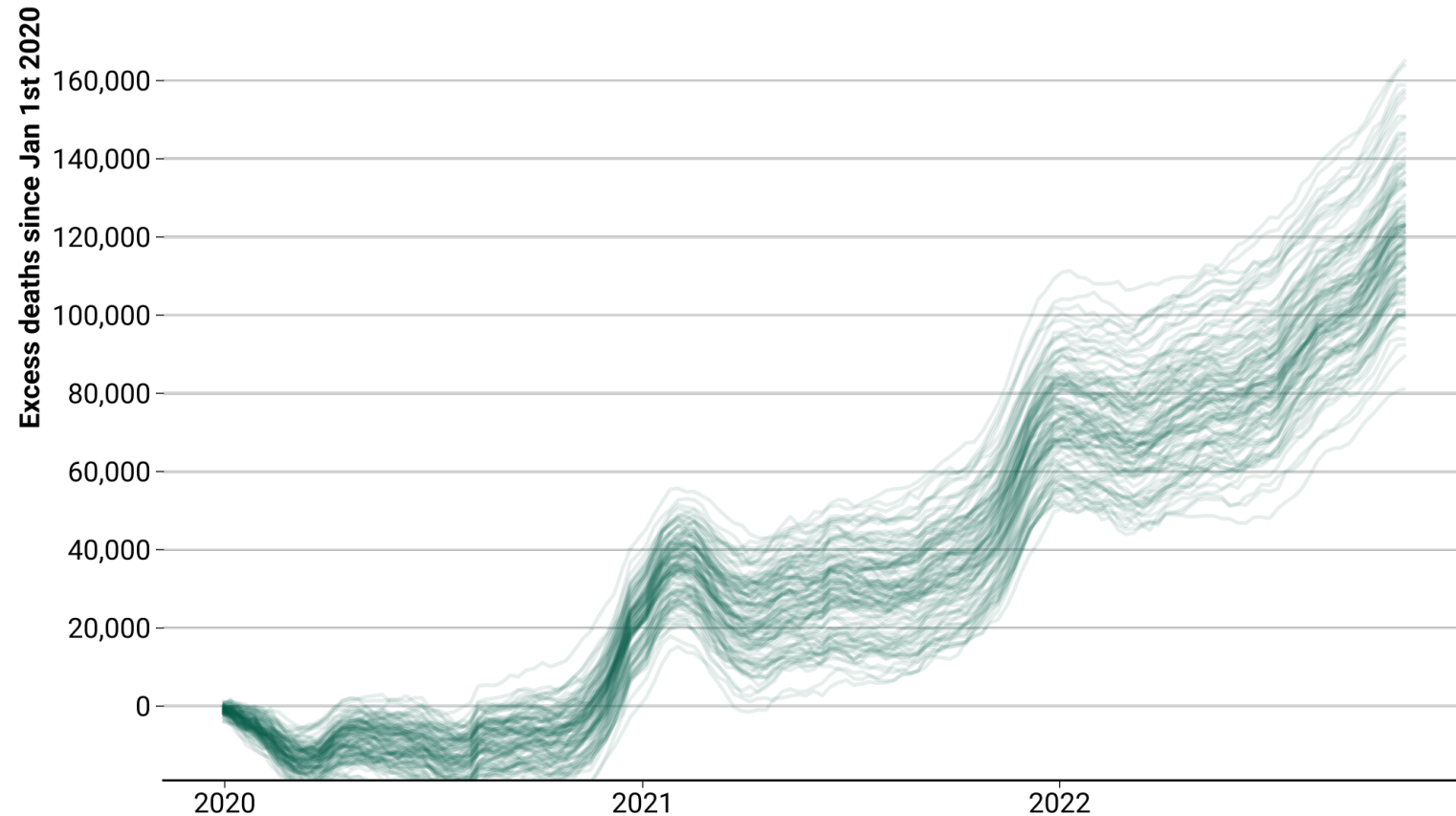
Cumulative excess deaths Germany 2020w1 through 2022 under different baseline models



95 and 50% prediction intervals
 AVC: 5 year avg. weekly death counts; AVR: 5 year avg. weekly death rates
 GAM: Negative-binomial regression with smooth seasonality, control for mortality trends, population structure, public holidays; GAMt same as GAM with control for temperature anomalies
 LGM: Quasi-Poisson regression with smooth seasonality, autocorrelation, control for mortality trends and population structure
 SRF: Quasi-Poisson regression in Serfling specification trained on all weeks with control for population structure; WHO: WHO expected deaths specification
 ESM: Seasonal exponential smoothing of log deaths
 Jonas Schöley, PhD. Data: STMF mortality.org Nov 14 2022, Code: github.com/jschoeley/xgermany2020

Propagate uncertainty – Aleatoric uncertainty

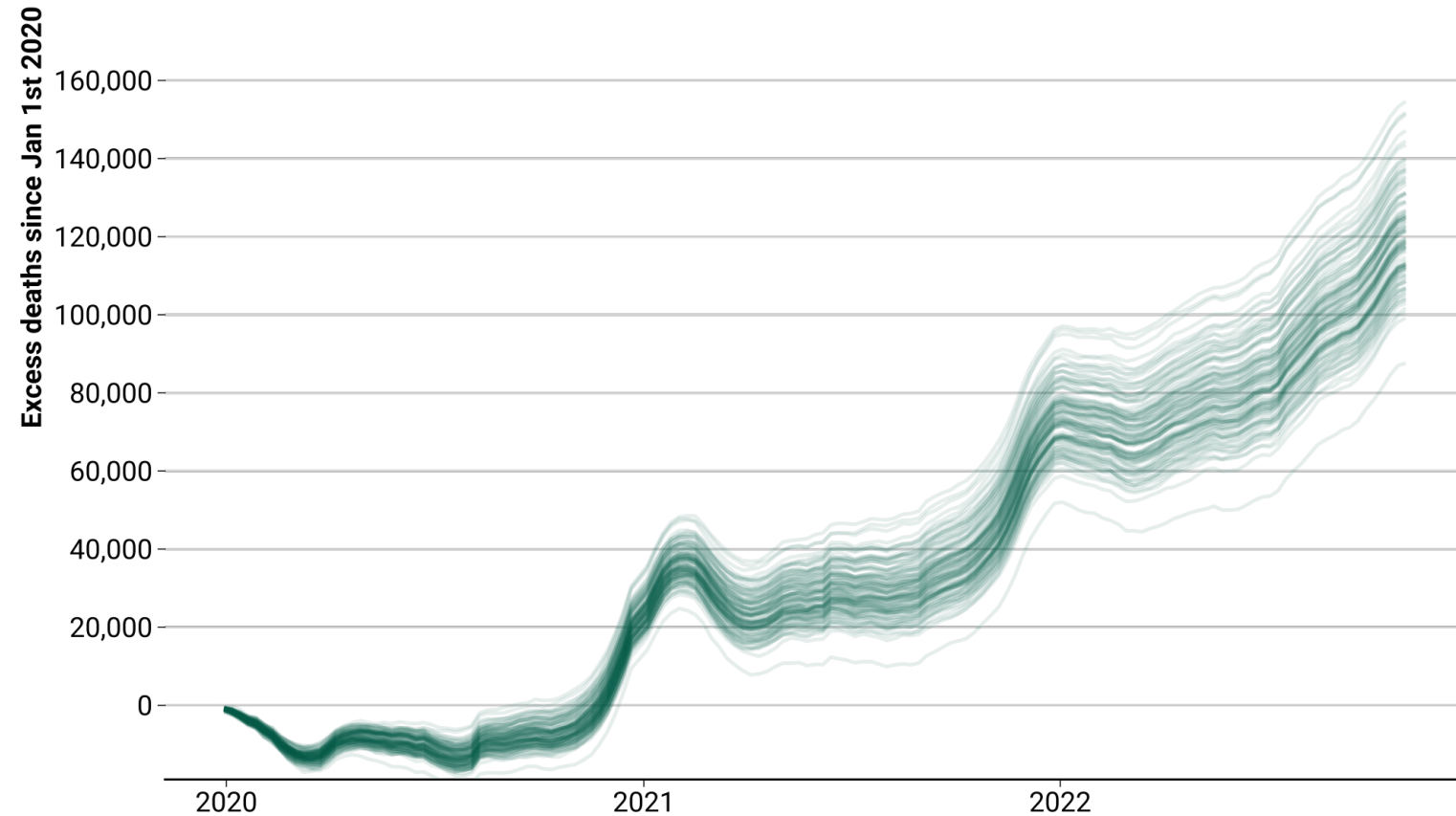
Cumulative weekly excess deaths Germany



Given the sampled model parameters, draw samples from the outcome distribution (Negative-Binomial in this case).

Propagate uncertainty – Aleatoric uncertainty

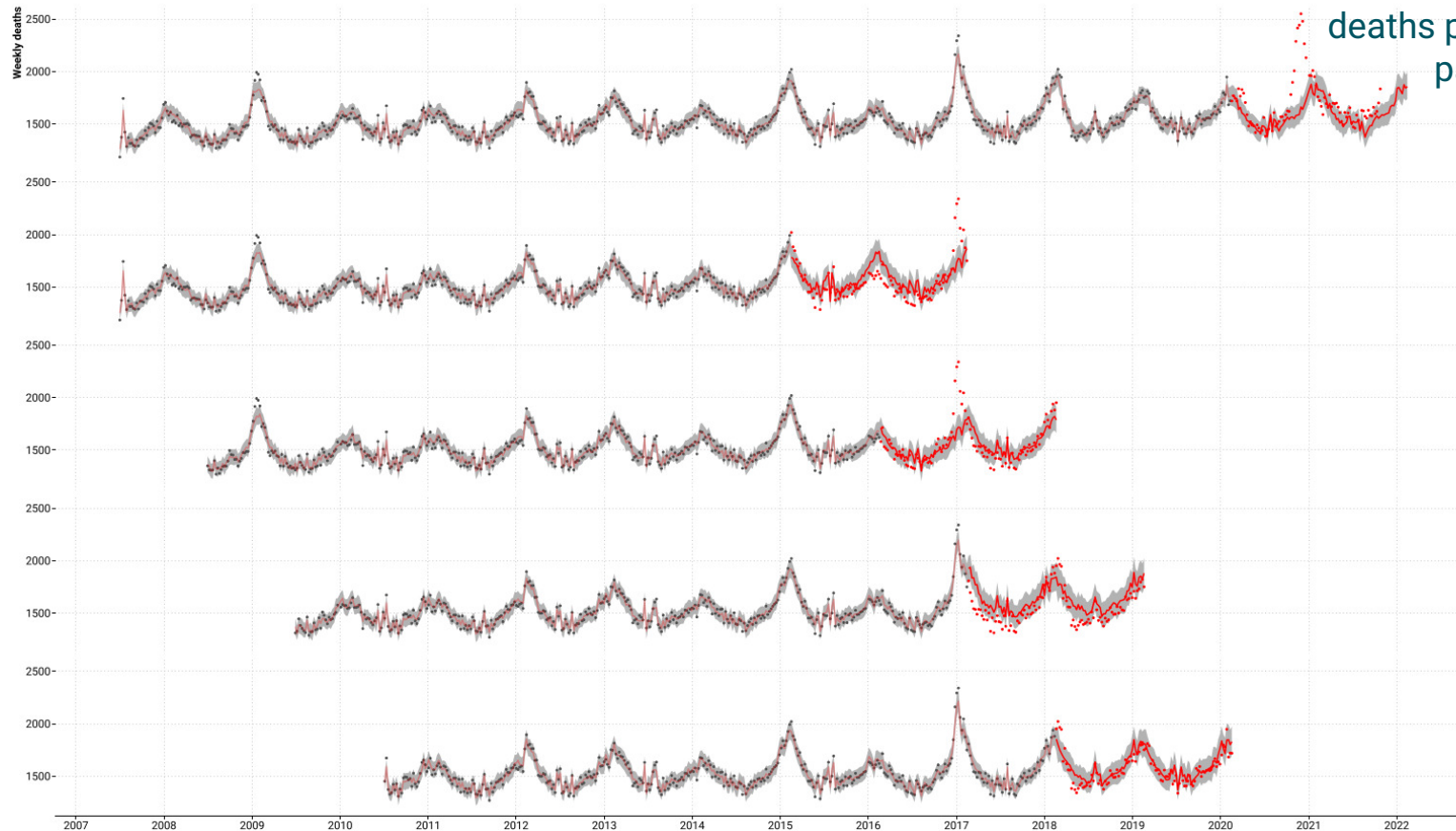
Cumulative weekly excess deaths Germany



Cross-validate predictive accuracy & model calibration

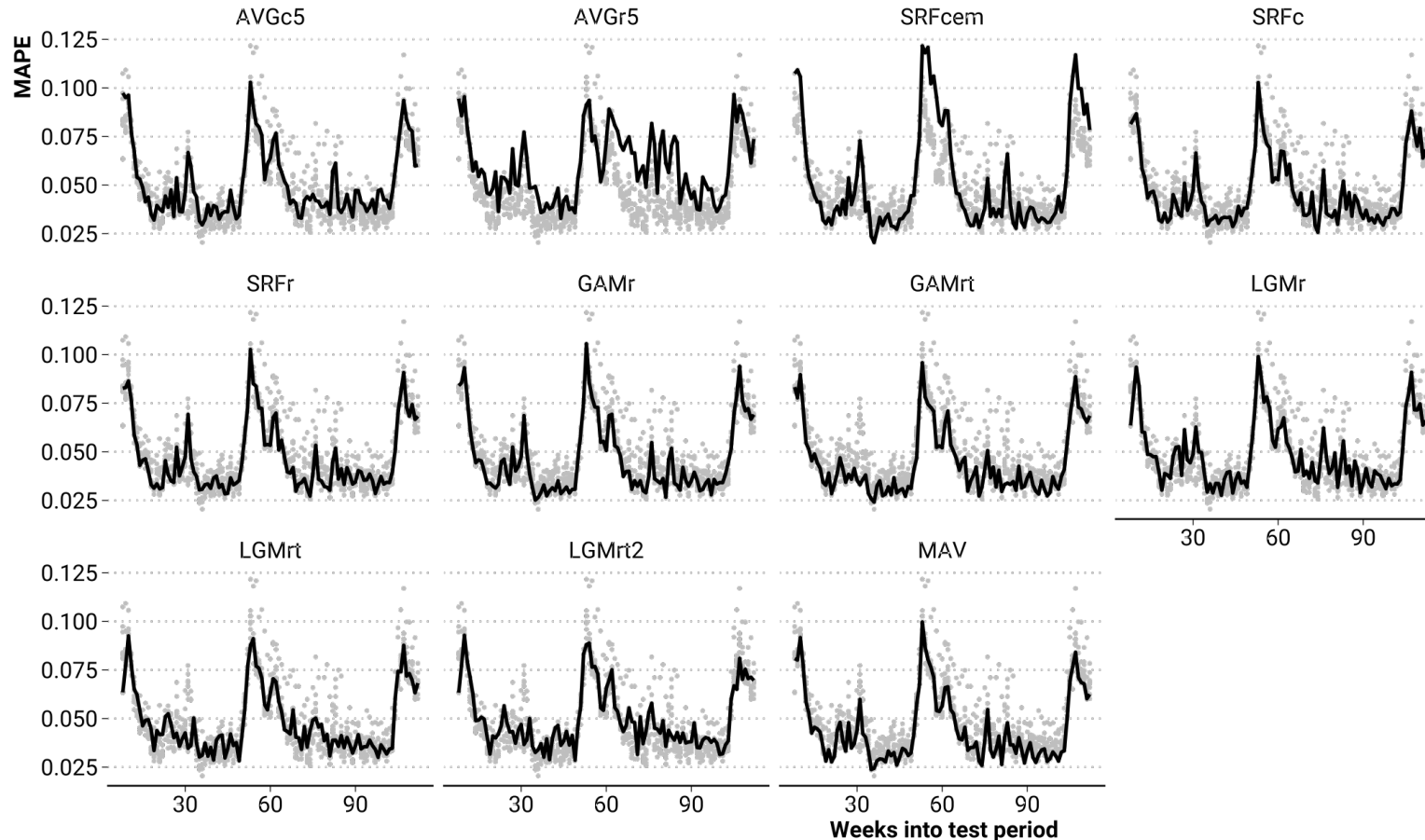
Cross validate – Error & Bias

Rolling origin four-fold cross-validation setup
mirroring the task of predicting weekly
deaths past the beginning of the COVID-19
pandemic given pre-pandemic data.

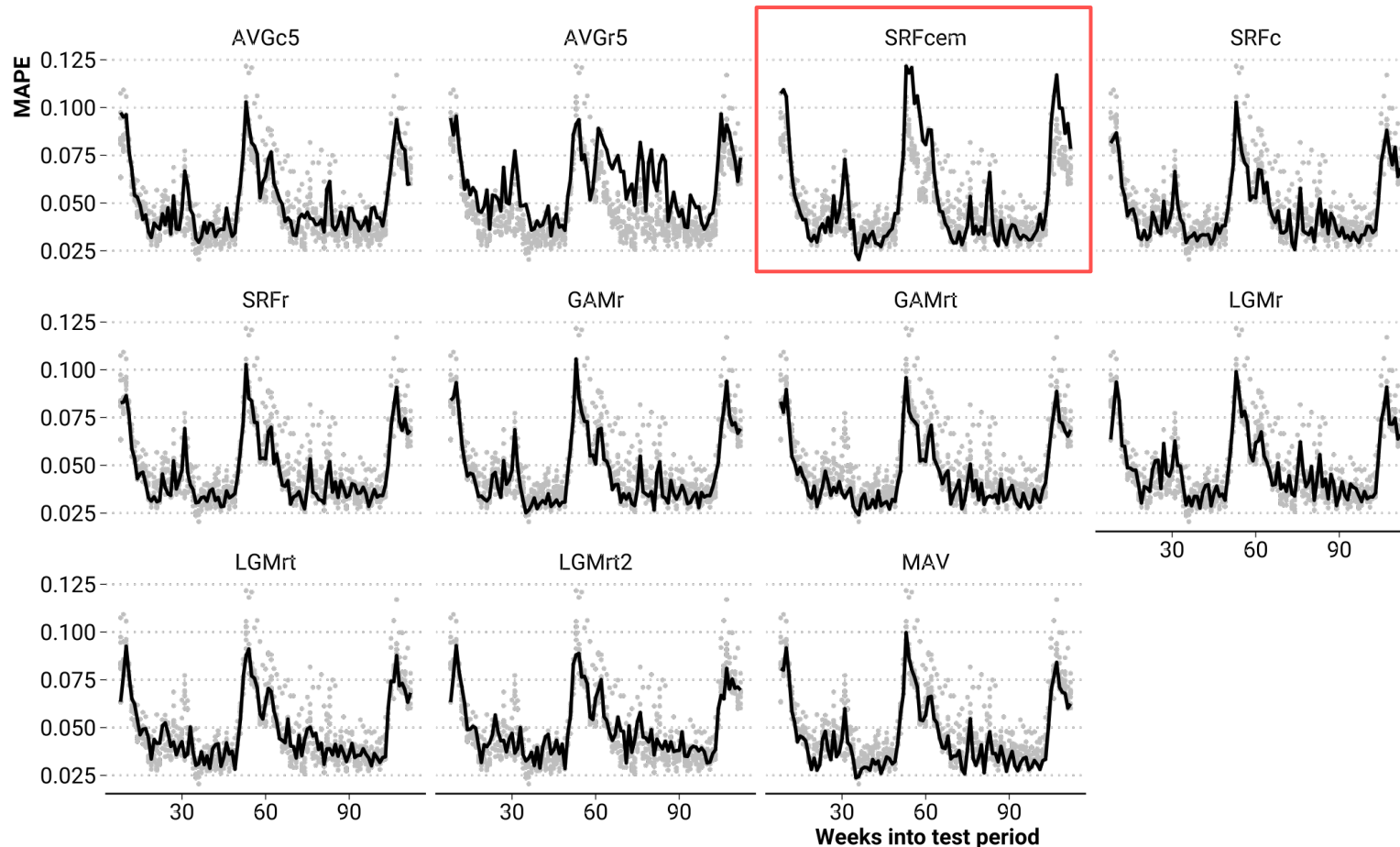


Cross validate – Error & Bias

Mean absolute percentage error of weekly death counts for different models. Grey points show MAPE of all other models

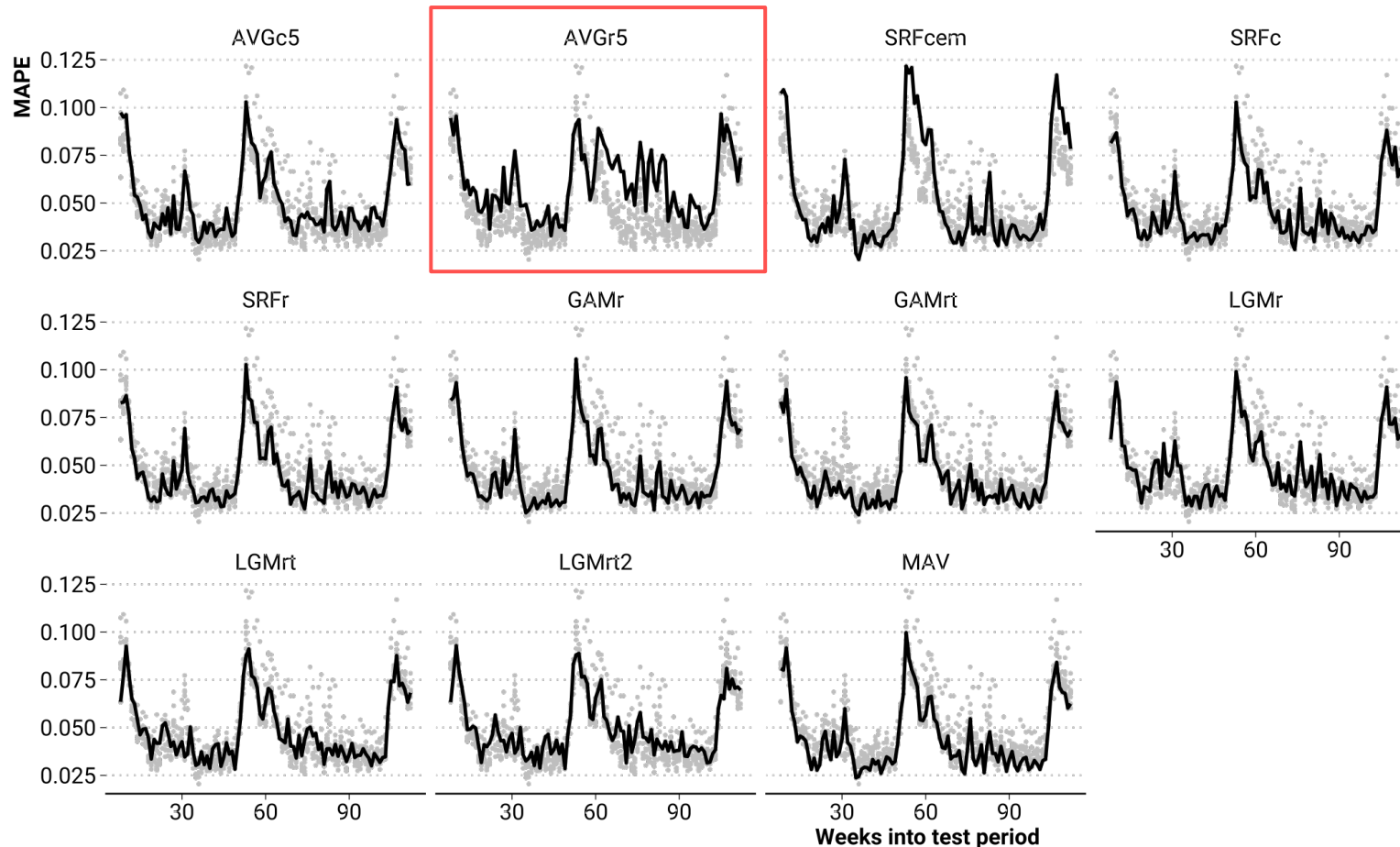


Cross validate – Error & Bias



Mean absolute percentage error of weekly death counts for different models. Grey points show MAPE of all other models

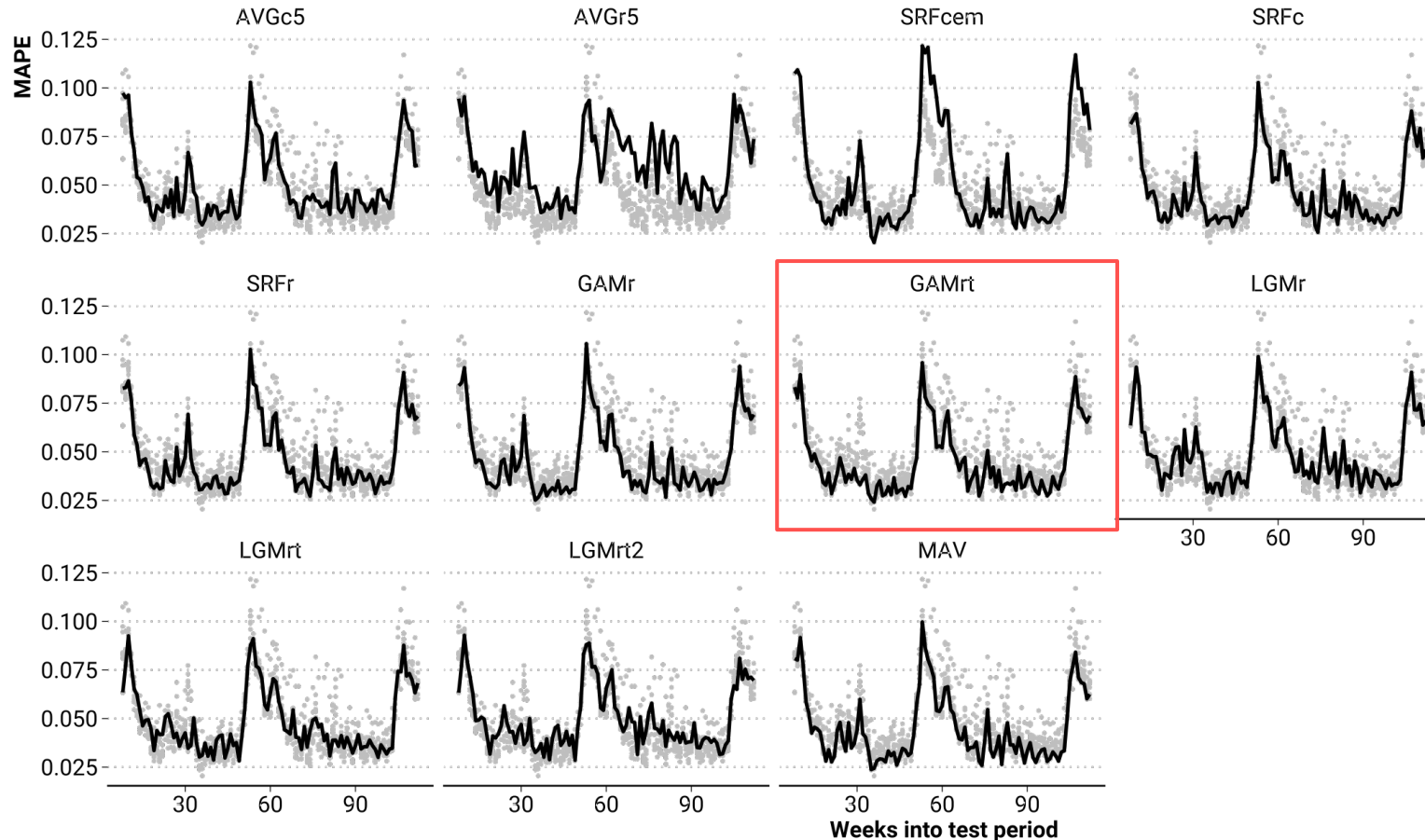
Cross validate – Error & Bias



Mean absolute percentage error of weekly death counts for different models. Grey points show MAPE of all other models

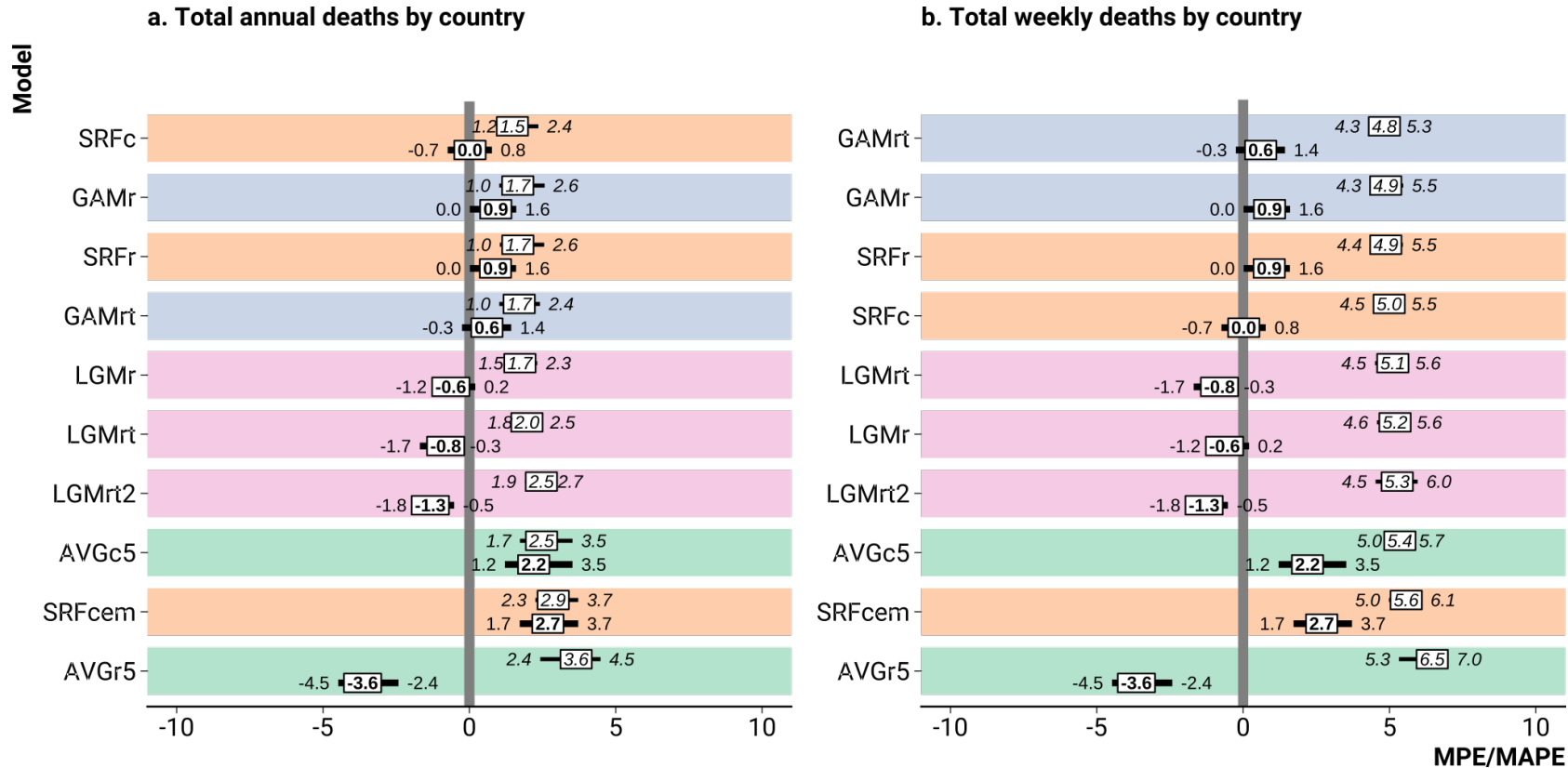
Cross validate – Error & Bias

Mean absolute percentage error of weekly death counts for different models. Grey points show MAPE of all other models



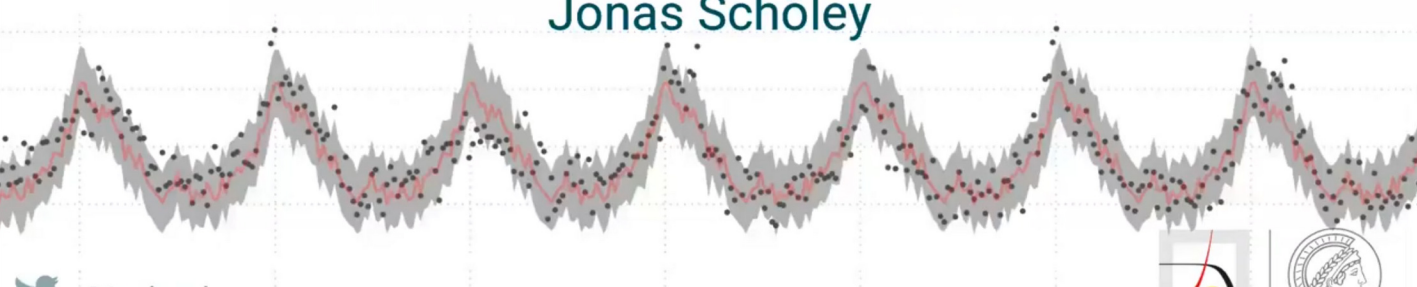
Cross validate – Error & Bias

Bias (MPE, bold) and error (MAPE, italic) by model when predicting death counts on test data.



**Robustness and bias
of excess death estimates
under varying model specifications**

Jonas Schöley



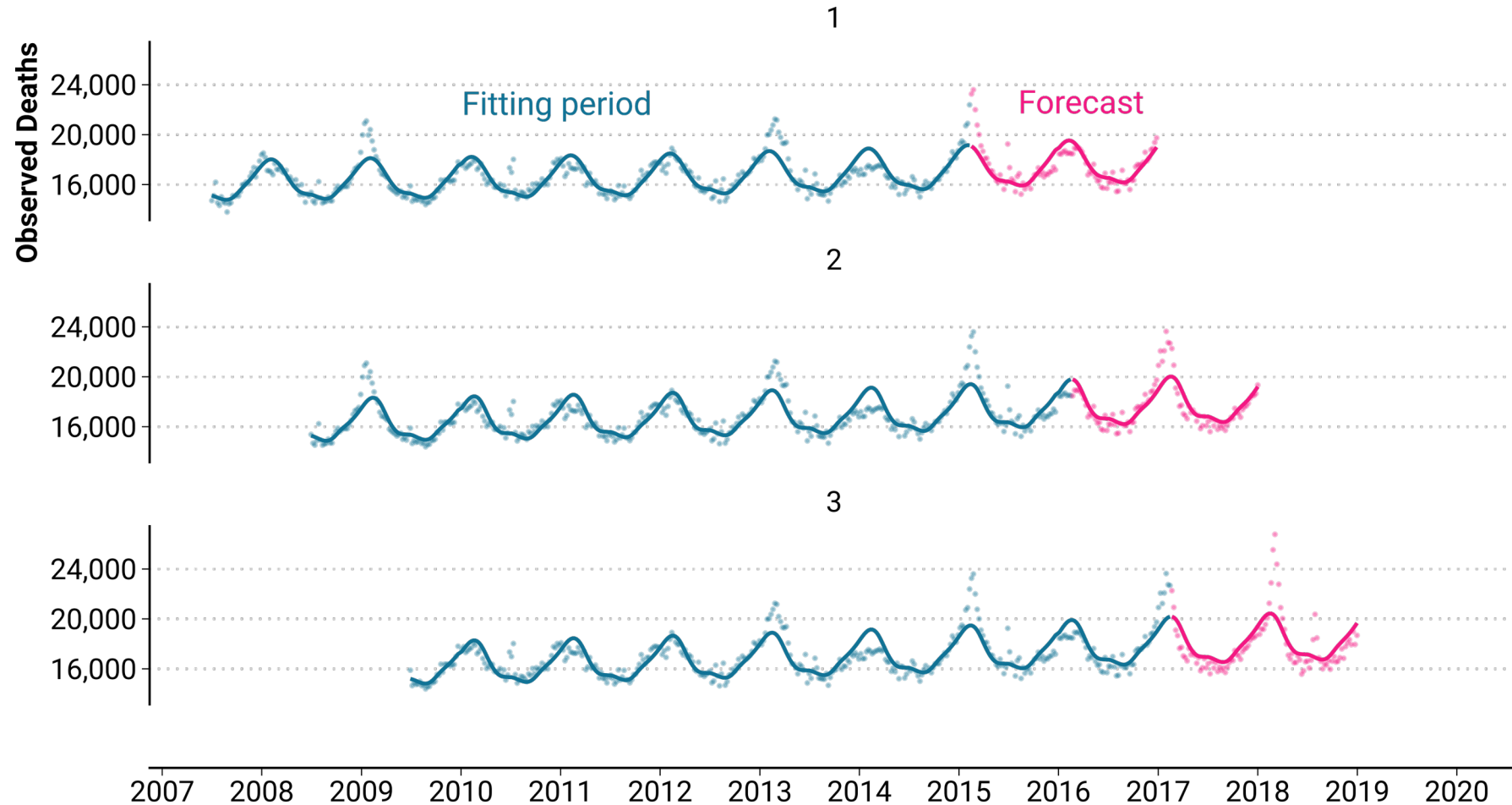
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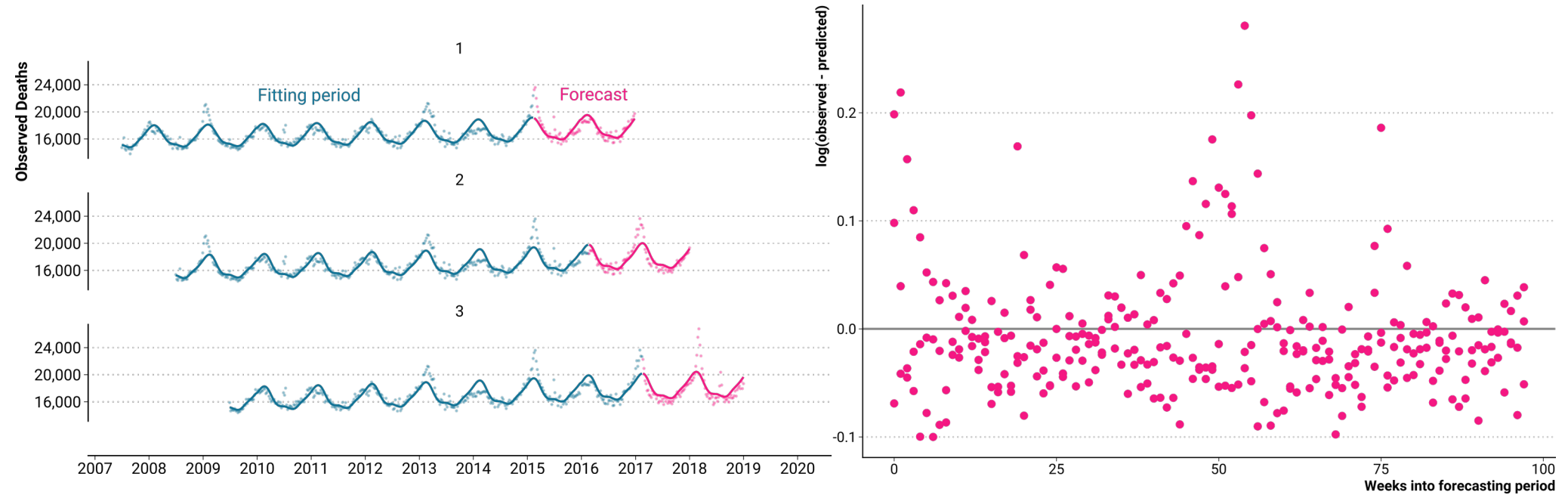
53

Schöley (2021). Robustness and bias in excess death estimates. [Link to video](#)

Cross validation – Calibration

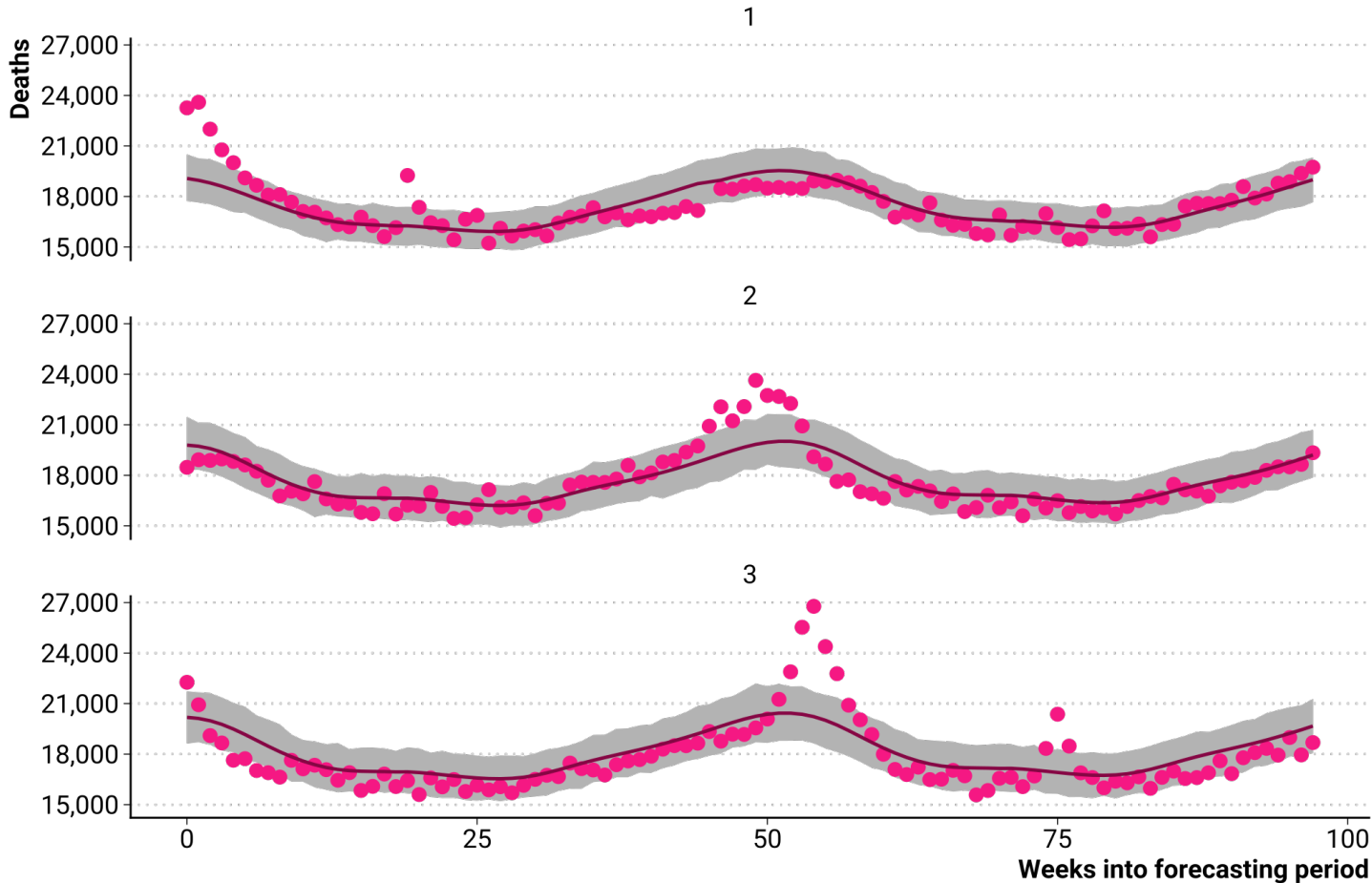


Cross validation – Calibration

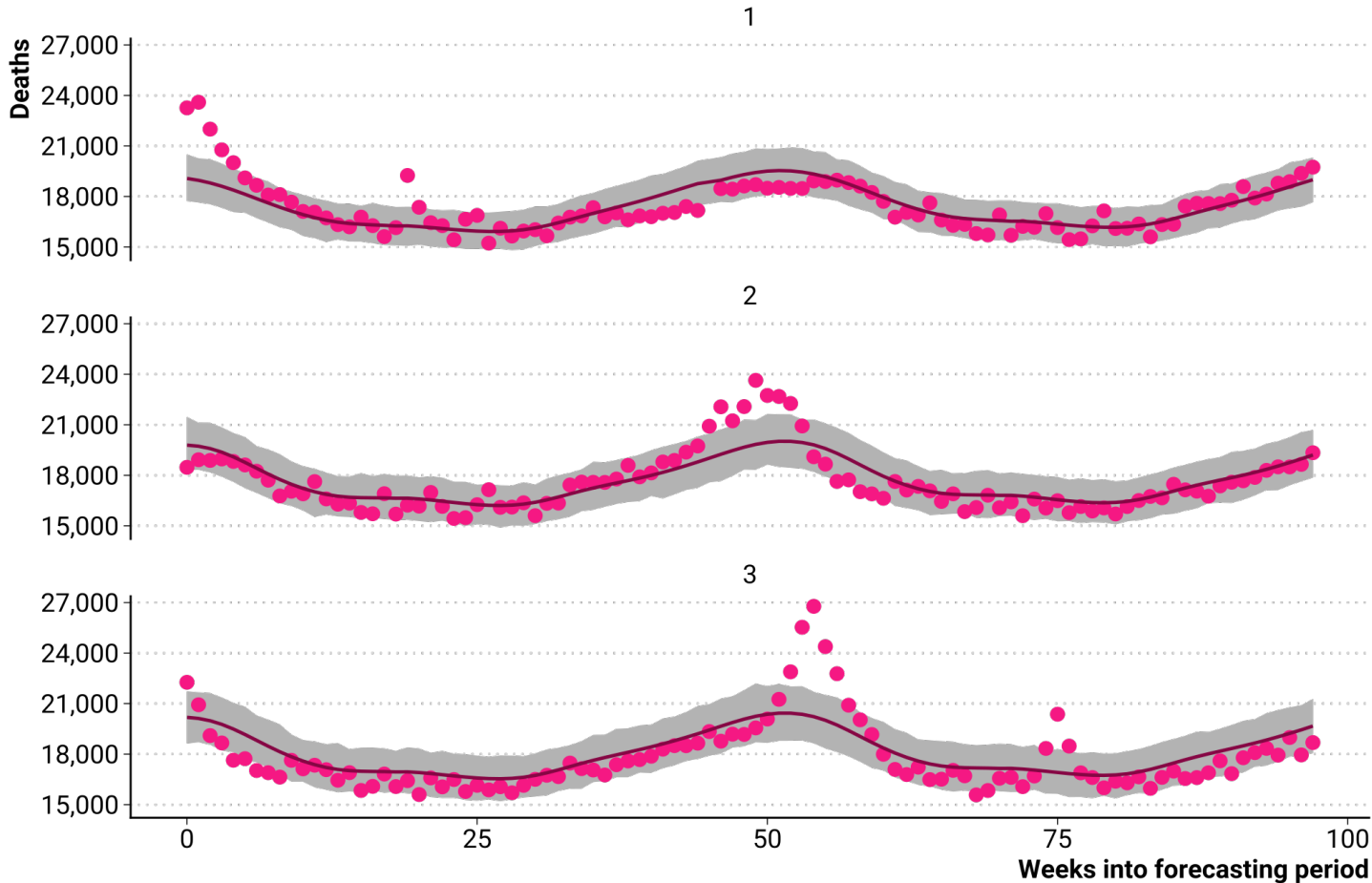


Cross validation – Calibration

Prediction interval with
90% nominal coverage
via Negative-Bin.
GAM model



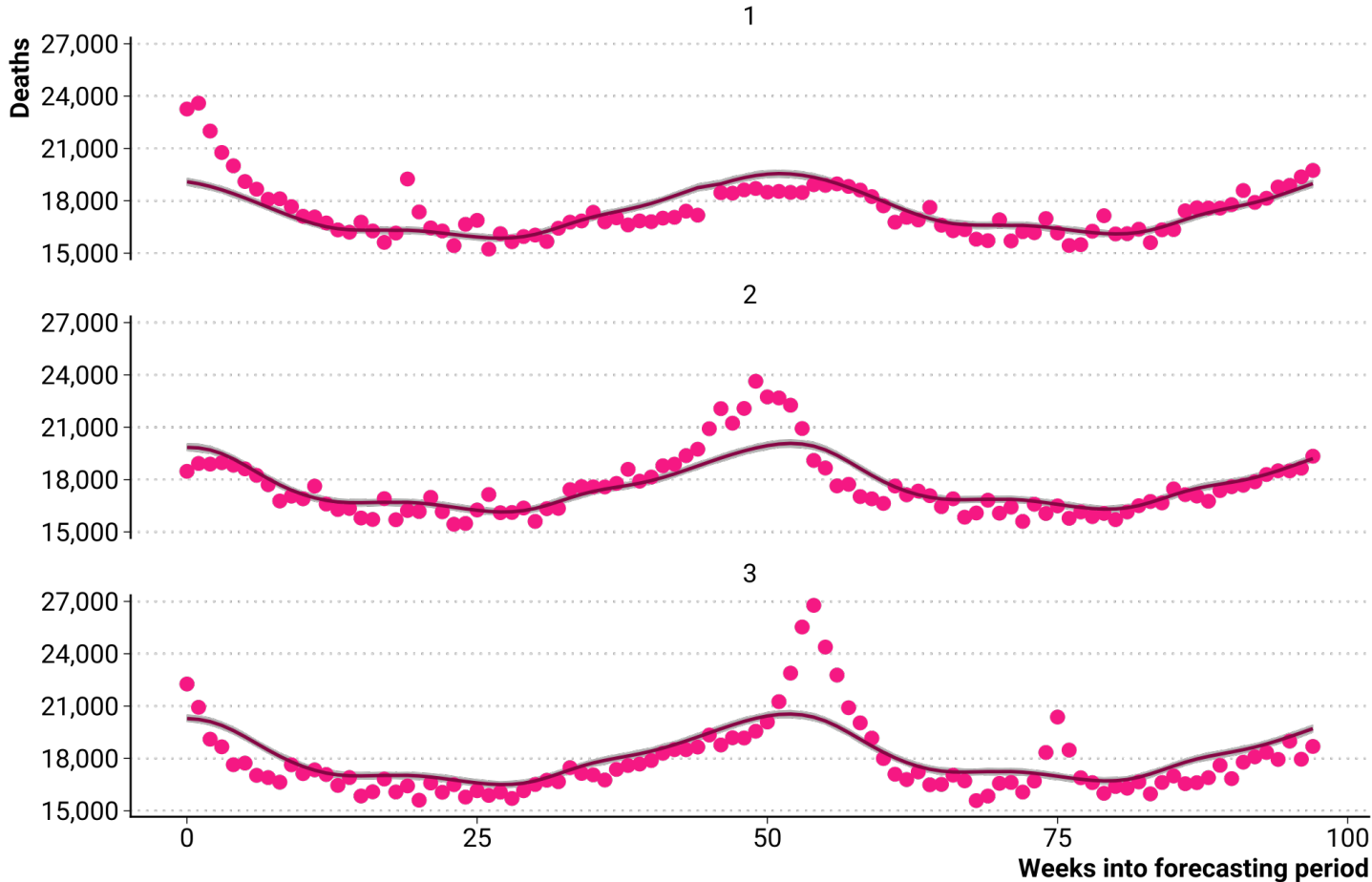
Cross validation – Calibration



Prediction interval with
90% nominal coverage
via Negative-Bin.
GAM model

Actual coverage ~87%

Cross validation – Calibration



Prediction interval with
90% nominal coverage
via Poisson GAM model

Actual coverage ~22%

Empirical prediction intervals applied to short-term mortality forecasts and excess deaths

Jonas Schöley
*joint work with
Ricarda Duerst*



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Schöley (2022). Empirical prediction intervals. [Link to video](#)

Reproducible analysis

github.com/jschoeley/phds22-predictive_modeling

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