

Twitter Thread by We need 3 million vaccinations a day ■



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[@Noahpinion](#)



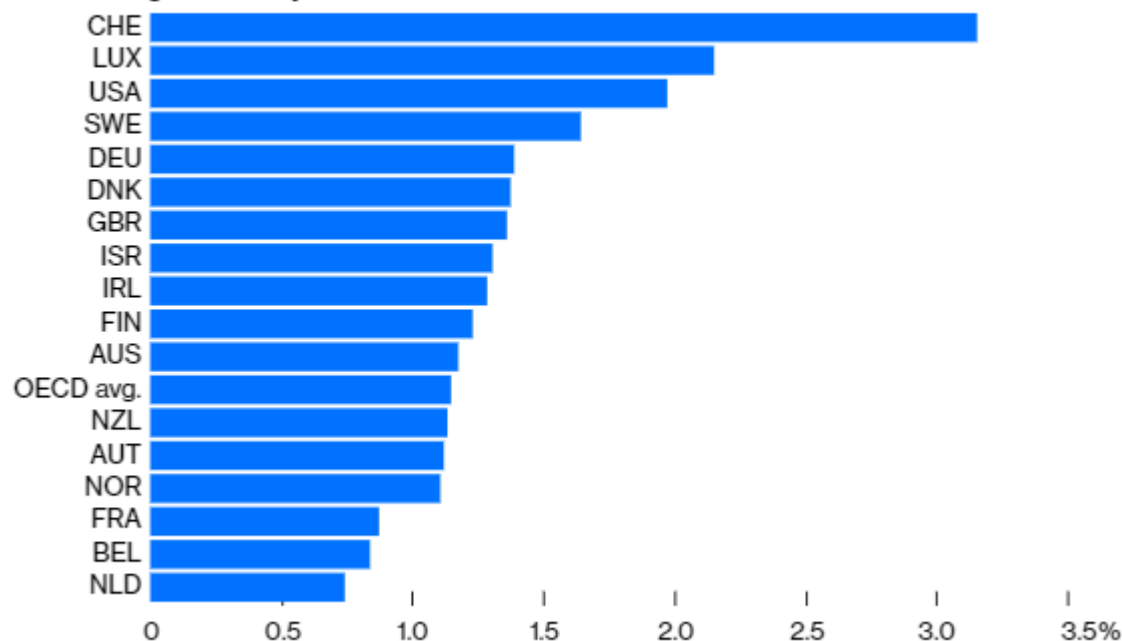
1/Today in [@bopinion](#), I discuss why America has been producing too many PhDs in recent years, and what we need to do to solve the

2/First of all, many people don't realize just how many PhDs we produce! More than almost any other rich country.

Ph.D. Mill

The U.S. awards more doctorate degrees than almost any other rich country

■ Percentage of 25-64 year-olds with a Ph.D. in 2018



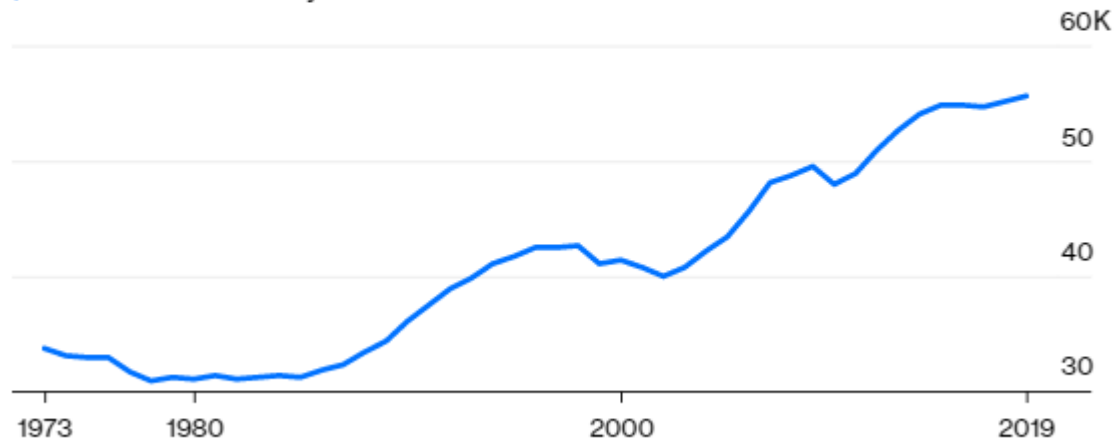
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

3/And we've kept ramping this number up and up.

More Isn't Necessarily Better

Even as jobs lag, schools have ramped up their Ph.D. programs

Doctorates awarded by U.S. institutions



Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

4/But the problem begins when PhDs start looking for (usually academic) jobs.

<https://t.co/M8hhoap12d>

5/The U.S. built a ton of universities and then we stopped.

Professors have tenure.

That means there are just going to be fewer new tenure-track jobs than before. Everyone in academia already knows this well.

6/Here's the market for history professors.

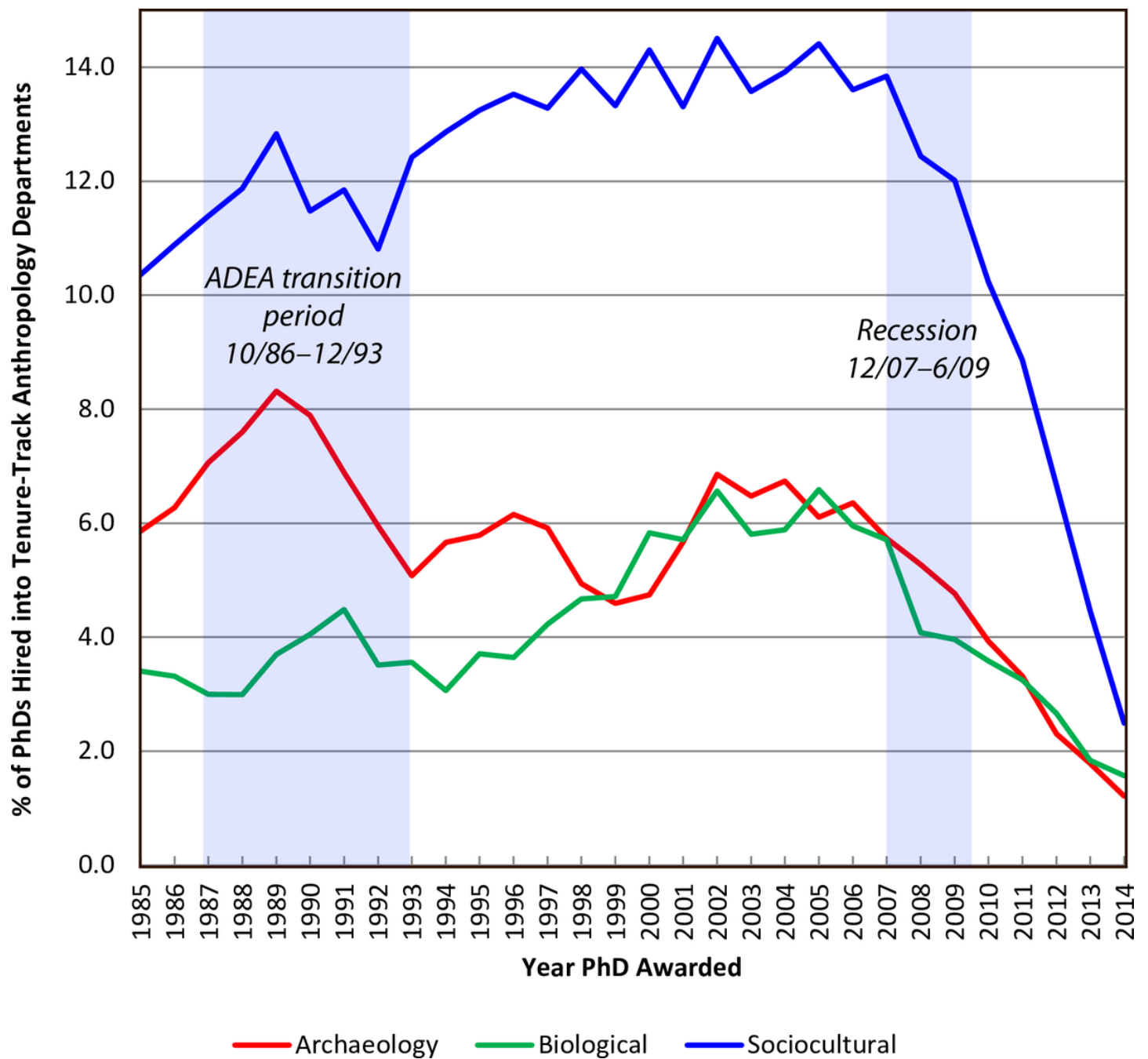
<https://t.co/sAwByQikS0>

Fig. 1: Number of New History PhDs and Advertised Job Openings, 1974–75 to 2014–15



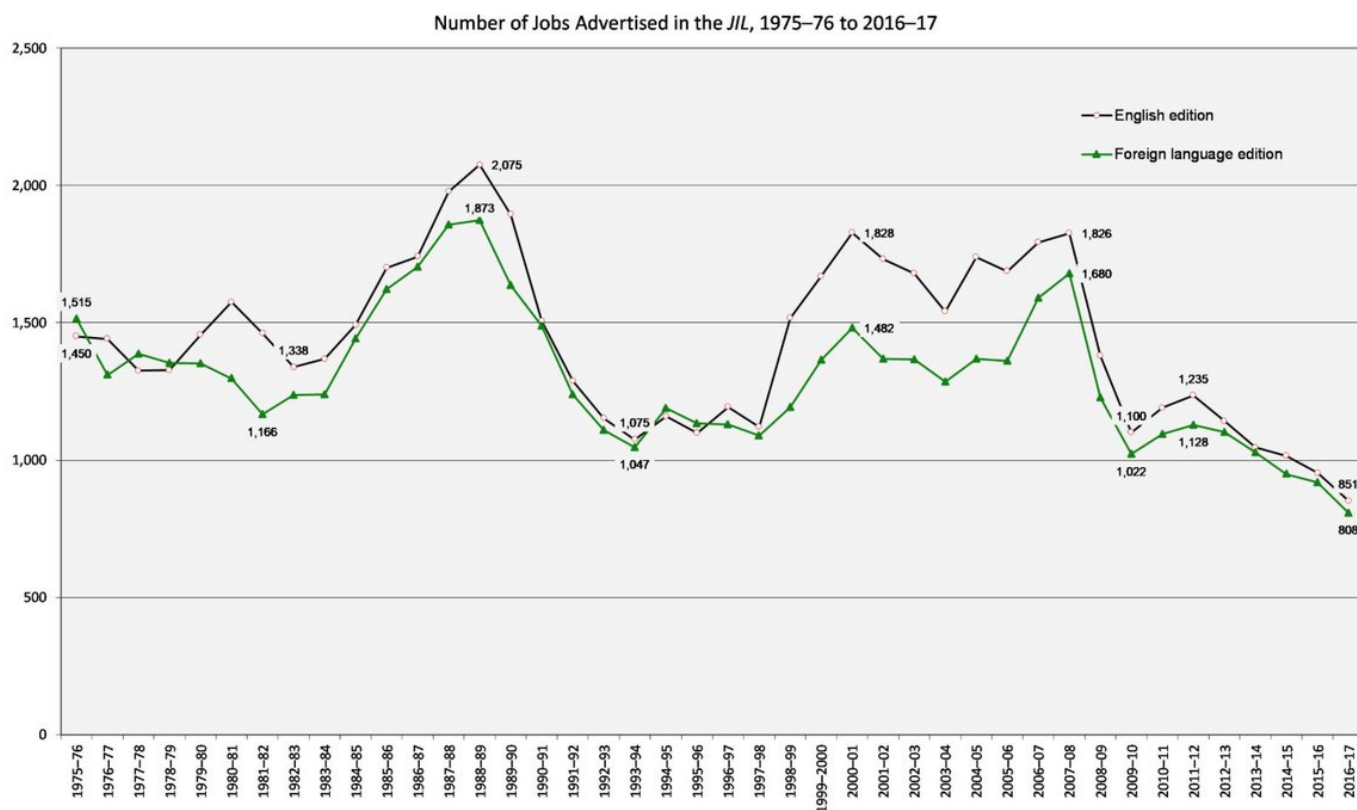
7/Here's the market for anthropology professors.

<https://t.co/APb5NbB6Np>



8/Here's the market for English and foreign-language professors.

<https://t.co/rzzuFsoGCT>



9/Now, to make matters worse, college enrollment has been flatlining. Even before COVID-19 came along and kicked colleges' butt.

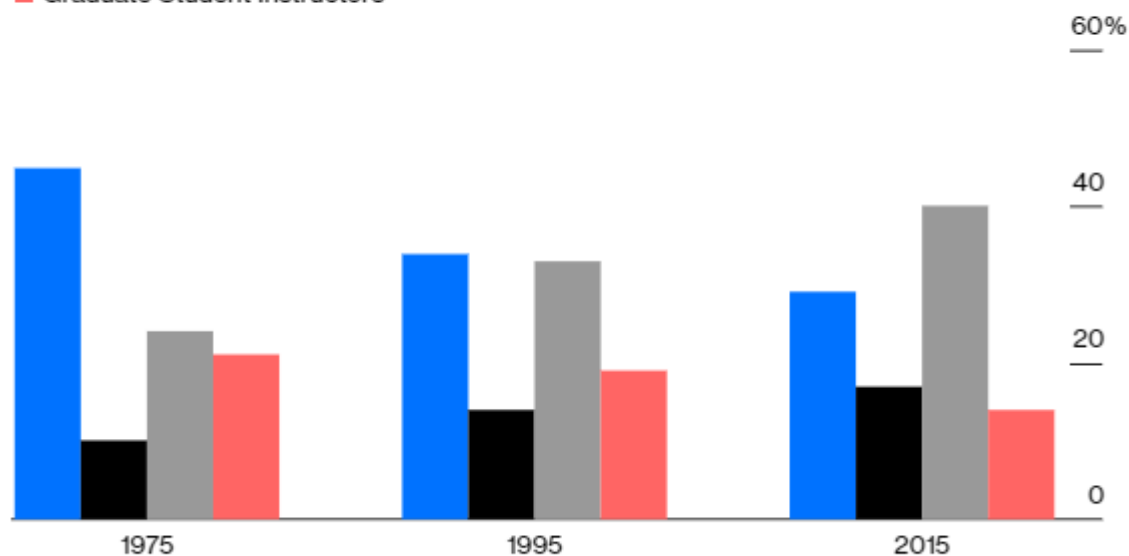
<https://t.co/nsbwhqaoYp>

10/And colleges, under huge pressures to cut costs, have switched from tenure-track faculty to adjuncts and lecturers.

Part-Timers Take the Lead

Colleges and universities are relying more on lower-paid lecturers and adjuncts

■ Full-Time Tenured or Tenure-Track
 ■ Full-Time Non-Tenure-Track
 ■ Part-Time
 ■ Graduate Student Instructors



Source: American Association of University Professors

11/The life of many PhDs after graduation has thus become "adjunctopia" -- or more accurately, Adjunct Hell. Desperately hanging on year after year, hoping for that big break that never comes.

<https://t.co/z9GjZkmAhB>

12/Of course, PhDs can go into the private sector. BUT, many doctoral advisors push PhD students toward academia. And grad school culture stigmatizes private-sector jobs as failure...

13/Plus, while STEM PhDs and some social science PhDs can often find private-sector jobs in their fields, many humanities and social science fields don't have good private-sector analogs.

This will lead to underemployment and resentment.

14/And social unrest really is a threat here. Dashed expectations can lead to deep rage at the system. And who better equipped to overthrow the system than a bunch of brilliant underemployed people?

<https://t.co/HEp0Hf5Egs>

1/Alright, so folks wanted me to expand on this idea, so here we go. Elite disaffection and the return of the American Left.

As you may have noticed, we're seeing an upsurge in young Americans who reject capitalism. Why?

<https://t.co/oSfupxLLiW> <https://t.co/rXiXewB2hV>

— We need 3 million vaccinations a day \U0001f407 (@Noahpinion) [September 15, 2018](#)

15/Some historians, like [@Peter_Turchin](#), have warned that "elite overproduction" is a recipe for unrest.

<https://t.co/23VstFoiAd>

16/And the insanely shitty job market for PhDs is taking a massive psychological toll.

<https://t.co/Mmuovpg3u5>

17/So what do we do about this?

For STEM PhDs, we can have the government employ more. A massive expansion of federal research funding is in the works. We should pass [@RoKhanna's](#) Endless Frontier Act.

<https://t.co/4Nd91Fcejr>

18/But for many humanities and social science fields, a big federal bailout simply isn't in the cards. Nor is the private sector prepared to employ ever-increasing humanities and social science PhDs without severe underemployment.

We need to cut back on production.

19/Some universities are already cutting back on production in these fields.

This will be painful but necessary.

<https://t.co/iK92UoN6Zd>

20/We need a PhD production system that is more in line with new economic realities -- flat or declining college enrollment, cost-cutting, and the end of the 20th century college building boom.

(end)

<https://t.co/o36CkgHRIU>