



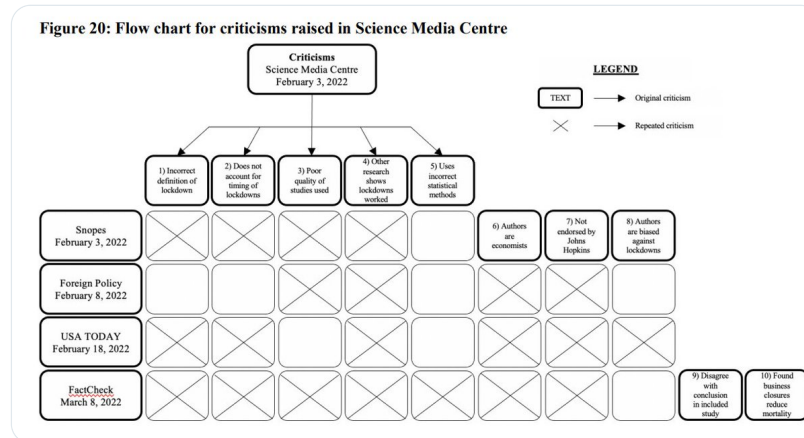
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May 30 · 5 tweets · [PhilWMagness/status/1531265226733240321](https://twitter.com/PhilWMagness/status/1531265226733240321)



A much-deserved smackdown of the [@SMC_London](https://twitter.com/SMC_London), which has basically functioned as a pro-lockdown propaganda arm of the Wellcome Trust throughout the pandemic.

<https://sites.krieger.jhu.edu/iae/files/2022/05/A-Systematic-Review-and-Meta-Analysis-of-the-Effects-of-Lockdowns-of-COVID-19-Mortality-II.pdf>



[@SMC_London](https://twitter.com/SMC_London) As the authors of the JHU meta-analysis of lockdowns show, their media critics basically just copied and parroted a list of talking points assembled by the "Science Media Centre" to mobilize lockdowners against their paper.

On February 8, *Foreign Policy* published a critique, Garrett (2022). It copied three of the Science Media Centre's criticisms and two of the new ones added by *Snopes*. In short, *Foreign Policy's* article presented nothing new.

Then, *USA Today* entered the picture on February 18, Sadeghi (2022). The fact checkers at *USA Today* offered seven criticisms—four copied from the Science Media Centre and three from *Snopes*.

On March 8, *FactCheck* presented ten criticisms, Robertson (2022). They included six from the Science Media Centre (including all five that we identified in Figure 20), two from *Snopes*, and two new confused and misleading criticisms, see Figure 20 and footnote 122.

There was, of course, a great deal of reportage about our working paper that appeared in the early February-April 2022 period. This material was highly repetitive, echoing material presented on February 3 in either the Science Media Centre press release or the *Snopes* report. There were several similar reports, but to avoid repetition ourselves, we limit our review to the five reports contained in Figure 20.

[@SMC_London](#) This is a problem because several of the "authorities" that [@SMC_London](#) used to attack the JHU paper were non-neutral parties. They were epidemiologists affiliated with Imperial College London, whose modeling analyses were specifically critiqued and rejected in the JHU paper.

[@SMC_London](#) I'd be remiss if I did not point out that the [@SMC_London](#) waged a similar propaganda campaign against the Great Barrington Declaration in October 2020

- Biased list of pro-lockdown "experts"
- Media parrots their talking points instead of engaging the GBD

<https://www.sciencemediacentre.org/expert-reaction-to-barrington-declaration-an-open-letter-arguing-against-lockdown-policies-and-for-focused-protection/>

[@SMC_London](#) That's significant because Wellcome Trust director Jeremy Farrar ordered a media takedown of the GBD in the UK, similar to the one ordered by Collin and Fauci in the US.

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