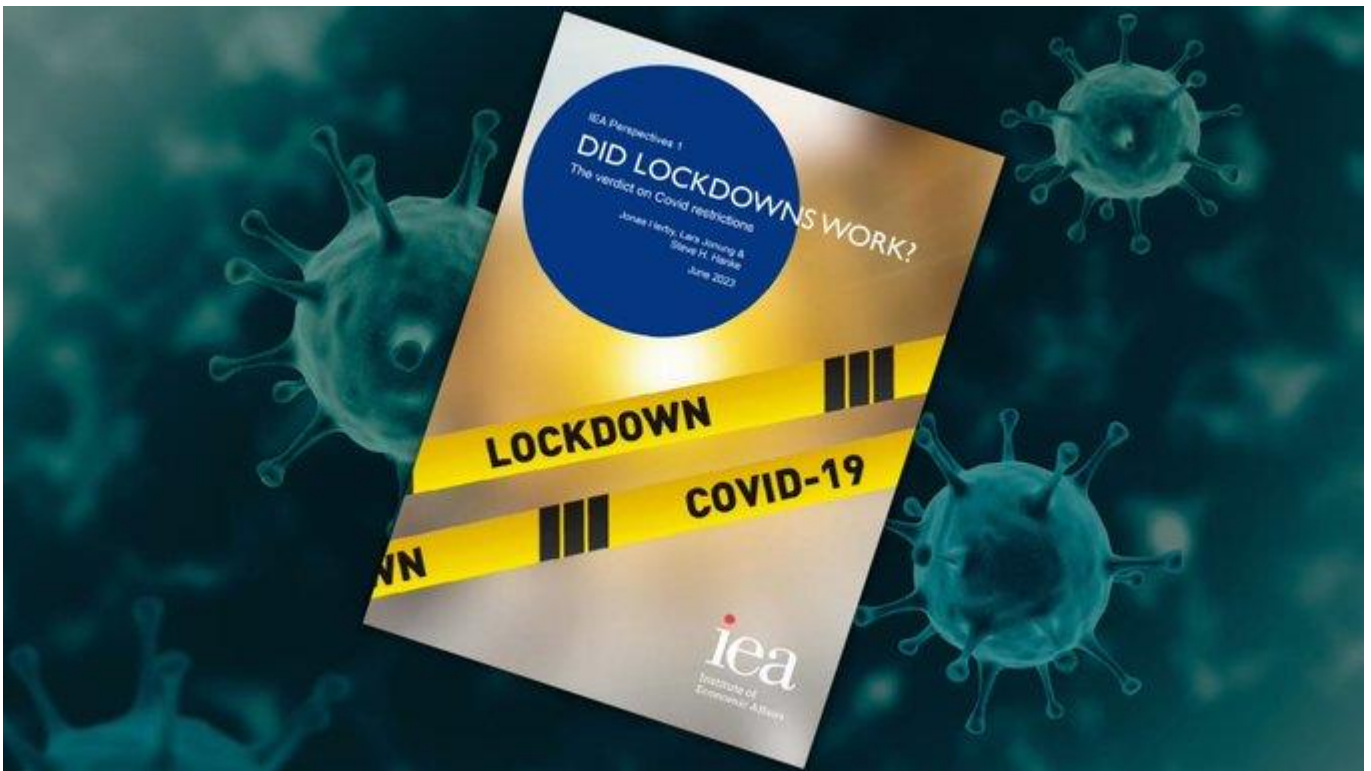


## **Lessons in Lockdown Lunacy**



### **The chickens have come home to roost.**

Evidence is emerging practically everyday of the catastrophic effect the Covid lockdown had on societies around the world.

Whether it be business closures, delays in medical diagnosis and treatment, the rise in housing evictions and domestic violence, delays to criminal trials, the impact on public finances and government debt, the disruption to childrens' education or the profound impact on mental health, detailed research is uncovering just how calamitous lockdown restrictions really were.

In other words, "***They that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind.***"

A new Report titled, "*Did lockdowns work? The verdict on Covid restrictions*" by Jonas Herby, Dr Lars Jonung and Professor Steve Hanke has recently been published by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

This 220 page publication is a meta-analysis of 22 different international studies examining and carefully assessing data and statistics on a range of issues including mortality rates, business and school closures, facemask wearing, travel restrictions and the impact on mental wellbeing.

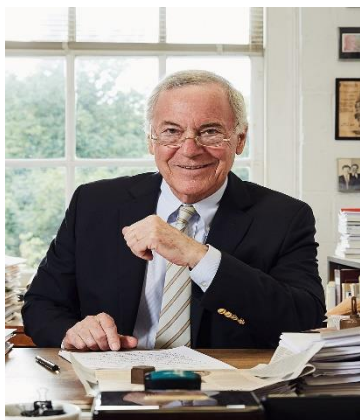
See hyperlink to Report summary below.

<https://iea.org.uk/publications/did-lockdowns-work-the-verdict-on-covid-restrictions/>

Co-author Jonas Herby (of The Centre for Political Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark) said, "*Numerous misleading studies, driven by subjective models and overlooking significant factors like voluntary behaviour changes, heavily influenced the initial perception of lockdowns as highly effective measures*".

Co-author Professor Steve Hanke (of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA) argued that, "*When it comes to Covid, the epidemiological models have many things in common: dubious assumptions, hair-raising predictions of disaster that miss the mark, and few lessons learned*". Professor Hanke continued by stating, "*The science of lockdowns is clear, the data are in: the lives saved were a drop in the bucket compared to the staggering collateral costs imposed*".

And Co-author Dr Lars Jonung, (of Lund University, Sweden) concluded that, "*It demonstrates that lockdowns were a failed promise. They had no negligible health effects but disastrous economic, social and political costs to society. Most likely lockdowns represent the **biggest policy mistake in modern times***".



**Professor Steve Hanke**



**Dr Lars Jonung**



**Jonas Herby**

In simple terms the authors reasonably concluded that any benefits of lockdown were far, far outweighed by the monstrous toll of collateral damage and human suffering caused by the draconian restrictions.

This is an important issue I wrote about in my article titled, ***A Tsunami of self-inflicted suffering*** published on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (see link below).

One final thought. A rather sad and pathetic news item was reported this week by Reuters.

Remarkably, a company called *Egaoiku* in Japan is now offering lessons in re-learning how to smile.

Due to having to wear facemasks for so long during the Covid lockdown, apparently some Japanese citizens have forgotten how to smile.



### **Even smiles were locked down in Japan!**

At a cost of £44.00 per hour long class, customers are professionally coached on how to use different facial muscles, stretch cheeks and move eyebrows in order to capture their previous supposedly beautiful mouth shapes.

One satisfied customer Himawari Yoshida, a 20 year old art student, said, *"I haven't used my facial muscles much during Covid so its good exercise"*.

A bizarre story, but it does demonstrate just how profound and pernicious the consequences of lockdown really have been.

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/05.09.22-A-Tsunami-of-self-inflicted-suffering.pdf>