

Publishing News

Flyvbjerg: How to survive Covid-19, the climate change and other disasters

New paper by Prof Bent Flyvbjerg describes the law of regression to the tail and what that means for human survival

22 November 2020 – Dallas, London, Sydney – **Bent Flyvbjerg**, professor of major programme management at the University of Oxford in the UK has published a new paper that everyone should read. The title is “The law of regression: How to survive Covid-19, the climate crisis, and other disasters.”

According to the abstract: “Regression to the mean is nice and reliable. Regression to the tail is reliably scary. We live in the age of regression to the tail. It is only a matter of time until a pandemic worse than covid-19 will hit us, and climate more extreme than any we have seen. What are the basic principles that generate such extreme risk, and for navigating it, for government, business, and the public?”

Prof Flyvbjerg explains the likelihood of future major disasters, why it is impossible to predict their impact because they are so rare as to have no natural statistical mean, and how the world should prepare in order to survive. He identifies the “top 10 phenomena that are subject to the law of regression and offers meaningful and practical advice.

According to Wikipedia, Bent Flyvbjerg is Professor of Major Programme Management at Oxford University's Saïd Business School and the first Director of the University's BT Centre for Major Programme Management. He was previously Professor of Planning at Aalborg University, Denmark and Chair of Infrastructure Policy and Planning at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands. He is a fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford. Flyvbjerg is one of the most respected and widely-read academic researchers and writers on the topic of major program and project failures.

This new paper is included in the December 2020 edition of the journal *Environmental Science and Policy* published by Elsevier. It appears to be available for free to read or download for the next few weeks at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901120308637?dgcid=author#bbib0025>

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